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LASTE MASSIME PER

TRAVELER
Boston, Mass.

SEP 5 1942

Start of production in the world's largest magnesium plant makes the forecasts of 1941 the output of 1942. This Nevada plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc. is the fifth important unit to begin operations in recent weeks to provide materials for planes and munitions. The Basic Magnesium plant has capacity rating 3½ times the country's total output in 1941. The five are financed and government owned through Defense Plants Corporation. The other four plants are situated in Texas, California, Michigan and Connecticut.

SECONDO, CALIF., THE TIMES
ADVOCATE (Weekly), Cir. 1,000,
SEPTEMBER 3, 1942

First Unit Operates in Magnesium Plant

By United Press

LAS VEGAS, Sept. 1.—The first unit of the huge basic magnesium plant here was in operation today, marking the first step towards eventual production of more than 50,000 tons of war material annually.

A portion of the \$100,000,000 plant started operating exactly a year after the first "soil analysis" was taken, preparatory to constructing the large magnesium refinery.

SEP. 2, 1942
AMARILLO, TEX. NEWS

ceremony being arranged there.

Magnesium Plant in Operation

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1. (AP)—The government's giant magnesium plant is in production.

The \$100,000,000 plant producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October, that production would start in August.

FREE PRESS
Detroit, Mich.

SEP 2 1942

Basic Magnesium Plant in Operation

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days.

The entire output goes to the War Department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

SEP. 3, 1942
WEATHERFORD TEX HERALD

Huge U. S. Magnesium Plant Starts Operation

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—Uncle Sam's \$100,000,000 magnesium plant went to work Monday to produce materials for his vast war machine.

The first unit in cell house No. 1 began pouring molten magnesium chloride into a bank of a "blank" number of electrolysis cells which "cooked" for several hours.

Late Monday ladlers started skimming metal magnesium from the cells and the first metal was in moulds.

DENVER MINING RECORD &
MACHINERY JOURNAL

"For over 50 years the leading mining newspaper
of the nation. Published every Saturday."

1829 Champa St., Denver, Colorado

AUG 27 1942

BASIC MAGNESIUM HAS MADE ITS FIRST OUTPUT

Las Vegas, Nev. — The first shipment of magnesium oxide from the Gabbs Valley plant to Basic Magnesium arrived here by truck and trailer and consisted of 60 tons. This was a test run to determine various factors involved in handling the concentrates which will soon begin to go thru the plant, coming out as the all important metal, magnesium.

SEP. 3, 1942
PORT ARTHUR, TEX. NEWS

Production At Big Magnesium Plant Is Begun

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 (AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., was announced today by the War Production Board.

A. H. Bunker, chief of the W.P.B.'s aluminum and magnesium branch, said the plant had a rated capacity 3½ times total United States output in 1941.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., is the latest of five important magnesium plants to enter production in recent weeks. The others were identified as the new Dow Chemical plant in Texas, a Ford Motor company plant in Michigan, the Permanente Metals corporation, Manteca, Calif., and the New England Mine company's Connecticut plant.

All five were financed and are owned by the government through the Defense Plants Corporation. They cost about \$175,000,000.

They will provide magnesium needed for such vital war weapons as aircraft, incendiary bombs, flares, and tracer bullets.

EVENING NEWS
Buffalo, N. Y.

SEP 3 1942

WORLD'S LARGEST MAGNESIUM PLANT BEGINS PRODUCTION

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 (AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., was announced today by the War Production Board. A. H. Bunker, chief of the W.P.B.'s aluminum and magnesium branch, said the plant had a rated capacity 3½ times total United States output in 1941.

Basic Magnesium, Inc. is the latest of five important magnesium plants to enter production in recent weeks. The others were identified as the new Dow Chemical plant in Texas, a Ford Motor Company plant in Michigan, the Permanente Metals Corporation, Manteca, Calif., and the New England Mine Company's Connecticut plant.

All five were financed and are owned by the government through the Defense Plant Corporation. They cost about \$175,000,000. They will provide magnesium needed for such vital war weapons as aircraft, incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

SEP. 4, 1942
SHAWNEE OZ DEMOCRAT

Magnesium Plant Opened

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—Uncle Sam's \$100,000,000 magnesium plant went to work Aug. 31 to produce materials for his vast war machine. The first unit began pouring molten magnesium chloride.

SEP. 1, 1942
HOUSTON, TEX., CHRONICLE

Uncle Sam's \$100,000,000 Magnesium Plant at Work

Production Fulfills Prediction Made Year Ago
on Date of Opening.

By Associated Press

Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 1.—Uncle Sam's \$100,000,000 magnesium plant has gone to work to produce materials for his vast war machine. The first unit in cell house No. 1 began pouring molten magnesium chloride into a bank of a blank number of electrolysis cells which "cooked" for several hours.

Ladlers started skimming metal magnesium from the cells and the first metal was in moulds.

Production fulfilled the prediction made by Howard Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium Company, last October that the plant would be in production by the middle or latter part of August of this year.

The producing process is a continuous one and can not be halted. Cells in operation today will continue from now on. Additional

cells will be brought in as completed and it is expected the plant will be at capacity production within 30 days.

Each cell house is an exact duplicate of a British plant which has been producing 5000 tons of metal annually for 10 years and providing most of the metal for British airplanes and incendiary bombs.

Ore is being shipped to the plant from Gabbs Valley in a steady stream of rail cars. The chlorine plant went into operation August 9 and already has shipped thousands of tons to market.

Production came one year from the day first soil analysis was taken by the McNeil Construction Company as the first act in preparing construction of the huge plant, which got under way September 15, 1941.

The entire output of the plant belongs to the War Department and will go into the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft elsewhere. Workmen handling the first magnesium were trained in England.

Basic officials, commenting on the event, concluded:

"For a plant supposedly without ore, material, process or know-how, we've done pretty well."

SEP. 3, 1942
COLO. SPGS., COLO. WKLY. GAZ.

Big Magnesium Plant Opens

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 (AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev.—was announced today by the war production board.

SEP. 3, 1942
HOUSTON, TEX. POST

Production at Largest Magnesium Plant Starts

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2.—(AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev.—was announced Wednesday by the war production board.

A. H. Bunker, chief of the W. P. B.'s aluminum and magnesium branch, said the plant had a rated capacity three and one-half times total United States output in 1941.

STAR
Indianapolis, Ind.

SEP 2 1942

Giant Magnesium Plant Is Now In Production

Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 1.—(AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of basic magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days.

The entire output goes to the War Department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

NEWS
Indianapolis, Ind.

SEP 3 1942

Largest Magnesium Plant Starts Work

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 (AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev.—was announced today by the war production board. The plant had a rated capacity three and one-half times total United States output in 1941, and is the latest of five important magnesium plants to enter production in recent weeks. All five were financed and are owned by the government.

WALL ST. JOURNAL
New York, N. Y.

Five New Magnesium Plants in Production

Included Is One at Las Vegas, Nev.,
With Rated Capacity of 3½
Times U. S. 1941 Output

WASHINGTON—Five important magnesium plants have entered production in recent weeks after completion in record time.

Included is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, which is the world's largest with a rated capacity approximately 3½ times total U. S. output in 1941, according to A. H. Bunker, chief of the War Production Board's Aluminum and Magnesium Branch.

The others are the new Dow Chemical Co. plant in Texas, the Ford Motor Co. plant in Michigan, the New England Lime Co.'s Connecticut plant and the Permanente Metals Corp. plant at Mantega, Calif.

All five plants were financed and are owned by the Federal Government. The total cost approximates \$175 million. The Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes while the other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year.

It took ten months for construction of the Basic Magnesium plant and four months for the ferro-silicon plants. Three more ferro-silicon plants are nearing completion and will commence operations later this year while an additional four electrolytic plants are under construction.

Completion of the program, according to the W.P.B., will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries as a magnesium producer. Before the war, Germany was the world's leader and only small quantities were produced in this country.

AMERICAN METAL MARKET

"Leading Iron, Steel and Metal Newspaper—
Recognized price and market authority"
New York City

SEP 8 1942

Basic Magnesium Plant In Nevada Starts Operation

Rated Capacity 3½ Times
U. S. Output In 1941

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2.—The world's largest magnesium plant with a rated capacity of approximately 3½ times the total U. S. output in 1941, has started production, A. H. Bunker, chief of the Aluminum and Magnesium Branch, W. P. B. announced today.

It is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nev., the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks.

The others are: the new Dow Chemical Company plant in Texas; the Ford Motor Company plant in Michigan; the Permanente Metals Corporation, Manteca, Calif., plant, and the New England Lime Company's Connecticut plant.

Of these, the Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes.

The other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year. All five plants were financed and are authorized by the government through the Defense Plant Corporation. The total cost approximates \$175,000,000.

All the new plants were completed in record time, ranging from ten months for the huge Basic Magnesium plant to four months for the ferro-silicon plants. Three more ferro-silicon plants are nearing completion and will commence operations later this year. An additional four electrolytic plants now are under construction.

Completion of the program will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries as a magnesium producer. Only small quantities were produced in this country before the war, with Germany as the world's leader.

BOSTON, MASS., CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR, Cir. 117,476,
SEPTEMBER 4, 1942

Big Magnesium Plant Is Now in Operation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev.—was announced by the War Production Board.

A. H. Bunker, chief of the W.P.B.'s aluminum and magnesium branch, said the plant had a rated capacity 3½ times total United States output in 1941.

Basic Magnesium, Inc. is the latest of five important magnesium plants to enter production in recent weeks. The others were identified as the new Dow Chemical plant in Texas, a Ford Motor Company plant in Michigan, the Permanente Metals Corporation, Manteca, Calif., and the New England Mine Company's Connecticut plant.

All five were financed and are owned by the Government through the Defense Plants Corporation. They cost about \$175,000,000.

They will provide magnesium needed for such vital war weapons as aircraft, incendiary bombs, flares, and tracer bullets.

WALL ST. JOURNAL
New York, N. Y.

Basic Magnesium Opens New \$100 Million Plant

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—The \$100 million plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, is in operation, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August. The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the War Department.

From
Chicago, Ill.
SEP 3 1942

World's Largest Magnesium Plant Begins Production

Washington, Sept. 3.—(UP)

—A. H. Bunker, chief of the aluminum and magnesium branch of the War Production Board, announced today that the world's largest magnesium plant had started production with a rated capacity of three and one-half times the total U.S. output of 1941.

The new plant is that of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., and it is the fifth important new magnesium enterprise to start operations in recent weeks, Bunker said. The others are the Dow Chemical Co. plant in Texas, the Ford Motor Co. plant in Michigan, the Permanente Metals Corp. plant in California and the New England Lime Co. plant in Connecticut.

The five plants, which were built at an aggregate cost of \$175,000,000, are owned by the Defense Plant Corp.

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

"America's Leading Business Newspaper."
New York City

SEP 4 1942

MAGNESIUM UNITS BEAT SCHEDULE

Basic Plant at Las Vegas Is
Also Completed in
Record Time

(Bureau of Journal of Commerce)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3.—The world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity approximately three and one-half times total United States output in 1941, has started production, A. H. Bunker, chief, aluminum and magnesium branch, W. P. B., announced yesterday.

It is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nev., the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks. The others are the new Dow Chemical Co. plant in Texas, the Ford Motor Co. plant in Michigan, the Permanente Metals Corporation, Manteca, Calif., plant and the New England Lime Co.'s Connecticut plant.

Of these, the Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes. The other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year. All five plants were financed and are owned by the Government through the Defense Plant Corporation. The total cost approximates \$175,000,000.

All the new plants were completed in record time, ranging from ten months for the huge Basic Magnesium plant to four months for the ferro-silicon plants. Three more ferro-silicon plants are nearing completion and will commence operations later this year. An additional four electrolytic plants now are under construction.

Completion of the program will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries as a magnesium producer. Only small quantities were produced in this country before the war, with Germany as the world's leader. Magnesium is used in the manufacture of aircraft, as an alloy with aluminum, and in incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

The Job Speaks for Itself

To attempt to interpret for the readers of this newspaper the significance of the event occurring out at Basic Magnesium yesterday when the first metal was produced at the big plant, would be to suggest that, generally speaking the people of this area are unaware of the importance of this project to the war effort and to the future of southern Nevada.

We have known for months that this was the number one war project in construction. What its coming means to this entire area has been fittingly demonstrated during the construction period in a manner no one can traverse.

The one question in the minds of many was whether or not the charges hurled at the project itself were true—whether, on the basis of those charges, the plant would ever go into production or not.

Because of the rigidity with which the war department has clamped down on release of news from the project, much has been left unsaid that might have cast light on the progress being made, and the people generally have had to rely on second-hand tales, many of a rather imaginary nature.

When the metal started flowing from the chlorinators yesterday, Howard Mann, project manager, said he had no comment to make—that "the job speaks for itself."

We're inclined to the same view—inclined to believe that the people of this area know full well what it means when the big plant goes into production—that the job speaks for itself.

What this means for the future of Nevada is a matter of conjecture. It CAN mean everything—factories, payrolls in ever increasing number.

We still retain the hope that we will one day become "the Pittsburgh of the light metal industry" as predicted some months ago by Howard P. Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, Inc. That IS the goal ahead. Yesterday saw us one BIG step forward on the way toward that goal.

Certainly it is a long way into the future—certainly there is a lot of work ahead to make it come true. But—a year ago, the magnesium plant was but a newspaper story so far as the general public was concerned. Today it is a reality.

If miracles like this can transpire in less than a year's time—other eventualities of equal import, of which we do not now even dream, CAN happen with the same apparent waving of a magic wand.

WALL ST. JR.
9/3/42

New York City

Five New Magnesium Plants in Production

Included Is One at Las Vegas, Nev.,
With Rated Capacity of 3½
Times U. S. 1941 Output

WASHINGTON—Five important magnesium plants have entered production in recent weeks after completion in record time.

Included is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, which is the world's largest with a rated capacity approximately 3½ times total U. S. output in 1941, according to A. H. Bunker, chief of the War Production Board's Aluminum and Magnesium Branch.

The others are the new Dow Chemical Co. plant in Texas, the Ford Motor Co. plant in Michigan, the New England Lime Co.'s Connecticut plant and the Permanente Metals Corp. plant at Mantega, Calif.

All five plants were financed and are owned by the Federal Government. The total cost approximates \$175 million. The Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes while the other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year.

It took ten months for construction of the Basic Magnesium plant and four months for the ferro-silicon plants. Three more ferro-silicon plants are nearing completion and will commence operations later this year while an additional four electrolytic plants are under construction.

Completion of the program, according to the W.P.B., will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries as a magnesium producer. Before the war, Germany was the world's leader and only small quantities were produced in this country.

OBSERVATIONS

By CHARLES P. SQUIRES

BASIC MAGNESIUM, INC.

Now that the Democratic primaries are all over, perhaps one may safely mention Basic Magnesium, Inc. or Gabbs. Politics surely does lead to some ingenious so-called issues.

I was one of a few guests invited the other day to witness the start of the first furnace at the plant and the pouring of the first charge of anhydrous magnesium chloride into the first of the series of eight de-chlorination cells which are fed by each furnace.

There was considerable of a thrill when the big furnace was put in action. Perhaps you remember the old style arc lamps which once were used for providing a glittering, purplish light for our streets. The carbons in those wonderful lamps were slightly larger in diameter than a lead pencil, but they made a blinding glare when the juice arced between them.

Well, the carbons in these electric furnaces at the Basic Magnesium plant are about fourteen inches in diameter and when the mighty current of electricity from Boulder Dam goes coursing between them, things really do warm up.

Well, because chlorine is subtle, hard to corral and hard to control, and vicious, contrary and subversive to human health and happiness when loosed upon the public, nearly all the workmen wore gas masks dangling from straps about their necks. You see in the process of manufacturing the thousands of tons of chlorine which have been in process of manufacture and shipping for the past month or two, a little once in a while has escaped and sent the whole gang choking and coughing and tear-shedding into the open air.

Well, there proved to be nothing to fear from escape of a few whiffs of chlorine from the furnace. Even if some does escape it is drawn by a powerful ventilating system into the air discharge pipes.

We stood around for a little time while a gang of electricians working under direction of Dr. Fleming, technician in charge who was loaned to the United States by the British Government, changed the connections of the great bus bars to shoot alternating current through the electro-thermal cells, instead of the direct current with which the initial heating of the cells was done.

Well, finally a fellow standing on a platform in front of the furnace, began to poke a long sharp rod into the sealed opening in the base of the furnace.

Out spurted a blazing, white-hot stream of material which reminded me of the tapping of a blast furnace on a little smaller scale. Into a great hopper standing below flowed the fiery mass. Then, when it was full, a man stepped on the little platform of the hopper, pulled a little lever and away she went, stopping beside the first of the cells.

A funnel inserted in the cell opening received the charge and the process was really under way. It was anhydrous chloride of magnesium, they said, which came from the furnace into the cell, and it was function of the cell to remove the chloride and leave the crude magnesium metal.

Everything worked exactly as programmed and the staring group sighed with relief that nothing happened—no chlorine gas escaping, no destructive magnesium powder explosion, none of the terrible disasters for which Hitler and Hirohito had been hoping came to delay the miracle which Basic Magnesium had accomplished in less than one year of plant construction.



Pat McCarran Presents Magnesium to Senate

Las Vegas Project Lauded to Solons By Nevadan

Senator Pat McCarran presented the U. S. senate Monday with a memento of the start of magnesium production at the giant Las Vegas plant on August 31. Addressing the senate, the Nevadan said:

"Less than a year and a half ago, after a very careful study made by the war department, the navy department, and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, \$65,000,000 was allocated by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for the construction of a magnesium plant close to Boulder dam and near Las Vegas in southern Nevada.

"Much has been said regarding the money which has been spent for the construction of that great plant, but little has been said about the skill and push that have been applied toward its completion.

"Today I have received a letter from Basic Magnesium, Inc., which has control of the construction of the plant and will have control of its operation. In view of the fact that the attention of congress has been called to the construction of the plant, I ask leave at this time that the brief letter addressed to me may be read by the clerk."

The letter, which together with the senator's address, appears in the Congressional Record of September 7, follows:

BASIC MAGNESIUM, Inc.
Las Vegas, Nev.
September 2, 1942

Hon. Pat McCarran,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator McCarran:

I am sure that you were pleased to learn that we had been able to overcome our many difficulties and succeeded in bringing the metal plant into production before the end of August. The process is now running smoothly, and it is now only a question of overcoming difficulties in supply of mechanics and construction material and driving construction as fast as we can to complete the whole plant.

Remembering your keen interest and your friendly cooperation and assistance, I feel that you would like to have a memento of this occasion, which I believe will become historic in the annals of Nevada, and so I am sending you a small block of metal taken from the first production.

When you are next in Nevada, I hope you will give us the pleasure of your visit, at which time we shall be happy to show you the plant in operation. I hope that on my next visit east, I shall have the pleasure of meeting you in Washington. With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,
CHARLES J. P. BALL,
Vice President.

After the letter was read, Senator McCarran continued his remarks as follows:

"Mr. President, I hold in my hand a memento coming from the first production of that great magnesium plant now located in the southern part of my state. The plant will produce 112,000,000 pounds of magnesium annually, which is 3½ times the production of that metal in the year 1941.

"So this great plant, which has now been put up by the activity and the encouragement of this government, assures the production of a metal which will go a long way toward winning the war.

"Whatever may have been said by way of criticism, let it be noted that within a year and a half this great plant has at this early date, notwithstanding great obstacles, put out and now puts out for the first time magnesium, the metal so much needed in our war effort.

"The country may well congratulate the management, the American labor, and the progressive skill that accomplished this. "Where such things can be brought about in such short time and so efficiently, no enemy can successfully challenge."

Las Vegas Review Journal
September 15, 1942

Vacuum Cleaner Performs Wonders At BMI Plant

With the beginning of production of magnesium metals at the huge Clark county plant, the weekly mimeographed publication of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., titled "The Big Job," gave some interesting facts concerning the transport of the calcined magnesite from the source of the raw material to the electrolytic cells from which is poured the vital light-weight war metal. The company's news report says:

The whole storage system at B. M. I., closely tied in with the preparation units, and all linked together by a smooth-flowing system of conveyancing, is just another of those marvels that send visitors away talking to themselves.

Fine Powders

Raw materials in this process are largely fine powders, difficult to handle, and often moved with great loss. That won't be true here.

Take magnesium oxide for example. It's fine as flour when ready to ship. Specially designed airtight trailers, with air-pressure intake on top and outlet valves at the bottom, will haul this material either to the plant or to cars.

Here at the plant, facilities are provided for unloading either from trailers or from cars. In unloading a trailer, a stocking will be attached to the bottom valves and the oxide pulled by suction through air lines direct to the big silos. These air lines will be motivated by a sixty-horsepower motor.

Unloading Big Job

Unloading cars is something else again. And here's where housewives around these embattled parts give a gasp. It's done with vacuum cleaners.

Great big vacuum cleaners—four of them—each operated by a forty horsepower motor. Each one of these giant house-cleaners (or powder unloaders) can suck up thirty tons an hour.

"House Cleaners"

A car arrives from the mine. In go a couple of "the house-cleaners." The boys don't even have to push or steer them. There's a little motor on each wheel. Touch one button and she turns right, touch the other and she turns left.

With only one finger effort by the operator she can be made to spin on a dime. Well—in they go. Bulkheads are opened at the bottom. The motors start. Into the main air line—with a capacity of sixty tons an hour—flows the magnesium oxide, headed for the silos.

Two of these big vacuum cleaners can empty a whole car and move its load into storage in less than sixty minutes. Nix, ladies. You can't borrow these vacuum cleaners after a sand-storm! You'd lose your rugs and furniture.

Peak of Work At Magnesium Plant Passed, Revealed

McNeil Forces to Be Cut Monthly, Said At Meeting

At a hearing of the Nevada public service commission in Las Vegas this morning to consider the matter of transportation for workmen to the magnesium plant, it was revealed that the peak of employment by the McNeil Construction company was passed in the middle of July and beginning about October 1, the number of employees of the company will diminish between 1200 and 1500 per month.

L. G. McNeil, president of the McNeil Construction company, stated that his employment list showed 9,016 employees yesterday. At the peak in July, the total employment was 10,400. The construction contract will be completed early in the spring, he said, and it is expected that the main force will be down to between 2,000 and 3,000 by the middle of January.

The distribution of the 9,016 employees as to residence was given by McNeil as follows: Las Vegas, 5159; North Las Vegas, 304; Westside, 24; Boulder City, 324; Whitney, 972; Midway, 109; BMI trailer camp, 14; Anderson camp, 1955; BMI townsite, 120; Arden, 7; Goodsprings, 11; Jean 2; Nelson, 7; and Searchlight, 8.

Application Made

At the hearing this morning the application of the Pony Express Stages was under consideration. The company proposes to use a fleet of trucks formerly operated in hauling new automobiles for bus purposes in handling magnesium plant workers. Charles Sexton of Carson City, chairman, and Charles Williams of Carson City were the public service commissioners who heard the testimony today.

Guernsey Fraser, assistant to the project manager for Basic Magnesium, Inc., reported on efforts made by his concern to obtain adequate transportation facilities for the workmen and stated that the present service of the Interstate Transit Lines is not adequate, in that the schedule is not sufficient, a reduction in the rate would be an attraction to the workmen, and the pickup and terminal facilities could be improved upon.

Tire Situation

J. M. Murphy, division state highway engineer and member of the local tire rationing board, testified regarding a count of highway traffic at the magnesium plant between July 20 and 26, showing an average of 7,538 cars entering the plant daily during that period. He said that plant employees were in class B so far as tire rationing is concerned, which permits them to apply for retreads, which give about 3,000 mile service at a speed of 35 to 40 miles per hour.

A representative from the bureau of mines in Boulder City stated that a board has been formed by that agency to seek tire quotas for qualified workmen.

Murphy said the Clark county tire quota for September has been set at 279, and that the rationing board now has on hand 825 applications.

Fraser stated that federal regulations prevent tire rationing to persons living within two miles of their work. Therefore families residing at the Basic townsite are virtually maddened, because there is no facility for creation or for shopping. A plan has been proposed to build sufficient stores and a theater to meet the need, but it may be months before such a plan can be carried out he said.

Captain Jack Bridwell of Camp Sibert stated that high costs of round-trip fares from Boulder City to Las Vegas and the lack of frequent schedules force the soldiers to "thumb" a ride, which is in violation of army regulation and puts them in danger of high-

way accidents. The present round-trip fare for the soldiers is \$1.36, which is prohibitive for their incomes, and that the schedule permits them only about three hours time in Las Vegas after they go off duty.

Captain Bridwell stated that the Interstate Transit Lines buses are traveling in excess of the United States law and added that he had paced the buses and knew them to be traveling more than 40 miles per hour.

Sebastian Mikulich, owner of the Las Vegas-Tonopah-Reno Stage Lines, who entered the only protest to the proposed service of the Pony Express Stages, withdrew his objection when he learned that the bus would travel only four miles north on Bonanza Road, to take care of men who will be employed by Southern Nevada Industries, Inc.

James J. Broz, traffic manager for BMI, stated that the present employment of BMI is 1,655, and that this number will be increased to a permanent employment of approximately 4,000 between March and May, 1943. He stated that a survey of workmen's autos in July showed the tires to rate 21 per cent good; 43 per cent fair; and 36 per cent poor.

E. E. Bennett, attorney, who appeared as an "interested party" for the Union Pacific Railroad and Interstate Transit Lines, asked Broz if it was his opinion that the proposed Pony Express Stages would be needed only until the completion of construction of the magnesium plant. Broz replied that his answer would be based on the assumption that Interstate Transit Lines could handle the traffic if additional stages were put in service up to the 25 agreed upon by the company.

Broz stated that the transportation problem falls into two classes: Mass transportation for field labor and mass transportation for office workers. He said he believed the Interstate Transit Lines is handling the office workers adequately, but is not handling the field works adequately.

"I believe there is room for two operators," Broz said.

The hearing was scheduled to continue this afternoon and testimony then will be reviewed by the public service commission before a decision is made on the Pony Express Stage application.

SEP. 10, 1942
SEYMOUR, TEX. BANNER

MAGNESIUM COMPANY WILL SUPPLY METAL

BOULDER CITY, Nev.—Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

That's just one startling item of information about the project. There are lots of others that the War Production Board labels confidential, but here are a few it approves for public consumption:

Boulder Dam employment at its peak totaled 5,250 workers. Basic Magnesium had 13,618 on its pay roll last week—and that pay roll is greater each week than it was each month at the dam.

It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

Boulder Dam makes the Basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam-generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete, to resist the upsurge when a full load of current is turned on.

From TIMES

DETROIT, MICH.

SEP 4 1942

Good News From War Factories

By International News Service

MORE MAGNESIUM—A giant magnesium plant, with an output almost four times as great as all that produced in this country in 1941, has started production, the War Production Board announces.

MORE FREIGHT—To facilitate transportation of food, the Office of Defense Transportation announces that it has "pooled" every refrigerator freight car in the country so that assignments can be made from the pool as a single unit.

MORE GASOLINE—The American Petroleum Institute reports that the nation's gasoline stocks last week were up by 388,000 barrels over the week before to a total of 80,831,000 barrels. Stocks a year ago were only 80,394,000 barrels.

MORE SHIPS—The Southern Pacific Railroad has converted some of its shop facilities for construction of heavy plate-bending rolls for the Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation, Portland, it was announced today.

Jr. of Commerce
New York, N. Y.

SEP 4 - 1942

MAGNESIUM UNITS BEAT SCHEDULE

Basic Plant at Las Vegas Is Also Completed in Record Time

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3. — The world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity approximately three and one-half times total United States output in 1941, has started production, A. H. Bunker, chief, aluminum and magnesium branch, W. P. B., announced yesterday.

It is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nev., the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks. The others are the new Dow Chemical Co. plant in Texas, the Ford Motor Co. plant in Michigan, the Permanente Metals Corporation, Manteca, Calif., plant and the New England Lime Co.'s Connecticut plant.

Of these, the Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes. The other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year. All five plants were financed and are owned by the Government through the Defense Plant Corporation. The total cost approximates \$175,000,000.

All the new plants were completed in record time, ranging from ten months for the huge Basic Magnesium plant to four months for the ferro-silicon plants. Three more ferro-silicon plants are nearing completion and will commence operations later this year. An additional four electrolytic plants now are under construction.

Completion of the program will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries as a magnesium producer. Only small quantities were produced in this country before the war, with Germany as the world's leader. Magnesium is used in the manufacture of aircraft, as an alloy with aluminum, and in incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

GOLDFIELD, NEV. NEWS & TRIBUNE
Cir. 1,500
SEPTEMBER 4, 1942

MAGNESIUM PLANT GOES ON PRODUCTION

The \$100,000,000 magnesium plant, located between Las Vegas and Boulder City, went into production Monday morning when the first unit in cell house number one started pouring molten magnesium chloride into bank of 11 electrolytic cells to "cook" for several hours.

Early that evening ladlers started skimming metal magnesium from cells and the first metal will be in molds. Additional cells in the first unit will be brought in as the plant is completed and it is expected that all 88 in the first cell house will be in production within 30 days.

Each cell house is the exact duplicate of a British plant which has been producing 5000 tons of metal annually for 10 years and providing most of the metal for British airplanes and incendiary bombs. The entire output of the plant will go to the war department for the manufacture of aircraft, incendiary bombs and tracer bullets, it was said.

NEWS BUREAU
Boston, Mass.

SEP 3 1942

Magnesium Plant Opens

The \$100,000,000 basic magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., went into operation Tuesday. The plant is expected to be at capacity production within thirty days. The entire output goes to the War Department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

NEWS
Chicago, Ill.

SEP 3 1942

Big Magnesium Plant Goes Into Production

Washington, Sept. 3.—(UP)—A. H. Bunker, chief of the aluminum and magnesium branch of the War Production Board, announced today that the world's largest magnesium plant had started production with a rated capacity of three and one-half times the total U. S. output of 1941.

The new plant is that of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nevada, and it is the fifth important new magnesium plant to start operations in recent weeks, Bunker said.

DETROIT, MICH.
SEP 1 1942

Big Magnesium Plant Goes Into Production

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1 (INS).—Production was in full swing at the \$100,000,000 basic magnesium plant. Although some units have yet to be completed, it was said the plant would be operating full capacity by the first of the year.

POST
Camden, N. J.
SEP 7 1942

MAGNESIUM OUTPUT

More magnesium.—A giant magnesium plant, with an output almost four times as great as all that produced in this country in 1941, has started production, the war production board announces.

SEP. 8, 1942
JOPLIN, MO. GLOBE

BASIC MAGNESIUM BEGINS OPERATIONS

Rated Capacity of New Plant in Nevada Is More Than Three Times Domestic 1941 Output.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity of more than three times the total domestic output in 1941, has started production, according to A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPB aluminum and magnesium branch.

The new plant is that of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev. It is the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks.

The others are the new Dow Chemical Company plant in Texas, the Ford Motor Company plant in Michigan, the Permanente Metals Corporation, Manteca, Calif., plant, and the New England Lime Company's Connecticut plant.

Of these, the Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes. The other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year. All five plants were financed and are authorized by the government through the Defense Plant Corporation. The total cost approximates \$175,000,000.

All the new plants were completed in record time, ranging from 10 months for the huge Basic Magnesium plant to four months for the ferro-silicon plants. Three more ferro-silicon plants are nearing completion and will commence operations later this year. An additional four electrolytic plants now are under construction.

Completion of the program will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries as a magnesium producer. Only small quantities were produced in this country before the war, with Germany as the world's leader.

Jr. of Commerce
Chicago, Ill.
9-8-42

Senator Shows Magnesium of New Plant: with a Moral

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7.—Sen. Pat McCarran (D., Nev.) today displayed in the Senate a bar of magnesium produced by the new magnesium plant in Nevada, operated by Basic Magnesium, Inc., within a year and a half of the start of its construction. "There was much criticism," Senator McCarran told the Senate, "at the time when the Reconstruction Finance Corporation allocated \$65,000,000 for construction of this plant. 'Whatever was said by way of criticism, let it be noted that just a year and one-half after the plant was started it was producing metal which will go a long way toward winning this war. 'The plant will produce 112,000,000 pounds of magnesium annually, three and one-half times the nation's production in 1941.'"

PHOENIX, ARIZ., REPUBLIC
Cir. 35,823, Sun. 41,749
SEPTEMBER 6, 1942

Nevada Plant Is Producing

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7.—(AP)—Senator McCarran, Democrat, Nevada, exhibited to the senate today a block of metal from the first production of a \$65,000,000 magnesium plant near Las Vegas, Nev.

He said the metal was sent him by officials of Basic Magnesium, Inc., of Las Vegas, which has control over construction and operation of the plant.

McCarran declared "much has been said of the money spent in the construction of this plant," but that the operators had overcome difficulties to bring a unit into production "within a year and a half."

When completed, he said, it would produce 112,000,000 pounds of magnesium annually, "three and a half times domestic production in 1941." He said the metal would "go a long way toward winning the war."

CINCINNATI, O. BILLBOARD
Cir. 35,695
SEPTEMBER 12, 1942

Five important magnesium plants have entered production in recent weeks after completion in record time. Included is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which is the world's largest with a rated capacity approximately 3 1/2 times total U. S. output in 1941, according to A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPB's Aluminum and Magnesium Branch. All five plants were financed and are owned by the federal government. Total cost approximates 175 million dollars. Completion of the program, says WPB, will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries as a magnesium producer. Before the war Germany was the world's leader, and only small quantities were produced in this country.

WILMINGTON, CALIF., JOURNAL
Cir. 5,717
SEPTEMBER 12, 1942

Senator Exhibits First Las Vegas Magnesium

WASHINGTON. — Senator McCarran, D., Nev., exhibited to the senate today a block of metal from the first production of a \$65,000,000 magnesium plant near Las Vegas, Nev.

He said the metal was sent him by officials of Basic Magnesium, Inc., of Las Vegas, which has control over construction and operation of the plant.

HERALD

Boston, Mass.

SEP 3 1942

MAGNESIUM: The world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity approximately three and one-half times the total United States output in 1941, has started production, the WPB announced. The plant is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., production unit at Las Vegas, Nev., the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks.

El Centro, Cal., Desert Magazine
Cir. 6,348
OCTOBER, 1942

Las Vegas, Nevada . . .

The first car of liquid chlorine, a by-product of Basic Magnesium, has been shipped from the company's plant to an eastern point. The company, soon to be world's largest manufacturer of magnesium, will produce as a by-product the second largest volume of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

El Centro, Cal., Desert Magazine
Cir. 6,348
OCTOBER, 1942

Boulder City, Nevada . . .

Basic Magnesium, Inc., destined to be the world's greatest magnesium producer is already employing 13,618 workers although it has not yet reached peak production. This is 8,368 more than were carried on the Boulder dam payroll at peak production. At full capacity the plant will produce 30 times more magnesium than world production six years ago.

