

THE BIG JOB

BASIC MAGNESIUM NEWS LETTER

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800 Tons of Silver Coming To B.M.I.

Through the warp and woof of Nevada's history runs a bright pattern of silver. It is a pattern that depicts the determination of a new people on a new continent to remain a Union--one and inseparable. It is a pattern of past war and past victory.

A NEW DESIGN FOR 1942

But the loom still runs and the fabric of history continues to unfold. So this is a story of that pattern as it is being woven today. It is a story of Abraham Lincoln and Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, threaded together in the pattern of silver. It is a story of the Comstock Lode and our fight with the Axis. It is a story of copper, magnesium--and again, of silver.

SILVER AND THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

Abraham Lincoln was worried. The gallant troops of Lee were winning the war. The Union could be saved only if the industrial resources of the North could be brought to bear against the South. To do this required money--lots of it--more of it than the national credit of those days could raise. The crying need was for metallic money--gold and silver money. Lincoln's need was desperate.

WASHINGTON LOOKS WEST

Here in Nevada, men from the far corners of the earth were taking fabulous riches out of the ground. Silver ore from the Comstock Lode was running thousands of dollars to the ton. Both sides--North and South--needed the metallic money this silver would make. There was sharp conflict between men of the two sections on the rich Nevada hill. Miners from the South wanted Nevada in the Confederacy, and men from the North wanted it in the Union. There was gun play.

NEVADA TAKES A CENSUS

An objection was made in Washington that Nevada territory did not have enough population to become a State. But the boys out here sent word back east that a census would prove otherwise. So a census was taken. The story has it that northern miners took the census and counted incoming citizens every time they rounded a curve. Anyway, the census figures which went to Washington showed a population large enough to silence all protests. Lincoln, no doubt with his tongue in his cheek, put the weight

of his office behind legislation, and Nevada, battle-born, became a State of the Union. Incidentally, Lincoln thereby gained three more votes in Congress in favor of the thirteenth amendment which freed the slaves. Silver from the Comstock went to the North, and it is by no means an exaggeration to say that silver from the new State saved the Union.

TODAY IT'S MAGNESIUM

The years roll by. Hitler ravages Europe. Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. The threat of death to democracy stalks over the earth. Uncle Sam girds for battle. Once more the eyes of Washington turn to Nevada--the state of metals. This time it is magnesium which Uncle Sam needs. In Nevada is the water, the power, an unlimited supply of magnesite--the three requisites for the production of magnesium.

COPPER IN RECORD QUANTITIES

You know the rest--the BMI project--world's largest magnesium plant. It so happens that such a plant requires world record quantities of copper--not only for wire and cable, but for massive installations of bus bar for carrying huge electric currents. Still magnesium is so badly needed that the copper--though urgently required for shell and bullet cases--is routed to BMI.

A LARGE HOARD OF SILVER

Now for several years Uncle Sam has been buying silver and storing it--largely because of legislation sponsored by a congressional silver bloc--led by Nevada. Tens of thousands of tons of silver are stored in the east. Silver--like copper--is a No. 1 conductor of electricity. The demand for copper for shells becomes more and more pressing. We need it to mow down the Axis.

SILVER LIKE PLANKS

So Nevada's solid silver is coming back home. It is coming to BMI. It is coming in planks, large as boards, to substitute for copper as bus bar. It is coming in what--before Pearl Harbor--would have been considered an unbelievable quantity--about 1,600,000 pounds to be used as straight bus bar in six of the ten metals buildings.

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TO HELP WIN ANOTHER WAR

It makes a proud little story, doesn't it? Nevada silver, which saved the Union once, returns to Nevada now to save the Union again. It comes back to take the place of copper which is needed for shells to blast the Germans and the Japs, and to help make magnesium which Uncle Sam has got to have to win.

NO STERLING SCRAP LYING AROUND

But they won't machine the silver bus bar here. The silver planks will be fabricated in Baltimore and will arrive ready for installation. It's going to be a pretty thing to see.

AS TO SURRENDERING TREASURE

There seems to be another meaning to this story. Silver costs a lot more than copper--71 cents an ounce. Sterling bus bar in peacetime would be out of the question. But in all-out war when copper can be freed for shells if silver is used to take its place in industry--then use of the valuable silver makes sense--particularly when such use does not impair the value of the Sterling.

A CHANGE OF VALUES

Thus things of great peacetime value are readjusted to the needs of war. So, we're all giving up something here in the desert in order to make magnesium--precious things, too--normal home life--easy transportation--movies twice a week--vacations in the car--peacetime fun.

And we're glad to do it--every man and woman of us. Because we're only giving up these treasures for a time so that we and future Americans can enjoy them later on as a free and liberty-loving people--giving them up for a time just as Uncle Sam is surrendering precious silver to help insure the victory.

Yes--it's taking the sacrifice of more than one kind of treasure to make magnesium.

And Uncle Sam--it's all yours!

PAT McCARRAN WIRES

In connection with the use of silver at BMI, U. S. Senator Pat McCarran has sent the following telegram from Washington: "I have today conferred with Army authorities in furtherance of plan to utilize Nevada silver in the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada. The silver to be used in substitution for copper thus to relieve a large quantity of copper for war essential purposes. I am assured this plan has approval of Army authorities. This use of Nevada silver in substitution for copper will accomplish two very important purposes: First, the release of great quantities of

Copper now used as bus bars and electrical appliances in the magnesium plant, and secondly, it will insure that silver used in this way for non-consumptive purposes will in no wise take from its value as a money metal. I am happy to have this progressive step approved by the Army authorities and taken by the greatest magnesium plant now existent in the world. This magnesium plant using ores coming from Nevada mines will when in full operation produce in excess of a hundred million pounds of magnesium per year. Thus this plant utilizing Nevada ores and Nevada silver will play its great part toward winning of the war. I am grateful to Basic Magnesium, Incorporated and to the Army authorities for their cooperation in this matter."

(Signed)

Pat McCarran

FIRST COMMUNITY PARTY ON PROJECT

The first big community party on the project will be held in the new school auditorium Saturday afternoon, October 3. The occasion will mark the opening of the auditorium and school. BMI Post of the American Legion is sponsoring the event. The program will start in the Auditorium at 4 p.m. State officials will be present. The Legion will present the school with an American flag and standard. Miss Mildred Bray, State Superintendent of Public Instruction will officially dedicate the school. Teachers will be at the classroom posts to greet parents and visitors. Come and inspect the school.

DANCE IN EVENING

At 8 p.m. the Townsite's first dance will begin. The Legion is staging this event, too. There will be a regular orchestra. Tickets will cost a dollar a couple and net proceeds will start a fund for the purchase of musical instruments for the school. Pretty nice of the Legion, that is!

HELPI HELPI HELPI

WANTED: Temporary quarters in Basic Townsite for five school teachers. Rooms are needed only until completion of the girls' apartments in approximately 60 days. Persons who wish to co-operate are requested to call or see Mr. Petrie in the Housing Office near Gate 1. Of the 20 teachers who will staff the school, housing has been arranged for all but five. Who'll help?

SERVICE AT HOSPITAL

Dr. F. E. Clough, BMI's Chief Surgeon, announces that offices for the care of outpatients are now open at Basic hospital. Medical service will be provided by hospital staff doctors who will be on duty pending opening of the hospital from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily.