

# THE BIG JOB

BASIC MAGNESIUM NEWS LETTER

NUMBER 13

BASIC MAGNESIUM, INCORPORATED, Las Vegas, Nevada

SEPTEMBER 17, 1942

## You'd Never Know The Old Place



This picture was taken a year ago this week-- on Sept. 15, 1941 to be exact. It's the BMI plant site. A few minutes after the photographer snapped this shot, a fleet of bulldozers began clearing the landscape. From that moment, things have been humming. A shot from the same point on Sept. 15, 1942 -- would reveal an American miracle -- but we can't show things like that to the enemy.

### 12 SHORT MONTHS--AND LOOK!

There's a harvest of anniversaries around this BMI project these days. The picture on this page--taken a year ago this week-- shows what we mean. On the greasewood dotted acreage shown in the picture, men have fashioned materials into the world's largest magnesium plant, the like of which only a few of them ever saw. It seems incredible that now--a short year later--white metal is coming out of the cells. It's a triumph, and don't you forget it!

### SOME PRE-BUILDING MARVELS, TOO

But it took a lot more than successful battling down of construction obstacles to produce this modern miracle. The speed with which the project moved from a mere idea to a building project--and the hurdles which a handful of men had to surmount before the ground could be broken make a story as dramatic as any in the whole magic history of industrial America.

### FIRST PLANS AT BOTTOM OF OCEAN

Write some of these facts into the record book, and you'll see what we're driving at. It was only 17 months ago this week that officials of the Office of Production Management assured BMI officials that they liked the idea of constructing a magnesium plant in Nevada.

It was only sixteen months ago that six large cases of plant designs were on their way from England. The ship bearing them was sunk by a torpedo. The plans were lost.

The two English technicians bringing the plans over were rescued. Back in England the original drawings were microfilmed and sped to the United States by plane. Then the two technicians boarded ship again and came over themselves. They're on the job at the project today.

### JUST A SKELETON ORGANIZATION

With the arrival of these tiny microfilms, things really began to move. In less than a month BMI signed a contract with the Defense Plant Corporation for construction of a plant. But DPC decided to make the plant four times as large as the contract called for.

### 17 MEN GET BUSY

Only thirteen months ago this week the contract for the present plant was closed. On that epochal date BMI had 17 employees. The same week DPC decided that BMI should also build the water and transmission lines from the dam and the lake. BMI later sublet these contracts. In the same week also orders for nearly \$10,000,000 worth of electrical equipment were placed, and the

# THE BIG JOB—BASIC MAGNESIUM NEWS-LETTER

chlorine plant construction contracted for. Only a year ago this month--on September 3, 1941--the McNeill contract was signed. On September 15 the BMI staff--all 22 of them--moved from Cleveland into the Marine Airplane hangar at Boulder City--and Dude Brannon marshalled his fleet of bulldozers into the greasewood. The big job was under way. And you wouldn't know the old place now.

## FROM NOTHING A SHORT YEAR AGO

Never before--anywhere--has such a gigantic undertaking been conceived, tackled, and accomplished in such a short time by an organization which, at the outset--a few short months ago--could have gone comfortably to town in a station wagon.

It doesn't make any difference which outfit you work with; either BMI, a contractor, or a sub-contractor. There's enough strut-producing pride in this job for everybody.

So--take another glimpse at the picture. Then treat yourself to a good sweeping look at the plant. A year! Just a short year! Folks, ain't that sumpin'?

## APARTMENTS AND HOTEL GOING UP

Basic's apartments for women and hotel for men are under construction in the townsite. To house 50 girls, and 50 men, they will be completed in about 60 days.

The girls' apartment building comprises 22 double apartments and six singles. Each has kitchenette, dining nook, and combination living and bedroom. The building is a rectangle, 193 x 153 constructed around two large courts, each of which is flanked by an arcade. The inner court at the rear is screened from the front court. The front court opens from a main lounge and several small reception rooms so that the area near the entrance may be used for social affairs--with the boy friends. The structure is in the large park area at the east end of the townsite.

## MEN'S BUILDING LIKE HOTEL

The Men's building is more like a hotel--although it too opens upon a large center court. There are 50 single rooms, each with a lavatory. Central shower rooms are conveniently located. The men's lounge--like a hotel lobby--is flanked by smaller rooms. These are called "conference" rooms, but could be used for pinochle. The men's building is located on the west side of the business area.

## SCHOOL TO OPEN OCTOBER 2

Twelve grades of the Railroad Pass School in Basic Townsite will open on Friday, October 2 at 8 o'clock in the morning. On the first day registrations will be taken. Regular classes will start on Monday morning, October 5 at 8 a.m.

BRRRRRRR.

This is the first time in the entire history of the great and golden west that any large number of people have been frozen in Nevada early in September.

## A LITTLE AMERICAN FLAG

A tiny scrap of bunting, measuring six by eight inches, became the first American flag to fly over a conquered Japanese stronghold in this war. It was run to the top of a Japanese flagpole at Kukum on Guadalcanal Island on August 7, eight months to the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. A group of Marines pushing inland in the first phase of the Solomon Islands offensive, stopped long enough to cheer the brave little flag flying so proudly, then pressed on.

The man who raised this miniature Old Glory over Guadalcanal was Lt. Evard J. Snell, whose wife and two sons live at 1324 South 50th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He bought the flag in Vineland, New Jersey, on Memorial Day in 1934. Faded and frayed after eight years of travel with the Marines, it has flown from a barracks window in the Philippines in 1936, over a tent in Cuba, and as identification on a ricksha used by Lieutenant Snell during the trouble in Peking and Tientsin in 1937 and 1938. The story of the little flag's big moment was relayed to Washington by a Marine Corps combat correspondent. He didn't have to tell us that the Marines "gave it their best"!

## GIVING THE AXIS THE AX