MINING AND METALLURGY

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New York City

SEP 1942

Defense Plant Corporation

(Subsidiary of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation)

THE function of the Defense Plant Corporation is to provide financial aid needed to erect plant facilities for the production and processing of strategic and critical minerals and metals on recommendation of the War Production Board or of the Army and Navy Departments. Projects financed by it include the construction of plants for the production and treatment of aluminum, magnesium, chromium, manganese, tungsten, and vanadium ores, as well as the erection of blast furnaces for iron ore.

Seattle (Wn) Star
September 1, 1942

Production of the metal magnesium has begun at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nev., one year to the day after the McNeil Construction made the first soil analysis there.

SEP. 3, 1942
ST. PAUL, MINN. DISPATCH
Went to Take Output

Of New Magnesium Plant
LAS VEGAS, NEV. — (AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation Monday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days.

The entire output goes to the War department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

Seattle (Wn) Times
September 8, 1942

Nevada Salon Lauds Big Magnesium Plant

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8.—(AP)—Senator McCarran, Democrat, Nevada, exhibited to the Senate yesterday a block of metal from the first production of a \$65,000,000 magnesium plant near Las Vegas, Nev.

McCarran declared "much has been said of the money spent in the construction of this plant," but that the operators had overcome difficulties to bring a unit into production "within a year and a half." When completed, he said, it would produce 112,000,000 pounds of magnesium annually, "three and a half times domestic production in 1941."

SEP. 9 1942
ST. PAUL, MINN. DISPATCH

Senate Sees Magnesium From Nevada Plant

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Senator McCarran (D-Nev.) exhibited to the Senate Monday a block of metal from the first production of a 65 million dollars magnesium plant near Las Vegas, Nev.

He said the metal was sent him by officials of Basic Magnesium, Inc., of Las Vegas, which has control over construction and operation of the plant.

RENTON, WASH. GAZETTE
SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

Air Pipes Move Oxide Product At Basic Plant

Big Vacuum Cleaner Performs Wonders In Eliminating Loss

With the beginning of production of magnesium metal at the huge Clark county plant, the weekly mimeographed publication of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., titled "The Big Job," gave some interesting facts concerning the transport of the calcined magnesite from the source of the raw material to the electrolytic cells from which is poured the vital light-weight war metal. The company's news report says:

The whole storage system at BMI, closely tied in with the preparation units, and all linked together by a smooth-flowing system of conveyancing, is just another of those marvels that send visitors away talking to themselves.

Raw materials in this process are largely fine powders, difficult to handle, and often moved with great loss. That won't be true here.

Take magnesium oxide for example. It's fine as flour when ready to ship. Specially designed airtight trailers, with air-pressure intake on top and outlet valves at the bottom, will haul this material either to the plant or to cars.

Here at the plant, facilities are provided for unloading either from trailers or from cars. In unloading a trailer, a stocking will be attached to the bottom valves and the oxide pulled by suction through air lines direct to the big silos. These air lines will be motivated by a sixty-horsepower motor.

Unloading cars is something else again. And here's where housewives around these embattled parts give a gasp. It's done with vacuum cleaners.

Great big vacuum cleaners—four of them—each operated by a forty-horsepower motor! Each one of these giant house-cleaners (or powder unloaders) can suck up thirty tons an hour.

A car arrives from the mine. In go a couple of "he house-cleaners." The boys don't even have to push or steer them. There's a little motor on each wheel. Touch one button and she turns right, touch the other and she turns left.

With only finger effort by the operator she can be made to spin on a dime. Well—in they go. Bulkheads are opened at the bottom. The motors start. Into the main air line—with a capacity of sixty tons an hour—flows the magnesium oxide, headed for the silos.

Two of these big vacuum cleaners can empty a whole car and move its load into storage in less than sixty minutes. Nix, ladies. You can't borrow these vacuum cleaners after a sandstorm! You'd lose your rugs and furniture.

Magnesium Plant Operations Start

LAS VEGAS, Aug. 31 (UP)—The one hundred million dollar magnesium plant, located between Las Vegas and Boulder City, went into production this morning when the first unit in cell house number one started pouring molten magnesium chloride into bank of 11 electrolysis cells to "cook" for several hours.

Early this evening ladlers will start skimming metal magnesium from cells and first metal will be in molds. Additional cells in the first unit will be brought in as the plant is completed and it is expected that all 88 in the first cell house will be in production within 30 days.

Each cell house is the exact duplicate of a British plant which has been producing 5,000 tons of metal annually for ten years and providing most of the metal for British airplanes and incendiary bombs. The entire output of the plant will go to the war department for the manufacture of aircraft, incendiary bombs and tracer bullets, it was said.

FIRST SHIPMENT OF CHLORINE LEAVES BMI PLANT

Last Sunday, the first car of liquid chlorine containing approximately 55 tons of this vital war material moved out of the Basic Magnesium, Incorporated plant, consigned to an Eastern point, it was announced by Howard C. Mann, Project Manager.

There were no bands playing, flags flying, or speeches made as Basic's big diesel switch engine hooked on to the car and started it on its way. A steady stream of cars will follow today's initial shipment, moving to points throughout the nation.

Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, soon to be the world's largest manufacturer of magnesium, will produce as a by-product the second largest volume of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

Metal Magnesium Production Begins

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(UP)—Production of metal magnesium has been started at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium Inc. plant—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction company officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction.

Production of magnesium got under way when magnesium chloride was removed from one of eight chlorinator cells in cellhouse No. 1 and placed in electrolytic cells from which the molten magnesium was to be ladled shortly after 5 p.m. yesterday.

Magnesium produced here will be shipped immediately to defense plants throughout the United States to be made into airplanes, bombs, tracer bullets and other munitions.

Peat Moss Exports . . .

THE SUPPLY of most of the peat moss used in the United States before the war came from European sources. Since this supply has been cut and the national supply being neither adequate nor entirely satisfactory for some purposes, demand for Canadian peat and particularly for peat moss has increased very rapidly. In 1938, Canada supplied only 5% of the United States requirements and 8% in 1939. In 1940, the Canadian supply was

11,979 tons or 46% of imports into the United States. For the first nine months of 1941, the Canadian exports reached 20,347.

Beside the ordinary uses for peat moss, a recent important use, as a refining agent in the manufacture of magnesium, has brought peat moss into the class of war materials. United States peat of satisfactory quality and quantity is not available, but it is reported that the peat moss of British Columbia meets the requirements of the Basic Magnesium Corporation, Las Vegas, Nevada.

FIRST PRODUCT OF HUGE BASIC MAGNESIUM PLANT IS SENT TO WAR FACTORIES IN FORM OF CHLORINE

A notable step toward major production by the main plant of the Basic Magnesium Inc. was marked when, on Aug. 9, the first product of the huge enterprise, in the form of liquid chlorine, was pumped to a specially-designed pressure-tank car for transport to market. Howard C. Mann, project manager, said of the shipment:

"The first car of liquid chlorine, containing approximately 55 tons of this vital war material, moved out of the Basic Magnesium Inc. plant consigned to an eastern point. A

steady stream of cars will follow this initial shipment, moving to various points throughout the nation."

No ceremonies signalized this start of production of war materials as the company's Diesel switch engine started the car on its way. It was pointed out by Basic officials that chlorine is an essential chemical in many phases of war preparation and that the U. S. output has been far below the nation's needs. Scheduled soon to be the world's largest producer of metallic magnesium, the B. M. I. plant will produce as a by-product the second largest volume of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

The first unit in cell house No. 1 began pouring molten magnesium chloride into an unannounced number of electrolysis cells for "cooking." Later, ladlers started skimming molten magnesium metal from the cells and the first metal was placed in molds. Cells placed in operation Monday will continue from now on, as the process is perpetual and cannot be halted. Additional cells will be brought in as soon as they are completed, and within 30 days the plant is expected to be at capacity production.

The entire output goes to the war department and will be used for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

The first unit of the huge basic magnesium plant here was in operation today, marking the first step towards the eventual production of more than 50,000 tons of war material annually. A portion of the \$100,000,000 plant started operating exactly a year after the first "soil analysis" was taken preparatory to constructing the large magnesium refinery.

Officials of the company said that "it will be a very short time" before additional units of the "cell house" will start operating, with each "cell" producing approximately 5,000 tons of magnesium annually. Ten of these units will be operating before the plant is completed.

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Magnesium Plant in Las Vegas Producing

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UP)—The government's giant magnesium plant is in production.

The \$100,000,000 plant, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October that production would start in August.

Giant Magnesium Plant Starts War Production

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1 (AP). The government's giant magnesium plant is in production.

The \$100,000,000 plant, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October, that production would start in August.

1ST MAGNESIUM LEAVES PLANT

BMI Places Project in Operation

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 31.—(UP)—Production of metal magnesium was started at Basic Magnesium Inc. plant today—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Co., officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction.

Production of magnesium got under way when magnesium chloride was removed from one of eight chlorinator cells in cellhouse No. 1 and placed in electrolytic cells from which the molten magnesium was to be ladled shortly after 5 p.m. Magnesium produced here will be shipped immediately to defense plants throughout the United States.

It was said that within 30 days all eleven units in the first cell-house will be in production and before January 1, 1943, all cell-houses will be producing.

\$100,000,000 Plant To Make Bomb Material

LAS VEGAS, NEV. (AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the war department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

NEVADA PLANT BEGINS OUTPUT

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1 (AP)—The government's giant magnesium plant is in production.

The \$100,000,000 plant, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation Monday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October, that production would start in August.

The first unit in cell house No. 1 began pouring molten magnesium chloride into an unannounced number of electrolysis cells for "cooking." Later, ladlers started skimming molten magnesium metal from the cells and the first metal was placed in molds.

Cells placed in operation Monday will continue from now on, as the process is perpetual and cannot be halted. Additional cells will be brought in as soon as they are completed, and within 30 days the plant is expected to be at capacity production.

The entire output goes to the war department and will be used for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

First Magnesium Plant Unit Opens In Las Vegas, Nev.

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1 (UP)—The first unit of the huge Basic Magnesium plant here was in operation today, marking the first step towards the eventual production of more than 50,000 tons of war material annually.

A portion of the \$100,000,000 plant started operating exactly a year after the first "soil analysis" was taken preparatory to constructing the large magnesium refinery.

Officials of the company said that "it will be a very short time" before additional units of the "cell house" will start operating, with each "cell" producing approximately 5,000 tons of magnesium annually. Ten of these units will be operating before the plant is completed.

The cell houses are exact duplicates of a British plant which has been producing vital magnesium by the same process for the past 10 years and which provides most of the metal for British airplanes and incendiary bombs.

Basic Magnesium Production Begins

LAS VEGAS, (UP)—Production of metal magnesium was started at the huge \$100,000,000 basic magnesium plant one year to the day from the time of the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction.

First Unit of Huge Basic Magnesium Plant Finished

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1 (UP)—5000 tons of magnesium annually. The first unit of the huge basic Ten of these units will be operating magnesium plant here was in operation before the plant is completed. today, marking the first step. The cell houses are exact duplicates towards the eventual production of cates of a British plant which has more than 50,000 tons of war mate- been producing vital magnesium by rial annually.

A portion of the \$100,000,000 plant years and which provides most of started operating exactly a year the metal for British airplanes and after the first "soil analysis" was ta- incendiary bombs.

ken preparatory to constructing the The workmen handling the first large magnesium refinery. magnesium to be refined at the British Officials of the company said that plant were trained at the British "it will be a very short time" be- plant and have been training others fore additional units of the "cell to execute the complex operations house" will start operating, with involved in producing metal mag- each "cell" producing approximately nesium.

Basic Magnesium in Production

Production of metal magnesium was started at the Basic Magnesium, Inc. plant yesterday—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Co. officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction. Magnesium chloride was removed from one of eight chlorinator cells in cellhouse No. 1 and placed in electrolytic cells. The plant is near Las Vegas, Nev.

Cont. Business Indus. D.

First Unit of Big Magnesium Plant Now in Operation

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(UP)—The first unit of the huge basic magnesium plant here was in operation today, marking the first step towards the eventual production of more than 50,000 tons of war material annually.

A portion of the \$100,000,000 plant started operating exactly a year after the first "soil analysis" was taken preparatory to constructing the large magnesium refinery.

Officials of the company said that "it will be a very short time" before additional units of the "cell house" will start operating, with each "cell" producing approximately 5,000 tons of magnesium annually.

STAR
Washington, D. C.

Huge Plant Opens

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1 (UP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the War Department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

CLEVELAND MEN CONQUER DESERT

Eells Family and M. A. Hanna Co. Ready to Turn Out Vast Supply of Magnesium for War

BY GUY T. ROCKWELL
Financial Editor

Out in the great American desert, where cactus plants and tumbleweeds abound, two huge industrial enterprises, primarily a result of initiative of Clevelanders, are nearing completion as part of the Victory program.

Within a few miles of Las Vegas, in southern Nevada, the Manganese Ore Co., a subsidiary of the M. A. Hanna Co. in Cleveland, is developing extensive manganese ore claims and constructing a pioneer treating plant, the first commercial plant of its kind in the country. Stripping of the ore body has reached a point where production will start this month, an official of Manganese Ore states. He also says construction of the mill is progressing satisfactorily.

A few miles away, along the highway between Las Vegas and Boulder City, one comes upon the sign, "You Are Passing Through U. S. Property, Basic Magnesium, Inc., for and on Behalf of the Defense Plant Corp."

On a 425-acre tract, with the foothills as a background, one sees construction work scattered along a great distance, with double power lines and water pipes coming in from Boulder Dam, upward of a thousand workmen's homes, great warehouses, office buildings and the like. At the entrance to this development is another sign bearing the legend: "Basic Magnesium, Inc. Our Answer—Production."

That answer was fulfilled last week when the initial production was effected and the first batch of magnesium metal, lighter than aluminum, was made, thus bearing out the prediction made by Howard P. Eells, jr., president, shortly after the contract was entered into with Defense Plant Corp., that production would start in a year.

Picked Up Magnesium Pieces of Plane on Flanders Field

Magnesium, sometimes referred to as the Cinderella metal, has leaped into prominence and wartime importance largely through efforts of present and former Clevelanders. Dow Chemical Co., founded here, was among the first companies to develop magnesium in this country. This was from a brine obtained in Michigan.

The story of Basic Magnesium, Inc., the "Saga of the Desert," was told last week by a close friend of the Eells family. Back in March, 1941, a gentlemen's agreement was entered into between several officers of Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., which had been producing magnesium metal in England, and Howard P. Eells, jr., president of Basic Refractories, Inc., with offices in the Hanna Building, Cleveland, for co-operation in building a plant for the government.

During World War I, Maj. C. J. P. Ball, D. S. O., picked up on Flanders Field pieces of German planes which were extraordinarily light. He followed through with associates until the metal was produced in England.

When the present World War began, the English magnesium metal producers, at the instance of the British government, came to the United States in the hope of obtaining a larger magnesite source. They had learned that the Eells concern controlled in Nevada perhaps the greatest magnesite deposits in the Western Hemisphere, and had been shipping ore therefrom for seven or eight years to their refractory plant in Seneca County, Ohio. The ore was treated and the resultant product has been in demand by steel mills all over the country and Canada.

English Company Supplies Formulas, Patents Process

The United States government had instituted efforts to greatly increase the magnesium metal supply, and were interested in securing these ores and this process for war production. The final contract with Basic Magnesium, Inc., to build this plant as agent for Defense Plant Corp., which would own the property, was entered into with Basic Refractories, Inc., turning in its ore deposits and Magnesium Elektron furnishing the "know how," to include formulas, drawings, specifications, patents, process and the like, on an equal basis.

These contracts were carefully gone over by counsel, technicians and experts and competent judges say they are model contracts in the



HOWARD P. EELLS



DAN P. EELLS

SAMUEL EELLS

way of fully protecting all parties, with nothing but the ordinary business advantage to anyone. The contract provided for government audit and approval of every expenditure, whether for salary, labor or materials as the project went forward.

Eells Family Prominent in Business Here Many Years

Entrance of the Eells family into production of magnesium is another distinct expansion of industry for which this family has been a leader the past century. It dates back to Dan P. Eells who from 1850 to 1903 was one of Cleveland's foremost bankers and business men.

BMI Tax Levy in Vegas is Sifted

CARSON CITY, Nev., Sept. 17 (UP)—A \$3,500,000 assessment of Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, properties in Clark county was discussed at a meeting of the state board of equalization here today.

F. C. DeVinney, assessor for Clark county, Stewart MacKenzie, BMI's tax agent and Deputy Attorney General Alan Bible took part in the discussions.

No decision was reached and the board had not yet taken up proposed assessments on BMI properties in counties other than Clark.

Basic Magnesium Tax Is Discussed

A \$3,500,000 assessment of Basic Magnesium Inc. properties in Clark county was discussed at a meeting of the state board of equalization in Carson yesterday.

F. C. DeVinney, assessor for Clark county; Stewart MacKenzie, BMI's tax agent, and Deputy Attorney General Alan Bible took part in the discussions.

No decision was reached and the board had not yet taken up proposed assessments on BMI properties in counties other than Clark.

All of the state's 17 counties, except Ormsby and Mineral, were represented at the session which later was to discuss what were termed "minor county tax problems."

County Assessors in Carson Session

Magnesium Holdings To be Discussed

CARSON, Sept. 17. (Special)—The majority of the 17 Nevada county assessors were in session here this afternoon with the Nevada tax commission. In addition to routine business, the group is scheduled to discuss the possible assessed valuation of the holdings of Basic Magnesium in Clark county.

Waukegan, The present Dan P. Eells, who is board chairman of Basic Refractories, is vice president of Bucyrus-Erie. Its excavating machinery is used all over the world.

In 1908 H. P. Eells, sr., started in Seneca County, Ohio, quarrying of dolomite which is used by steel companies for fluxing purposes. The company is now the largest producer in tonnage of basic bulk refractories in the country. Howard P. Eells, jr., took over the operation of this company following the death of his father in 1919, and his brothers have been associated with him. Samuel Eells is vice president in charge of sales, with Dan P. Eells acting in an advisory capacity.

In their development of real estate around Cleveland, the Eells family is remembered by Eells Point at the westerly side of Rocky River on Lake Erie.

Pat McCarran Presents Magnesium to Senate

Las Vegas Project Lauded to Solons By Nevadan

Senator Pat McCarran presented the U. S. senate Monday with a memento of the start of magnesium production at the giant Las Vegas plant on August 31.

Addressing the senate, the Nevadan said:

"Less than a year and a half ago, after a very careful study made by the war department, the navy department, and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, \$85,000,000 was allocated by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for the construction of a magnesium plant close to Boulder dam and near Las Vegas in southern Nevada.

"Much has been said regarding the money which has been spent for the construction of that great plant, but little has been said about the skill and push that have been applied toward its completion.

"Today I have received a letter from Basic Magnesium, Inc., which has control of the construction of the plant and will have control of its operation. In view of the fact that the attention of congress has been called to the construction of the plant, I ask leave at this time that the brief letter addressed to me may be read by the clerk."

The letter, which together with the senator's address, appears in the Congressional Record of September 7, follows:

BASIC MAGNESIUM, Inc.
Las Vegas, Nev.
September 2, 1942

Hon. Pat McCarran,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator McCarran:
I am sure that you were pleased to learn that we had been able to overcome our many difficulties and succeeded in bringing the metal plant into production before the end of August. The process is now running smoothly, and it is now only a question of overcoming difficul-

McNEIL CO.— "Forbes" Writeup

McNeil Construction Company, San Francisco, will figure in the forthcoming article in "Forbes Magazine" concerning Basic Magnesium.

The article is by Webb Waldron, who recently visited the Nevada desert for first-hand facts.

MAGNESIUM PLANT Assessment

CARSON CITY, Nev., Oct. 17 (UP)—A \$3,500,000 assessment of Basic Magnesium, Inc. properties in Clark County was discussed at a meeting of the State Board of Equalization here today.

F. C. DeVinney, assessor for Clark County; Stewart MacKenzie, BMI's tax agent, and Deputy Attorney-General Alan Bible took part in the discussions.

ties in supply of mechanics and construction material and driving construction as fast as we can to complete the whole plant.

Remembering your keen interest and your friendly cooperation and assistance, I feel that you would like to have a memento of this occasion, which I believe will become historic in the annals of Nevada, and so I am sending you a small block of metal taken from the first production.

When you are next in Nevada, I hope you will give us the pleasure of your visit; at which time we shall be happy to show you the plant in operation. I hope that on my next visit east, I shall have the pleasure of meeting you in Washington. With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,
CHARLES J. P. BALL,
Vice President.

After the letter was read, Senator McCarran continued his remarks as follows:

"Mr. President, I hold in my hand a memento coming from the first production of that great magnesium plant now located in the southern part of my state. The plant will produce 112,000,000 pounds of magnesium annually, which is 3 1/2 times the production of that metal in the year 1941.

"So this great plant, which has now been put up by the activity and the encouragement of this government, assures the production of a metal which will go a long way toward winning the war.

"Whatever may have been said by way of criticism, let it be noted that within a year and a half this great plant has at this early date, notwithstanding great obstacles, put out and now puts out for the first time magnesium, the metal so much needed in our war effort.

"The country may well congratulate the management, the American labor, and the progressive skill that accomplished this.

"Where such things can be brought about in such short time and so efficiently, no enemy can successfully challenge."

DRUG TOPICS

"The National Newspaper for Retail Druggists"
New York City
AUG 31 1942

Magnesium And Perborates

Q—A.F. writes that on triturating together in a perfectly dry state sodium perborate and magnesium borate, the dry powders after a few minutes turn color and set up an effervescence that threatens to blow up the container.

A—Magnesium salts act as a catalyst in releasing oxygen from sodium perborate. This reaction cannot be prevented. The best thing to do is to dispense the salts separately and have the proper amounts mixed just before using in the bath.

Magnesium Plant to Use Nevada Silver for Job

McCarran Reveals Plan for Electric Appliance Work

Nevada's mines, which poured victory ore into the federal coffers during the Civil war and which played a prominent part in winning that conflict, today were given an increasingly important job in the present struggle when it was announced that huge quantities of the white metal would be used at the magnesium plant being constructed on the Nevada desert.

Senator Pat McCarran, the state's latest silver champion, announced today that the white metal would be used for the construction of bus bars and electrical appliances at the huge plant here and that, in all, 1,600,000 pounds of silver would go into the construction work on the big job. The program, McCarran stated in a wire to the officials of the plant, has been approved by army authorities.

Two Purposes

The plan has been mapped with two purposes in view, McCarran said. First, it will serve as a substitute for copper and thus release large quantities of this metal for use elsewhere in the war effort, 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.

Silver has been found to be an excellent conductor of electricity, and only because of its monetary value, in the past, has it been withheld from commercial electrical uses. Now with the huge supply of the metal resting in the vaults of the treasury department, and a shortage of copper, it has been decided to release the metal for use in the war effort.

Nevada Product

Thus, it was pointed out by officials of the company here, that the BMI plant will become more and more a complete Nevada product. At the present time, the plant is using ore mined within the state for the manufacture of magnesium, the plant is being built by Nevada labor, and now, Nevada silver will be used in the electrical units being installed within the plant.

The program being inaugurated by the government today recalled to historians the important role which the mines of the Comstock lode, in Virginia City, played in winning the Civil war for the union.

Seven billion, five million dollars in silver and gold ore were taken from the Comstock, and a great portion of this was spent in prosecuting the war by the federal government.

Nevada's White Rock Aimed at the Axis

Fallon, Nev.—"White rocks from Nevada are going across the Atlantic in the form of magnesium blocks to make incendiary bombs and tracer bullets for destruction of our enemy," declared Maj. C. J. P. Ball, D. S. O., M. C., of England, vice-president of Basic Magnesium Inc., when the wheels turned recently on the first unit of the world's largest magnesium industry.

Major Ball had flown the Atlantic thence to Las Vegas, Nev., to be present when the immense magnesite mines in Gabbs Valley, 80 miles southeast of Fallon, started production.

"Don't forget," he told officials and others at dinner, "that every ton of ore you get out quickly will be hitting the enemy."

It had been planned to start operating next December. War created an emergency to speed up the program.

DENVER MINING RECORD & MACHINERY JOURNAL

"For over 50 years the leading mining newspaper of the nation. Published every Saturday."

1829 Champa St., Denver, Colorado

NEVADA GOVERNOR LAUDS MAGNESIUM PROJECT IN STATE

Las Vegas, Nev. — A milestone was reached in Nevada's great industry a few days ago when the first carload of liquid chlorine rolled out of the plant at Basic Magnesium Inc. and headed east for the market. Here, the principal output will be magnesium, but the chlorine unit is the largest of its kind in the United States and will contribute mightily to the chemical industry in addition to providing a vital element for the magnesium process.

Gov. E. P. Carville has just lauded the project manager, executives, engineers and architects, and all of the personnel of Basic Magnesium for the splendid record they have made here, in a prepared statement released to the press.

"Fine work has been done and is being done here," the governor said after visiting the plant on the occasion of the shipment of the first carload of liquid chlorine to the eastern market.

"I have just visited the Basic Magnesium Inc. project for the sixth time and I am amazed and exceedingly well pleased at the progress that has been made and the work that is being done in connection with the project."

MINING & CONTRACTING REVIEW SALT LAKE CITY UTAH 8/31/42

Changing the Westgate Mining & Milling Company's mill at West Gate to a tungsten concentrating is under consideration. — Fallon Standard.

Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, Las Vegas, started shipping chlorine on August 11.

THE MONETARY TIMES

"The Weekly Business News Digest"

Toronto, Canada

AUG 8 1942

Another Peat Use

Peat moss, formerly used as fertilizer, is now wanted as a refining agent in the manufacture of magnesium. The request comes from the Basic Magnesium Corporation of Las Vegas, Nevada. Sphagnum peat moss found in British Columbia is said to be desirable. In Ontario there are immense deposits not far from Ottawa and the sphagnum marsh at Holland Landing may become a source of supply. For shipping the moss is compressed into bales. Transportation costs are a factor in marketing.

AUG. 11, 1942
OKLA. CITY, OK. TIMES

New Plant Operating

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 11.—(AP)—The \$63,000,000 basic magnesium plant has shipped to an eastern destination its first carload of liquid chlorine.

AUG. 13, 1942
ELKO NEV. INDEPENDENT

Basic Magnesium Ships First Car Of Chlorine

Sunday, the first car of liquid chlorine containing approximately 55 tons of this vital war material moved out of the Basic Magnesium, Incorporated plant, consigned to an Eastern point, it was announced by Howard C. Mann, Project Manager.

There were no bands playing, flags flying, or speeches made as Basic's big diesel switch engine hooked on to the car and started it on its way. A steady stream of cars will follow Sunday's initial shipment, moving to points throughout the nation.

Basic Magnesium, Incorporated soon to be the world's largest manufacturer of magnesium, will produce as a by-product the second largest volume of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

AUG. 21, 1942
Salt Lake City Utah Mineral Survey

Chlorine Shipped From Basic Magnesium

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—The first car of liquid chlorine containing approximately 55 tons of this vital war material moved out of the Basic Magnesium, Incorporated plant, consigned to an eastern point, it was announced by Howard C. Mann, project manager.

A steady stream of cars will follow today's initial shipment, moving to points throughout the nation.

Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, soon to be the world's largest manufacturer of magnesium, will produce as a by-product the second largest volume of chlorine in the western hemisphere, Mr. Mann said.

Magnesium Output Starts at New Nevada Plant

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 31.—Production of magnesium was started at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium, Inc. plant today—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Company officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction. Production of magnesium got under way when magnesium chloride was removed from one of eight chlorinator cells in cellhouse No. 1 and placed in electrolytic cells from which the molten magnesium was to be ladled shortly after 5 p.m. Magnesium produced here will be shipped immediately to defense plants throughout the United States to be made into airplanes, bombs, tracer bullets and other munitions.

HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.
VARIETY
AUGUST 27, 1942

MAGNESIUM CORP. PUTS UP 700-SEATER NEAR LAS VEGAS

Answering a need for entertainment among its workers, Basic Magnesium Corp. is building its own film theatre as an adjunct to the plant and housing development, now under construction 10 miles outside Las Vegas, Nev. Event may start a trend toward theatre building in defense areas by industrialists since priorities have nixed regular theatre building.

A temporary 700-seat house will be ready for operation within 30 days, it is reported, and a permanent set-up will be ready within 90 days. Plant management is seeking bids from operators, offering a guarantee and percentage of the profits.

It is expected that some 15,000 workers will be in the Las Vegas area when the plant is operating full blast. Added to the already over-

ONTARIO, CALIF. REPORT
C.R. 4,314
AUGUST 31, 1942

START NEVADA PLANT
LAS VEGAS (UP).—Production of metal magnesium was started at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium, Inc. plant today one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Co. officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction.

LAS VEGAS, NEV. REVIEW-JOURNAL
AUGUST 19, 1942

Magnesium Plant Is Subject Of Magazine Story

"The West Wants You" is the subject of a long feature story written about young women at work at the Basic Magnesium, Inc. plant by Alyce Canfield and appearing in the current issue of Charm magazine.

The article is generously illustrated by pictures of girls at their desks and during their leisure hours in Las Vegas and Boulder City.

Miss Canfield opens her article with the statement, "Like a wild fabulous carnival flung into the middle of nowhere is the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, incredible boozing town of war-time America. Las Vegas, where the parched heat of the day is climaxed by warm, wind-caressed nights, with stars shining like brilliant peepholes in a gigantic tent top."

She recommends, "Go west, young lady, to find jobs that pay from \$125 to \$300 a month—one of two pay even more."

Milwaukee Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wis.

Basic Magnesium Plant Under Way As Per Schedule

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days.

The entire output goes to the war department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.
CITIZEN-NEWS, CH. 26,000
SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

Production Begins at Great Magnesium Plant

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(AP)—The Government's giant magnesium plant is in production.

The \$100,000,000 plant, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October, that production would start in August.

The first unit in Cell House No. 1 began pouring molten magnesium chloride into an unannounced number of electrolysis cells for "cooking." Later, ladlers

RENO NEV. JOURNAL
AUGUST 28, 1942

B. M. I. PRODUCES VITAL CHEMICAL

Liquid Is Piped Into Special Cars

Describing the departure from the huge Basic Magnesium Inc. plant between Boulder Dam and Las Vegas of the first product of its intricate equipment, the project publication, titled "The Big Job," says:

Without ceremony, without officials present, with no more fanfare than would accompany the switching of a car of lumber, the first product made at BMI rolls away from the project.

It is a car bearing 55 tons of liquid chlorine, vital chemical in the war effort.

The chlorine came from a portion of the recently completed cell building which opened with less trouble and less difficulty—according to officials of the Hooker Electrochemical Co.—than has marked the beginning of production in any chlorine plant in the United States.

As the car moved off the project one realized that it contained something more than chlorine.

It represented a triumph of design, sound construction of an intricate plant and tens of thousands of man hours by plumbers, electricians, painters and all the other crafts who wrought this marvel of modern electrochemistry.

Loading the specially-designed chlorine car was an interesting process. Chlorine entered the car at a temperature of about 32 degrees below zero. It immediately vaporized.

The chlorine gas then passed back into the liquefaction plant. As the process continued the car gradually cooled. When the car contained about 50 tons of liquid chlorine, valves were closed.

Vaporization inside the car continued until the pressure of the gas effected an equilibrium preventing further vaporization. Experts say the temperature of the chlorine in the car will increase by only four degrees in transit.

RENO NEV. GAZETTE
AUGUST 31, 1942

First Magnesium Is Turned Out At Vegas Plant

100-Million Dollar Plant Goes into Production for War

LAS VEGAS, Aug. 31. (Special) The new one hundred million dollar magnesium plant went into production this morning when the first unit in the cell house No. 1 started pouring molten magnesium chloride into the bank of eleven electrolysis cells to "cook" for several hours.

About five o'clock this afternoon, ladlers will start skimming metallic magnesium from the cells and the first metal will be in the moulds. Today's production fulfilled the prediction made by Howard Eells, Jr., president of BMI, last October, when he said that the plant would be in production by the middle or latter part of August of this year.

The process started today is continuous and cannot be halted, thus the cells started today will continue from now on. Additional cells in the first unit will be brought in as completed and it is expected that all eighty-eight in the first cell house will be in production within thirty days. Each cell house is an exact duplicate of a British plant that has been producing five thousand tons of metal annually for ten years and providing most of the metal for British airplanes and incendiary bombs. There are ten units of this size, with a total capacity of fifty thousand English tons, or fifty-six thousand American tons per year.

All ten units are scheduled to be in production by the first of the year. The ore is being shipped from Gabbs valley by rail in a steady stream of cars. The chrome plant went into operation August 9 and has already shipped 5500 tons to market.

Production came one year from the date the first soil analysis was taken by the McNeil Construction company as the first act in preparing to start construction, which got under way September 15, 1941. The entire output of this plant belongs to the war department and will go into the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and the manufacture of aircraft. Workmen handling the first magnesium were men specially trained in the British plant.

S. F. CAL. PACIFIC BUILDER
SEPTEMBER 7, 1942

American Metal Market
September 3, 1942

Basic Magnesium Plant In Nevada Starts Operation

Rated Capacity 3 1/2 Times U. S. Output In 1941

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2.—The world's largest magnesium plant with a rated capacity of approximately 3 1/2 times the total U. S. output in 1941, has started production, A. H. Bunker, chief of the Aluminum and Magnesium Branch, W. P. B. announced today.

It is the Basic Magnesium, Inc. plant at Las Vegas, Nev., the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks.

The others are: the new Dow Chemical Company plant in Texas; the Ford Motor Company plant in Michigan; the Permanente Metals Corporation, Manteca, Calif., plant, and the New England Lime Company's Connecticut plant.

Of these, the Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes.

The other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year. All five plants were financed and are authorized by the government through the Defense Plant Corporation. The total cost approximates \$175,000,000.

All the new plants were completed in record time, ranging from ten months for the huge Basic Magnesium plant to four months for the ferro-silicon plants. Three more ferro-silicon plants are nearing completion and will commence operations later this year. An additional four electrolytic plants now are under construction.

Completion of the program will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries as a magnesium factor. Only small quantities were produced in this country before the war, with Germany as the world's leader.

S. F. CAL. PACIFIC BUILDER
SEPTEMBER 10, 1942

BASIC MAGNESIUM PLANT AT NEV. IN PRODUCTION

Las Vegas Plant Has Rated Capacity 3 1/2 Times Total 1941 U. S. Output

The world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity approximately 3 1/2 times total U. S. output in 1941, has started production, A. H. Bunker, Chief, aluminum and magnesium branch, WPB advised the regional WPB here.

It is the Basic Magnesium, Inc. plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks. The others are the New Dow Chemical Company plant in Texas; the Ford Motor Company plant in Michigan; the Permanente Metals Corp. Manteca, Calif. plant, and the New England Lime Co.'s Connecticut plant.

Of these, the Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes. The other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year. All five plants were financed and are owned by the government through the Defense Plant Corp. The total cost approximates \$175,000,000.

All the new plants were completed in record time, ranging from ten months for the huge Basic Magnesium plant to 4 months for the ferro-silicon plants. Three more ferro-silicon plants are nearing completion and will commence operations later this year. An additional four electrolytic plants now are under construction.

MINING JR.
PHOENIX ARIZ.
8/30/42

Charges of mismanagement and inefficiency in the construction and initial operations of the **Basic Magnesium, Inc.**, of Las Vegas, Nevada, are refuted by E. P. Carville, governor of Nevada. Carville, who recently made his sixth visit to the property, gave high praise to all concerned in getting the mammoth magnesium program started. Mining and milling have been started at the company's Gabbs Valley property north of Luning. Salt is being mined and trucked to Las Vegas from Death Valley, California, and the company has made its first shipment of liquid chlorine, a by-product. Mill concentrates from Gabbs Valley, initially scheduled to be trucked to the Las Vegas plant, will be trucked 81 miles to Luning for shipment by rail to Las Vegas, via Salt Lake City, Utah. Howard C. Mann, Las Vegas, is project manager and H. P. Eells, Jr., 735 Hanna Building, Cleveland, Ohio, is president. At present the company is negotiating with the A. F. of L. for a labor contract, under H. A. Sargent, assistant project manager in charge of industrial relations.

Denver Colo Mining Rec
8-27-42

NEVADA GOVERNOR LAUDS MAGNESIUM PROJECT IN STATE

Las Vegas, Nev. — A milestone was reached in Nevada's great industry a few days ago when the first carload of liquid chlorine rolled out of the plant at Basic Magnesium Inc. and headed east for the market. True, the principal output will be magnesium, but the chlorine unit is the largest of its kind in the United States and will contribute mightily to the chemical industry in addition to providing a vital element for the magnesium process.

Gov. E. P. Carville has just lauded the project manager, executives, engineers and architects, and all of the personnel of Basic Magnesium for the splendid record they have made here, in a prepared statement released to the press.

"Fine work has been done and is being done here," the governor said after visiting the plant on the occasion of the shipment of the first carload of liquid chlorine to the eastern market.

"I have just visited the Basic Magnesium Inc. project for the sixth time and I am amazed and exceedingly well pleased at the progress that has been made and the work that is being done in connection with the project."

SEP. 1, 1942
OKLA. CITY, OK. TIMES

Giant Magnesium Plant Opens on Schedule

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(AP)—The government's giant magnesium plant is in production. The \$100,000,000 plant, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation Monday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October, that production would start in August.

The first unit in cell house No. 1 began pouring molten magnesium chloride into an unannounced number of electrolysis cells for "cooking." Later, ladlers started skimming molten magnesium metal from the cells and the first metal was placed in molds. The entire output goes to the war department.

Waco Tex News Trib
9-2-42

Magnesium Plant Open
LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—AP—The government's giant magnesium plant is in production. The \$100,000,000 plant, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October, that production would start in August.

STEEL
Cleveland, Ohio

SEP 7 1942

Basic Magnesium Plant in Nevada Starts Production

Plant of Basic Magnesium Inc., Las Vegas, Nev., with a rated capacity of 3½ times total magnesium production of the United States last year, has started production according to WPB. It is the latest of five important plants that have entered production within recent weeks. Others are the Texas plant of Dow Chemical Co., Michigan plant of Ford Motor Co., California plant of Permanent Metals Corp., and Connecticut plant of England Lime Co.

This article was clipped from
OIL, PAINT & DRUG REPORTER
"The market authority since 1871—Chemicals,
Dyestuffs, Drugs, Paints, Oils, Fertilizers."
New York City

SEP 7 1942

Basic Magnesium, Inc. Starts Production

OPD Washington Bureau
The world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity approximately three and a half times total U. S. output in 1941, has started production, A. H. Bunker, chief, Aluminum and Magnesium Branch of the WPB, announced September 2. The plant is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., in Las Vegas, Nev., the latest of five magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks. The other four are the new Dow Chemical Company plant in Texas, the Ford Motor Company plant in Michigan, the Permanent Metals Corporation, Manteca, California, plant and the New England Lime Company's Connecticut plant.

Of these, the Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes. The other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year. All five plants were financed and are owned by the government through the Defense Plant Corporation. The total cost approximates \$175,000,000.

SEP 9 1942
TULSA, OK. WORLD

Senate Shown Magnesium From New U. S. War Plant

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (AP)—Senator McCarran (D., Nev.) exhibited to the senate today a block of metal from the first production of a \$65,000,000 magnesium plant near Las Vegas, Nev.

He said the metal was sent him by officials of Basic Magnesium, Inc., of Las Vegas, which has control over construction and operation of the plant.

McCarran declared "much has been said of the money spent in the construction of this plant," but that the operators had overcome difficulties to bring a unit into production "within a year and a half."

When completed, he said, it would produce 112,000,000 pounds of magnesium annually, "three and a half times domestic production in 1941." He said the metal would "go a long way toward winning the war."

CHICAGO JOURNAL OF COMMERCE
Chicago, Ill.

SEP 8 1942

Senator Shows Magnesium of New Plant: with a Moral

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7.—Sen. Pat McCarran (D., Nev.) today displayed in the Senate a bar of magnesium produced by the new magnesium plant in Nevada, operated by Basic Magnesium, Inc., within a year and a half of the start of its construction. "There was much criticism," Senator McCarran told the Senate, "at the time when the Reconstruction Finance Corporation allocated \$65,000,000 for construction of this plant. 'Whatever was said by way of criticism, let it be noted that just a year and one-half after the plant was started it was producing metal which will go a long way toward winning this war.' The plant will produce 112,000,000 pounds of magnesium annually, three and one-half times the nation's production in 1941."

MORE GOOD "NEWS FOR" THE AXIS

From the War Production Board, San Francisco, comes, in substance, the following: The world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity approximating 3½ times total U. S. output in 1941, has STARTED PRODUCTION.

It is no other than the Basic Magnesium Inc. plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, the latest of five important magnesium plants to have recently entered production. Other plants are the New Dow Chemical Co. plant in Texas; the Ford Motor Co. plant in Michigan; the Permanent Metals Corp., Manteca, Calif., plant and the New England Lime Co.'s plant in Connecticut.

Of these, the Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes; the other three use the very recently developed ferro-silicon process. All five plants—completed in record time—were financed and are owned by the Government, and represent an expenditure of some \$175,000,000.

Three other ferro-silicon plants are nearing completion, and will soon be dishing it out (and we don't mean GRAVY) to the Axis.

This article was clipped from

IRON AGE

Philadelphia, Pa.

SEP 10 1942

Basic Magnesium Plant Starts Production

Washington

••• WPB on Sept. 2 announced that Basic Magnesium, Inc., Las Vegas, Nev., had started production. The plant was described as "the world's largest" magnesium plant with a rated capacity approximately three and a half times the total United States output in 1941.

The new Dow Chemical Co. plant in Texas, the Ford Motor Co. plant in Michigan, the Permanent Metals Corp., Manteca, California plant, and the New England Lime Co.'s, Connecticut, were also said to have started magnesium output in recent weeks.

Of these, the Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic process. The other three use the new ferro-silicon method developed within the past year. All five plants, which cost nearly \$175,000,000,

were financed by the Defense Plant Corp., RFC subsidiary, and are government owned.

Time for completion of the plants ranged from 10 months for Basic Magnesium to four months for the ferro-silicon plants.

This article was clipped from
METAL AND MINERAL MARKETS
McGraw-Hill, 330 W. 42nd St., New York City

Magnesium Plant Completed

Basic Magnesium, Inc., has started production of magnesium at its plant in Nevada, the War Production Board announced last week. This is the latest of five important magnesium plants to enter production in recent weeks. The others were identified as the new Dow plant in Texas; a Ford Motor plant in Michigan; Permanent Metals' new plant in California; and the New England Lime Co.'s plant in Connecticut.

All five plants were financed and are owned by the Government. The total cost is \$175,000,000. The Basic Magnesium and Dow plants use the electrolytic process; the other plants operate under the new ferrosilicon process. Three more ferrosilicon plants are nearing completion. The magnesium program will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries as a magnesium producer.

This article was clipped from

IRON AGE

Philadelphia, Pa.

SEP 10 1942

Crown Makers to Benefit From Tin Scrap Allocation

••• Tinned and detinned scrap was placed under full allocation control on Sept. 2 by Supplementary Order M-72-a. The order is designed to enable bottlers to obtain the bulk of their crown cap needs from scrap which is not now being utilized, and at the same time to promote the collection of tin cans.

In the 140 metropolitan areas where can collections are under way, bottlers may collect No. 10 or larger cans from restaurants and the like. They will clean and prepare the cans, shipping ends and seams to collection centers or detinning plants, while the body of the can will go to crown manufacturers. In areas where no collection campaign exists, the bottlers will be asked to conduct educational campaigns to gather in

NON-FERROUS METALS

AND PRICE TRENDS

all types of cans, retaining the bodies of No. 10 cans for crown makers and shipping all other material to detinning plants. Army, Navy and other Federal agencies will not participate, since they have been asked to prepare their cans for detinning plants and rail rates have been reduced on certain hauls to expedite such shipments.

The Basic Magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., is the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks. It has a rated capacity approximately 3½ times the total national output in 1941. The other four are the new Dow Chemical Co. plant in Texas, the Ford Motor Co. plant in Michigan, the Permanent Metals Corp. plant at Manteca, Cal., and the New England Lime Co.'s plant in Connecticut. The Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic

processes, with the others using the new ferro-silicon process.

Non-ferrous scrap recovered last year was 41 per cent new scrap, resulting from manufacturing operations, with the remainder, amounting to \$205,262,407, from old scrap. Statistics, in short tons, on the year's metal recovery, as released by the Bureau of Mines, are:

	New Scrap	Old Scrap
Aluminum	63,744	5,113
Antimony	1,157	2,193
Copper	313,697	412,699
Lead	17,136	380,280
Magnesium	1,737	15
Nickel	3,181	2,154
Tin	12,427	29,666
Zinc	202,813	81,154

Secondary copper had the greatest value, amounting to a total of \$172,429,456, followed by \$45,305,424 for lead, \$43,722,726 for tin, \$42,595,050 for zinc, \$34,707,153 for aluminum, \$6,056,120 for antimony, \$3,720,500 for nickel and \$804,960 for magnesium.

Local draft boards have been asked to see that mining effectiveness is not reduced by Army manpower requirements. Major General Lewis B. Hershey, director of Selective Service, said last week in a letter addressed to miners of copper and other critical metals. Other letters were addressed to the miners by Donald M. Nelson, Paul V. McNutt and W. H. Davis, NLRB chairman.

According to a recent survey, at least 3000 more workers are needed in the mines. Biggest factor in draining away mine and smelter workers is wages, which average 87c. an hr. in metal mines, and 87.9c. in copper, lead and zinc smelters and refineries, against such rates as 96.6c. for aircraft manufacture, \$1.064 for bituminous coal mining, \$1.08 for shipbuilding, \$1.105 for building construction, and \$1.133 for automobile manufacture.

Non-Ferrous Prices

(Cents per lb. for early delivery)

Copper Electrolytic	12.00
Copper, Lake	12.00
Tin, Straits, New York	52.00
Zinc, East St. Louis	8.25
Lead St. Louis	6.35

¹Mine producers' quotations only, delivered Conn. Valley. Deduct ¼c. for approximate New York delivery price. ²Add 0.39c. for New York delivery. ³Add 0.15c. for New York delivery.

THE IRON AGE, September 10, 1942—135

This article was clipped from
FINANCIAL TIMES

Canada's Leading Newspaper for Investors
651 Craig St., West, Montreal, Can.

SEP 11 1942

BIG MAGNESIUM PLANT OPERATING

Las Vegas, Nev. — The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, is in operation, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells Jr., president, that production would start in August. The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the War Department.

CARSON CITY, NEV., APPEAL
SEPTEMBER 17, 1942

State Equalization Board Meets Today

Discuss Assessment On Basic Magnesium

Details of the assessment of slightly less than three and one-half million dollars on properties of Basic Magnesium, Inc., in Clark county were discussed this forenoon at the meeting of the Nevada state board of equalization.

Explanations of the assessment were made by Assessor F. C. De Vinney of Clark county. Statements about the properties were made by Stewart MacKenzie, tax agent for Basic Magnesium.

Definitions on property classes involved were made by Alan Bible, deputy attorney-general of Nevada.

In addition to the Clark county holdings, Basic Magnesium has property in Mineral and Nye counties.

BMI Tax Levy in Vegas is Sifted

CARSON CITY, Nev., Sept. 17 (UP) — A \$3,500,000 assessment of Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, properties in Clark county was discussed at a meeting of the state board of equalization here today.

F. C. DeVinney, assessor for Clark county, Stewart MacKenzie, BMI's tax agent and Deputy Attorney General Alan Bible took part in the discussions.

No decision was reached and the board had not yet taken up proposed assessments on BMI properties in counties other than Clark.

This article was clipped from
**DENVER MINING RECORD &
MACHINERY JOURNAL**

or over 50 years the leading mining newspaper
of the nation. Published every Saturday.

1829 Champa St., Denver, Colorado

SEP 10 1942

WAR INDUSTRIES ARE NOW ASSURED OF LARGE SUPPLY

Basic Magnesium Is Now Starting On Immense Production.

Las Vegas, Nev.—Uncle Sam's giant magnesium plant on the hillside east of here went into production a few days ago. The first magnesium chloride was transferred from one of the eight chlorinators in cell house No. 1 to the first bank of electrolytic cells. The chlorine was "cooked" out and metal magnesium ladled off into molds preparatory to shipment to the various war industries which will use the product in the manufacture of airplanes, incendiary bombs, tracer bullets and kindred implements of combat. This success fulfilled the prediction made last October by President Howard P. Eells Jr. of Basic Magnesium Inc. that the first unit of the plant would be in production "the middle or latter part of August of 1942."

The production of magnesium is a continuous process. The cells that went into operation will continue their contribution of metal magnesium from now on. Eleven electrolytic cells were charged in cell house No. 1. The capacity of each is approximately 15 pounds of metal magnesium an hour, about 5.4 tons per month. There are 88 cells in each unit and within the next 30 days all 88 in the first cell house are expected to be in production. There are 10 cell houses and the last of these is expected to be producing its quota of metal by Jan. 1, bringing total output to 56,000 tons per year.

Each unit is a duplicate of one of the British magnesium plants which has been producing 5000 tons of metal a year for the past eight years, supplying most of the material for construction of British airplanes and incendiary bombs.

A group of citizens was present to watch the epochal event in charge of Major C. P. P. Ball, vice president of Basic Magnesium Inc., and Howard Mann, project manager. They saw the molten magnesium chloride pour from the chlorinator into a mobile crucible and transferred into the first two electrolytic cells. They saw the material "cooked" under 20,000 amperes of Boulder dam's electric current, to remove the chlorine and leave the pure metal.

Influx of Workers (and New Voters) Headache to Nevada

By MAXINE ARNOLD
Of the World Staff.

BASIC MAGNESIUM PLANT. Taking our life in our hands to brave the traffic that goes out of here, we came out to the magnesium plant this afternoon to see just what distinction it has (aside from being the hottest place in the world—that gives it the Number 1 priority over any other war industry today).

The plant is located about half-way between Las Vegas and Boulder Dam on the Boulder highway and its rapidly climbing "skyline" juts forth prominently against the wide expanse of desert and the purple mountains on beyond.

Modeled after a smaller magnesium plant in England, this one with its "adhesions" covers a terrific expanse as far as the terrific rimmed eye can see. Office buildings, railroad yards, a giant commissary (manned by the famous Anderssons, who operated the one at Boulder Dam), steel skyscrapers and the various units that are now taking form. One of which is said to be ready to turn out bombs long about now.

DEMOUNTABLE HOUSES. Further expanses of mesquite are covered by demountable houses, tent cities and shack towns that have mushroomed up around every water hole. Which is seldom, if any. The water holes, I mean.

Directly across the road from the plant itself, is their demountable city of some 100 demountable houses flat roofed, each carrying a cooler of its own. Most of them are painted on the half shell—half pink, half green, lower half yellow, top half blue—then one solid pale green, one tan etc. . . so that they blend in with the desert coloring and are perfectly camouflaged from the air.

Across the highway from them is the trailer camp built by the company, and adjoining it the tent city

built for the bachelors of Basic Magnesium.

This is the time of day when the desert is breath takingly beautiful. . . When the shadows split the mountains in sections and more shadows turn the desert itself into half sunlight and half purple. This is the time of day when it seems like living here might be worth while.

But none of the workers who zigged past us today stopped to admire the scenery.

HIGHWAY JAMMED. It was round about quitting time and the highway was jammed with those 12,000 employees streaking home to their trailers and evening chow.

They are now building a speed-way on the other side of the highway for obstinate folks like myself who happens to want to go the other direction. As is, the traffic is pretty much of a one-sided affair.

Definitely out-numbered, we pulled out of the way of the stampede and watched the defense parade go by.

Another reason being that we were well stopped by a guard. You practically have to have a birth certificate on your wind shield to even go along the highway. Special guards are posted in cars all along the way. . . to say nothing of the some 300 guards and ex-F. B. I. men within the plant itself.

The bit of magic that let folks through is the badge that says "McNeil Construction Company," or "Basic Magnesium" on it. All the thousands who passed us had them today. All of them too had that same weary dehydrated look.

It was easy to see, watching the thousands go, why the population of Basic Magnesium, or rather B. M. J. has the local politicians in the state of Nevada talking to themselves right now.

NEW VOTERS. In this state where sixty days of residence is required and thirty days

in the county to vote . . . and where there never have been too many voters in either the state nor the county, the Basic Magnesium gang can now practically swing the election where ere they may. Turning the thing into a three party deal. The Democrats, Republicans, and B. M. J.

We noticed that many of the cars today were filled with Negro workers and Mexicans, and found that some 2,000 of them have been imported here because they can take the heat.

Seems the job of turning out this vital magnesium is about left up to the colored folks who were born to take the heat and the Okies who have the stamina to stay and take it anyway.

It's almost impossible for them to get and keep workers here, regardless of what they pay . . . which ranges from fifty cents to \$1.50 per hour . . . and with over-time runs some checks up to \$125 per week and more.

The migratory workers here are even more migratory than usual . . . drifting . . . thinning out . . . and shifting . . . like the sand itself.

And that paymaster who gives out approximately \$900,000 each Friday evening, is about the busiest guy in the world. Also the most mixed-up. Every time he turns around he finds a 1,000 new faces to pay.

PHOENIX, ARIZ. REPUBLIC
CIV. 33,222, Sun. 91,749
SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

Magnesium Plant Opens

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(AP)—Uncle Sam's \$100,000,000 magnesium plant went to work today to produce materials for his vast war machine.

The first unit in cell house No. 1 began pouring molten magnesium chloride into a bank of a blank number of electrolysis cells which "cooked" for several hours.

Late today ledgers started skimming metal magnesium from the cells and the first metal was in mounds.

Production fulfilled the prediction made by Howard Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium Company, last October that the plant would be in production by the middle or latter part of August of this year.

The producing process is a continuous one and cannot be halted. Cells in operation today will continue from now on. Additional cells will be brought in as completed and it is expected the plant will be at capacity production within 30 days.

Each cell house is an exact duplicate of a British plant which has been producing 5,000 tons of metal annually for 10 years and providing most of the metal for British airplanes and incendiary bombs.

Ore is being shipped to the plant from Gabbs valley in a steady stream of rail cars. The chlorine plant went into operation August 9 and has already shipped thousands of tons to market.

Production came one year from the day the first soil analysis was

taken by the McNeil Construction Company as the first act in preparing construction of the huge plant, which got under way September 15, 1941.

The entire output of the plant belongs to the war department and will go into the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft elsewhere. Workmen handling the first magnesium were trained in England.

Basic officials, commenting on today's event, concluded: "For a plant supposedly without ore, material, process or know-how, we've done pretty well."

SEP. 2, 1942
MIAMI, OK. NEWS-RECORD
Nevada Magnesium Plant in Operation

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(AP)—The government's giant magnesium plant is in production.

The \$100,000,000 plant, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October, that production would start in August.

DETROIT MICH. NEWS
CIV. 310,422, Sun. 401,192
SEPTEMBER 4, 1942

New Magnesium Plant Enters Production

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3.—(AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev.—was announced today by the War Production Board.

A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPB's aluminum and magnesium branch, said the plant had a rated capacity 3½ times total United States output in 1941.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., is the latest of five important magnesium plants to enter production in recent weeks. The others were identified as the new Dow Chemical plant in Texas, a Ford Motor Co. plant in Michigan, the Permanente Metals corp., Manteca, Calif., and the New England Mine Co.'s Connecticut plant.

All five were financed and are owned by the Government through the Defense Plants Corp. They cost about \$175,000,000.

They will provide magnesium needed for such vital war weapons as aircraft, incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

SEP. 3, 1942
OMAHA, NEBR. EVE WORLD

Large Magnesium Plant in Operation

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 2 (AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev.—was announced today by the war production board.

A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPB's aluminum and magnesium branch, said the plant had a rated capacity of 350 per cent of the total United States output in 1941.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., is the latest of five important magnesium

plants to enter production in recent weeks. All were financed and are owned by the government through the defense plants corporation. They cost about 175 million dollars.

CHICAGO, ILL. NEWS
CIV. 14,204
SEPTEMBER 3, 1942

Big Magnesium Plant Goes Into Production

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3.—(UP)—A. H. Bunker, chief of the aluminum and magnesium branch of the War Production Board, announced today that the world's largest magnesium plant had started production with a rated capacity of three and one-half times the total U. S. output of 1941.

The new plant is that of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nevada, and it is the fifth important new magnesium plant to start operations in recent weeks, Bunker said.

The plant, operated by Basic Magnesium Inc., is located at Las Vegas, Nev. It is the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks, the WPB said. The basic magnesium plant was put into operation 10 months after ground was broken.

CLEVELAND O. PLAIN DEALER
CIV. 227,652, Sun. 391,062
SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

Giant Magnesium Plant Producing

Eells' Forecast Fulfilled in Providing War Metal

The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., began producing materials for America and Great Britain's war effort yesterday, according to Associated Press dispatches from Las Vegas, Nev., thus fulfilling the forecast last year of President Howard P. Eells, jr., of Cleveland that production would start in August, 1942.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. Entire output goes to the War Department for manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

Basic Magnesium has immense deposits of magnesite ore in northern Nevada with refining plants at Las Vegas which are operated by power and water from Boulder Dam.

The magnesite ore deposits were acquired after years of search for use in the Seneca County, Ohio, plants of Basic Refractories, Inc., of which Eells also is president. For 35 years refractory products made from Ohio dolomite have been shipped to most of the steel companies of America and in the last 10 years these materials have been improved by the use of Nevada magnesite.

In 1941 an English manufacturer of magnesium metal came to America and entered into contracts with Basic Magnesium, Inc., to build a magnesium metal plant for the Defense Plant Corp. Basic Refractories was to furnish the deposits and the English concern the formulae, specifications and the "know how."

This metal is said to be a third lighter than aluminum and will be used especially in building of airplanes.

Production Started in Magnesium Plant

Washington, Sept. 2.—(UP)—A. H. Bunker, Chief of the WPB Aluminum and Magnesium Branch, today announced that production had started in the government-owned magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which will be the largest of its kind in the world.

The new plant, with a rated capacity approximately 3½ times the total U.S. output in 1941, will fill out the critical war material used in manufacturing aircraft, as an alloy with aluminum, and in incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

Production Started by Basic Magnesium

Washington, Sept. 3.—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev.—was announced by the war production board. A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPB's aluminum and magnesium branch, said the plant had a rated capacity 3½ times total United States output in 1941. Basic Magnesium, Inc., is the latest of five important magnesium plants to enter production in recent weeks. The others were identified as the new Dow Chemical plant in Texas, a Ford Motor Company plant in Michigan, the Permanente Metals Corporation, Manteca, Cal., and the New England Mine Company's Connecticut plant.

DAILY METAL TRADE

"The Newspaper of the Metal Industries."
Fenton Bldg., 1213 W. 3rd St.
Cleveland, Ohio
SEP 3 1942

New Magnesium Plant Is Placed in Operation

CLEVELAND, Sept. 2.—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium Inc. in Nevada has been placed in operation, producing materials for America's war effort. This fulfills a forecast made last year by Howard Eells Jr., president, that production would start in August. The plant is expected to be operating at capacity within 30 days.

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF. SUN
CIV. 13,376, Sun. Cir. 14,108
SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

Giant Magnesium Plant At Las Vegas in Action

(By Associated Press)
LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 31.—Uncle Sam's \$100,000,000 magnesium plant went to work today to produce materials for his vast war machine.

The first unit in cell house No. 1 began pouring molten magnesium chloride into a bank of a blank number of electrolysis cells which "cooked" for several hours.

Late today ledgers started skimming metal magnesium from the cells and the first metal was in mounds.

Production fulfilled the prediction made by Howard Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., last October that the plant would be in production by the middle or latter part of August of this year.

The producing process is a continuous one and cannot be halted. Cells in operation today will continue from now on. Additional cells will be brought in as completed and it is expected the plant will be at capacity production within 30 days.

Each cell house is a duplicate of a British plant which has been producing 5,000 tons of metal annually. Ore is being shipped to the plant from Gabbs valley in a steady stream of rail cars. The chlorine plant went into operation Aug. 9 and has already shipped thousands of tons to market.

The entire output of the plant belongs to the war department and will go into the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft elsewhere. Workmen handling the first magnesium were trained in England.

SEP. 2, 1942
TULSA, OK. WORLD
Magnesium Plant Opened

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 31 (AP)—Uncle Sam's \$100,000,000 magnesium plant went to work today to produce materials for his vast war machine. The first unit began pouring molten magnesium chloride.

SEP. 2, 1942
MANDAN N D PIONEER
STARTS PRODUCTION

Las Vegas, Nev.—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

SEP. 2, 1942
WICHITA FALLS TEX NEWS
Giant Magnesium Plant in Nevada Is Ready

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1. (AP)—The government's giant magnesium plant is in production. The \$100,000,000 plant producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October, that production would start in August.

SEP. 4, 1942
WINONA MINN MIDWEST REVIEW
Production Started at Magnesium Plant

Las Vegas, Nev. — Production began Monday at the \$100,000,000 basic magnesium plant. Production started a year to the day from the date the first soil analysis was taken preparatory to construction of the plant.

SEP. 4, 1942
WALL ST. JR.
9/2/42
New York City

Basic Magnesium Opens New \$100 Million Plant

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—The \$100 million plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, is in operation, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August. The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the War Department.

SEP. 3, 1942
COL. SPRINGS, COL. GAZETTE
Big Magnesium Plant Opens

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3. (AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev.—was announced today by the war production board.

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE
"America's Leading Business Newspaper."
New York City

SEP 2 1942
Nevada Basic Magnesium Plant Begins Production

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1 (AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within thirty days. The entire output goes to the War Department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

SEP. 2, 1942
GRAND FORKS, N. D. MOR. HER.
910

Giant Magnesium Plant in Operation

LAS VEGAS, NEV. —(AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation Monday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells Jr., president, that production would start in August. The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the war department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

SEP. 3, 1942
Big Magnesium Plant Opens

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3. (AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev.—was announced today by the war production board.

World's Biggest Unit Starts Output—Other Action by War Bodies

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WASHINGTON, Sept. 2.—The Office of Defense Transportation today announced that the entire refrigerator car ownership will be handled as a single unit for distribution purposes hereafter.

To forestall any refrigerator car shortage for handling the country's perishable food supply, ODT worked out a plan with representatives of the refrigerator car owners and the Association of American Railroads. The pool organization will work in close cooperation with the car service division of the railroad trade group, and will be closely supervised by ODT's railway transport division.

ODT officials explained that radical changes in the distribution of perishable products, including the discontinuance of coastwise movements and the increasing curtailment of long-haul truck service, have threatened to place an increasing burden on the rail carriers. This condition, accentuated by the scarcity of critical materials for the construction of additional refrigerator cars, has made necessary the establishment of a refrigerator car-pooling system.

Other action by war agencies included:
MAGNESIUM: The world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity approximately three and one-half times the total United States' output in 1941, has started production, the WPB announced. The plant is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., production unit at Las Vegas, Nev., the latest of five major magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks.

EAGLE
Brooklyn, N. Y.

SEP 3 1942

New Magnesium Plants Enter Into Production

Washington, Sept. 3.—Five important magnesium plants have entered production in recent weeks after completion in record time.

Included is the Basic Magnesium, Inc. plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which is the world's largest, according to A. H. Bunker, chief of the War Production Board's aluminum and magnesium branch.

The others are the new Dow Chemical Company plant in Texas, the Ford Motor Company plant in Michigan, the New England Lime Company's Connecticut plant and the Permanente Metals Corporation plant at Mantega, Cal.

All five plants were financed and are owned by the Federal Government. The total cost approximates \$175,000,000.

Seattle (Wn) Times
September 1, 1942

Magnesium Plant Begins Production

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—Production of magnesium was started at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant yesterday—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Company officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction.

POST
Washington, D. C.

SEP 2 1942

100-Million Magnesium Plant Starts Work

Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 1 (AP).—The 100 million dollar plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the War Department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

Giant Magnesium Plant in Operation

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1 (AP).—The Government's giant magnesium plant is in production. The \$100,000,000 plant, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October that production would start in August.

Denver Colo Mining Rec
8-27-42

BASIC MAGNESIUM HAS MADE ITS FIRST OUTPUT

Las Vegas, Nev. — The first shipment of magnesium oxide from the Gabbs Valley plant to Basic Magnesium arrived here by truck and trailer and consisted of 60 tons. This was a test run to determine various factors involved in handling the concentrates which will soon begin to go thru the plant, coming out as the all important metal, magnesium.

SEP. 4, 1942
GLADEWATER, TEX., TIMES

MAGNESIUM PLANT BUILT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3. (UP)—Production of the vital war metal, magnesium, has begun at the new government plant in Las Vegas, Nevada. This plant will be the biggest of its kind in the world, with a capacity some three and a half times the total American magnesium output in 1941. Magnesium is used in aircraft manufacture, and in incendiary bombs, flares, and tracer bullets.

SEP. 3, 1942
LINCOLN, NEBR. MORN. JOURN.

Begins production

WASHINGTON, (AP). Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., was announced Wednesday by the war production board.

CEDAR RAPIDS IA GAZETTE
SEP. 3, 1942

MAGNESIUM PLANT OPENS.
WASHINGTON (AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., was announced Wednesday by the War Production board.

From
POST-GAZETTE
Pittsburgh, Pa.

New Magnesium Plant Starts in New Mexico

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday. The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days.

The entire output goes to the war department.

VIRGINIA (MINN.) ENTERPRISE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

Magnesium Plant Goes Into Operation

Las Vegas, Nev. — (AP) — The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the War Department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

HERALD—AMERICAN
Chicago, Ill.
SEP 3 1942

Magnesium Plant Starts on Schedule

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 2.—(AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of the Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation Tuesday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within thirty days.

The entire output goes to the War Department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, flares and aircraft.

RIVERSIDE, CALIF. PRESS
SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

Production Started

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UP)—Production of metal magnesium was started at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium Inc., plant yesterday—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Company officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction.

GLENDALE, CALIF., NEWS-PRESS
SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

Magnesium Plant Starts Production

Las Vegas, Nev. (AP)—The government's giant magnesium plant is in production.

The \$100,000,000 plant, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October that production would start in August.

SAN PEDRO, CALIF.
NEWS-PUBLIC
SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

Magnesium Plant Starts Production

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—The government's giant magnesium plant is in production. The \$100,000,000 plant, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast of Howard Eells Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, made last October that production would start in August.

DETROIT, MICH. FREE PRESS
SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

Basic Magnesium Plant in Operation

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the War Department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

PRODUCTION STARTS AT BASIC MAGNESIUM
LAS VEGAS, (UP)—Production of metal magnesium was started at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium Inc., plant today—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Co., made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction.

Production of magnesium got under way when magnesium chloride was removed from one of eight chlorinator cells in cellhouse No. 1.

Magnesium Plant Now Operating

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 2.—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation Monday.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the War Department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, flares and aircraft.

WASHINGTON, D. C. TIMES-HERALD
SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

Largest Magnesium Plant in Operation

The WPB announced yesterday that the world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity of three and one-half times the total United States output in 1941, has now started production. The plant, operated by Basic Magnesium Inc., is located at Las Vegas, Nev. It is the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks, the WPB said.

REDLANDS, CAL. FACTS
SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

New Magnesium Plant Finished

LAS VEGAS, (UP)—The first unit of the huge basic magnesium plant here was in operation today, marking the first step towards the eventual production of more than 50,000 tons of war material annually.

A portion of the \$100,000,000 plant started operating exactly a year after the first "soil analysis" was taken preparatory to constructing the large magnesium refinery.

SEP. 1, 1942
EL PASO, TEX. TIMES

Production Starts in Magnesium Plant

Las Vegas, Nev., Aug. 31 (INS).—Production began today at the \$100,000,000 basic magnesium plant. Manufacture of the light metal that has such a vital bearing on America's war industries got under way this morning when molten magnesium chloride was poured into a bank of 11 electrolysis cells to "work" in the first unit of cell house No. 1.

EUREKA, CALIF. TIMES
SEPTEMBER 4, 1942

PRODUCTION BEGINS

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 3. — Production has started at the world's largest magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., the regional office of the War Production Board announced today.

MARSHFIELD, ORE., TIMES
SEP 1 - 1942

Magnesium Run at Las Vegas Started

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(UP) Production of metal magnesium was started at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant today—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Co., officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction.

PITTSBURGH, PA. PRESS
SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

Huge Magnesium Plant Goes Into Production

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3.—A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPB aluminum and magnesium branch, yesterday announced that production had started in the Government-owned magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which will be the largest of its kind in the world.

The new plant, with a rated capacity approximately 3½ times the total U. S. output in 1941, will turn out the critical war material used in manufacturing aircraft, as an alloy with aluminum, and in incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

SAN DIEGO, CALIF., TRIBUNE SUN
SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

First Unit Operates in Magnesium Plant

LAS VEGAS, Sept. 1 (U.P.)—The first unit of the huge basic magnesium plant here was in operation today, marking the first step towards eventual production of more than 50,000 tons of war material annually.

A portion of the \$100,000,000 plant started operating exactly a year after the first "soil analysis" was taken, preparatory to constructing the large magnesium refinery.

S. F. CALIF. EXAMINER
SEPTEMBER 8, 1942

Nevada Magnesium Shown to Senate

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7.—(AP) Senator McCarran, Democrat of Nevada, exhibited to the Senate today a block of metal from the first production of a \$65,000,000 magnesium plant near Las Vegas, Nev. He said the metal was sent him by officials of Basic Magnesium Inc.

McCarran declared, when completed, the plant would produce 112,000,000 pounds of magnesium annually, "three and a half times domestic production in 1941."

S. F. CAL. COMMERCIAL NEWS
SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

Production Started

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—Production of metal magnesium was started at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Co. officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction.

RIVERSIDE, CAL. ENTERPRISE
SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

Production Started

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UP)—Production of metal magnesium was started at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium Inc., plant yesterday—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Company officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction.

OMAHA, NEB. MORN. WORLD

Magnesium Plant Starts Production

Las Vegas, Nev., Aug. 31 (INS)—Production began today at the 100 million dollar basic magnesium plant. Manufacture of the light metal that has such a vital bearing on America's war industries got under way this morning when molten magnesium chloride was poured into a bank of 11 electrolysis cells to "work" in the first unit.

McCarran Lauds Plant Operation

Senator Says Las Vegas Magnesium Project Will Aid in Winning War

BY LORANTA K. FRANCIS
Times Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7.—Refuting charges that the huge new magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., is a "white elephant," Senator McCarran (D.) Nev., today predicted that its operation will "go a long way toward winning this war."

The plant which draws its power from Hoover Dam will begin contributing to the war effort as soon as it gets into full production, McCarran told the Senate. He displayed a bar of magnesium sent to him by Basic Magnesium Inc., operators of the project. Approximately 112,000,000 pounds will be produced annually, McCarran predicted.

Rumors that the \$65,000,000 project was on the verge of collapse also were spiced by officials of the War Production Board, although it was admitted that the location of the plant poses a labor problem. The heat and inadequate housing make it difficult to retain workers, it was acknowledged, but the operation and functioning of the big project are on a sound basis.

INGLEWOOD, CALIF. NEWS
SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

Magnesium Plant Is in Operation

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—(UP)—The first unit of the huge basic magnesium plant here was in operation today, marking the first step towards the eventual production of more than 50,000 tons of war material annually.

A portion of the \$100,000,000 plant started operating exactly a year after the first "soil analysis" was taken preparatory to constructing the large magnesium refinery.

Officials of the company said that "it will be a very short time" before additional units of the "cell house" will start operating, with each "cell" producing approximately 5000 tons of magnesium annually. Ten of these units will be operating before the plant is completed.

RIVERSIDE, CAL. ENTERPRISE
SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

Production Started

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SEP. 1, 1942
OMAHA, NEB. MORN. WORLD

Magnesium Plant Starts Production

Las Vegas, Nev., Aug. 31 (INS)—Production began today at the 100 million dollar basic magnesium plant. Manufacture of the light metal that has such a vital bearing on America's war industries got under way this morning when molten magnesium chloride was poured into a bank of 11 electrolysis cells to "work" in the first unit.

Production started a year to the day from the date the first soil analysis was taken.

Magnesium Output Starts at New Nevada Plant

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 31.—Production of magnesium was started at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant today—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Company officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction. Production of magnesium got under way when magnesium chloride was removed from one of eight chlorinator cells in cellhouse No. 1 and placed in electrolytic cells from which the molten magnesium was to be ladled shortly after 5 p.m. Magnesium produced here will be shipped immediately to defense plants throughout the United States to be made into airplanes, bombs, tracer bullets and other munitions.

Metal Magnesium Production Begins

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1 (UP)—Production of metal magnesium was started at the huge \$100,000,000 Basic Magnesium Inc., plant today—one year to the day from the time the McNeil Construction Co., officials made the first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction.

Production of magnesium got under way when magnesium chloride was removed from one of eight chlorinator cells in cellhouse No. 1 and placed in electrolytic cells from which the molten magnesium was to be ladled shortly after 5 p. m.

Magnesium produced here will be shipped immediately to defense plants throughout the United States to be made into airplanes, bombs, tracer bullets and other munitions.

SEP. 1, 1942
SCOTT'S BLUFF, NEB. STAR-HER.

Las Vegas Plant Is A B Started on War Job

Las Vegas, Nev., Aug. 31. (AP)—Uncle Sam's \$100,000,000 magnesium plant went to work today to produce materials for his vast war machine. Production fulfilled the prediction made by Howard Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium company, last October that the plant would be in production by the middle or latter part of August of this year.

The entire output of the plant belongs to the war department and will go into the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft elsewhere. Workmen handling the first magnesium were trained in England, it was said.

SEP. 1, 1942
FANKTON S D PRESS S DAKN

BASIC MAGNESIUM PLANT IN OPERATION

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1. (AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of basic magnesium producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production with 30-days. The entire output goes to the war department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

Basic Official Talks About War

RENO, Sept. 26 (Special)—“The war will be won by the people who get control of the air, and your great country is the only one which can produce the planes which are needed to accomplish this feat,” Major C. P. J. Bell, chairman of Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., of Manchester, England, and vice president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., of Las Vegas, said in his address Saturday night to the local section of the American Chemical Society at the University of Nevada.

“I believe,” he continued, “that the people of the world will be content to leave the control of the air in the hands of the Anglo-Saxons after the war, realizing that this control will not be misused.”

Major Bell stressed the advantages gained by the use of magnesium alloys in the manufacture of airplanes, since magnesium is only 60 per cent as heavy as aluminum. He pointed out that the Germans have used magnesium alloys extensively in the manufacture of their planes, and that of all the planes brought down over the British Isles not one part made of magnesium failed, except when caused to do so by the crash or by bullets.

S. F. CAL. CHRONICLE
Cir.—Daily 17,155; Sunday 210,214
SEPTEMBER 27, 1942

2,600,000 Lbs. Of Silver for Magnesium, Inc.

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 26 (AP)—An army-approved program to substitute Nevada silver for copper in future construction at Basic Magnesium, Inc., huge new plant here, was announced today by Senator Pat McCarran.

Plant officials said McCarran wired them the plan will release large quantities of copper now used for railings in buses and electrical appliances. McCarran further said silver used thus for non-consumptive purposes would “in no wise detract from its value as metal for money.” He predicted 1,600,000 pounds of silver would be used in the program.

BOSTON NEWS BUREAU

“The only daily financial newspaper published in New England.”
Boston, Mass.

SEP 26 1942

Silver For Copper

An Army-approved program to substitute Nevada silver for copper in future construction at Basic Magnesium, Inc., new plant at Las Vegas, Nev., was announced by Senator McCarran. Plant officials said Senator McCarran wired them the plan would release large quantities of copper now used for railings in buses and electrical appliances. McCarran predicted 1,600,000 pounds of silver would be used in the program.

Grass Valley, Cal., Union
117,240
SEPTEMBER 27, 1942

BUY BASIC MAGNESIUM

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26 (AP)—Senator Bunker (D-Nev.) said today that he had been “reliably informed” that the Anaconda Copper Company had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation. Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

Anaconda Deal With BMI Near Completion

Howard Eells, Jr., Tells of Plans For the Transfer

It was learned late this afternoon from an authoritative source of unquestioned reliability that negotiations now proceeding between Defense Plants Corporation, the Eells interests of Cleveland and Anaconda Copper company do not contemplate sale of the properties to the latter concern as reported last night by Senator Berkeley L. Bunker.

This source stated negotiations had been practically completed for the sale of the control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., to Anaconda by the Eells interests pursuant to the invitation of the latter and that Anaconda would assume management of the vast project.

Government Owned

Ownership of the plant will remain in the government, and Anaconda will merely carry out the contract held by B. M. I. with the collaboration of the English interests represented in the minority holdings.

Senator Berkeley L. Bunker told the Reno Evening Gazette late yesterday he had “learned from reliable sources” that Anaconda had paid \$75,000,000 for “lock, stock and barrel” purchase of the magnesium plant near Las Vegas and the mine and mill at Luning.

B. M. I. Contract

Basic Magnesium, Inc., did not own the property. It had a contract with Defense Plants Corporation for construction and operation of the plant as the agent thereof, but the government retained ownership both of the plant and the magnesium produced.

Howard Eells, Jr., president of B. M. I. was reached last night at Lake Placid New York where he has been vacationing.

Further Confabs

He said he was on his way to New York City for further conferences with Anaconda officials, and that he was hopeful of having an announcement today.

“We asked the Anaconda people to make a survey of the project a short time ago and their engineers were in the field for more than two weeks.

“I have felt for some time that the plant needed a large, well-financed concern in charge—a concern that couldn't be kicked around as we have been in the recent past. I have been working for the last 30 days with the Anaconda people and feel

(Continued on Page Two)

Anaconda Copper Buys DPC Share Of BMI, Report

that he have at least worked out a formula satisfactory to all concerned.”

Eells said he thought the deal would go through but added: “you never can tell — there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip, you know.”

C. D. Weed, general manager of the mining division of Anaconda, said yesterday in New York his company had been asked to make a survey of the operation by B. M. I. and that such a survey had been recently completed.

“Beyond that,” he said, “I can tell you nothing.”

A group of Anaconda engineers headed by Fred Larst, chief metallurgist for the copper company, was in Nevada about two weeks ago, it was learned, and spent considerable time at the Las Vegas plant and at Luning where the mine and mill are located.

Eells said that if the negotiations were satisfactorily consummated, he and representatives of Anaconda would be in Las Vegas soon to complete the details of formal transfer. He said he was assured that if Anaconda took over, the plant would remain in charge of the present personnel.

Senator Bunker, commenting on the transaction said this afternoon that if D. P. C. had disposed of the plant to Anaconda, “the government can consider itself damned lucky to get out of this thing. I also can see a reason why the Defense Plant Corporation should be forced to pay \$1,000,000 to Basic Magnesium for the bungling job it did. A job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium wouldn't have sold out as it has.”

Under the contract Defense Plants had the right to oust B. M. I. upon payment of \$1,000,000 for services rendered together with certain royalties for ore taken from the mines at Luning. It is presumably this \$1,000,000 to which Bunker refers.

MERCED CAL. SUN-STAR
Cir.—Daily 14,839
SEPTEMBER 30, 1942

Anaconda Copper Buys Las Vegas Plant

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker, D., Nev., said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the corporation “lock, stock, and barrel.”

“The government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing,” Bunker said. “I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive \$1,000,000 from the defense plants corporation. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have.”

DAILY VARIETY

“News of the Show World”
Arthur Ungar, Editor

Publication Office: Hollywood, Calif.

SEP 15 1942

EARL BROTHERS, Boulder City exhib, is reported having had his bid to operate the theatre in the new development being built by the Basic Magnesium Corp., and the government outside Las Vegas accepted. Bidding went on between Brothers and the operators of the El Portal and Palace theatres in Las Vegas. Brothers will now equip the house and operate on a guarantee and percentage of the profits basis. Opening date of temporary 700-seater has not been set but it's expected within a fortnight.

Anaconda Copper Now In Control of BMI

English Interests To Continue in Charge in Vegas

Control of Basic Magnesium Incorporated apparently has passed to the Anaconda Copper Mining company, it was indicated today following a thorough check of reports current here and in Washington D. C. for the past 10 days.

The Salt Lake Tribune's Washington bureau announced the story Saturday attributing it to “very high authority” and stating Anaconda had acquired the interest of Howard Eells, Jr., and associates.

To Continue Here

The source of the story said Anaconda engineers would immediately take over the operation of the mines at Luning, Nevada, and that the English interests, owners of the process used in the Las Vegas plant, would continue in charge here.

Charles B. Henderson, president of Reconstruction Finance Corporation, would not affirm the story beyond saying that negotiations were in progress, and were proceeding satisfactorily.

Howard P. Eells, Jr., president of Basic, could not be reached by telephone, and Howard C. Mann, project manager was at Luning.

Major C. J. Ball, head of the English group and in charge of operations at the plant for the past several weeks, was in Los Angeles and could not be contacted for a statement.

Thought in Control

Washington opinion, however, was that the story is correct—that Anaconda is now in full control of the new Nevada industry.

The Eells' interests owned slightly more than 50 per cent of the stock in Basic and the British interests own the rest.

Passing of control of Basic Magnesium to Anaconda is understood to have the hearty approval of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation which financed construction and equipment of the new plant here.

Government officials, according to the Tribune, are relieved to know that control will be in the hands of one of the big corporations of the west with long experience in the mining and treatment of ores.

Anaconda has operated in Montana for nearly a half century, having large holdings in Butte and Anaconda. The Rio Tinto in Elko and International Smelting and Refining Company operations in the Pioche district, are part of the Anaconda holdings in Nevada.

Control of the company has been held for years by the Standard Oil group, and it has widespread interests throughout the United States.

SAN FRANCISCO CAL. NEWS
Cir. 107,867
SEPTEMBER 27, 1942

ANACONDA CO. IN MAGNESIUM DEAL, RUMOR

Copper Firm Reported Negotiating for Part Of New Enterprise

By United Press

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.—The Anaconda Copper Mining Co. was reported in informed circles today to be negotiating to purchase an interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., which recently opened a 100-million-dollar plant for the exclusive production of magnesium for the Government.

Officials of the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. would not comment on the reported negotiations, contending that the company was not in a position to either confirm or deny the report “at this time.”

Organized July 1, 1941, Basic Magnesium, Inc., is controlled by Basic Refractories, Inc., of Ohio, which owns a majority of the capital stock of the magnesium firm.

S. F. CALIF. EXAMINER
Cir.—Daily 146,291; Sunday 495,214
SEPTEMBER 30, 1942

Anaconda May Buy Basic Magnesium

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.—Anaconda Copper Mining Company was reported in financial circles here today to be negotiating to purchase an interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc.

Officials of Anaconda would not comment on the report, contending that the company was not in a position to either confirm or deny the report “at this time.”

Basic Magnesium is controlled by Basic Refractories, Inc., of Ohio.

The Billboard

THE WORLD'S FOREMOST AMUSEMENT WEEKLY
New York—Chicago—St. Louis—London
Publication Office: Cincinnati, Ohio

SEP 12 1942

Five important magnesium plants have entered production in recent weeks after completion in record time.

Included is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which is the world's largest with a rated capacity approximately 3 1/2 times total U. S. output in 1941, according to A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPB's Aluminum and Magnesium Branch.

All five plants were financed and are owned by the federal government. Total cost approximates 175 million dollars.

Completion of the program, says WPB, will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries as a magnesium producer. Before the war Germany was the world's leader and only small quantities were produced in this country.

Schulman Gets Market Permit

Mark A. Schulman, owner of the new Clark market received a telegram today from Louis H. Bean of the defense plant corporation in Washington, D. C., advising him that he has been awarded the lease for a food market at Basic Townsite.

Schulman announced that work already has been started on the market and will be open about December 1. He will carry a complete line of meats, groceries, fresh vegetables, bakery goods and delicatessen items.

The store will serve approximately 5,000 people in and around the BMI. Schulman stated.

METAL AND MINERAL MARKETS

McGraw-Hill, 330 W. 42nd St., New York City

SEP 24 1942

E & M J METAL AND MINERAL MARKETS

Weekly Market Information Issued by the Publishers of

Engineering and Mining Journal

H. W. CLARKE, Publisher

H. C. PARMELEER, Editorial Director

H. H. WANDERS, Market Editor

E&MJ Metal and Mineral Markets is published each Thursday with a daily quotation for copper, lead, zinc, tin, and silver. Commodities that change price infrequently are quoted at weekly or monthly intervals, according to their importance. Official weekly and calendar weekly averages, also monthly averages, are published for copper, lead, zinc, tin, and silver in the United States market, as well as London Metal Exchange and sterling exchange quotations.

Subscription rates: Consult footnote on page 2.

Treasury's Silver Hoard Viewed as War Stockpile

In the light of the present outlook, Treasury silver must be regarded as an important stockpile of an essential war material. A. I. Henderson, Deputy Director General for Operations, WPB, announced last week. All “free” silver held by the Treasury either has been loaned to war industries or commitments have been made for its use, he declared. Silver held by the Treasury in excess of currency requirements cannot be released to silverware and jewelry manufacturers, he said, owing to the heavy demands for war production and essential civilian requirements.

Current demand for essential use now absorbs all silver imported into the United States, and the demand is growing at a markedly increased rate. By early next year it is expected to absorb also all newly mined domestic silver. Some 5,000,000 oz. of silver, all that the Treasury can legally release, is being made available for use in essential war industries, and if the war is prolonged, steps will be undertaken to make additional Treasury silver available for war industries.

The bulk of the approximately 1,350,000,000 oz. of silver now held by the Treasury over its reserve requirements has been earmarked, or is in use, for busbars and other non-consumptive uses in aluminum, magnesi-

SANTA MARIA, CALIF., TIMES
Cir. 2,384
SEPTEMBER 29, 1942

Silver Instead of Copper in Plant

LAS VEGAS—(AP)—A program to use 1,600,000 pounds of Nevada silver as a substitute for copper in future construction at the Basic Magnesium plant here was announced today by Sen. Pat McCarran in a telegram to plant officials.

Anaconda Gets BMI Control

Tribune Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—The Anaconda Copper Mining company, according to very high authority, has acquired the Eells' interest in Basic Magnesium, the corporation that is operating the newly completed magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev.

As Eells owned slightly over 50 per cent of the stock, Anaconda, through the deal, has gained control of the corporation. The minority holdings are largely in British ownership, that group being headed by Major Ball, representing the owners of the English process that is being used at Las Vegas.

um and other war plants, to replace copper as a conductor of electricity. Under present arrangements, this will be returned to the Treasury at the close of the war.

Present essential uses of silver are as brazing alloys and as a substitute for tin in solder and in airplane engine bearings. The bulk of this demand now is being met by imports. This demand is the cause of the rigid controls now covering foreign silver and will be the cause of a probable extension of similar controls to domestic newly mined silver in the future.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., BEE
Cir. 77,019
SEPTEMBER 27, 1942

Silver Will Be Used Instead Of Copper In Plant

LAS VEGAS (Nev.), Sept. 26.—(AP)—An army approved program to substitute Nevada silver for copper in future construction at the huge Basic Magnesium, Inc., new plant here, was announced by Senator Pat McCarran.

Plant officials said McCarran wired them the plan will release large quantities of copper now used for railings in buses and electrical appliances.

McCarran further said silver used thus for nonconsumptive purposes would “in no wise detract from its value as metal for money.” He predicted 1,600,000 pounds of silver would be used in the program.

McCarran said the plant, when in full operation, will produce a huge, undisclosed amount of magnesium annually and thus Nevada will play an “increasing role in helping win the war.”

NEW YORK, N. Y., TIMES
Cir. 474,271
SEPTEMBER 25, 1942

TO USE SILVER FOR COPPER

Basic Magnesium, Inc., Gets Permission for Substitution

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 24 (AP)—An Army-approved program to substitute Nevada silver for copper in future construction at the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant here, was announced today by Senator McCarran. Plant officials said that Mr. Mo-

BMI'S IN PRODUCTION

Magnesium To Be Shipped Out Now To War Industry

Production to Be Continued at Increased Rate From Today

Uncle Sam's giant magnesium plant on the hillside east of Las Vegas went into production today.

Shortly after 11 o'clock this morning the first magnesium chloride was transferred from one of the eight chlorinators in cell house number one, to the first bank of electrolytic cells.

At approximately 5 o'clock this afternoon the chlorine will have been "cooked" out and metal magnesium will be ladled off into molds preparatory to shipment to the various war industries which will use the product in the manufacture of airplanes, incendiary bombs, tracer bullets and kindred implements of combat.

Year To Day

It was a year to the day from the time McNeil Construction company forces made their first soil analysis preparatory to starting construction of the project and fulfilled the prediction made last October by President Howard P. Eells, Jr., of Basic Magnesium Incorporated that the first unit of the plant would be in production "the middle or latter part of August of 1942," and reiterated before the Truman committee here in March of this year.

The production of magnesium is a continuous process. The cells that went into operation this morning will continue their contribution of metal magnesium from now on.

11 Cells Charged

Eleven electrolytic cells were charged today in cell house number one. The capacity of each is approximately 15 pounds of metal magnesium an hour, about 5.4 tons per month.

There are 88 cells in each unit and within the next 30 days all 88 in the first cell house are expected to be in production.

There are 10 cell houses and the last of these is expected to be producing its quota of metal by January first, bringing total output to 56,000 tons per year.

Each unit is a duplicate of one of the British magnesium plants which has been producing 5,000 tons of metal a year for the past eight years, supplying most of the material for construction of British airplanes and incendiary bombs.

A large group of representative citizens was present to watch the epochal event presided over by Major C. F. P. Ball, vice president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., and Howard Mann, project manager. They saw the molten magnesium chloride pour from the chlorinator into a mobile crucible and transferred into the first two electrolytic cells. They saw the material "cooking" under 20,000 amperes of Boulder dam's electric current, to remove the chlorine and leave the pure metal which will be in the stock pile tonight.

Material Moves

Raw material for the plant has been moving in from Gabbs Valley by rail for days. Originally scheduled to be shipped by truck, the shift to rail transportation was ordered by Defense Plants

corporation to save rubber and gasoline. It now moves by Southern Pacific-Union Pacific by way of Ogden.

Today's production—an event in the history of the big plant—will become a common sight as days go by and production is stepped up to capacity—153 tons every 24 hours, beginning about January 1, 1943.

Construction of the plant to its present stage of completion in 15 days less than a year by McNeil Construction company, (actual ground-breaking took place September 15, 1941) is regarded as one of the miracles of the American war effort and Major Ball and J. R. Charles, manager of engineering and maintenance, extended congratulations to the contracting firm this morning through Bruce McNeil, general manager and big Ed Ball, superintendent of labor for McNeils, who were present for the ceremony.

Product Shipped

First product to be shipped from BMI was a carload of chlorine August 9, and since that time 5,500 tons of the vital gas have been moved to war industries in the east.

The crew of men handling the operation this morning had been specially trained in the British plants to accustom themselves to the process, having spent from two to five months learning their particular job.

Other members of the operating forces will be trained for their duties in the plant here under the direction of the English engineers associated with BMI.

Production of the first metal magnesium today by Basic Magnesium, Inc., drew varied comment from the assembled spectators.

Typical statements were: Ed W. Clark, Colorado river commissioner and Clark county pioneer: "Nevada saved the Union in '64 with the gold and silver from Virginia City. We'll save the world in '42 with metal magnesium."

Major C. F. P. Ball, vice president of Basic Magnesium: "There's a big blow headed for Hitler, thanks to the ingenuity and ability of American engineers and workmen."

Howard C. Mann, project manager: "No comment. The job speaks for itself."

Fyhen Speaks

Ragnald Fyhen, secretary of the Central Labor Council of Clark county: "It was the most wonderful experience of my life to see metal magnesium being poured in Nevada. It's a dream come true. Now I'm looking forward to the factories that will come here to use it."

C. F. DeArmond, resident engineer for and member of Nevada Colorado-river commission—"A project as big as Boulder Dam in production in 15 months from its conception is an inspiration for every citizen of the state to join in to beat the axis. Here is a reality that exceeds our early visions and opens new vistas for this area and the state. Congratulations to every man and woman who participated in it."

Ira J. Earl, chairman of the board of county commissioners: "This marks the beginning of a new era for southern Nevada."

Bruce McNeil, general manager for McNeil Construction company: "We made our first soil tests a year ago today and started construction September 15. It hardly seems possible all this has

been accomplished since then."

Tough Job

Ed Ball, superintendent of labor for McNeil: "It was a tough job, all right, and we had a lot of problems, but our gang was up to it—we got it done."

E. A. Moritz, director of power, Boulder canyon project: "We're proud to see Boulder dam power going into production in Nevada to augment the nation's war effort."

Charles P. Squires, former Colorado river commissioner and pioneer Clark county resident: "For an organization publicized by politicians as having no ores, no necessary raw materials, no workable process, no 'know-how,' the accomplishment today proves somebody has been trifling with the truth."

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., HERALD EXPRESS, Cir. 249,924 SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

\$100,000,000 Plant To Make Bomb Material

LAS VEGAS, NEV. (AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the war department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

LAS VEGAS, NEV. REVIEW-JOURNAL SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

Basic Magnesium Plant In Operation

Las Vegas, Nev., September 1 (AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation yesterday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days. The entire output goes to the war department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

FRENCH, CALIF., REC. Cir.—Daily 48,513; Sunday 48,264 SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

First Unit Of New Magnesium Plant Is Opened

LAS VEGAS (Nev.), Sept. 1.—(UP)—The first unit of the huge basic magnesium plant here is in operation today, marking the first step toward the eventual production of more than 50,000 tons of war material annually.

A portion of the \$100,000,000 plant started operating exactly a year after the first steps were taken preparatory to constructing the large magnesium refinery.

Officials of the company said "it will be a very short time" before additional units of the "cell house" will start operating, with each "cell" producing approximately 5,000 tons of magnesium annually. Ten of these units will be operating before the plant is completed.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., HERALD EXPRESS, Cir. 249,924 SEPTEMBER 1, 1942

Magnesium Production Starts at Huge Las Vegas Plant

By Associated Press
LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 1.—Uncle Sam's \$100,000,000 basic magnesium plant went to work today to produce materials for his vast war machine.

The first unit began pouring molten magnesium chloride into a bank of a blank number of electrolysis cells which "cooked" for several hours. Late today ladlers started skimming metal magnesium from the cells and the first metal was in molds.

Production came one year from the day the first soil analysis was taken by the McNeil Construction Co. as the first act in preparing construction of the huge plant, which got under way Sept. 15, 1941.

The entire output of the plant belongs to the War Department and will go into the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft elsewhere.

LAS VEGAS, NEV. REVIEW-JOURNAL SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

Capital Hears of Magnesium Plant

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 (UP)—A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPS aluminum and magnesium branch, today announced that production had started in the government-owned magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, which will be the largest of its kind in the world.

The new plant, with a rated capacity approximately 3½ times the total U. S. output in 1941, will turn out the critical war material used in manufacturing aircraft, as an alloy with aluminum, and in incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

S. F. CALIF. L'ITALIA Cir. 25,805 SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

Grande stabilimento di Magnesio in produzione

Inizia il lavoro per materiali di guerra - Lo stabilimento è costato 100 milioni di dollari.

LAS VEGAS, Nev., 2 Sett. — Il grande stabilimento di magnesio appartenente al governo ha iniziato ieri la produzione.

Lo stabilimento è costato 100 milioni di dollari e produrrà materiali di guerra per il grande sforzo dell'America.

Si è lavorato attivamente per mettere in ordine il grande fabbricato e si è così avverata la predizione di Howard Eells, Jr., presidente della Basic Magnesium, che la produzione sarebbe stata iniziata in Agosto.

RICHMOND, CALIF. INDEPENDENT Cir. 1,299 SEPTEMBER 3, 1942

Magnesium Production Starts At Magnesium Plant

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 (UP)—A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPB aluminum and magnesium branch, today announced that production had started in the government-owned magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which will be the largest of its kind in the world.

The new plant, with a rated capacity approximately 3½ times the total U. S. output in 1941, will turn out the critical war material used in manufacturing aircraft, as an alloy with aluminum, and in incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

CHICAGO, ILL. 9-4-42

World's Largest Magnesium Plant Begins Production

Washington, Sept. 3.—(UP)—A. H. Bunker, chief of the aluminum and magnesium branch of the War Production Board, announced today that the world's largest magnesium plant had started production with a rated capacity of three and one-half times the total U. S. output of 1941.

The new plant is that of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., and it is the fifth important new magnesium enterprise to start operations in recent weeks, Bunker said.

The five plants, which were built at an aggregate cost of \$175,000,000, are owned by the Defense Plant Corp.

SALINAS, CALIF., CALIFORNIAN SEPTEMBER 3, 1942

Magnesium Plant Starts Production

WASHINGTON (UP)—A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPB aluminum and magnesium branch, today announced that production had started in the government-owned magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which will be the largest of its kind in the world.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. DAILY NEWS, Cir. 230,591 SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

Magnesium plant begins operations

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 7.—(UP)—The first unit of the huge Basic Magnesium plant here was in operation today, marking the first step towards the eventual production of more than 50,000 tons of war material annually.

S. F. CALIF. COMMERCIAL NEWS Cir. 1,299 SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

MAGNESIUM—Nevada Plant

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 (UP)—A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPB aluminum and magnesium branch, today announced that production had started in the Government-owned magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which will be the largest of its kind in the world.

The new plant, with a rated capacity approximately 3½ times the total U. S. output in 1941, will turn out the critical war material used in manufacturing aircraft, as an alloy with aluminum, and in incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

ST. PAUL (MINN.) DISPATCH THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1942

England	.....	4-10-42
France	.....	4-10-42
Spain	.....	4-10-42
Sweden	.....	4-10-42
Belgium	.....	4-10-42
Canada	.....	4-10-42
U.S.	.....	4-10-42
Other	.....	4-10-42
Total	.....	4-10-42

War to Take Output Of New Magnesium Plant

LAS VEGAS, NEV. — (AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation Monday, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days.

The entire output goes to the War department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

FORUM FARGO, N. D. 9-2-42

New War Plant Opens

Las Vegas, Nev.—(UP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August. The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days.

S. F. CALIF. EXAMINER Cir.—Daily 16,173; Sunday 495,214 SEPTEMBER 4, 1942

Nevada Magnesium Plant Operating

Production has started at the world's largest magnesium plant located at Las Vegas, Nev., the regional office of the War Production Board (WPB) announced here yesterday.

SAN JOSE, CALIF. MERCURY HERALD Sunday Cir. 30,125 SEPTEMBER 6, 1942

U.S. Magnesium Plant Opens

Big Nevada Unit Feeds War Machine

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 5. (AP)—Uncle Sam's \$100,000,000 magnesium plant has gone to work to produce materials for his vast war machine.

The first unit in cell house number one began pouring molten magnesium chloride into a bank of a blank number of electrolysis cells which "cooked" for several hours.

Late today ladlers started skimming metal magnesium from the cells and the first metal was in molds.

Production fulfilled the prediction made by Howard Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium company, last October that the plant would be in production by the middle or latter part of August of this year.

The producing process is a continuous one and cannot be halted. Cells in operation today will continue from now on. Additional cells will be brought in as completed and it is expected the plant will be at capacity production within 30 days.

Each cell house is a duplicate of a British plant which has been producing 5000 tons of metal annually.

Ore is being shipped to the plant from Gabbs valley in a steady stream of rail cars. The chlorine plant went into operation Aug. 9 and has already shipped thousands of tons to market.

The entire output of the plant belongs to the war department and will go into the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft elsewhere. Workman handling the first magnesium were trained in England.

NEW YORK, N. Y., HERALD TRIBUNE, Cir. 350,312, Sun. 539,023 SEPTEMBER 3, 1942

Biggest Magnesium Plant Reported in Operation

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 (AP)—Beginning of production at the world's largest magnesium plant—Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev.—was announced today by the War Production Board.

A. H. Bunker, chief of the W. P. B.'s aluminum and magnesium branch, said the plant had a rated capacity 3½ times total United States output in 1941.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., is the latest of five important magnesium plants to enter production in recent weeks. The others were identified as the new Dow Chemical plant in Texas, a Ford Motor Co. plant in Michigan; Permanent Metals Corp., Manteca, Calif., and the New England Mine Co.'s Connecticut plant.

All five were financed and are owned by the government through the Defense Plants Corp. They cost about \$175,000,000.

They will provide magnesium needed for such vital war weapons as aircraft, incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

Control of Basic Magnesium Said Taken by Anaconda

Copper

Eells Interests Said Sold With RFC Approval

Minority Share Is Held by British Owners

Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker in Washington this afternoon said he was sure that the BMI operation would be taken over by the Anaconda interests.

"It is my understanding," said the senator, "that BMI is to receive \$1,000,000 for its services in the last year, but payment of such a fee as this will be contested."

The junior senator indicated that he planned a statement soon on the floor of the senate concerning BMI operations.

Control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., has passed from Howard Eells and associates of Cleveland to Anaconda Copper Mining company, according to word reaching Reno today.

The reports received here stated that Anaconda had acquired the Eells interests, which own slightly over fifty per cent of the stock of Basic Magnesium. The minority stock is held principally by Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., of Manchester, England.

This latter group is headed by Maj. C. P. J. Ball, chairman of Magnesium Elektron and vice president of BMI.

According to today's report, the sale of the controlling interest of BMI to Anaconda had the approval of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which financed the construction of the huge magnesium plant near Las Vegas through the Defense Plant Corporation.

Charles B. Henderson, chairman of the RFC and former Nevada banker, is said to have stated that there is "a deal in progress," but would not confirm or deny the report.

It was understood that the Anaconda would take over the mining of magnesite from the big deposits at Gabbs valley, while operation of the BMI plant at Las Vegas would be in charge of the English officials who are headed by Major Ball.

Howard C. Mann, superintendent of BMI, was in Gabbs valley this afternoon and could not be reached.

A field party of high Anaconda officials, including Frederick Laist, chief metallurgist from the New York office, recently completed an inspection of the BMI properties, visiting not only the mining operation at Gabbs valley, but also the main plant at Las Vegas.

Interest of the Anaconda organization, one of the largest mining operators in the world, in the BMI properties has been known in mining circles for the last several months.

C. E. Weed, general manager of the mining division of Anaconda Copper, said in New York this afternoon that his company was making an investigation of the BMI operation at the request of Eells, the British interests now in BMI.

"If there is anything which we can do, through our experience in handling large mining and metallurgical operations, we are naturally interested in helping the progress of the war," said Weed, who could not confirm that a definite deal had been made by Anaconda with the Eells interest in BMI.

LAS VEGAS, NEV., REVIEW-JOURNAL
SEPTEMBER 28, 1942

Anaconda Copper Now In Control of BMI

English Interests To Continue in Charge in Vegas

Control of Basic Magnesium Incorporated apparently has passed to the Anaconda Copper Mining company, it was indicated today following a thorough check of reports current here and in Washington D. C. for the past 10 days.

The Salt Lake Tribune's Washington bureau announced the story Saturday attributing it to "very high authority" and stating Anaconda had acquired the interest of Howard Eells, Jr., and associates.

To Continue Here

The source of the story said Anaconda engineers would immediately take over the operation of the mines at Luning, Nevada, and that the English interests, owners of the process used in the Las Vegas plant, would continue in charge here.

Charles B. Henderson, president of Reconstruction Finance Corporation, would not affirm the story beyond saying that negotiations were in progress, and were proceeding satisfactorily.

Howard P. Eells, Jr., president of Basic, could not be reached by telephone, and Howard C. Mann, project manager was at Luning.

Major C. J. Ball, head of the English group and in charge of operations at the plant for the past several weeks, was in Los Angeles and could not be contacted for a statement.

Thought in Control

Washington opinion, however was that the story is correct—that Anaconda is now in full control of the new Nevada industry.

The Eells' interests owned slightly more than 50 per cent of the stock in Basic and the British interests own the rest.

Passing of control of Basic Magnesium to Anaconda is understood to have the hearty approval of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation which financed construction and equipment of the new plant here.

Government officials, according to the Tribune, are relieved to know that control will be in the hands of one of the big corporations of the west with long experience in the mining and treatment of ores.

Anaconda has operated in Montana for nearly a half century, having large holdings in Butte and Anaconda. The Rio Tinto in Elko and International Smelting and Refining Company operations in the Pioche district, are part of the Anaconda holdings in Nevada.

Control of the company has been held for years by the Standard Oil group, and it has widespread interests throughout the United States.

SUN
New York, N. Y.

Report Anaconda in Magnesium Deal

At the Anaconda Copper Mining Company's offices today comment was refused on a published report that the company has purchased the magnesium plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$73,000,000.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., an affiliate of Basic Refractories, Inc., of Cleveland, Ohio, built the plant for the Defense Plants Corporation under a contract with the Office of Production Management. It has an estimated capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium.

JOURNAL-AMERICAN
New York, N. Y.

Anaconda Buys Magnes. Plant, Bunker Says

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 (UP).—Senator Berkeley L. Bunker, (D., Nev.), said today he had learned reliably today that Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000. Anaconda officials declined to comment on the Senator's statement.

The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the corporation "lock, stock and barrel."

"The Government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing," Bunker said. "I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive \$1,000,000 from the Defense Plants Corp. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have."

Neither Reconstruction Finance Corp. nor Defense Plants Corp. officials would comment on the reported purchase of Basic Magnesium by Anaconda.

They pointed out, however, that the Las Vegas plant is owned by Defense Plants Corp. and is being operated for it by Basic Magnesium, Inc., under a license. BMI, an affiliate of Basic Refractories, Inc., of Cleveland, also built the plant for DPC under a contract entered into at the request of the Office of Production Management and the War Department, the RFC explained.

Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced April 9, when the plant was being built, that the total cost would approximate 70 million and that the plant would have an annual capacity of 112 million pounds of metallic magnesium.

From
JOURNAL OF COMMERCE
New York, N. Y.

Has No Knowledge Of Magnesium Deal

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (AP).—A spokesman of the Defense Plants Corporation denied today any knowledge of a reported purchase by Anaconda Copper Co. of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

Senator Bunker (Dem., Nev.) said last night he had been "reliably informed" the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at a cost of \$75,000,000.

The Defense Plants Corporation official said any such purchase would involve only the two companies and would not concern the Defense Plants Corporation.

Basic Magnesium Control Goes to Anaconda Copper

Officials Refuse To Comment "At This Time"

NEW YORK, Sept. 29 (UP).—The Anaconda Copper company is reported by informed circles to be negotiating for the purchase of controlling interest in the Basic Magnesium. Anaconda officials refused to confirm or deny the story "at this time."

Control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., has passed from Howard Eells and associates of Cleveland to Anaconda Copper Mining company, according to word reaching Reno yesterday, says the Gazette.

"It is my understanding," Senator Berkeley L. Bunker of Nevada said, "that BMI is to receive \$1,000,000 for its services in the last year, but payment of such a fee as this will be contested."

The reports received here stated that Anaconda had acquired the Eells interests, which own slightly over 50 per cent of the stock of Basic Magnesium. The minority stock is held principally by Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., of Manchester, England.

This latter group is headed by Maj. C. P. Ball, chairman of Magnesium Elektron and vice-president of BMI.

According to today's report, the sale of the controlling interest of BMI to Anaconda had the approval of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which financed the construction of the huge magnesium plant near Las Vegas through the Defense Plant Corporation.

Charles B. Henderson, chairman of the RFC and former Nevada banker, is said to have stated that there is "a deal in progress," but would not confirm or deny the report.

It was understood that the Anaconda would take over the mining of magnesite from the big deposits at Gabbs valley, while operation of the BMI plant at Las Vegas would be in charge of the English officials who are headed by Major Ball.

NEWS
Detroit, Mich.

Nevada Silver Used in Construction Job

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 25.—(AP)—An Army-approved program to substitute Nevada silver for copper in future construction at Basic Magnesium, Inc., huge new plant here, was announced today by Sen. Pat McCarran.

Plant officials said McCarran wished them the plan would release large quantities of copper now used for railings in buses and electrical appliances.

McCarran further said silver used thus for non-consumptive purposes would "in no wise detract from its value as metal for money." He predicted 1,600,000 pounds of silver would be used in the program.

Give No Definite Confirmation of BMI Transaction

A United Press report coming from New York today states that officials of the Anaconda Copper company have refused either to confirm or deny "at this time" the current report that Anaconda is taking over the controlling interests of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant.

According to the report, when was first circulated late in August and which since then has received partial confirmation, the Anaconda company will take over the interests of Howard P. Eells and associates of Cleveland, who own more than 50 percent of the stock. The remaining shares are owned by Magnesium Elektron, of England, which is headed by Major C. P. J. Ball.

WORLD TELEGRAM
New York City

SEP 30 1942

Basic Magnesium Sale Report Persists

By the United Press.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker, (D., Nev.) said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

The transaction, Mr. Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the corporation "lock stock and barrel."

"The government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing," he added. "I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive \$1,000,000 from the Defense Plants Corp. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have."

Neither Reconstruction Finance Corp. officials nor those of the Defense Plants Corp., which owns the plant, would comment on the reported purchase of Basic Magnesium by Anaconda Copper.

Journal of Commerce
Chicago, Ill.

Anaconda Buys Magnesium Plant, Senator Reports

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (AP).—Senator Bunker (D., Nev.), said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Company had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation. Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wis.

Buy Basic Magnesium?

Washington, D. C.—(AP)—Senator Bunker (Dem., Nev.) said Tuesday that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corp.

Ball is vicepresident of Basic Magnesium, Inc.
R. F. C. IS INTERESTED

Necessary for the completion of the proposed deal is the approval of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and this is said to have been granted. The RFC financed most of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., activities and it is reported that BMI is to receive fees from the United States government amounting to one million dollars for their services during the past year.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., figured largely in the recent primary senatorial campaign between Senator Berkeley L. Bunker and James G. Scrugham. Bunker, who charged certain irregularities in BMI operation and management, states now that he will oppose in the senate payment of the million dollar fee.

It is reported that the original

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE
New York, N. Y.

SEP 29 1942

Report Anaconda Buys Magnesium

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (AP).—Senator Bunker (Dem., Nev.) said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation.

Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

WALL ST. JOURNAL
New York, N. Y.

SEP 30 1942

Basic Magnesium Inc.

WASHINGTON (AP)—A spokesman of the Defense Plants Corp. denied yesterday any knowledge of a reported purchase by Anaconda Copper Co. of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75 million.

Senator Bunker (Dem., Nev.) had said he had been "reliably informed" the Anaconda Copper Co., had purchased Basic Magnesium Inc. at a cost of \$75 million.

The D.P.C. official said any such purchase would involve only the two companies and would not concern the Defense Plants Corp.

TIMES
New York

OCT 1 1942

Anaconda-Basic Magnesium Deal

The reported purchase of Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates

properties in Nevada, by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company still lacks official confirmation or denial despite the fact that three days ago Senator Bunker of Nevada stated that he had been informed that the deal had been

contract for the construction of BMI called for the payment of a five percent fee to BMI officials for the supervision of the Las Vegas plant, and the maximum was placed at \$300,000. In addition to this, however, BMI was to receive operation royalties, and was to be paid one million dollars in case the government ever decided to take over the business.

If the proposed change of management takes place as reported, it is believed that the Anaconda company will supervise mining operations in Gabbs Valley while Major Ball and the British interests will operate the refining plant at Las Vegas.

The BMI plant is as yet far from complete. One unit of it is in operation and is producing magnesium, but it is expected that several more months will be required before the whole plant (which is to be one of the biggest of its kind) will be completed.

From
TIMES
New York

SEP 29 1942

Hears of Anaconda Copper Deal

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (AP).—Senator Bunker of Nebraska said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Company had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation. Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

closed for a consideration of \$75,000,000. In addition, the Senator said yesterday that the Defense Plant Corporation is to pay Basic Magnesium \$1,000,000. The Anaconda Company said "no comment" when asked concerning the deal and the Defense Plant Corporation when queried in Washington replied that it has "nothing officially" in the way of information on the report. However, information in the non-ferrous metal industry is that Anaconda has been carrying on negotiations for some time for the purchase of Basic Magnesium. Earlier this year the Truman committee investigating war contracts went into the operations of Basic Magnesium.

The Job Speaks for Itself

To attempt to interpret for the readers of this newspaper the significance of the event occurring out at Basic Magnesium yesterday when the first metal was produced at the big plant, would be to suggest that, generally speaking the people of this area are unaware of the importance of this project to the war effort and to the future of southern Nevada.

We have known for months that this was the number one war project in construction. What its coming means to this entire area has been fittingly demonstrated during the construction period in a manner no one can traverse.

The one question in the minds of many was whether or not the charges hurled at the project itself were true—whether, on the basis of those charges, the plant would ever go into production or not.

Because of the rigidity with which the war department has clamped down on release of news from the project, much has been left unsaid that might have cast light on the progress being made, and the people generally have had to rely on second-hand tales, many of a rather imaginary nature.

When the metal started flowing from the chlorinators yesterday, Howard Mann, project manager, said he had no comment to make—that "the job speaks for itself."

We're inclined to the same view—inclined to believe that the people of this area know full well what it means when the big plant goes into production—that the job speaks for itself.

What this means for the future of Nevada is a matter of conjecture. It CAN mean everything—factories, payrolls in ever increasing number.

We still retain the hope that we will one day become "the Pittsburgh of the light metal industry" as predicted some months ago by Howard P. Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, Inc. That IS the goal ahead. Yesterday saw us one BIG step forward on the way toward that goal.

Certainly it is a long way into the future—certainly there is a lot of work ahead to make it come true. But—a year ago, the magnesium plant was but a newspaper story so far as the general public was concerned. Today it is a reality.

If miracles like this can transpire in less than a year's time—other eventualities of equal import, of which we do not now even dream, CAN happen with the same apparent waving of a magic wand.

AUG. 8, 1942 82
LITTLE ROCK, ARK. GAZETTE

MAGNESIUM PLANT OVERSHADOWS EVEN HUGE BOULDER DAM

Boulder City, Nev., Aug. 7 (AP)—So you thought the building of Boulder Dam was a big affair? Well, it was.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

That's just one startling item concerning the project. The War Production Board labels many others confidential, but here are a few it approves for public consumption:

Boulder Dam employment at its peak totaled 5,250 workers. Basic Magnesium had 13,618 on its payroll last week—and that payroll is greater each week than it was each month at the dam.

It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

Mighty Painting Job. Of course, Boulder Dam makes

the Basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam-generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete, to resist the upsurge when a full load of current is turned on.

The painting project is a mighty thing. Pipe painting includes anything from half-inch lines to air ducts big enough to drive a truck through. The job will take 200 carloads of paint, which is used at a rate of 1,100 gallons a day. Some must be made to withstand temperatures of 1,200 degrees Centigrade. One enamel is applied at a heat of 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

Abundant Mineral. Magnesium is a highly valuable war production metal, which composes 2.24 per cent of the earth's crust, more than 10 per cent of sea matter, is eighth among the elements in abundance, yet nowhere is found in a free state. Its reduction requires a precise application of electro-chemistry and a large plant outlay.

El Centro, Cal., Desert Magazine
Cir. 6,448 SEPTEMBER, 1942

Virginia Ashby of San Bernardino, California, was hostess to 21 members of the Orange Belt mineral society on Sunday evening, July 26, in her mountain cabin at Forest Home. All those present declared it to be one of the memorable events of the entire year. Kenneth Garner, secretary of the California state federation, gave an educational talk on the construction and management of the Basic Magnesium Plant, n.c., situated at Royson, Nevada, near Las Vegas, and the methods of ore handling.

Las Vegas Review Journal
Sept. 2, 1942

Capital Hears of Magnesium Plant

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 (UP)—A. H. Bunker, chief of the WPS aluminum and magnesium branch, today announced that production had started in the government-owned magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, which will be the largest of its kind in the world.

The new plant, with a rated capacity approximately 3½ times the total U. S. output in 1941, will turn out the critical war material used in manufacturing aircraft, as an alloy with aluminum, and in incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

AUG. 9, 1942 82
LUBBOCK, TEX. AVALANCHE JRL

Magnesium Plant Is Rising On Desert

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 8 (AP)—Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

That's just one startling item of information about the project. There are lots of others that the War Production Board labels confidential, but here are a few it approves for public consumption:

Boulder Dam employment at its peak totaled 5,250 workers. Basic Magnesium had 13,618 on its payroll last week—and that payroll is greater each week than it was each month at the dam.

It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

Boulder Dam makes the Basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam-generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete, to resist the upsurge when a full load of current is turned on.

Wichita Falls Tex Rec
B-B-47 468

Magnesium Company Will Supply Metal Needed for Defense

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 7 (AP)—Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

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It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

Boulder Dam makes the Basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam-generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete, to resist the upsurge when a full load of current is turned on.

AUG. 8, 1942 82
WICHITA FALLS TEX NEWS

Magnesium Company Will Supply Metal Needed for Defense

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 7 (AP)—Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

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AUG. 9, 1942 80
CORPUS CHRISTI TEX. CALLER T.

We Get It—Basic Magnesium Plant Is Big, Very Big

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AUG. 8, 1942 818
JOPLIN, MO. GLOBE

GIANT MAGNESIUM PLANT BEING BUILT

Production Capacity to Be 30 Times That of Entire World Six Years Ago.

Boulder City, Nev., Aug. 7 (AP)—So you thought the building of Boulder Dam was a big affair? Well, it was.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

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Dam Makes Project Possible. It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

Of course, Boulder Dam makes the Basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam-generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete, to resist the upsurge when a full load of current is turned on.

The painting project is a mighty thing in itself. Pipe painting includes anything from half-inch lines to air ducts big enough to drive a truck through. The whole job will take 200 carloads of paint, which is used at a rate of 1,100 gallons a day. It's of every known color, shade and brand. Some must be made to withstand temperatures of 1,200 degrees Centigrade. One enamel is applied at a heat of 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

For speed, much of the pipe is dunked in huge vats of paint. Painters who work inside ex-

haust lines look like deep-sea divers. So dangerous are the fumes that they wear special clothing and gas masks. They are lowered into the pipes on ropes, work a maximum of 30 minutes at a time and are hauled out the minute they stop wiggling.

If you're curious about magnesium:

It's a highly valuable war production metal, which composes 2.24 per cent of the earth's crust, more than 10 per cent of sea water, is eighth among the elements in abundance, yet nowhere is found in a free state. Its reduction, therefore, requires a precise application of electro-chemistry and a large plant outlay.

AUG. 8, 1942 819
ST. JOSEPH, MO. GAZETTE

Magnesium Plant Larger Project Than Boulder Dam

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 7 (AP)—So you thought the building of Boulder Dam was a big affair? Well, it was.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

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Western Mineral Survey
Salt Lake City, Utah
August 21, 1942

Chlorine 68 Shipped From Basic Magnesium

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—The first car of liquid chlorine containing approximately 55 tons of this vital war material moved out of the Basic Magnesium, Incorporated plant, consigned to an eastern point, it was announced by Howard C. Mann, project manager.

A steady stream of cars will follow today's initial shipment, moving to points throughout the nation.

Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, soon to be the world's largest manufacturer of magnesium, will produce as a by-product the second largest volume of chlorine in the western hemisphere, Mr. Mann said.

SEP 29 1942

Silver Bloc's Press Releases Seen Deceptive

By Herbert Bratter

Former Commerce and Treasury Department Silver Expert

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—The silver mining interests, through their spokesmen in Congress and their friends in the War Production Board, continue to make use of misleading press releases with the object of protecting the subsidy for silver. The incidental result is to allay public demand for the industrial use of the 90,000 tons of silver already in Treasury vaults, and thus impede the WPB conservation division's efforts to assign all that silver to badly needed war uses.

Typical of this misleading campaign is a news report a few days ago from Nevada. In it Senator Pat McCarran announces that silver is to be used in substitution for copper in future construction at Basic Magnesium, Inc., a huge new defense plant at Las Vegas. This piece of alleged news is interesting because it shows how carefully one must read announcements related to silver.

The McCarran announcement would lead the unsuspecting to think that the Nevada Senator was responsible for the saving of copper, so important to the war effort, whereas in fact Senator McCarran actually has opposed the efforts of Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, earlier this year, and the continuing efforts of WPB's conservation division to put the Treasury's full stock of silver to work in war industries. In other words, the silver bloc makes it appear that it is doing just the opposite of what it really is doing.

Silver Still Impounded

It is still the fact that all the Treasury's huge stock of monetary silver is impounded in the Government's vaults by a statute fathered and protected by the silver bloc in Congress, and not an ounce of it may be sold to industries which would use it in place of such very scarce war metals as copper, tin, stainless steel, antimony, aluminum, and the like. To date only a fraction of the non-monetary Treasury-owned silver has been "lend-leased" to the Defense Plants Corporation.

The Basic Magnesium silver arrangement "announced" by Senator McCarran is really a part of the busbar agreement arranged by the Treasury last May at the instance of the WPB, and not at the instance of Senator McCarran. WPB's efforts in this matter date back even further.

In this newspaper on September 17 this writer reported the misleading character of an announcement on silver given to the press by WPB under the imprimatur of Mr. A. I. Henderson, deputy director general for operations. The writer took the occasion to suggest that investigation might disclose that some person or persons within WPB might be misusing the press in the matter of giving out misleading statements. The WPB press release on silver to which reference was then made was in the nature of a supposed statement by Mr. A. I. Henderson, in quotation marks, to make it look real.

TIMES
New York

OCT 2 1942

Deal for Basic Magnesium, Inc.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CLEVELAND, Oct. 1.—Samuel Eells, vice president of Basic Refractories, Inc., which controls Basic Magnesium, Inc., said tonight that negotiations looking toward possible sale of his company's interest in Basic Magnesium to the Anaconda Copper Mining Company had been under way some time but that no deal had been made.

Anaconda Copper Now in Control of Basic Magnesium

English Interests To Continue in Charge in Vegas

Control of Basic Magnesium incorporated apparently has passed to the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, it was indicated today following a thorough check of reports current here and in Washington D. C. for the past 10 days.

The Salt Lake Tribune's Washington bureau announced the story Saturday attributing it to "very high authority" and stating Anaconda had acquired the interest of Howard Eells, Jr., and associates.

To Continue Here

The source of the story said Anaconda engineers would immediately take over the operation of the mines at Luning, Nevada, and that the English interests, owners of the process used in the Las Vegas plant would continue in charge here.

Charles B. Henderson, president of Reconstruction Finance Corporation, would not affirm the story beyond saying that negotiations were in progress, and were proceeding satisfactorily.

Howard P. Eells, Jr., president of Basic, could not be reached by telephone, and Howard C. Mann, project manager was at Luning.

Major C. A. Ball, head of the English group and in charge of operations at the plant for the past several weeks, was in Los Angeles and could not be contacted for a statement.

Thought In Control

Washington opinion, however was that the story is correct—that Anaconda is now in full control of the new Nevada industry.

The Eells' interests owned slightly more than 50 per cent of the stock in Basic and the British interests own the rest.

Passing of control of Basic Magnesium to Anaconda is understood to have the hearty approval of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation which financed construction and equipment of the new plant.

Government officials, according to the Tribune, are relieved to know that control will be in the hands of one of the big corporations of the west with long experience in the mining and treatment of ores.

Anaconda has operated in Montana for nearly a half century, having large holdings in Butte and Anaconda. The Rio Tinto in Elko and International Smelting and Refining Company operations in the Pioche district, are part of the Anaconda holdings in Nevada.

Control of the company has been held for years by the standard Oil group, and it has widespread interests throughout the United States.

L V Review Journal
October 2, 1942

Concessions Given At BMI Townsite

Concessions are being let for business enterprises in the heart of the Basic Townsite area, and the shops will open for trade as soon as the buildings can be constructed, it was revealed here today by J. M. Clark, property manager for Defense Plants Corporation.

In the commercial district will be a general market, a general store, a recreation hall where a bowling alley will be constructed and soft drinks will be served, a barber shop, a beauty parlor, and a movie theater. The buildings to house the various businesses will be constructed by the Defense Plants Corporation and will be leased by the concessionaires. The area surrounding the buildings will be landscaped. Ground already has been broken for the construction, but actual building has not started yet.

The shopping area will be practically in the center of the townsite and will be contiguous to the Basic school.

Louis Mack, Las Vegas business man, and his associate, L. J. Meyers of Los Angeles, have been given the concession for the general store, which will be known as the Basic Department store. Mack stated today that he expects to open for business about the first of November and will handle a complete line of men's, women's and children's clothing, dry goods, sporting goods, jewelry, hardware, furniture, electrical appliances and other household equipment. Mack, who has resided in Las Vegas and Boulder City for the past 10 years, has operated the Boulder Liquor store in Las Vegas for the last two years. He stated today that he will dispose of that business as soon as he finds a suitable buyer and will devote his entire time to his new store at Basic.

Earl Brothers of Boulder City is awaiting formal notice from the government on the theater concession, for which he already has been assured a contract. He had purchased seats for the theater building which were stored in a warehouse near the townsite, which burned last week, destroying the seats. Brothers said today that he is assured of replacements and that new seats will be received before the time to open the new theater.

Mark Schulman, owner of the Clark Market in Las Vegas, has received the concession for the market to be established at the townsite.

Clark stated that the concession applicant will be notified directly by the government, and that no information has been received at the Defense Plants Corporation offices here yet as to the other concessionaires.

Basic Magnesium Will Get \$75,000,000 From Anaconda Copper, Reports Indicate

Officials of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company still declined yesterday to comment on the reported purchase by the company of Basic Magnesium, Inc., including the refining plant at Las Vegas and the mining property in Gabbs Valley near Luning, according to United Press dispatches from Washington.

Informed circles, however, in New York and Washington

reported that the negotiations were practically complete and that Anaconda was paying \$75,000,000 for Basic Magnesium, Inc., "lock, stock and barrel."

This would mean that the Defense Plant Corporation, which put up practically all the money expended by Basic Magnesium in the erection of the plant at Las Vegas and the development of the mining property in Gabbs Valley, would be bailed out by Anaconda and in turn the DPC will pay Basic Magnesium \$1,000,000 for surrendering its interests in accordance with the contract entered into last year by Basic and the government agency.

Basic, which owns the mining property in Gabbs Valley, will receive something in addition from the \$75,000,000 for the mining claims, it is believed, although the value of the claims has never been announced. Under the contract Basic was to receive \$1 per ton in royalty from the government for every ton of ore mined if Basic continued to operate the refining plant. However, under the contract, Basic was to receive \$2 per ton royalty for the ore if Basic did not operate the refining plant.

It is not believed, however, that the Anaconda Company, if it buys the government out, will pay \$2 per ton royalty for the Gabbs Valley ore to Basic Magnesium or anyone else but that the mining property is being purchased outright with a part of the \$75,000,000.

How much Basic Magnesium has expended in government funds so far in the erection of the Las Vegas plant and the plant at Gabbs Valley in the year that work has been in progress has not been disclosed but under its contract with the Defense Plant Corporation, subsidiary of the RFC, it was to receive five per cent of the amount expended with \$60,000,000 set as the limit of total expenditures. It is claimed that more than \$60,000,000 has been expended to date and the plant is not yet complete. The payroll in Las Vegas alone is more than \$900,000 per week now.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., organized in 1941 by Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates of Cleveland, Ohio, took over 36 claims in the Gabbs Valley district owned by Basic Refractories, Inc., of which Eells was president. Basic Refractories was given 55 per cent of the stock in Basic Magnesium for the 36 claims. The remaining stock in Basic Magnesium was given to Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., of England in exchange for the refining process and the English company sent its experts to this country to build the refining plant.

Senator Berkeley Bunker indicated in Washington yesterday that there may be senate opposition to payment of the million dollars to Basic Magnesium by the DPC.

If Anaconda takes over the entire plant and operates it as a private enterprise it will constitute the largest privately owned operation in Nevada and will add an estimated \$30,000,000 in taxable property to the tax roll in Clark county.

Anaconda is one of the largest mining companies in the world.

Silver Will Be Used In Place of Copper

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 25.—An Army-approved program to substitute Nevada silver for copper in future construction at Basic Magnesium, Inc., huge new plant here, was announced yesterday by Senator Pat McCarran.

Plant officials said McCarran wired them the plan would release large quantities of copper now used for railings in buses and electrical appliances.

McCarran further said silver used thus for non-consumptive purposes would "in no wise detract from its value as metal for money." He predicted 1,600,000 pounds of silver would be used in the program.

FURLOCK, CAL. JOURNAL
OCTOBER 1, 1942

Anaconda Buys Basic Magnesium

WASHINGTON — (UP) — Senator Berkeley L. Bunker of Nevada, said today he had learned reliably that Anaconda Copper had acquired Basic Magnesium, which operates a plant at Las Vegas, for \$75,000,000.

The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the corporation "lock, stock, and barrel."

SANTA CRUZ, CALIF.
SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL-NEWS
OCTOBER 1, 1942

Anaconda Copper Said Purchaser Of Basic Magnesium

Washington, Sept. 30 — Senator Berkeley L. Bunker, D., Nev., said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper company had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, for \$75,000,000.

The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the corporation "lock, stock and barrel."

"The government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing," Bunker said. "I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive \$1,000,000 from the defense plants corporation. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have."

Hanford, Cal. Journal
OCTOBER 1, 1942

Nevada Magnesium Plant Hinted Sold

Washington, Sept. 30—(UP)—Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker, D., Nev., said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda copper the corporation "lock, stock, and barrel."

L V Review Journal
October 2 1942

COUNTY NEARLY DOUBLES QUOTA OF WAR BONDS

Clark county subscribed to almost twice its quota of war bonds during the month of September, falling only \$36,600 short of the half million mark which Chairman Art Brick had set as the hoped for goal.

The September drive was under the sponsorship of the theatre owners of the nation and Brick was in active charge of the campaign here.

Clark county's total was \$463,600 as compared to a quota of \$249,100. The showing was even more remarkable, Brick pointed out, because over the nation as a whole, bond sales were off.

Based on a population of 40,000 the bond subscription amounted to \$11.59 for each man, woman and child in the county.

Reports from Washoe county this afternoon indicated that the Reno district's drive would fall short of the quota of \$367,300, although final figures were not expected to be available for several days.

"This is a splendid record for our county," Brick said. "Everybody pitched in and did a swell job. All I can ask is that we don't stop now. We must keep right on pushing ahead with a view to beating the half million mark in October."

A breakdown of September sales in Clark county showed the following:

Postoffice, Las Vegas	\$ 32,043.75
Postoffice, Boulder	11,156.25
Bank of Nev. (LV)	10,525.00
Bank of Nev. (BC)	3,775.00
First National (LV)	142,750.00
Basic Magnesium	263,350.00

L A Evening Herald-Express
September 28, 1942

Anaconda Copper Co. Buys Basic Magnesium, Report

By Associated Press
WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—Senator Bunker, Democrat of Nebraska, said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corp.

Defense Plant Corp. officials would not comment.

Magnesium Ore Arrives At BMI

First shipment of magnesium oxide from the Gabbs Valley plant to Basic Magnesium at Las Vegas, arrived this morning by truck and trailer and consisted of 60 tons.

This was a test run to determine various factors involved in handling the concentrates which will soon begin to go through the plant coming out as all-important metal magnesium.

Just when the trucks will go on a regular schedule has not yet been announced.

It required two trucks and two trailers to carry the load.

Vegas Plant Ships First Chlorine

LAS VEGAS, Nev., (U.P.)—Gov. E. P. Carville said "he was amazed and exceedingly well pleased" a progress of the Basic Magnesium Co. plant here yesterday afternoon in a speech which lauded executives and workers of the company.

The governor's praise came a day after the first carload of liquid chlorine was shipped to Eastern markets from the project recently completed in record-breaking time.

Basic Magnesium Ships First Car Of Chlorine

Sunday, the first car of liquid chlorine containing approximately 55 tons of this vital war material moved out of the Basic Magnesium, Incorporated plant, consigned to an Eastern point, it was announced by Howard C. Mann, Project Manager.

There were no bands playing, flags flying, or speeches made as Basic's big diesel switch engine hooked on to the car and started it on its way. A steady stream of cars will follow Sunday's initial shipment, moving to points throughout the nation.

Basic Magnesium, Incorporated soon to be the world's largest manufacturer of magnesium, will produce as a by-product the second largest volume of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

NEVADA BASIC MAGNESIUM PLANT IS HUGE PROJECT

The size of the Basic Magnesium plant at Las Vegas, on which many local people have been employed, is emphasized by the following comparison with Boulder Dam, published in the B. M. I. company news letter of July 30th.

"At the peak of employment the dam project had 5,250 at work. Last week the employment count on the Basic job was 13,618. The weekly payroll at this project is greater than the monthly pay roll at the dam. Andersons had a mess hall at the dam that seated 1300. Andersons here can serve 2500 at a sitting. And all America is still proud of the dam."

Magnesium Plant Is Subject Of Magazine Story

"The West Wants You" is the subject of a long feature story written about young women at work at the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant by Alyce Canfield and appearing in the current issue of Charm magazine.

The article is generously illustrated by pictures of girls at their desks and during their leisure hours in Las Vegas and Boulder City.

Miss Canfield opens her article with the statement, "Like a wild fabulous carnival flung into the middle of nowhere is the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, incredible boom town of war-time America. Las Vegas, where the parched heat of the day is climaxed by warm, wind-caressed nights, with stars shining like brilliant peepholes in a gigantic tent top."

She recommends, "Go west, young lady, to find jobs that pay from \$125 to \$300 a month—one of two pay even more."

Magnesium Ore Arrives At B M I

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Just when the trucks will go on a regular schedule has not yet been announced.

It required two trucks and two trailers to carry the load.

Magnesium Plant Receiving Ores

Two trucks with trailers this week brought the first shipment of magnesium ore concentrates to the Basic Magnesium plant from the mine and calcining plant at Gabbs, twenty-five miles above Luning. The shipment amounted to 60 tons and was in the nature of a test or experimental run, the matter of transportation from the Gabbs mines to Basic Magnesium being still unsettled.

The ore, after being treated in the calcining furnaces at the mine, must be brought to the Las Vegas plant for conversion into the pure magnesium metal in the great electric furnaces. The transportation problem has been given much study, the railroads being anxious to secure that profitable haul but, it is reported, are handicapped by the shortage of rolling stock and the excessively long mileage.

The matter of truck transportation has been advocated, the chief difficulty in this being the fact that the necessary reconstruction of the highway will require a large amount of money. However, it is pointed out, the directness and quickness of truck transportation is a strong factor in favor of that means of getting the ore to the plant.

The Basic Magnesium plant has already been in operation for some weeks turning out carloads of chlorine which is a vital war material. The electric furnaces for production of magnesium metal will be given their first tests within the next few days it is stated.

Nevada Magnesium Plant Project Dwarfs Even Building of Mighty Boulder Dam

BOULDER CITY, Nev., (U.P.)—So you thought the building of Boulder dam was a big affair? Well, it is.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

That's just one startling item of information about the project. There are lots of others that the war production board labels confidential, but here are a few it approves for public consumption.

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Painters who work inside exhaust lines look like deep-sea divers. So dangerous are the fumes that they wear special clothing and gas masks. They are lowered into the pipes on ropes, work a maximum of 30 minutes at a time and are hauled out the moment they stop wiggling.

Incidentally, most painters would walk a mile for a

camel's hair paintbrush. The war has stopped importation of Chinese camel's hair. Old Dobbin has come to the rescue, but the users claim brushes made from his tail last only a third as long.

If you're curious about magnesium:

It's a highly valuable war production metal, which composes 2.24 per cent of the earth's crust, more than 10 per cent of sea water, is eighth among the elements in abundance, yet nowhere is found in a free state. Its reduction, therefore, requires a precise application of electro-chemistry and a large plant outlay.

FIRST CAR CHLORINE IS SHIPPED FROM BASIC MAGNESIUM

This week, the first car of liquid chlorine containing approximately 55 tons of this vital war material moved out of the Basic Magnesium, Incorporated plant, consigned to an eastern point, it was announced by Howard C. Mann, project manager.

There were no bands playing, flags flying or speeches made as Basic's big diesel switch engine hooked on to the car and started it on its way. A steady stream of cars will follow today's initial shipment, moving to points throughout the nation.

Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, soon to be the world's largest manufacturer of magnesium, will produce as a by-product the second largest volume of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

First Shipment Made By Basic Magnesium

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New Magnesium Plant To Make 30 Times World Output In '36

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 16, (U.P.)—So you thought the building of Boulder dam was a big affair? Well, it is.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

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Basic By-Product Starts

First car of liquid chlorine, approximately 55 tons, has been shipped from the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant, at Las Vegas, Nev., it is announced by Howard C. Mann, project manager. The plant, soon to be a major manufacturer of magnesium, will produce chlorine as a by-product, of which it is claimed it will be the second largest volume producer in the Western Hemisphere.

CARVILLE LAUDS BASIC MAGNESIUM FOLLOWING SIXTH VISIT TO PLANT

Issues Statement At Variance With Campaign Statements of Senator Bunker Who Bases His Campaign on Bitter Attacks

What the Governor Says:

There seems to be violent disagreement between two of the most important Democratic officials and candidates of the state of Nevada.

The subject of the difference of opinion is Basic Magnesium, Inc., upon bitter criticism of which Senator Berkeley Bunker is basing his campaign for the Democratic nomination for the office of United States Senator, to which he was appointed in November, 1940, by Governor E. P. Carville.

Governor Carville, now also engaged in a primary campaign for the Democratic nomination for Governor, has until this time been non-committal on the issues raised by Senator Bunker in his attacks on Basic Magnesium. However, after his sixth visit to the great defense plant, Governor Carville issued the following statement to the press:

"I have just visited the Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, project for the sixth time, and I am amazed and exceedingly well pleased at the progress that has been made and the work that is being done in connection with the project.

"Personally, and as governor of the state of Nevada, I am extremely gratified that this project is located in Nevada where we not only have the raw materials and minerals, but power, water and other facilities necessary to carry it through to a successful conclusion.

"I desire at this time to compliment the project manager, executives, engineers and architects, and all of the personnel of Basic Magnesium for the splendid record they have made here.

"I also wish to pay a compliment to the craftsmen, mechanics and workers who have so faithfully assisted on this wonderful project.

"This project will stand as a monument to all of those who have had any part in its organization, planning, construction, and operation, long after they have passed out of existence, and their work can never be forgotten insofar as the people of Nevada are concerned, and for that matter, the people of this nation, for they are contributing, each and every one of them materially not alone to our national defense efforts but to the future prosperity of Nevada.

"Fine work has been done and is being done here."

What Senator Bunker Says:

At Reno, Nevada, last March, following the fire which destroyed the Basic administration building, Senator Bunker was quoted in the press as saying, among other things:

"When I asked for an investigation of the Basic Magnesium plant, Howard Ellis, company president, said his books and records were open for investigation. How can they be when they were conveniently burned?"

"Ellis has attempted to make the public believe that the fire was caused by sabotage. This, in my opinion, was not the case."

In the United States Senate, April 30, 1942:

"I rise to reiterate my statement of April 9, that the Defense Plant Corporation has entered into an agreement with Basic Magnesium Inc., of Cleveland, Ohio, that is so sinister as to indicate that some officials in our government are guilty of malfeasance in the performance of their duty. * * *

"And I now state that Jones, who is responsible for the Defense Plant Corporation's affairs, has resorted in his statement to evasion, subterfuge, distortion of facts and attack on the investigators of the case. * * *

"The facts disclosed at Las Vegas created the impression that DPC is paying tremendous fees for 'know how,' which so far has delivered miserable progress, the metal producing units being only 9 per cent complete although the contract was signed August 13, 1941.

"After taking note of this miserable progress I am inclined to believe that the Defense Plant Corporation, instead of paying for 'know how,' is paying for 'don't know how.'"

Basic Magnesium Shipping Chlorine

Sunday, the first car of liquid chlorine containing approximately 55 tons of this vital war material moved out of the Basic Magnesium, Incorporated plant, consigned to an Eastern point, it was announced by Howard C. Mann, Project Manager.

There were no bands playing, flags flying, or speeches made as Basic's big diesel switch engine hooked on to the car and started it on its way. A steady stream of cars will follow today's initial shipment, moving to points throughout the nation.

Basic Magnesium, soon to be the world's largest manufacturer of magnesium, will produce as a by-product the second largest volume of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

Carville Issues Statement in Las Vegas Praising the Basic Magnesium Plant and Congratulating Its Officers and Men on Achievements

Fulsome praise for the splendid achievements that have characterized the work of the Basic Magnesium Company was voiced by Governor E. P. Carville after having made his sixth inspection of the huge plant.

Nevada's Governor was unstinted in his complimentary expressions regarding the efficiency of the work that has been accomplished, and voiced his high regard for the character of the executive work that had made such a splendid construction possible.

The Governor also praised the hearty cooperation of the skilled and unskilled workers in their assistance in the erection of the

plant. "I am simply amazed" declared the Governor as he went from one part to another of the huge enterprise and witnessed the progress that has been made since his last visit.

The hearty endorsement of Basic Magnesium by Governor Carville comes all the more unexpected, an dwith much greater force because Senator Berkeley Bunker, who was appointed by Governor Carville to the Senatorship after Key Pittman died, has spent much time denouncing the Basic Magnesium and its management, and has tied considerable of his election efforts upon this phase of his campaign.

BMI Project Is Bigger Than Dam

Boulder dam—great as was the task of building it—paved the way for a still greater construction project—the job at B. M. I. Boulder electrified the great southwest both scientifically and psychologically. It sent a wave of prosperity surging over a great area. Without it today's war industry of the southwest would not exist. Because of the energy it generates and the water it impounds the

Basic plant is possible. So it detracts nothing from accomplishment to point out that the splendor of the Boulder ac-the big job at Basic is of even more gigantic proportions. At the peak of employment the dam project had 5,250 at work. Last week the employment count on the Basic job was 13,618. The weekly payroll at this project is greater than the monthly pay roll at the dam. Anderson's had a mess hall at the dam that seated 1300. Anderson's here can serve 2500 at a sitting. And all America is still proud of the dam.

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Magnesium Plant In Nevada Just Plain Gigantic

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 7 (AP)—Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

That's just one startling item of information about the project. There are lots of others that the War Production Board labels confidential, but here are a few it approves for public consumption:

Boulder Dam employment at its peak totaled 5,250 workers. Basic Magnesium had 13,618 on its payroll last week—and that payroll is greater each week than it was each month at the dam.

It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

Boulder Dam makes the basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam-generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete, to resist the upsurge when a full load of current is turned on.

Enormous Amount of Material Used In Magnesium Plant; Exceeds Dam

So you thought the building of Boulder Dam was a big affair? Well, it was, says the Christian Science Monitor.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near Boulder Dam, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

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80-Mile Freight Train It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

Of course, Boulder Dam makes the Basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam-generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete, to resist the upsurge when a full load of current is turned on.

The painting project is a

mighty thing in itself. Pipe painting includes anything from half-inch lines to air ducts big enough to drive a truck through. The whole job will take 200 carloads of paint, which is used at a rate of 11,000 gallons a day. It's of every color, shade and brand. Some must be made to withstand temperatures of 1,200 degrees centigrade. One enamel is applied at a heat of 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pipe is Dunked

For speed, much of the pipe is dunked in huge vats of paint.

Painters who work inside exhaust lines look like deep-sea divers. So dangerous are the fumes that they wear special clothing and gas masks. They are lowered into the pipes on ropes, work a maximum of 30 minutes at a time and are hauled out the moment they stop wiggling.

If you're curious about magnesium:

It's a highly valuable war production metal, which composes 2.24 per cent of the earth's crust, more than 10 per cent of sea water, is eighth among the elements in abundance, yet nowhere is found in a free state. Its reduction, therefore, requires a precise application of electro-chemistry and a large plant outlay.

Giant Magnesium Plant Employing 13,618 Builders

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Carville Praises Magnesium Heads

LAS VEGAS (Nev.), Aug. 11.—(AP)—Officials of Basic Magnesium, Inc., accused of mismanagement and inefficiency in construction and early operation of its \$83,000,000 magnesium plant by Senator Berkeley L. Bunker, today received unstinted praise from Governor E. P. Carville.

It was Governor Carville who appointed Senator Bunker to fill the unexpired term of the late Key Pittman.

Governor Visits Las Vegas Plant

CARSON CITY, Aug. 11. (AP)—All workers of the McNeil Construction Co., and the Basic Magnesium Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nev., are contributing "materially not only to our national defense but to the future prosperity of Nevada," Gov. E. P. Carville said today on his return to the capital from an inspection tour of the defense project.

The governor said he was "well pleased at the progress that has been made and the work that is being done in connection with the project."

Carville said he was "gratified this project is located in the state of Nevada where we have not only the raw materials and minerals but power, water and other facilities necessary to carry it through to a successful conclusion."

After complimenting the workers of the Basic Magnesium, Inc. and the McNeil Construction Co., the governor said the plant, which when completed will be the largest of its kind in the world "will stand as a monument to all those workers who had any part in its construction and operation long after they have passed out of existence and their work can never be forgotten insofar as the people of Nevada are concerned, and for that matter, the people of the nation."

Magnesium Plant's Magnitude Bared

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Plant Has More Workers Than Used On Boulder Dam

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Of course, Boulder Dam makes the Basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam-generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete, to resist the upsurge

when a full load of current is turned on.

Mighty Paint Project

The painting project is a mighty thing in itself. Pipe painting includes anything from half-inch lines to air ducts big enough to drive a truck through. The whole job will take 200 carloads of paint, which is used at a rate of 11,000 gallons a day. It's of every known color, shade and brand. Some must be made to withstand temperatures of 1,200 degrees centigrade. One enamel is applied at a heat of 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

For speed, much of the pipe is dunked in huge vats of paint.

Painters who work inside exhaust lines look like deep-sea divers. So dangerous are the fumes that they wear special clothing and gas masks. They are lowered into the pipes on ropes, work a maximum of 30 minutes at a time and are hauled out the moment they stop wiggling.

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Gigantic Magnesium Plant Being Built

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BASIC MAGNESIUM PLAN IS ENORMOUS

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 8.—(AP)—Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

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Huge Basic Magnesium Plant in Nevada Will Be One of World's Largest Projects

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Basic Magnesium Plant At Boulder Dam Tremendous!

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Silver Comes Back Home To Aid War

Vegas Magnesium Plant Is Loaned Metal to Take Place of Copper

An historic event was scheduled to occur at the property of Basic Magnesium, Inc., 13 miles east of Las Vegas today—one of the many historic and breath-taking events that have marked the meteoric growth of this war industry during the past year.

Today this company was scheduled to receive a huge shipment of silver from the vaults of the United States treasury at West Point to be used as replacement for copper in an integral part of the giant metal recovering plant.

This silver much of which came from the mines of Nevada, is coming home to play an important part in America's war program. Thus, Nevada silver once more is doing its share in saving our nation during a grave crisis. It was Nevada's silver which bolstered the tottering union treasury during the Civil War and made it possible for the nation to survive.

Announcement of the arrival of the silver was scheduled to be released by Basic Magnesium today. The metal is being loaned to the company by the treasury department and after the war, when copper is once again available, the silver will be returned to the treasury. It is used in the form of bus bars on electrical switch boards and apparatus requiring extremely high voltages. Many thousands of pounds of copper required for this purpose at the Basic plant will be released by the loan of the silver from the treasury. The treasury metal is being released on a loan basis to key industries as a substitute for copper and a large quantity of the treasurer's vast silver horde has already been put to use in this way.

Magnesium Plant Eyed by Anaconda

The Anaconda Copper Mining Co. was reported in informed circles today to be negotiating to purchase an interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., which recently opened a \$100,000,000 plant for the exclusive production of magnesium for the government.

Officials of the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. would not comment on the reported negotiations, contending the company was not in a position either to confirm or deny the report "at this time."

Organized July 1, 1941, Basic Magnesium, Inc., is controlled by Basic Refractories, Inc., of Ohio, which owns a majority of the capital stock of the magnesium firm.

SANTA BARBARA, CALIF. NEWS PRESS, Mon. Ed., Cir. 5,000 SEPTEMBER 29, 1942

Magnesium Firm Purchase Reported

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (AP)—Senator Bunker (D-Nev.) said Monday that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper company had purchased Basic Magnesium Incorporated, at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the defense plant corporation.

Defense plant corporation officials would not comment.

Great Size of 468 Basic Magnesium Plant Described

The greatness of the Basic Magnesium plant near Las Vegas was described before members of the Elko chamber of commerce today by Warren Monroe, editor of the Elko Independent, who has just returned from the Democratic convention, held in the southern city.

"The only way I can tell you how big it is is to say if you started with the sagebrush in Elko and built the entire city over again you would hardly equal what they have done at Basic Magnesium in a year and a week," said Monroe.

He went on to explain in detail the "magnificent" job being done at the plant and the great accomplishments there, which are something of which "every American can be proud."

Monroe had an opportunity to go through the entire plant, which took hours of walking. He told about the erection of a "small city" near the plant in which there are 1,000 homes and of the immense building projects in the city of Las Vegas itself, 500 homes being built in a contract. The situation in housing is still acute there, the matter of food is a difficult one, but the conditions found there when most of the people, near the plant, lived in trailer houses is greatly improved, the speaker said.

\$100,000,000 Plant Of U. S. Magnesium Firm Begins Work

Las Vegas, Nev.—(AP)—The \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium producing materials for America's war effort, went into operation near here, fulfilling the forecast last year of Howard Eells, Jr., president, that production would start in August.

The plant is expected to be at capacity production within 30 days.

The entire output goes to the war department for the manufacture of incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, shells, flares and aircraft.

ODDEN UTAH STANDARD-EXAMINER, 10 2-12 SEPTEMBER 27, 1942

part of the month, according to those in charge.

PLANT PURCHASE REPORTED WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (AP)—Senator Bunker (D-Nev.) said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper company had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the defense plant corporation. Defense plant corporation officials would not comment.

Seattle (Vn Post-Intelligencer) September 30, 1942

Basic Magnesium Sold, Bunker Says

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—(AP)—Senator Bunker, Democrat, of Nebraska, said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Company had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for seventy-five million dollars from the Defense Plant Corporation. Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

(From Yesterday's Late Editions)

All Doubts Dispelled By First Hand View of Basic Magnesium Progress

By WARREN L. MONROE

What about Basic Magnesium? With charges and counter-charges still ringing in their ears from one of Nevada's most heated democratic primary contests, the people of this state, and particularly "we northerners" who do not have the opportunity to see things first hand, are anxious to know the answer to that question.

As a delegate to the democratic state convention in Las Vegas this week, the writer headed south with a desire to find out the truth about Nevada's greatest war undertaking.

The answer as viewed first hand leaves one almost speechless and certainly with a feeling of helplessness in finding words ample to describe what even the eye with its limitations could see.

The ultimate conclusion this writer reached was that the highest degree of efficiency, aggressiveness and American ingenuity have been combined to do the tremendous job that has been done at this great southern Nevada project.

To give any conception of the job to those who have not seen it, suppose we present the thing by this comparison. Suppose someone pointed out a large sagebrush covered mesa to you and said, "Build here for me a city the size of Elko with everything in it that is in Elko now except the people." That would be a terrific task, as you can well imagine by thinking about the thousands of things you would have to do to even get such a job underway.

But the task Basic Magnesium and the McNeil Construction company have accomplished in one year and one week, is equal to and in many respects greater than such a task.

In duplicating a city like Elko, most of the materials necessary would be standard construction stuff that could be ordered right out of the book. Basic, on the other hand, except for the houses had to come—every bolt and nut of it—from the blue prints. In other words, everything that has gone into this huge plant had to be manufactured especially for it. The blue prints, provided by the British, even had to be redrawn and interpreted into American standards of measurement.

What is the present status of this great undertaking?

The plant is producing magnesium metal suitable for use in making the most urgent materials for which it is needed. In less than one year from the time the first test hole was sunk in the desert terrain, ingots of metal were being poured in the first completed unit.

The plans call for 10 recovery units. The first of these is operating and between now and next February, all 10 units will be in production. By next June, the refinery plant which will treat the raw metal now being turned out and perfect it for structural use, will be in operation.

What they are doing and how

they are doing it, other than that is something about which a book could be written. It is also something about which the visitor—and very few people are permitted to see the plant—is warned not to write.

There has been a question as to the process being used by Basic Magnesium in recovering the metal. Suffice it to say that the process employed has been used for many years in Germany. It was bought from Germany before the war by British Electron, and, after outbreak of the war, was given to this country by the English concern. British Electron owns 45 per cent of Basic Magnesium while 55 per cent is American owned, principally by Howard Eells, president of the company, it is reported.

One of the big facts connected with this project was construction of a pipe line having an inside diameter of 40 inches, from Lake Mead to the plant, a distance of 90,000 feet, and the construction of intake equipment for putting the lake water into the pipe. Six pumps are lowered into the lake from the top of a cliff by use of a 200-foot cantilever arm which permits raising or lowering the pumps to keep up with the lake's 122-foot fall. Pumping of this water from the lake and over the hill into Vegas valley was one of the historic events in connection with the project for it marked the first time that the waters of the Colorado river had ever reached the area.

After viewing this great project and seeing first hand the things that have been accomplished, the questions and doubts that had been raised in my mind, were swept away and in their places swelled a great pride in our America and its genius and a great reassurance that no nation on earth nor no combination of nations, could ever defeat a peoples as undaunted as Americans like those at Basic are proving themselves.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. Times, Cir. 219,200, Sun. Ed. 467,674 SEPTEMBER 29, 1942

Sale of Magnesium Holdings Reported

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28. (AP)—Senator Bunker (D.) Nev., said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation. Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

SANTA MARIA, CALIF. TIMES, Cir. 2,584 SEPTEMBER 29, 1942

Basic Magnesium Plant Sold

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—It is reported that Anaconda Copper Co., has purchased the plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., for \$75,000,000. U. S. Sen. Bunker said: "The government can consider itself damned lucky to get out of this thing. I can see no reason why the Defense Plants Corp. should be forced to pay \$1,000,000 to Basic Magnesium for the bungling job it did, and the job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium wouldn't have sold out as it has."

Anaconda Copper Company To Take Control of Basic Magnesium Plants in State

Partial confirmation of a report that was current late in August to the effect that control of Basic Magnesium, Inc. would be taken over by the Anaconda Copper Company came from Washington and Salt Lake City yesterday, although definite details were lacking.

The Anaconda Copper Company will take over the interests of Howard P. Eells and associates of Cleveland in the enterprise, which constitute more than 50 per cent. The remaining stock is owned by Magnesium Elektron, Inc. of England, of which Maj. C. P. J. Ball is the head. He is vice-president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., and for several weeks has been in charge, it is said.

It was reported that Basic Magnesium, Inc. would receive \$1,000,000 in fees from the government for its services during the past year. Ground was broken for the big plant at Las Vegas just a year ago last week.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which financed the BMI activities at Las Vegas and the mining operations in Gabbs Valley through the Defense Plant Corporation, is said to have approved the deal with Anaconda Copper Company. High officials of that company, including Frederick Laist, chief metallurgist, inspected the Gabbs Valley operations and the Las Vegas plant during the past few days and are said to have approved the purchase of the controlling interest by Anaconda.

Senator Berkeley L. Bunker of Nevada, who complained during the recent primary campaign of alleged political activity of BMI, said yesterday that he would oppose payment of the \$1,000,000 to the company. The original contract with the government called for payment of a five per cent fee to BMI for supervising the construction of the plant, with the maximum set at \$300,000. In addition, BMI was to receive opera-

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. UNION, Cir. 47,225, Sun. Cir. 38,598 SEPTEMBER 29, 1942

MAGNESIUM FIRM SOLD WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (A.P.)—Sen. Bunker (D-Nev.) said today he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corp.

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF. SUN, Cir. 13,576, Sun. Cir. 14,108 SEPTEMBER 29, 1942

Magnesium Plant Sale Is Reported

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—Senator Bunker, Nevada Democrat, said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corp. Defense Plant Corp. officials would not comment.

LAS VEGAS, NEV. REVIEW-JOURNAL, 1-12 SEPTEMBER 27, 1942

matter of habit, quite often.

The "inside story of that desert giant," Basic Magnesium, will be told in the issue of Forbes Magazine to be published October 1, according to publicity announcements received here. The article is by Webb Waldron who recently spent some time in this area getting first-hand facts. Every phase of the project will be covered, including the splendid job done by McNeil Construction Company.

tion royalties and was to be paid \$1,000,000 in event the government decided to take over the plant.

Under the new arrangement, it is said, Anaconda will supervise the Gabbs Valley mining operations while the British interests, under the supervision of Major Ball, will operate the refining plant at Las Vegas.

One unit of the Las Vegas plant is now operating and it is turning out chlorine gas and some magnesium. It will be several months before the plant, which is several times larger than the plant at Birmingham, England, is completed.

STAR Indianapolis, Ind.

SEP 25 1942

Basic Magnesium Plant To Use Nevada Silver

Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 24.—(AP)—An army-approved program to substitute Nevada silver for copper in future construction at Basic Magnesium, Inc., huge new plant here, was announced today by Senator Pat McCarran.

Plant officials said McCarran wired them the plan would release large quantities of copper now used for railings in buses and electrical appliances.

McCarran further said silver used thus for non-consumptive purposes would "in no wise detract from its value as metal for money." He predicted 1,600,000 pounds of silver would be used in the program.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TRIBUNE, Cir. 56,522, Sunday 91,655, SEPTEMBER 26, 1942

Anaconda Gets BMI Control

Tribune Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—The Anaconda Copper Mining company, according to very high authority, has acquired the Eells' interest in Basic Magnesium, the corporation that is operating the newly completed magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev.

As Eells owned slightly over 50 per cent of the stock, Anaconda, through the deal, has gained control of the corporation. The minority holdings are largely in British ownership, that group being headed by Major Ball, representing the owners of the English process that is being used at Las Vegas.

CHICAGO, ILL. NEWS, Cir. 19,500, SEPTEMBER 29, 1942

ANACONDA MAKES NO COMMENT ON MAGNESIUM DEAL

New York, Sept. 29.—(UP)—The Anaconda Copper Mining Co. was reported in informed circles today to be negotiating to purchase an interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., which recently opened a \$100,000,000 plant for the exclusive production of magnesium for the government.

Officials of the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. would not comment on the reported negotiations, contending that the company was not in a position to either confirm or deny the report "at this time."

Organized July 1, 1941, Basic Magnesium, Inc., is controlled by Basic Refractories, Inc., of Ohio, which owns a majority of the capital stock of the magnesium firm.

AUG 10 1942

BIG MAGNESIUM PLANT GROWING UP ON DESERT

Pay Roll Already Tops Boulder Dam Project

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 9.—(AP)—So you thought the building of Boulder dam was a big affair? Well, it was.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

That's just one startling item of information about the project. There are lots of others that the War Production board labels confidential, but here are a few it approves for public consumption:

Boulder dam employment at its peak totaled 5,250 workers. Basic Magnesium had 13,618 on its pay roll last week—and that pay roll is greater each week than it was each month at the dam.

STILL ROLLING IN

It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

Of course, Boulder dam makes the Basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete, to resist the upsurge when a full load of current is turned on.

The painting project is a mighty thing in itself. Pipe painting includes anything from half inch lines to air ducts big enough to drive a truck through. The whole job will take 200 carloads of paint, which is used at a rate of 1,100 gallons a day. It's of every known color, shade and brand. Some must be made to withstand temperatures of 1,200 degrees centigrade. One enamel is applied at a heat of 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

DUNKED INTO VATS

For speed, much of the pipe is dunked into huge vats of paint.

Painters who work inside exhaust lines look like deep sea divers. So dangerous are fumes that they wear special clothing and gas masks. They are lowered into the pipes on ropes, work a maximum of 30 minutes at a time and are hauled out the moment they stop wiggling.

If you're curious about magnesium:

It's a highly valuable war production metal, which composes 2.24 per cent of the earth's crust, more than 10 per cent of sea water, is eighth among the elements in abundance, yet nowhere is found in a free state. Its reduction, therefore, requires a precise application of electro-chemistry and a large plant outlay.

First BMI Product Moves To Market By Rail Yesterday

Liquid Chlorine Sent Toward Production Center

First product of Basic Magnesium Inc.'s big plant, moved to market yesterday, when the first car of liquid chlorine was hauled out onto the main line of the Union Pacific and headed toward a war factory badly needing this commodity.

Announcement of the epochal event was contained in a brief statement issued by Howard C. Mann, project manager which said: "Yesterday, the first car of liquid chlorine containing approximately 55 tons of this vital war material moved out of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant consigned to an eastern point. A steady stream of cars will follow this initial shipment, moving to various points throughout the nation."

Starts Production

There were no bands playing, flags flying or speeches made as Basic's big diesel switch engine hooked on to the car and started it on the way, but it was the first big moment in action operation of the plant because it signaled the start of production for the war effort.

Chlorine is an essential chemical in many phases of war-preparation. Experts say no country could conduct a war without it. Production in the United States is far below needs. B.M.I., soon to be the world's largest manufacturer of magnesium, will produce as a by-product, the second largest volume of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

The plant was constructed in record time, and in completing this unit, McNeil Construction Company workers faced many obstacles.

Describes Plant

The McNeil Constructor, "Voice of the Employees of the McNeil Construction Company" described the plant as "a veritable jigsaw puzzle . . . assembled of endless miles of all kinds of pipes, some types of which have never been used before, connecting the various compressors, pumps, tanks and heat exchangers.

"Too great praise cannot be given the men who have toiled through wind, sand and heat to assemble the gigantic jig-saw. Installation of mechanical equipment in the various buildings, the electrical equipment and wiring, some of which being so complicated that it resembles a great pattern of lace, the air conditioning and the brick work has brought into action almost every department on the job."

Chlorine is used in bleaching paper and textiles, in separating from their ores, copper, lead, zinc, tungsten and vanadium. It is used to purify water and is the base for most gases used in chemical warfare. It is also used in detinning galvanized iron scrap and white cast iron scrap. Next to fluorine it is the most electro-negative element.

Half Completed

The BMI plant, half of which is now completed and in operation, will be the largest in the United States when finished. The total capacity of the plant when finished will be 450,000 pounds or 225 tons of chlorine a day. Caustic soda, another important material, will also be a by-product and will come out of the plant at the rate of 504,000 pounds or 252 tons a day.

The plant when finished will comprise 900 electrolytic cells, 450 of which are now completed with 150 in production.

H. L. Ferguson Company designed the plant, McNeil Construction Company built it, and the Hooker Chemical Company supervised the installation.

Officials of the Hooker company, commenting on the installation, said: "This plant went into production with less trouble and more efficiency than any other chlorine plant in the United States.

"We always expect a couple of cell diaphragms to burn out when we turn on the juice. Not a one burned out at B.M.I. Invariably one or more electrical connections get hot. We didn't have a single hot spot in the whole plant.

"Plumbers, electricians and all other crews that helped build the BMI chlorine plant deserve the highest kind of praise for having made this record possible."

Special Design

Due to the low boiling and vaporization point of liquid chlorine, loading and shipping it make an interesting problem. The cars are of special design. The car that hauled away the first shipment yesterday was built by the American Car and Foundry Company in July. This, and all chlorine cars are insulated with heavy coats of cork.

Liquid chlorine is forced into the car under pressure. The temperature is 30 degrees below zero. As soon as it strikes the warm interior of the car, it turns to gas. This gas returns through a valve and line to the liquefaction plant. As more and more liquid chlorine pours into the car, it gradually cools and vaporization diminishes.

As vaporization diminishes, liquid chlorine remaining in the car increases. When this liquid content reaches 50 tons, the inlets and outlets are closed. Vaporization then continues inside the car until the pressure of gas becomes sufficient to prevent further vaporization.

This natural equilibrium is maintained automatically during shipment and the car, therefore, does not have to be refrigerated. Cars are built to withstand 225 pounds of inside pressure to the square inch.

Chlorine is one of the vital elements in the manufacture of magnesium. The plant was necessary to provide it for the magnesium process, and it was decided to increase the capacity to take care of needs in other manufacturing plants in the country.

TONOPAH, NEV., TIMES-BONANZA
AUGUST 11, 1942

BMI Ships First Car of Chlorine

LAS VEGAS, Aug. 11.—The first car of liquid chlorine containing approximately 55 tons of this vital war material, moved out of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant near here yesterday, it was announced today by Howard C. Mann, project manager. The car was consigned to an eastern point.

A steady stream of cars will follow the initial shipment, consigned to points in every part of the nation, Mann declared. Basic Magnesium, soon to be the world's largest manufacturer of magnesium, will produce as a by-product the second largest volume of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH NEWS
AUGUST 11, 1942

Magnesium Plant Receives Praise

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 11.—(AP)—Officials of basic magnesium, Inc., accused of mismanagement and inefficiency in construction and early operation of its \$63,000,000 magnesium plant by Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker, today received unstinted praise from Gov. E. P. Carville.

It was Governor Carville who appointed Senator Bunker to fill the unexpired term of the late Key Pittman.

"I have just visited the basic magnesium project for the sixth time and am amazed and exceedingly well pleased at the progress that has been made and the work being done," the governor said in a statement.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. NEWS-RECORD
AUGUST 10, 1942

BASIC MAGNESIUM, INC. in Nevada has a restaurant concession that will seat 2,500 at one time. Boulder Dam peak for same concessionaire was 1,300. Enormous painting job now going on at new works (pipe, equipment, buildings) is estimated to require 200 carloads of paint. Material deliveries to site have passed peak, but recently still averaged 50 carloads a day. Peak was 122 carloads.

PICHIE, NEV., RECORD
AUGUST 12, 1942

Carville Praises Progress Made at Magnesium Plant

"Fine Work Being
Done," Governor
Says Today

Las Vegas, Aug. 11.—E. P. Carville today lauded "the project manager, executives, engineers and architects, and all of the personnel of Basic Magnesium" for "the splendid record they have made here" in a prepared statement released to the press.

"Fine work has been done, and is being done here," the governor said after visiting the plant on the occasion of the shipment of the first carload of liquid chlorine to the eastern market.

The detailed statement follows:

Amazed at Progress
"I have just visited the Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, project for the sixth time, and I am amazed and exceedingly well pleased at the progress that has been made and the work that is being done in connection with the project.

"Personally, and as governor of the state of Nevada, I am extremely gratified that this project is located in Nevada where we not only have the raw materials and minerals, but power, water and other facilities necessary to carry it through to a successful conclusion.

"I desire at this time to compliment the project manager, executives, engineers and architects, and all of the personnel of Basic Magnesium for the splendid record they have made here.

Lauds Labor
"I also wish to pay a compliment to the craftsmen, mechanics and workers who have so faithfully assisted on this wonderful project.

"This project will stand as a monument to all of those who have had any part in its organization, planning, construction, and operation, long after they have passed out of existence, and their work can never be forgotten insofar as the people of Nevada are concerned, and for that matter, the people of this nation, for they are contributing, each and every one of them materially not alone to our national defense efforts but to the future prosperity of Nevada.

"Fine work has been done and is being done here."

SAN PEDRO, CALIF. NEWS-RECORD
AUGUST 11, 1942

Magnesium Plant Ships Chlorine

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—The first carload of liquid chlorine, a by-product of the \$63,000,000 Basic Magnesium Corp. plant, has been shipped east.

Manager Howard C. Mann said the plant, soon to be the largest producer of magnesium in the world, will produce the second largest quantity of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., STAR-NEWS
AUGUST 11, 1942

LIQUID CHLORINE CARLOAD SHIPPED

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 11. (AP)—The first carload of liquid chlorine, a by-product of the \$63,000,000 Basic Magnesium Corporation plant, has been shipped East.

Manager Howard C. Mann said the plant, soon to be the largest producer of magnesium in the world, will produce the second largest quantity of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

Seattle (Wn) Times
August 11, 1942

Las Vegas Ships First Chlorine

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 11.—(AP)—The first carload of liquid chlorine, a by-product of the \$63,000,000 Basic Magnesium Corporation plant, has been shipped east.

Manager Howard C. Mann said the plant, soon to be the largest producer of magnesium in the world, will produce the second largest quantity of chlorine in the Western Hemisphere.

SAN DIEGO, CALIF., TRIBUNE SUN
AUGUST 11, 1942

LIQUID CHLORINE SHIPPED

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Fresno, Cal., Bee
Cir.—Daily 42,513; Sunday 48,244
AUGUST 11, 1942

Magnesium Plant Ships First Liquid Chlorine

LAS VEGAS (Nev.), Aug. 11.—(AP)—The first carload of liquid chlorine, a byproduct of the \$63,000,000 Basic Magnesium Corporation plant, has been shipped East.

Manager Howard C. Mann said the plant, soon to be the largest producer of magnesium in the world, will produce the second largest quantity of chlorine in the Western Hemisphere.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. OUTLOOK
AUGUST 11, 1942

Magnesium Plant Ships Liquid Chlorine

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Manager Howard C. Mann said the plant, soon to be the largest producer of magnesium in the world, will produce the second largest quantity of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., BEB
CIR. 77,011
AUGUST 12, 1942

Governor Lauds Criticised Plant

LAS VEGAS (Nev.), Aug. 12.—(AP) Officials of Basic Magnesium, Inc., accused of mismanagement and inefficiency in construction and early operation of its \$63,000,000 magnesium plant by Senator Berkeley L. Bunker, has received unstinted praise from Governor E. P. Carville. It was Governor Carville who appointed Senator Bunker to fill the unexpired term of the late Key Pittman.

The governor said: "I have just visited the Basic Magnesium project for the sixth time and am amazed and exceedingly well pleased at the progress that has been made and the work being done."

"I desire to compliment the project manager, executives, engineers and architects and all of the personnel of Basic Magnesium for the splendid record they have made here."

SAN DIEGO, CALIF., UNION
CIR.—77,011
AUGUST 12, 1942

Liquid Chlorine Shipped

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 11. (A.P.) The first carload of liquid chlorine, a by-product of the \$63,000,000 Basic Magnesium Corp. plant, has been shipped east. Manager Howard C. Mann said the plant, soon to be the largest producer of magnesium in the world, will produce the second largest quantity of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

Defense Plant Workers Lauded

Nevada Governor Amazed at Progress at Magnesium Project

LAS VEGAS (Nev.) Aug. 11. (AP)—Governor E. O. Carville today praised officials and employees of Basic Magnesium, Inc., on their work in the construction and early operation of its \$63,000,000 magnesium plant.

"I have just visited the basic magnesium project for the sixth time and am amazed and exceedingly well pleased at the progress that has been made and the work being done," the Governor said.

'Big Affair' Is No Word For It Gigantic Plant To Dwarf Boulder Dam

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 8. (AP)—So you thought the building of Boulder dam was a big affair? Well, it was. But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than

was produced in the entire world six years ago. That's just one startling item of information about the project. There are lots of others that the War Production Board labels confidential, but here are a few that approves for public consumption:

Boulder dam employment at its peak totaled 5,250 workers. Basic Magnesium had 13,618 on its payroll last week—and that payroll is greater each week than it was each month at the dam.

It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

LAS VEGAS, NEV., REVIEW-JOURNAL
Circ. 5,125
AUGUST 8, 1942

night.

MUCH PAINT USED

The magnesium plant job is using about 1,100 gallons of paint a day. Every 24 hours the boys cover 44,000 square yards of surface. The whole task will take 200 carloads of paint. This includes every known color and shade, every kind of paint. Some varieties must withstand temperatures up to 1,200 degrees Centigrade. Some must be impervious to acids. Some must stand up under high electrical current. And some must resist all three. They're using chlorinated rubber paint. Another job calls for a primer coat and then an enamel which is applied at a temperature of 550 degrees Fahrenheit.

LAS VEGAS AGE
August 8, 1942

Magnesium Ore Arrives At B M I

First shipment of magnesium oxide from the Gabbs Valley plant to Basic Magnesium at Las Vegas, arrived Monday by truck and trailer and consisted of 60 tons.

This was a test run to determine various factors involved in handling the concentrates which will soon begin to go through the plant coming out as all-important metal Magnesium.

Just when the trucks will go on a regular schedule has not yet been announced.

It required two trucks and two trailers to carry the load.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, TRIBUNE
Cir. 58,522; Sunday 91,635.
AUGUST 9, 1942

Gigantic Basic Magnesium Plant Dwarfs Near-by Boulder Dam Project

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 8. (AP)—So you thought the building of Boulder dam was a big affair? Well, it was.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

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Of course, Boulder dam makes the Basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam-generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete, to resist the upsurge when a full load of current is turned on.

The painting project is a mighty thing in itself. Pipe painting includes anything from half-inch lines to air ducts big enough to drive a truck through. The whole job will take 200 carloads of paint, which is used at a rate of 1,100 gallons a day. It's of every known color, shade and brand. Some must be made to withstand temperatures of 1,200 degrees Centigrade. One enamel is applied at a heat of 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

For speed, much of the pipe is dunked in huge vats.

Painters who work inside exhaust lines look like deep sea

divers. So dangerous are the fumes that they wear special clothing and gas masks. They are lowered into the pipes on ropes, work a maximum of 30 minutes at a time and are hauled out the moment they stop wiggling.

Incidentally, most painters would walk a mile for a camel's hair paint brush. The war has stopped importation of Chinese camel's hair. Old Dobbin has come to the rescue, but the users claim brushes made from his tail last only a third as long.

If you're curious about magnesium:

It's a highly valuable war production metal, which composes 2.24 per cent of the earth's crust, more than 10 per cent of sea water, is eighth among the elements in abundance, yet nowhere is found in a free state. Its reduction therefore requires a precise application of electro-chemistry and a large plant outlay.

Orlando Sentinel

FLORIDA
DATE AUG 8 - 1942
468

Basic Magnesium Inc. Biggest Undertaking in Desert History

BOULDER CITY, Nev. — So you thought the building of Boulder Dam was a big affair? Well, it was.

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Magnesium Plant Is Giant, 13,618 Workers On Pay Roll

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 7. (AP)—So you thought the building of Boulder Dam was a big affair? Well, it was.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

That's just one startling item of information about the project. There are lots of others that the War Production Board labels confidential, but here are a few that approves for public consumption:

Boulder Dam employment at its peak totaled 5,250 workers. Basic Magnesium had 13,618 on its payroll last week—and that payroll is greater each week than it was each month at the dam.

It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

Of course, Boulder Dam makes the Basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam-generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete, to resist the upsurge when a full load of current is turned on.

The painting project is a mighty thing in itself. Pipe painting includes anything from half-inch lines to air ducts big enough to drive a truck through. The whole job will take 200 carloads of paint, which is used at a rate of 1,100 gallons a day. It's of every known color, shade and brand. Some must be made to withstand temperatures of 1,200 degrees Centigrade. One enamel is applied at a heat of 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

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Carload of Chlorine Is Shipped By Basic Magnesium

Basic Magnesium corporation has shipped from Las Vegas to an eastern destination its first carload of liquid chlorine.

Howard C. Mann, manager of the \$63,000,000 plant in Clark county, said that the company will turn out as a by-product the second largest amount of chlorine in the western hemisphere.

New Magnesium Plant Gigantic Undertaking

Construction of Boulder Dam Dwarfed by Vast Industrial War Enterprise

(By Associated Press)
BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 8.—So you thought the building of Boulder dam was a big affair? Well, it was.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

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Governor Visits Magnesium Plant

Issues Statement To Workers There

LAS VEGAS, Aug. 11 (Special)

—Governor E. P. Carville, after making a tour of inspection of the Basic magnesium project here on Monday, issued the following statement on the project and the efforts of the thousands of workmen who are employed upon it:

"I have just visited the Basic Magnesium, Inc., project for the sixth time and I am amazed and exceedingly well pleased at the progress that is being done in connection with the project. Personally and as governor of the state of Nevada, I am extremely gratified that this project is located in Nevada where we have not only the raw materials and minerals but power, water and other facilities necessary to carry it through to a successful conclusion.

"I desire at this time to compliment the craftsmen, mechanics and workers who have so faithfully assisted on this wonderful project.

"This project will stand as a monument to the workers who have had any part in its organization, planning, construction and operation long after they have passed out of existence, and their work can never be forgotten insofar as the people of Nevada are concerned, and for that matter the people of the nation. They are all contributing, each and every one of them, materially, not alone to our national defense efforts but to the future prosperity of Nevada."

Denies Plant Inefficiency

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 12. (AP)—Officials of Basic Magnesium, Inc., accused of mismanagement and inefficiency in construction and early operation of its \$63,000,000 magnesium plant by Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker, Tuesday received unstinted praise from Gov. E. P. Carville.

It was Governor Carville who appointed Senator Bunker to fill the unexpired term of the late Key Pittman.

"I have just visited the Basic Magnesium project for the sixth time and am amazed and exceedingly well pleased at the progress that has been made and the work being done," the governor said in a statement.

"I desire to compliment the project manager, executives, engineers and architects, and all of the personnel of basic magnesium for the splendid record they have made."

The plant has just shipped its first carload of liquid chlorine, a by-product.

A Milestone at B. M. I.

A milestone was reached in Nevada's greatest industry Sunday when the first car-load of liquid chlorine rolled out of the plant at Basic Magnesium and headed east for the market.

There was no fanfare, no excitement, no celebration, no speeches. The yard engine hooked onto the car, pushed it out onto the main line, and that was that.

There was deep significance attached to that simple episode, however, for it was the FIRST product of the vast plant leaving for its destination.

True, the principal output will be magnesium, but the chlorine unit is the largest of its kind in the United States and will contribute mightily to the chemical industry in addition to providing a vital element for the magnesium process.

A year ago, the plant was just a dream. Today it is almost an actuality. A miracle has been wrought out here on the desert, and a vast industrial giant is beginning to test his strength—a giant that will be an integral part of the vast war machine designed to overwhelm the axis powers by sheer strength.

Declares Anaconda Copper Acquires Magnesium Plant

WASHINGTON (UP)—Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker, D. Nev., said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the corporation "lock, stock and barrel."

"The government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing," Bunker said. "I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive \$1,000,000 from the Defense Plants Corporation. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have."

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. NEWS
Cir. 107,002
SEPTEMBER 30, 1942

Senator Confirms Magnesium Sale

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—Senator Berkeley L. Bunker (D. Nev.), said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for 75 million dollars.

The transaction, Senator Bunker said, gives Anaconda the corporation "lock, stock and barrel."

"The government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing," Senator Bunker said. "I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive one million dollars from the Defense Plants Corp. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as it has."

STOCKTON, CALIF. RECORD
Cir. 27,034
SEPTEMBER 30, 1942

Basic Magnesium Said Sold to Anaconda

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 (UP)—Senator Berkeley L. Bunker (Dem., Nev.) today said he has learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Company has acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant in Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the corporation "lock, stock and barrel."

"The government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing," Bunker said. "I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive \$1,000,000 from the Defense Plants Corporation. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have."

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF. SUN
Cir. 13,570, Sub. Cir. 14,108
OCTOBER 1, 1942

Knowledge Denied of Huge Plant's Sale

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—A spokesman of the Defense Plants Corp. denied today any knowledge of a reported purchase by Anaconda Copper Co. of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

Senator Bunker, Nevada Democrat, said last night he had been "reliably informed" the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc. at a cost of \$75,000,000.

The D.P.C. official said any such purchase would involve only the two companies and would not concern the defense plants corp.

Anaconda to Buy Magnesium Shares?

New York, Sept. 29.—(UP)—The Anaconda Copper Mining Co. is negotiating the purchase of an interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., which recently opened a \$100,000,000 plant for exclusive production of magnesium for the government, informed quarters here said today.

Officials of Anaconda would not comment on the reported negotiations, contending that the company was not in a position either to confirm or deny the report "at this time."

Organized July 1, 1941, Basic Magnesium, Inc., is controlled by Basic Refractories, Inc., of Ohio.

From *San News*
Chicago, Ill.
SEP 30 1942

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OAKLAND, CALIF. POST-ENQUIRER
Cir. 48,217
SEPTEMBER 30, 1942

Anaconda Copper Acquires Basic Magnesium, Report

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 (UP)—Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker, D. Nev., said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper company had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the corporation "lock, stock and barrel."

"The government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing," Bunker said. "I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive \$1,000,000 from the Defense Plants Corporation. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have."

Neither Reconstruction Finance Corporation nor Defense Plants Corporation officials would comment on the reported purchase.

Alameda, Cal. Times-Star
Cir. 5,138
SEPTEMBER 30, 1942

WASHINGTON — Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker, D. Nev., said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

DEPT. OF COM. MAIL-TRIBUNE
SEP 30 1942

was decided upon after unions and employers entered into voluntary agreement.

MAGNESIUM PLANT SOLD
Washington, Sept. 30.—(UP)—Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker, D. Nev., said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

Magnesium Plant Sold to Anaconda

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The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the corporation "lock, stock, and barrel."

Fresno, Cal. Bee
Cir. 45,513; Sunday 48,264
SEPTEMBER 29, 1942

Solon Reports Nevada Magnesium Plant Sale

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—(UP)—Senator Berkeley L. Bunker, Democrat, Nevada, said today he has learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Company has acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

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Neither Reconstruction Finance Corporation nor Defense Plants Corporation officials would comment on the reported purchase of Basic Magnesium by Anaconda Copper.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
HERALD & EXPRESS, Cir. 248,004
SEPTEMBER 30, 1942

Magnesium Anaconda Buys Basic Plant, Says Solon

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker, Democrat of Nevada, said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

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LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
DAILY NEWS, Cir. 230,001
SEPTEMBER 30, 1942

Anaconda buying into magnesium firm, report

NEW YORK, Sept. 29.—(UP)—The Anaconda Copper Mining Co. is negotiating the purchase of an interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., which recently opened a \$100,000,000 plant for the exclusive production of magnesium for the government, informed quarters here said today.

Officials of the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. would not comment on the reported negotiations, contending that the company was not in a position to either confirm or deny the report "at this time."

Organized July 1, 1941, Basic Magnesium, Inc., is controlled by Basic Refractories, Inc., of Ohio, which owns a majority of the capital stock of the magnesium firm.

"The government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing," Bunker said. "I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive \$1,000,000 from the defense plants corporation. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have."

NEW YORK N. Y. JOURNAL-MAIL
Cir. 612,976; Sun. 701,509
SEPTEMBER 30, 1942

Anaconda Buys Magnes. Plant, Bunker Says

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 (UP).—Senator Berkeley L. Bunker, (D., Nev.), said today he had learned reliably Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000. Anaconda officials declined to comment on the Senator's statement.

The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the corporation "lock, stock and barrel."

"The government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing," Bunker said. "I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive \$1,000,000 from the Defense Plants Corp. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have."

Neither Reconstruction Finance Corp. nor Defense Plants Corp. officials would comment on the reported purchase of Basic Magnesium by Anaconda.

They pointed out, however, that the Las Vegas plant is owned by Defense Plants Corp. and is being operated for it by Basic Magnesium, Inc., under a lease. BMI, an affiliate of Basic Refractories, Inc., of Cleveland, also built the plant for DPC under a contract entered into at the request of the Office of Production Management and the War Department, the RFC explained.

Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced April 9, when the plant was being built, that the total cost would approximate 70 million and that the plant would have an annual capacity of 112 million pounds of metallic magnesium.

WASHINGTON, D. C. TIMES-HERALD
Cir. 187,000; Sub. Cir. 191,507
OCTOBER 1, 1942

Magnesium Firm Bought By Anaconda \$75,000,000 Paid For Nevada Plant

Senator Berkeley L. Bunker (D.), of Nevada, said yesterday he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

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Neither the RFC nor the DPC would comment.

CARSON CITY, NEV. APPEAL
Cir. 700
OCTOBER 1, 1942

A. M. Smith Tells Rotarians about Basic Magnesium

Gives History and Shows Magnitude Of Plant in Nevada

State Engineer A. M. Smith, introduced by W. T. Holcomb as guest speaker at the Rotary meeting this week, gave an interesting address on "Magnesium in Nevada."

The speaker dealt with the May, 1941, meeting in Washington, D. C., when the Nevada delegation, headed by Gov. Carville, opened far-reaching negotiations with Basic Magnesium, Inc., then newly organized, and detailed the developments leading to the present large-scale development of Nevada production of magnesium. Details were also given of the initial mining of magnesium ore in Gabbs Valley and the preliminary beneficiation giving a product of one ton from four for shipment to the Las Vegas plant.

Comparing the Boulder Dam project with the Basic Magnesium plant, Mr. Smith said that the Six Companies at the peak of their dam-building operations, had a payroll of 5,250, and a mess hall seating 1,300 men. On August 1, 1942, Basic Magnesium had 13,618 employees and a mess hall with a capacity of 2,500 men.

The Basic Magnesium plant contains electrical equipment of the value of \$12,500,000, capable of handling 56,000 tons of magnesium a year, or 153.4 tons a day.

Mr. Smith sees a big post-war future for the magnesium industry of Nevada.

Discussion of the organization meeting of the Ormsby County Economic Council brought participation by Governor Carville, Frank B. Gregory, President Little, John D. Winters, John L. Harvey and Jack Allen, indicating strong backing of the project by the club members.

Dale B. Pruett expressed his pleasure at again being an active member of the club.

Guest Speaker Smith was the only visiting Rotarian, and Ed Muth was the only visitor.

The club went on record as endorsing the Boy Scout drive for funds.

A program this month in observance of Newspaper Week was announced by Denver Dickerson.

War bonds were presented to Rotarian Ed Krenzer, and to Mrs. Krenzer, the club's musician.

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Neither the RFC nor the DPC would comment.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. SOUTHWESTERN
PURCHASING AGENT, Cir. 1,500
SEPTEMBER 29, 1942

Magnesium from Dolomite

Brine waters will no longer be the only source of magnesium metal when a plant now being constructed in the Middle West begins to utilize our enormous resources of dolomite. The process used will be the recently developed ferro-silicon method of extracting magnesium oxide from the mineral. The Dolomite of Ohio averages about 20 per cent magnesium oxide.

BURBANK, CALIF. REVIEW
Cir. 2,800
OCTOBER 1, 1942

Copper Company Reported Buying Basic Magnesium

WASHINGTON (UP)—Sen. Berkeley L. Bunker, D. Nev., said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

"The government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing," Bunker said. "I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive \$1,000,000 from the Defense Plants Corp. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have."

Neither Reconstruction Finance Corp. nor Defense Plants Corp. officials would comment.

They pointed out, however, that the Las Vegas plant is owned by Defense Plants Corp. and is being operated for it by Basic Magnesium, Inc., under a lease.

Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced on April 9, when the plant was being built, that the total cost would approximate \$70,000,000 and that the plant would have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium. Jones said nine contractors participated in the construction and that fees paid them and BMI "will aggregate less than two per cent of the total cost of the plant."

Jones said also that the operating or management fee of the plant was to be one-half cent per pound of magnesium produced or about two per cent of the estimated cost.

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

Saturday Evening Post and Readers Digest are due for a big splash on the magnesium plant before long. Both have had crack writers here who spent days getting first-hand information. The word is spreading that this is the number one war industry now about to get into production. Much depends on its success.

AND the local Air Corps Gunnery School, only one of its kind in the country, is beginning to be discovered. Life started it a few weeks back—others are now coming to take a look. It will soon be as famous the nation over as the mag plant and Boulder dam. More than that—it will keep on growing as the American war fleet grows.

We have much to be proud of in southern Nevada's contribution to the war effort. Let's never let our country down by failing to live up to the confidence imposed in us, and the responsibility that's ours as a result. Let's continue to be BUILDERS whatever happens. Las Vegas was started by pioneers and builders back in 1905, and we've never quit, no matter how tough the going. We have traditionally had no time for tearer-downers and those who said it couldn't be done.

It won't be long now, until the question of locating smaller industries, associated with the production of magnesium through its by-products, will be up for determination. Whether they're located here or somewhere else, will determine whether or not Las Vegas will fulfill the prediction of Howard Eells and become "The Pittsburgh of the light metal industry."

LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL
AUGUST 6, 1942

Magnesium Plant Receiving Ores

Two trucks with trailers this week brought the first shipment of magnesium ore concentrates to the Basic Magnesium plant from the mine and calcining plant at Gabbs, twenty-five miles above Luning. The shipment amounted to 60 tons and was in the nature of a test of experimental run, the matter of transportation from the Gabbs mines to Basic Magnesium being still unsettled.

The ore, after being treated in the calcining furnaces at the mine, must be brought to the Las Vegas plant for conversion into the pure magnesium metal in the great electric furnaces. The transportation problem has been given much study, the railroads being anxious to secure that profitable haul but, it is reported, are handicapped by the shortage of rolling stock and the excessively long mileage.

The matter of truck transportation has been advocated, the chief difficulty in this being the fact that the necessary reconstruction of the highway will require a large amount of money. However, it is pointed out, the directness and quickness of truck transportation is a strong factor in favor of that means of getting the ore to the plant.

The Basic Magnesium plant has already been in operation for some weeks turning out carloads of chlorine which is a vital war material. The electric furnaces for production of magnesium metal will be given their first tests within the next few days it is stated.

CHEMICAL CHIEF IS SURPRISED AT SPEED AT BMI

John Stauffer, president of the Stauffer Chemical company of Los Angeles, one of the largest firms of its kind on the Pacific coast, yesterday paid high tribute to the progress being made at the Basic Magnesium plant.

"This is a stupendous job," Stauffer said, "and it is being well done considering the shortage of skilled labor and the weather in which the workmen are forced to labor."

"I am amazed at the progress that has been made. I thought, from the reports we have read in the newspapers, that the job was only about half completed. I find, on my visit there today, that the plant is about ready to turn out magnesium and will be running full blast in the near future."

"It already is producing many of the by-products which will result from the preparation of magnesium, and we are interested in the production angle for our own company."

Stauffer declared that it appeared to him that "with Major Ball entirely familiar with the process, and Howard Eells knowing the commercial end, they should make an excellent team and produce this much needed metal at the highest possible rate."

"With the English experience and the cheap power available here," Stauffer said, "the company should be producing magnesium at the lowest possible cost."

He said that the magnesium plant was a "great thing for the state of Nevada, and especially for this section of the state."

Stauffer and four of his directors, who were here over the week-end, left last night for Los Angeles.

Las Vegas Review Journal
August 6, 1942

Scrugham Talks To Kiwanis Club

Congressman James G. Scrugham of Nevada, speaking before the Las Vegas Kiwanis club at a luncheon meeting at the Sal Sagey hotel yesterday, warned that the war will be a hard struggle, adding, "America will win, but each of us must become responsible as individuals in order that we may win."

He described the complacency of some high ranking officials who are trained optimists and recommended that every man do his part in the war effort in order that such optimism may be justified.

Referring to the place of Las Vegas in the war effort, he stated that there is necessity for more of the light strategic metals and that greater production of magnesium will be needed as the war production advances. Particularly needed also are zinc, lead, and manganese, all of which can be produced in this immediate vicinity, he said.

He touched on the labor situation in this area and pointed out the necessity for increased wages to compare with wages paid in adjacent states and for the improvement of living conditions.

At the club meeting yesterday, R. J. Kaltenborn presided as program chairman. R. R. Campbell was a special guest, and the club donated a defense bond to Firmin Brady of the Safeway stores.

RENO NEWS SERVICE
AUGUST 7, 1942

Basic Magnesium Employs 10,000

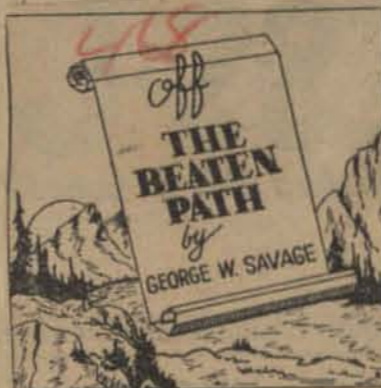
Labor Force Now at Peak

LAS VEGAS, Aug. 7. (Special)—The labor force at Basic Magnesium has now reached its peak with approximately 10,000 men being employed on the project, according to an announcement made by Lawrence McNeil, president of the company constructing the plant.

The size of the present force will be maintained for the next ninety days, McNeil said, and after that the number of employes would be gradually decreased. Parts of the plant are now complete and he said that by the first of the year the entire project would be nearing complete operation.

McNeil made his report at a meeting of assembled local and international labor leaders. Also speaking was Rep. James G. Scrugham who said that two factors facing defense workers in the southern Nevada area were lack of housing and the marked increase of living conditions.

Long Pine, Cal., Progress-Citizen
Circ. 828
AUGUST 7, 1942



Salt From Inyo—

Operating now under permit from Secretary of Interior Ickes, salt is being taken every night from the floor of Death Valley a few miles south of Bad Water, to Las Vegas where it is helping to process magnesium in the Basic Magnesium Co. plant.

Roy Brassard of Death Valley Junction recently told us of the activities there. He operates a caterpillar tractor and carry-all which loads an average of 18 truck and trailer loads each night. Each load totals 24 tons.

Between 10 and 18 inches of salt surface is scraped off.

Even at night, he says, it's plenty warm in Death Valley. At 4 p.m. the other day it was 128 degrees and at midnight it was 110 degrees. No day work is attempted.

Wells Fargo, Inc., has the contract to move the salt to Las Vegas.

New Plant Bigger Than Boulder Dam To Produce Vital Element for War

Basic Magnesium, Inc., Rises In Desert Beside Power Project Which Makes It Possible.

Boulder City, Nev., Aug. 7.—(P)—So you thought the building of Boulder dam was a big affair? Well, it was.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

That's just one startling item of information about the project. There are lots of others that the War Production Board labels confidential, but here are a few it approves for public consumption:

5,250 Workers at Peak

Boulder dam employment at its peak totaled 5,250 workers. Basic Magnesium had 13,618 on its payroll last week—and that payroll is greater each week than it was each month at the dam.

It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

Of course, Boulder dam makes the Basic project possible. The cables carry so much dam-generated electricity at peak times that the towers have to be sunk deep in concrete to resist the upsurge when a full load of current is turned on.

The painting project is a mighty thing in itself. Pipe painting includes anything from half-inch lines to air ducts big enough to drive a truck through. The whole job will take 200 carloads of paint, which is used at a rate of 1,100 gallons a day. It's of every known color, shade and brand. Some must be made to withstand temperatures of 1,200 degrees Centigrade. One enamel is applied at a heat of 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

Dunked In Paint

For speed, much of the pipe is dunked in huge vats of paint.

Painters who work inside exhaust lines look like deep-sea divers. So dangerous are the fumes that they wear special clothing and gas masks. They are lowered into the pipes on ropes, work a maximum of 30 minutes at a time and are hauled out the moment they stop wigglng.

If you're curious about magnesium:

It's a highly valuable war production metal, which composes 2.24 per cent of the earth's crust, more than 10 per cent of sea water, is eighth among the elements in abundance, yet nowhere is found in a free state. Its reduction, therefore, requires a precise application of electro-chemistry and a large plant outlay.

LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL
Circ. 828
AUGUST 8, 1942

Allen Jay Allred
Kent E. Bunker
Mary Carmichael

MAGNESIUM PRODUCTION

Magnesium occurs nowhere as a free element, and though it has been known for centuries as a salt, it was not until relatively recent years that it was transformed into a metal. Even today a most precise application of electro-chemistry is necessary to produce the metal. That is the reason the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant is so large. At full capacity, Basic will make 30 times as much magnesium as was made in the entire world six years ago. Each day's production will be great in cubic measurement. Yet it will be so light that the employes at the plant would be able to pick up and carry the whole day's output.

SANTA BARBARA, CALIF., NEWS
PRES. NEWS ED. CIRC. 5,624
AUGUST 8, 1942

'Big Affair' Is No Word For It Gigantic Plant To Dwarf Boulder Dam

Boulder City, Nev., Aug. 7 (P)—So you thought the building of Boulder dam was a big affair? Well, it was.

But Basic Magnesium, Inc., is gigantic. That's the new plant rising on the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 30 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

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It would take a freight train 80 miles long to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And they're still rolling in.

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Magnesium Plant Dwarfs Big Dam

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For speed, much of the pipe is dunked in huge vats of paint.

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AUG. 8, 1942
WATONNA MINN PRESS
811

Bigger Than Boulder Dam

Basic Magnesium, Inc. Plant Rising In Nevada Employs 13,618 Workers

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It's a highly valuable war production metal, which composes 2.24 per cent of the earth's crust, more than ten per cent of sea water, is eighth among the elements in abundance, yet nowhere is found in a free state. Its reduction, therefore, requires precise application of electro-chemistry and a large plant outlay.

(Continued from Page 1)

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S. F. CAL. COMMERCIAL NEWS
No. 1201
OCTOBER 1, 1942

Report Anaconda Buys Basic Magnesium, Inc.

468

Senator Says Copper Co. Paid \$75,000,000 for Gov't Plant

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 (U.P.)—Senator Berkeley L. Bunker (D., Nev.) said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Company had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the corporation "lock, stock and barrel."

Government Lucky

"The Government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing," Bunker said. "I also understand Basic Magnesium is to receive \$1,900,000 from the Defense Plants Corporation. I see no reason for this, in view of the bungling job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bungled, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have."

Neither Reconstruction Finance Corporation nor Defense Plants Corporation officials would comment on the reported purchase of Basic Magnesium by Anaconda Copper.

Cost \$70,000,000

They pointed out, however, that the Las Vegas plant is owned by Defense Plants Corporation and is being operated for it by Basic Magnesium, Inc., under a lease. BMI, an affiliate of Basic Refractories, Inc., of Cleveland also built the plant for DPC under a contract entered into at the request of the Office of Production Management and the War Department, the RFC explained.

Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced on April 9, when the plant was being built, that total cost would approximate \$70,000,000, and that the plant would have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium.

Jones said nine contractors participated in the construction and that fees paid them and BMI "will aggregate less than 2 per cent of the total cost of the plant."

Jones said also that the operating or management fee of the plant was to be one-half cent per pound of magnesium produced or about 2 per cent of the estimated cost.

RFC spokesmen said today the financial arrangements outlined by Jones last April have not been changed substantially since the plant began production about a month ago.

San Bernardino, Calif.
TELEGRAM, Cir. 3,292
OCTOBER 1, 1942

Knowledge Denied of Huge Plant's Sale

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—A spokesman of the Defense Plants Corp. denied today any knowledge of a reported purchase by Anaconda Copper Co. of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

Senator Bunker, Nevada Democrat, said last night he had been "reliably informed" the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium Inc. at a cost of \$75,000,000.

The D.P.C. official said any such purchase would involve only the two companies and would not concern the defense Plants Corp.

\$75,000,000 Firm Sale To Anaconda Reported

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (U.P.)—Senator Berkeley L. Bunker, Democrat, of Nevada, said today that he had been "reliably informed" that Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corp.

Defense Plant Corp. officials would not comment.

L V Age Oct 16 1942

Basic Magnesium Hospital To Open

Dr. Clough Expects New 48- Bed Hospital To Be Operat- ing In A Few Days

As complete, modern and efficient as any small hospital in the country, the new 48-bed hospital which for two months past has been under construction for Basic Magnesium, Inc., will be ready to receive patients within a few days, according to Dr. F. E. Clough, chief surgeon.

The buildings are entirely completed, nearly all the furnishings and equipment are in place, the organization is being perfected and only a few minor requirements delayed in shipment are being awaited before throwing open the doors to patients.

Dr. F. E. Clough, chief surgeon, cooperating with the architectural firm of M. L. Barker and G. Lawrence Ott, of Los Angeles, designed the hospital. McNeil Construction Co., builders of the great plant, have constructed the buildings.

In all development projects, particularly on the large scale of the Basic Magnesium Plant, there are a great many recognized hazards both in their building and their operation. Although operations up to this time have not been accompanied by any serious accidents there has always been included in the building program a building to provide facilities to care for any misfortunes.

The first conception of the hospital project was to provide a temporary building for protection of workmen employed in the construction of this huge plant; but realization followed that similar protection must be afforded for the employees after the plant began operating. It was thus that a decision was made to erect a permanent building, the first permanent building, by the way, to be erected other than immediate plant facilities. A further problem which may be anticipated is that, because of lack of hospital facilities in this district, this may be converted ultimately into a general hospital for treatment, not only of the workmen, but also, of their families and dependents. The architects have so planned the building that this may be done with very little or no expense for alterations.

The site of the new hospital is on the lower or west side of the intersection of the Las Vegas-Boulder City highway and the highway to the plant. The plan is developed as an irregular cross, giving light and air to all wings and, with the entrances near the crossing, affording ready service to any wing. The main entrance faces the main highway into the plant and is reached by a double driveway with landscaped strip between the drives.

The public enters the building under a semi-circular porch into the lobby, and from this lobby radiate the four wings. To the right is the patients' wing composed of two and four-bed rooms with toilet room between each two rooms, utility rooms, nurses' stations, etc., and ending in a ten-bed convalescent ward and sitting porch facing the main Las Vegas-Boulder City highway.

To the left is the wing comprising the Administrative Offices, Doctors' offices and examination rooms, two-bed and four-bed rooms for acute cases and out-patients, minor treatment and therapy departments, with the out-patients' entrance at the end facing the highway to the plant.

The wing behind this is the surgery, with ambulance entrance directly from the plant highway. As this is the main working department, special attention has been given to the arrangement and equipment. Immediately adjacent to the ambulance entrance is the emergency operating room, the plaster cast room and X-ray room, containing the latest equipment and facilities. At the end of this wing is the major operating room, sterilizing room, work room and minor operating room for eye, ear, nose, and throat operations. All are incorporated into a unit, and isolated to guard against contamination. The minor operating room can be readily converted into a delivery room, should the hospital be operated for general practice.

The fourth wing contains the staff dining room, diet kitchen, general kitchen and laundry. Alongside this wing, and entering directly into the center of the building, is a covered porch which serves for delivery of supplies and extends beyond this wing to a building to house the nurses, doctors, administrative staff and other employees. Below a portion of this wing is a large storage basement and the Boiler room.

The hospital is fire-proof with concrete floor construction, con-

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

Without benefit of any formal announcement, officials of Anaconda Copper Company are moving in at Basic to take over operation of the giant magnesium plant. There never has been anything official released on the transaction, no statement from anyone in government or otherwise, confirming the purchase by Anaconda, of the Eells' interest (55 per cent) in B. M. I. There seems no doubt at all that this has occurred, and that the great western outfit is in the saddle.

What happens next is anybody's guess. Whether there will be complete reorganization of the operating forces, or the present group will be merely streamlined to correspond with Anaconda's ideas of how the plant should be run, remains to be seen. Such information would be contained in the formal announcement which, for some reason, has not yet been made, though scheduled for at least two different dates in the recent past.

One thing becomes more certain every day—that the government is counting HEAVILY on production from the Las Vegas magnesium plant and doesn't propose to let anything interfere. Anaconda is probably the best equipped concern in the country for the job assigned here.

As management changes hands, Clark county cannot forget Howard Eells, Jr. His was the idea that brought Basic Magnesium into being. It was his foresight and vision that brought material, process and government together. He was responsible for the choice of Las Vegas as the site for the plant.

His was the position of an inventor who perfects a much needed something-or-other which opens up an entirely new field of industry and then through force of circumstances finds it necessary to sell his invention to a large manufacturer in order to get into production. But for the idea, there would be no production—no new industry created.

In this instance, Eells had the idea, the determination and bulldog tenacity to fight the thing through the earlier stages of organization, and then on into Washington where he sold it to the War Department and Defense Plants Corporation. It took a man of his caliber to get the idea accepted and on the way to reality.

It was Eells also who selected McNeil Construction Company to build the plant, and the superb record this western concern has made will go down as one of the many miracles American construction genius has performed.

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Engineer Talks About Magnesium

Light Alloys
Are Discussed

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"The magnesium industry of Nevada has an assured future," Alfred Merritt Smith, state engineer, told members of the Carson Rotary club at a regular meeting of the civic group Tuesday.

The engineer, in a talk tracing the development of the magnesium industry in Nevada, said that "it is fair to assume that the tremendous development of aircraft during the present war will assure a large-scale post war commercial air activity."

Smith pointed out that the use of magnesium alloy will result in an appreciable saving in pay load costs, and will make it impossible to ignore the advantages of magnesium alloys in airplane construction, with its saving of up to forty per cent over aluminum alloys.

In his address Smith discussed a number of phases regarding the production of the metal in Nevada, going back to May of 1941 when the Nevada delegation, headed by Gov. E. P. Carville, began negotiations with the newly-organized Basic Magnesium, Inc., which, he said, later resulted in the present

REPUBLICAN
Waterbury, Conn.
OCT 1 1942

Report Anaconda In Magnesium Deal

New York, Sept. 30—At the Anaconda Copper Mining Co.'s offices today comment was refused on a published report that the company has purchased the magnesium plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for 75 million dollars.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., an affiliate of Basic Refractories, Inc., of Cleveland, Ohio, built the plant for the Defense Plants Corp. under a contract with the Office of Production Management. It has an estimated capacity of 112 million pounds of metallic magnesium.

L V Review Journal
Oct 1 5 1942

BMI TOWNSITE NOTES

The first Boy Scout troop at the BMI Townsite will be organized at 7 o'clock next Monday night in room 12 of the BMI school under auspices of the BMI post number 40 of the American Legion. All Scouts and other boys interested in joining have been invited to attend the meeting at which a program will be presented, and plans will be outlined for future activities.

First steps toward the Boy Scout troop were taken last Monday night at a meeting called by Pete Hamilton of the BMI post, who appointed a temporary committee to sponsor the organization. David Anderson, Legion post chaplain, was named chairman, with the following committee members: John J. O'Leary, Merwin Rossow, Dan R. Fleming, Frank Natusch, W. H. Warren, Aubrey Lawrence and Frank Wheelock.

School children of the BMI Townsite and adjoining communities will be entertained at a Halloween party to be held in the auditorium of the BMI school, starting at 8 o'clock Saturday evening, October 31, it was announced today. The party is being sponsored by the BMI post number 40 of the American Legion, with Bill Burke as committee chairman. The party is exclusively for children, it was announced.

Under auspices of BMI post number 40 of the American Legion, plans were outlined this week for organization of a Parent-Teachers Association at the BMI school. Chester Ferguson,

PROPERTY SALE COMMENT MADE

Government Lucky,
Bunker Says

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CARSON CITY, NEV., APPEAL
OCTOBER 1, 1942

Reported Sale of Basic Magnesium Brings Comment by Senator Bunker

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WORLD TELEGRAM New York City OCT 2 1942

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Special to the World-Telegram.

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BASIC MAGNESIUM COMPANY REPORTS IMMENSE TONNAGE

World's Largest Magnesium Oxide Producing Plant Vital in War.

Gabbs Valley, Nevada. — The armed forces of democracy received a valuable reinforcement when the first unit of the Basic Magnesium Inc. magnesium oxide plant recently went into production on schedule. The ore concentrating and treating plant located in the arid Gabbs Valley, 32 miles over rugged mountains and desert from the nearest state highway and railroad, will be the world's largest magnesium oxide producing plant. The plant, designed to produce more than 150,000 tons of magnesium oxide per year, will supply Basic Magnesium's gigantic metal plant at Las Vegas with one of its most essential raw materials.

Built immediately adjacent to one of the world's largest and richest deposits of magnesite, the plant consists of primary and secondary crushers, ball mills, flotation plant, hydroseparators, calcine furnaces, storage bins, tied together by an intricate system of conveyors, pipes and service lines into a compact unit. The entire plant, closely timed and coordinated, handles the raw magnesite from the mines to the storage bins in a continuous operation. Construction of the plant started in December 1941 and a few days ago President Howard P. Eells Jr. of Basic Magnesium Inc. threw the switch that started the great industry in operation. Approximately 900 men were employed in the construction.

The movement of the magnesium oxide from Gabbs Valley to the Las Vegas plant is expected to start within a few days and within a matter of weeks the white rock from the hills of Nevada, thru the magic of engineering science and American production methods, will be transferred into white magnesium metal, a crucial war need. Magnesium today is one of the nation's most vital war metals, for magnesium bullets and shells, flares and star shells, are essential in the manufacture of aircraft. Basic Magnesium Inc., Nevada's newest and largest single industry, will be one of the world's largest producers of magnesium metal.

The entire plant and property were inspected by a party headed by President Eells, Vice President Major C. J. P. Ball, Project Manager Howard C. Mann, and Walter W. Patnoe, project manager, Gabbs Valley. Luncheon was served to 56 staff members who represented all the agencies that have played a part in the construction.

Geo. Burpee, partner in the firm of Cloverdale & Colpitts, consulting engineers for Basic Magnesium Inc., speaking at the luncheon said: "The day of miracles has not passed. Hard work and intelligent leadership have performed a miracle here in the desert."

Robert Allen, state highway engineer, speaking in behalf of Nevada, said: "This giant industry is not alone for

Nevada. It is an industry that will contribute materially to the winning of the war, and after the war to the prosperity of the state and nation."

Las Vegas Review Journal
August 3 1942

Safety Engineer Is Hired By BMI

Eugene T. Green, one of the outstanding safety engineers in the United States, has been retained to take charge of this department for Basic Magnesium, Inc., it was announced this morning by Howard Mann, project manager.

Green has spent the last four years at Shasta dam where he has been associated with Frank T. Crowe as safety engineer for Pacific Contractors, Inc., on this project. Prior to that time he was superintendent of the compensation insurance department for Pacific Indemnity company.

★ Washington merry go round

UNFAIR PREJUDICE—One of the most important new war plants is that for the manufacture of basic magnesium, now under construction at Las Vegas, Nev. Magnesium is used with aluminum to make an alloy for airplane construction and it is also used in the manufacture of incendiary bombs.

But in the Las Vegas project, an incendiary bomb of another character has already exploded. Its repercussions were heard even in cabinet meeting when Jesse Jones told the president how race prejudice had been allowed to interfere with defense construction.

There are 10,000 workers on the Las Vegas project, of whom 1100 are Negroes. A group of white workers declared they would not work unless the Negroes were discharged.

Jesse Jones is from Texas, but he has no such prejudice as this. The Las Vegas project is being built with RFC funds, and he wants no interference with the work. So he laid the matter squarely before the president with the suggestion that federal action might be desirable.

For the moment the snarl is left for local authorities to untangle. If they fail it will be time for federal intervention. But if they do fail another tangle arises. For if federal troops should be called in, the nearest force, two or three miles away, is a regiment of Negroes.

Las Vegas Review Journal
August 3 1942

Civilian Defense Tests Scheduled

Test operations of the citizens defense corps in Clark county will be held tomorrow and Wednesday for Hugh Shamberger, OCD chief for Nevada, and Major Hensel, of the United States army, it was reported today.

The Boulder City defense operations will be tested on Tuesday evening, BMI on Wednesday afternoon and Las Vegas Wednesday night.

Actual air raids will be simulated, and while there will be no blackout, all wardens and other civilian defense officers will be required to turn out, local officials said.

Las Vegas Review Journal
August 7, 1942

Voting Precincts Planned At BMI

Voting precincts for the primary election on September 1 will be established at convenient locations at the Basic Magnesium, Inc. plant and at Camp Anderson, it was announced today by Lloyd S. Payne, Clark county clerk. This will enable workmen on the project to cast their ballots without rushing from work on election day.

Registration of new voters and those who cast absentee ballots at the last general election will close at 9 o'clock on August 11. The clerk's office in Las Vegas is remaining open from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. daily, except Sunday, for registration.

Las Vegas Review Journal
August 11 1942

Carville Praises Progress Made at Magnesium Plant

"Fine Work Being Done Here," Governor Says Today

Governor E. P. Carville today lauded "the project manager, executives, engineers and architects, and all of the personnel of Basic Magnesium" for "the splendid record they have made here" in a prepared statement released to the press.

"Fine work has been done, and is being done here," the governor said after visiting the plant on the occasion of the shipment of the first carload of liquid chlorine to the eastern market.

The detailed statement follows:

Amazed at Progress
"I have just visited the Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, project for the sixth time, and I am amazed and exceedingly well pleased at the progress that has been made and the work that is being done in connection with the project.

"Personally, and as governor of the state of Nevada, I am extremely gratified that this project is located in Nevada where we not only have the raw materials and minerals, but power, water and other facilities necessary to carry it through to a successful conclusion.

"I desire at this time to compliment the project manager, executives, engineers and architects, and all of the personnel of Basic Magnesium for the splendid record they have made here.

Lauds Labor
"I also wish to pay a compliment to the craftsmen, mechanics and workers who have so faithfully assisted on this wonderful project.

"This project will stand as a monument to all of those who have had any part in its organization, planning, construction, and operation, long after they have passed out of existence, and their work can never be forgotten insofar as the people of Nevada are concerned, and for that matter, the people of this nation, for they are contributing, each and every one of them materially not alone to our national defense efforts but to the future prosperity of Nevada.

"Fine work has been done and is being done here."

Las Vegas Review Journal
August 5, 1942

BMI Labor Force Is At Peak, McNeil Reports Today

Will Remain So for Next 90 Days, Says Construction Head

Approximately 10,000 persons now are employed at the Basic Magnesium, Inc., project. This peak was reached about three weeks ago, it was stated this morning at a wage hearing in Las Vegas by Lawrence G. McNeil, president of the McNeil Construction company. He added that in his opinion "best results can be obtained" with a force of that size for at least the next 90 days, after which the number of employes will decrease gradually.

He stated that the peak in some trades already has been passed, particularly with common labor, but that the maximum employment on the project in some crafts has not been reached yet.

Parts Completed

Construction on the project began on November 24, 1941, he said, and parts of the project already are completed. He estimated that approaching the first of the year the plant will be approximately in complete operation.

He expressed satisfaction with the labor situation here and explained that hiring is done through the local labor unions. Lists of workmen needed are furnished to the labor halls, and workmen have come from all parts of the country, he said. In reply to questioning, he stated that there have been shortages at times in some crafts, but the work has kept moving. He stated that he would obtain statistics from his office regarding the source of supply of the labor, to determine from what parts of the country the men have come. He said he had been surprised that the turnover in labor had not been greater, considering living conditions here the past month.

The turnover is slightly more than 5 per cent per week, the greater part of that in the common labor group, he said.

(Continued on page two)

Milwaukee Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wis.
ONE of the most important new war plants is that for the manufacture of basic magnesium, now under construction at Las Vegas, Nev. Magnesium is used with aluminum to make an alloy for airplane construction, and it is also used in the manufacture of incendiary bombs. But in the Las Vegas project, an incendiary bomb of another character has already exploded. Its repercussions were heard even in cabinet meeting when Jesse Jones told the President how race prejudice had been allowed to interfere with defense construction.

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Solicitor Presides

Reed Williams, solicitor for the department of labor of the federal government, presided at the hearing which opened this morning. First witness called was F. J. Conley, manager of the Associated General Contractors of Los Angeles, who stated that he represented 35 contractors in Clark and Lincoln counties, employing 15,000 men. He entered as an exhibit a photostatic copy of a master labor agreement which was signed last fall and went into effect on December 8, 1941, and expired October 31, 1942. The contract was conceived at the time the BMI was started and is recognized by the principal contractors of BMI and Defense Plants corporation, other contractors in this area and representatives of the A. F. of L. construction unions, he said.

mon labor group, he said.

Congressman James G. Scrugham of Nevada, speaking before the assembled local and international labor leaders in the federal courtroom in Las Vegas this morning, referred to the "titanic struggle" facing the United States. He pointed out two ways in which results can be accomplished—by getting raw material and getting labor. He stated that as a member of the appropriations committee of the house of representatives, he had visited more than 100 plants since December 8, 1941, and is familiar with the conditions under which war products are being made.

He pointed to two factors affecting defense workers in the area: Lack of housing and marked increases in the cost of living, which he stated he is informed have jumped 20 per cent or more.

Congressman Scrugham said there was a demand for a great increase in production from plants in this area, as the production of light metal is necessary for the airplane production and added storage facilities are needed for munitions to carry on the war on the Pacific coast.

"In order to obtain more men, living conditions and the wage scale must be improved and changed," Congressman Scrugham said.

He reported that the naval munitions depot at Hawthorne is to be increased in size one and one-half times, in order to provide more storage.

three factors will be taken into consideration by the wage adjustment board in Washington, D. C., in studying the testimony of witnesses in Las Vegas, namely: Wages in effect on December 8, 1941; if the same wages still were in effect on July 1, 1942; if there has been any abnormal change in situation calling for a change in the wages.

On Stand

Conley was on the stand most of the morning, but most of his testimony related to the contracts to which he referred. Some questions were asked regarding the living conditions in this area, and several of the labor leaders indicated they would bring out further information on that factor and on increases in the cost of living later in the hearing. The afternoon session was scheduled to start at 1:30 o'clock.

Las Vegas Review Journal
August 11 1942

A Milestone at B. M. I.

A milestone was reached in Nevada's greatest industry Sunday when the first car-load of liquid chlorine rolled out of the plant at Basic Magnesium and headed east for the market.

There was no fanfare, no excitement, no celebration, no speeches. The yard engine hooked onto the car, pushed it out onto the main line, and that was that.

There was deep significance attached to that simple episode, however, for it was the FIRST product of the vast plant leaving for its destination.

True, the principal output will be magnesium, but the chlorine unit is the largest of its kind in the United States and will contribute mightily to the chemical industry in addition to providing a vital element for the magnesium process.

A year ago, the plant was just a dream. Today it is almost an actuality. A miracle has been wrought out here on the desert, and a vast industrial giant is beginning to test his strength—a giant that will be an integral part of the vast war machine designed to overwhelm the axis powers by sheer strength.

Production Starts In Magnesium Plant

LAS VEGAS, Nev. Sept 1 — Production began today at the \$100,000,000 basic magnesium plant.

Manufacture of the light metal that has such a vital bearing on America's war industries got under way this morning when molten magnesium chloride was poured into a bank of 11 electrolysis cells to "work" in the first unit of cell house No 1.

Fowler Ensign
Sept 24 1942

Great Nevada Magnesium Plant Opens

The world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity approximately three and one-half times total U. S. output in 1941, has started production. A. H. Bunker, chief of the aluminum and magnesium branch of the WPB, has announced.

It is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks. The others are the New Dow Chemical Company plant in Texas; the Ford Motor Company plant in Michigan, the Permanente Metals Corporation plant at Manteca, and the New England Lime Company's Connecticut plant.

Of these, the Basic and Dow Plants use standard electrolytic processes. The other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year. All five plants were financed and are owned by the government through the Defense Plant Corporation. The total cost approximates \$175,000,000.

ROMONA, CAL. PROGRESS-
BULLETIN, Cir. 7, 1942
OCTOBER 9, 1942

Basic Magnesium Inc. is now actually turning out magnesium at its plant near Las Vegas. According to informal reports one out of eight units is already operating.

Few people realize how big this institution really is. Costing 75 million it will consume 25 per cent of the power developed at Hoover Dam. It will use 3 million gallons of water every 24 hours. The pipe line for this water is supported by a bridge which runs out to an island off "the beach" of Lake Mead located to the left as one starts down the grade to the dam site.

Near this island the lake is now 450 feet deep. From season to season it varies to the extent of 110 feet. The intake was therefore put at a depth of 180 feet from its present level.

Unofficial reports have it that ultimately this magnesium plant will be owned by the Anaconda Copper Co.

SEP. 29, 1942
ST. LOUIS, MO. GLOBE DEM

\$75,000,000 Copper Merger Reported

By Associated Press.
WASHINGTON, September 28.— Senator Bunker of Nebraska said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Company had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation. Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

BASIC MAGNESIUM STARTS WAR METAL PRODUCTION

LESS than a year after construction contracts were signed, magnesium metal was produced from the Las Vegas, Nevada, plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc. On August 31 the first molten metal was poured into the moulds and within 30 days the plant is expected to be operating at full capacity. The construction contract was signed with the McNeil Construction Company on September 3, 1941, and on September 15 the contractors started clearing and grading the plant site. Capacity is 112,000,000 pounds of magnesium annually and the entire output will be used in the manufacture of war materials.

Salt for the project comes from Death Valley in California, the first shipments to Las Vegas having been made in June. In July the first units of the company's oxide plant at Luning was put into operation, five months ahead of schedule, and production of one of the by-products, chlorine, was started in August.

While August was the first date set for initial metal production, it was believed that several more months would be required to get the gigantic project under way. Because the whole project is designed from much smaller plants which are being operated successfully in England, there was no accurate basis on which to judge the time and cost required for one of this size. The difficulties surmounted were innumerable, but one of the most dramatic was the loss of the first set of plant drawings when the ship carrying them was torpedoed in mid-Atlantic in May of 1941. By June 7, however, microphotographs of the drawings were received by airplane from England and all divisions of the work have been forging ahead steadily at an incredible rate of speed.

Four other important magnesium plants have entered production in recent weeks, after completion in record time. These are the new Dow Chemical Company plant in Texas; the Permanente Metals Corporation plant near Manteca, California; the Ford

Motor Company plant in Michigan, and the New England Lime Company's Connecticut plant. All five plants were financed and are owned by the federal government. The total cost approximates \$175,000,000. The Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes, while the other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year.

Ten months were required for construction of the Basic plant and four months for the ferro-silicon plants. Three more ferro-silicon plants are nearing completion and will begin operation later this year, while four additional electrolytic plants are under construction. Completion of the program, according to WPB, will place the United States far ahead of all other countries as a magnesium producer.

SEP. 24, 1942
WATERGATE

MAGNESIUM PLANT COMPLETED

Basic Magnesium, Inc. has started production of magnesium at its plant in Nevada, the War Production Board announced last week. This is the latest of five important magnesium plants to enter production in recent weeks. The others were identified as the new Dow plant in Texas; a Ford Motor plant in Michigan; Permanente's new plant in California; and the New England Lime Co.'s plant in Connecticut.

All five plants were financed and are owned by the government. The total cost is \$175,000,000. The Basic Magnesium and Dow plants use the electrolytic process; the other plants operate under the new ferro-silicon process. Three more ferro-silicon plants are nearing completion. The magnesium program will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries as a magnesium producer.

BLAKO, NEV. FREE PRESS
SEPTEMBER 28, 1942

Magnesium Plant Fire, Big Damage

Fire early Saturday morning destroyed the sheet metal shop of McNeil Construction Company, contractors on the Basic Magnesium plant.

Loss was estimated at \$25,000, but officials said that quick work on the part of the fire department saved machinery and metal stock valued at \$100,000.

The fire was discovered at 3:35 a. m., and within a short time the flames spread throughout the building. The plumbing and paint shops on either side of the sheet metal plant were saved.

L. G. McNeil, president of the construction company, said that work is far enough advanced that it will not be necessary to rebuild the shop, and that the loss will not hamper further construction work.

From
JOURNAL of COMMERCE
Chicago, Ill.

SEP 30 1942

DPC Denies Knowledge of Magnesium Plant Sale

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (AP)—A spokesman of the Defense Plants Corporation denied today any knowledge of a reported purchase by Anaconda Copper Company of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000. Senator Bunker (D., Nev.), said last night he had been "reliably informed" the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at a cost of \$75,000,000. The DPC official said any such purchase would involve only the two companies and would not concern the Defense Plants Corporation.

SEP. 29, 1942
ST. LOUIS, MO. STAR

Copper And Magnesium Deal Is Hinted

NEW YORK, Sept. 29.—(U. P.)—The Anaconda Copper Mining Co. was reported in informed circles today to be negotiating to purchase an interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., which recently opened a \$100,000,000 plant for magnesium production for the government. Anaconda officials would not comment.

Organized July 1, 1941, Basic Magnesium, Inc., is controlled by Basic Refractories, Inc., of Ohio, which owns a majority of the capital stock of the magnesium firm.

Warplanes Need Magnesium From Nevada

MAGNESIUM SAID TO
HAVE ADVANTAGES
OVER ALUMINUM

Nevada-produced magnesium is expected to play an important part in the building of American fighting planes, according to Major C. P. J. Ball, vice president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., of Las Vegas.

Speaking at the University of Nevada, Major Ball stressed the advantages of magnesium alloys in the manufacture of airplanes because of the light weight of the metal.

Magnesium in only 60 percent as heavy as aluminum, commonly used in plane construction, he said and has other advantages over aluminum.

He pointed out that the Germans have used magnesium alloys extensively in the manufacture of their planes, and that off all the planes brought down over the British Isles, not one part made of magnesium failed except through the force of the crash or when hit by bullets.

Major Ball is chairman of Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., of Manchester, England, as well as second man in Basic Magnesium. The process of refinement used at Las Vegas, he said, is that used in England.

His address was made before the Sacramento section of the American Chemical Society at a meeting on the University of Nevada campus.

Since there were no technicians in this country capable of operating the southern Nevada plant, he said, it was necessary to send nearly fifty young American scientists to England to study the process.

These young men are now operating the plant at Las Vegas.

STUDY MAGNESIUM

Two courses are being given this year at the University of Nevada on the technology of magnesium one in the field of chemistry and the other in metallurgy, for the purpose of giving fundamental training in the magnesium and light metal industries.

It is expected that this work will supply the needs of recruits in these industries, so that it will not be necessary to send Americans to England for training in magnesium production in the future.

The great need for American warplanes was stressed by Major Ball in his talk.

"The war will be won by the people who get control of the air," he declared, "and your great country is the only one which can produce the planes needed to accomplish this feat."

Pointing toward Nevada magnesium production as a continuing industry, Major Ball said that the advantages of magnesium alloys cannot be overlooked after the war by the designers of transportation vehicles, especially airplanes.

While on the campus, Major Ball presented the U. of N. department of chemistry with one of the first ingots of magnesium to be produced in the Las Vegas plant.

NEWS BUREAU
Boston, Mass.
SEP 30 1942

Anaconda Copper In Deal?

Senator Bunker of Nebraska states that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

Silver to Replace Copper In Big Magnesium Plant

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 26.—(A. P.)—An army-approved program to substitute Nevada silver for copper in future construction at Basic Magnesium, Inc., huge new plant here, was announced Friday by Senator Pat McCarran.

Plant officials said McCarran wired them the plan will release large quantities of copper now used for railings in busses and electrical appliances.

McCarran further said silver used thus for nonconsumptive purposes would "in no wise detract from its value as metal for money." He predicted 1,000,000 pounds of silver would be used in the program.

McCarran said the plant, when in full operation, will produce a huge, undisclosed amount of magnesium annually and thus Nevada will play an "increasing role in helping win the war."

LOMITA, CALIF., PROGRESS
Cir. 2,250
OCTOBER 1, 1942

Las Vegas Magnesium Plant Opens

Capable of Turning Out Treble the U. S. 1941 Output

SAN FRANCISCO—the world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity approximately 3½ times total U. S. output in 1941, has started production. A. H. Bunker, Chief, aluminum and magnesium branch, WPB, advised the regional WPB here today.

It is the Basic Magnesium Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks. The others are the New Dow Chemical Co. plant in Texas; the Ford Motor

Co. plant in Michigan, the Permanente Metals Corp., Manteca, California plant and the New England Lime Co.'s Connecticut plant.

Of these, the Basic and Dow plants use standard electrolytic processes. The other three use the new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year. All five plants were financed and are owned by the government thru the Defense Plant Corporation. The total cost approximates \$175,000,000.

SEP. 29, 1942
CARROLLTON, MO. DEMOCRAT

\$75,000,000 Copper Merger Reported.
WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (AP)—Senator Bunker of Nebraska said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Company had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation. Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

SEP. 25, 1942
SCOTTSBLUFF, NEB. STAR-HER.

Silver Replaces Copper In Building War Plant

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 24 (AP)—An army-approved program to substitute Nevada silver for copper in future construction at Basic Magnesium, Inc., huge new plant here, was announced today by Senator Pat McCarran.

NEW YORK, N. Y., TIMES
Cir. 474,277
SEPTEMBER 29, 1942

presenting at the meetings here.

Hears of Anaconda Copper Deal
WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (AP)—Senator Bunker of Nebraska said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Company had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation. Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

SEP. 29, 1942
OKLA. CITY, OK. OKLAHOMAN

Nevada Plant Reported Sold

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—(AP)—Senator Bunker (D., Nev.) said Monday that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corp.

Daily Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON and ROBERT S. ALLEN

UNFAIR PREJUDICE

One of the most important new war plants is that for the manufacture of basic magnesium, now under construction at Las Vegas, Nev. Magnesium is used with aluminum to make an alloy for airplane construction, and it is also used in the manufacture of incendiary bombs.

But in the Las Vegas project, an incendiary bomb of another character has already exploded. Its repercussions were heard even in cabinet meeting when Jesse Jones told the president how race prejudice

had been allowed to interfere with defense construction.

There are 10,000 workers on the Las Vegas project, of whom 1100 are Negroes. A group of white workers declared they would not work unless the Negroes were discharged.

Jesse Jones is from Texas, but he has no such prejudice as this. The Las Vegas project is being built with RFC funds, and he wants no interference with the work. So he laid the matter squarely before the president with the suggestion that federal action might be desirable.

For the moment, the snarl is left for local authorities to untangle. If they fail, it will be time for federal intervention. But if they do fail another tangle arises. For if federal troops should be called in, the nearest force, two or three miles away, is a regiment of Negroes.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. STAR
Cir. 130,071, Sun. 179,765
JULY 30, 1942

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON,
(Maj. Robert S. Allen on active duty.)

Washington, July 29.

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LABOR DELAYS

Although the great mass of labor is working patriotically on the war effort, a minority still hurts the reputation of labor generally.

Latest case involved government long distance phone calls which are most important in speeding up production and moving the armed

WILMINGTON, CAL. PRESS
Cir. 2,743
JULY 30, 1942



JUDGE DENMAN ASSAILS FAILURE TO PREPARE SAN FRANCISCO FOR BOMBING; PICTURE'S "GHOSTLY" RESULTS SHOULD CITY BE SET AFIRE BY JAP PLANES; HE SAYS THERE'S NO ADVANCE PLAN FOR QUICK EVACUATION OF RESIDENTS; WHITE WORKERS' OBJECTION TO NEGROES DELAYS WAR PLANT CONSTRUCTION

UNFAIR JUSTICE

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GOVERNMENT STANDARD EXAMINER
No. 1212
JULY 30, 1942

Unfair Prejudice

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OROVILLE, CAL. MERCURY-REGISTER
Cir. 2,134
JULY 31, 1942

By DREW PEARSON

(Major Robert S. Allen on active duty)

UNFAIR PREJUDICE

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(Copyrights, 1942, by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

SPRINGFIELD MO. LEAD. & PRESS
JULY 31, 1942

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Seattle (Via Post-Intelligencer)
July 31, 1942

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Jesse Jones Backs
Negro Workers

(Copyright, 1942, by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON — One of the most important new war plants is that for the manufacture of basic magnesium, now under construction at Las Vegas, Nev. Magnesium is used with aluminum to make an alloy for airplane construction, and it is also used in the manufacture of incendiary bombs.

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Jesse Jones is from Texas, but he has no such prejudice as this. The Las Vegas project is being built with Reconstruction Finance Corporation funds, and he wants no interference with the work. So he laid the matter squarely before the President with the suggestion that federal action might be desirable.

For the moment, the snarl is left for local authorities to untangle. If they fail, it will be time for federal intervention. But if they do fail another tangle arises. For if federal troops should be called in, the nearest force, two or three miles away, is a regiment of Negroes.

LABOR DELAYS

Although the great mass of labor is working patriotically on the war effort, a minority still hurts the reputation of labor generally.

Latest case involved government long distance phone calls which are most important in speeding up production and moving the armed forces. There is a tremendous congestion of trunk lines and a pressing need for new facilities.

But when American Telephone and Telegraph was requested to

lay a new cable from Chicago, via Atlanta, to Florida, to take some of the load from Eastern circuits, two American Federation of Labor unions threw a wrench into the plan.

The issue came to a head in



JESSE JONES
Shows No Race Prejudice

Terra Haute, Ind., where a stretch of 110 miles of cable was to be laid by the Citizens Telephone Company, using independent labor. The Hod Carriers Union and the Engineers Union, both A. F. of L. affiliates, objected to nonunion labor and picketed the project.

After a two weeks' delay, the A. T. and T. with war department sanction, sent their "long lines experts" to Terra Haute with orders to get on with the work, union or no union.

This show of force, plus an appeal to patriotism, made the unions call off their pickets, and the work is now proceeding.

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

To Fulton Lewis for his crusading radio broadcasts which played

a vital part in spurring Washington into quicker rubber production . . . To L. Lion and Sons of San Jose, Calif., for giving away a linoleum mat free to anyone who gave the government a rubber mat from his automobile . . . To Chip Robert's engineering firm which has finished so many naval contracts ahead of schedule that Admiral Ben Moreel wrote: "I know of no other engineering organization which ranks above Robert and Company in its approach to impossible perfection." . . . To Miss Elizabeth Rapkin of Loeh Sheldrake, N. Y., for deluging her community with war bonds.

SANTA ROSA, CAL. FREE DEMOCRAT
Cir. 8,941
JULY 31, 1942

Racial Intolerance

One of the most important new war plants is that for the manufacture of basic magnesium, now under construction at Las Vegas, Nevada. Magnesium is used with aluminum to make an alloy for airplane construction, and it is also used in the manufacture of incendiary bombs.

But the Las Vegas project, an incendiary bomb of another character has already exploded. Its repercussions were heard even in cabinet meeting when Jesse Jones told the President how race prejudice had been allowed to interfere with defense construction.

There are 10,000 workers on the Las Vegas project, of whom 1,100 are Negroes. A group of white workers declared they would not work unless the Negroes were discharged.

Jesse Jones is from Texas, but he has no such prejudice as this. The Las Vegas project is being built with RFC funds, and he wants no interference with the work. So he laid the matter squarely before the President with the suggestion that federal action might be desirable.

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SANTA ROSA, CAL. REPUBLICAN
Cir. 2,269
JULY 31, 1942

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WOODLAND, CAL. DEMOCRAT
Cir. 2,004
JULY 31, 1942

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Anaconda Copper Now in Control of Basic Magnesium

English Interests To Continue in Charge in Vegas

Control of Basic Magnesium incorporated apparently has passed to the Anaconda Copper Mining company, it was indicated today following a thorough check of reports current here and in Washington D. C. for the past 10 days.

The Salt Lake Tribune's Washington bureau announced the story Saturday attributing it to "very high authority" and stating Anaconda had acquired the interest of Howard Ellis, Jr., and associates.

To Continue Here

The source of the story said Anaconda engineers would immediately take over the operation of the mines at Luning, Nevada, and that the English interests, owners of the process used in the Las Vegas plant, would continue in charge here.

Charles B. Henderson, president of Reconstruction Finance Corporation, would not affirm the story beyond saying that negotiations were in progress, and were proceeding satisfactorily.

Howard P. Eells, Jr., president of Basic, could not be reached by telephone, and Howard C. Mann, project manager was at Luning.

Major C. A. Ball, head of the English group and in charge of operations at the plant for the past several weeks, was in Los Angeles and could not be contacted for a statement.

Thought In Control

Washington opinion, however was that the story is correct—that Anaconda is now in full control of the new Nevada industry.

The Eells' interests owned slightly more than 50 per cent of the stock in Basic and the British interests own the rest.

Passing of control of Basic Magnesium to Anaconda is understood to have the hearty approval of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation which financed construction and equipment of the new plant.

Government officials, according to the Tribune, are relieved to know that control will be in the hands of one of the big corporations of the west with long experience in the mining and treatment of ores.

Anaconda has operated in Montana for nearly a half century, having large holdings in Butte and Anaconda. The Rio Tinto in Elko and International Smelting and Refining Company operations in the Pioche district, are part of the Anaconda holdings in Nevada.

Control of the company has been held for years by the standard Oil group, and it has widespread interests throughout the United States.

WHITTIER, CAL.
NEWS
OCTOBER 1, 1942

HEARD IN THE BARBER SHOP

"I see that Fred Yerger, state organization officer of the Office of Price Administration is asking for volunteers to serve as gasoline rationers. He says the local war price and rationing boards we now have are overworked and shouldn't be asked to handle gasoline and other commodities to be rationed in the near future. You have been wanting to know what you could do to help win this war, and here is an opportunity to serve. You will be expected to put in 10 hours per week without pay," said the Man Who Was Reading the Paper. "I believe I would prefer to serve in some other capacity. I wouldn't want to decide whether Bill Jones who has two cars in his garage really needs more than the two 'A' cards he would be entitled to hold, or whether it is possible for him to walk to his office. I still have a few friends and I would like to keep them," said the Man in the Third Chair.

"Well, someone must do the rationing. I think it is better for all of us that volunteers take over the job. They at least have some idea of what it means to be short of gas and they also know some of the transportation problems that are peculiar to this part of the state where motor car transportation has sort of crowded out all other forms of travel. As I understand the program everyone owning a car will be entitled to the basic card which allows a little less than four gallons per week. If your car will make 15 miles to the gallon you can cover 240 miles each month before the tank runs dry. Of course if you can wangle a 'B' card out of the board you can get enough extra gas to keep the old bus running for another 320 miles each month. That would make a total of 560 miles per month for all family and occupational uses. I use double that amount now, but I am willing to do some walking, if the Office of Price Administration thinks I should," said the Man Who Was Reading the Paper. "What I can't understand is how the government stock pile of rubber is going to be increased by forcing me to save my tires by rationing me on gas. There isn't any gas shortage in California, that I have heard about," said the Man in the Second Chair.

"Did you ever stop to think that if and when the Government wants to take the tires from your car, it would like to have some rubber left to take," said the Man in the First Chair. "That would simply be what General Sherman said war is. I have gotten used to the idea that the tires I now have must last me for the duration and when they are gone, I put the car up on bricks, but if I had to give them up right now I would join the rest of the Californians in a yelp that could be heard clear back in Washington, D. C.," said the Man in the Second Chair. "Not if you were convinced that it would help win this war, you wouldn't. Did you read what the paper hanger said yesterday? He laughed off the idea of a second front, said he wasn't afraid of the United Nations and that he was confident of winning this war. Chances are that his Germans believe him too," said the Man Who Was Reading the Paper.

"When do you think the actual rationing of gas will start?" asked the Second Chair Barber. "All I know is what Nell Petree says. He is director of the Office of Price Administration, and should know. He says we may see the actual rationing start either on November 15 or the 22nd," said the Man Who Was Reading the Paper.

"Getting away from that subject, I would like to tell you about a former automobile salesman who because of ill health, had to stop selling cars long before Pearl Harbor, but is still using his ability to sell to real advantage. Recently he sold 170 house trailers without tires or brakes to the Basic Magnesium Company, in Las Vegas, and only had to add up the cost of one luncheon to his expense account. The trailers were priced at something over \$1000 each, so it was a fair sized order. I am talking about Harlan E. Wood of this city, who is now dividing his time between his home here, his business in Las Vegas, the Wood Trailer Sales Company, and the Peters Metal Products Company, located in Los Angeles," said the Man Who Was Reading the Paper. "Well, I think every one of Wood's friends, and they are legion, will wish him success in both his business ventures. If salesmanship is needed he can certainly keep both places busy," said the Man Who Was Reading the Paper.

"What is the news in the paper today?" asked the Third Chair Barber. "Now it can be told. The President is back in Washington, and it can officially be noted that he was here in Southern California last week. He visited Vultee and Douglas among other Southland war plants. Hitler is throwing everything into the battle for Stalingrad. The Marines are licking the Japs in New Guinea. Both sides claim a congressional victory on the anti-inflation bill," said the Man Who Was Reading the Paper.

"Next," said the Head Barber.

Las Vegas Age
Oct 23 1942

BMI and Boulder Dam Compared As To Extent of Labor

A comparison between Basic Magnesium and the construction of Boulder dam shows that the former Six Companies had, at their peak, a payroll of 5250 employees and a mess hall seating 1300 at the big dam construction, while Basic Magnesium, on Aug. 1 of this year, had 13,618 employees with a mess hall seating capacity of 2500 employees.

The Basic Magnesium plant, he said, contains electrical equipment valued at \$12,500,000 with a production based at 56,000 tons of metallic magnesium a year, or 153.4 tons each day.

SEP. 30, 1942
OKLA. CITY, OK. OKLAHOMAN

Defense Plant Agency Denies Sale Knowledge

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—(AP)—A spokesman of the Defense Plant Corp. denied Tuesday any knowledge of a reported purchase by Anaconda Copper Co. of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nevada, for \$75,000,000. Senator Bunker (D., Nev.) said Monday night he had been "reliably informed" the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at a cost of \$75,000,000. The DPC official said any such purchase would involve only the two companies and would not concern the Defense Plant Corp.

BOSTON NEWS BUREAU

Only daily financial newspaper published in New England.

Boston, Mass.
SEP 30 1942

Anaconda Copper In Deal?

Senator Bunker of Nebraska states that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

Nevada Produced Magnesium Takes Important Place In War Construction

Nevada-produced magnesium is expected to play an important part in the building of American fighting planes, according to Major C. P. C. Ball, vice president of Basic Magnesium Inc., of Las Vegas.

Speaking at the University of Nevada, Major Ball stressed the advantages of magnesium alloys in the manufacture of airplanes because of the light weight of the metal.

Magnesium is only 60 per cent as heavy as aluminum, commonly used in plane construction, he said, and has other advantages over aluminum. He pointed out that the Germans have used magnesium alloys extensively in the manufacture of their planes, and that, of all the planes brought down over the British Isles, not one part made of magnesium failed except through the force of the crash or when hit by bullets.

Goldfield News
Sept 25 1942

NEVADA MAGNESIUM USED IN WAR PLANES

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Major Ball is chairman of Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., of Manchester, England, as well as second man in Basic Magnesium. The process of refinement used at Las Vegas, he said, is that used in England.

His address was made before the Sacramento section of the American Chemical Society at a meeting on the University of Nevada campus.

Since there were no technicians in this country capable of operating the southern Nevada plant, he said, it was necessary to send nearly 50 young American scientists to England to study the process.

These young men are now operating the plant at Las Vegas.

Two courses are being given this year at the University of Nevada on the technology of magnesium, one in the field of chemistry and the other in metallurgy, for the purpose of giving fundamental training in the magnesium and light metal industries.

It is expected that this work will supply the needs of recruits in these industries, so that it will not be necessary to send Americans to England for training in magnesium production in the future.

The great need for American warplanes was stressed by Major Ball in his talk.

"The war will be won by the people who get control of the air," he declared, "and your great country is the only one which can produce the planes needed to accomplish this feat."

Pointing toward Nevada magnesium production as a continuing industry, Major Ball said that the advantages of magnesium alloys cannot be overlooked after the war by the designers of transportation vehicles, especially airplanes.

While on the campus, Major Ball presented the University of Nevada department of chemistry with one of the first ingots of magnesium to be produced in the Las Vegas plant.

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DAILY METAL TRADE

Newspaper of the Metal Industries.

Penton Bldg., 1213 W. 3rd St.

Cleveland, Ohio

SEP 30 1942

Negotiates For Purchase of Basic Magnesium Property

CLEVELAND, Sept. 29.—Negotiations for the possible purchase of Basic Refractories Inc.'s controlling interest in Basic Magnesium Inc. by Anaconda Copper Mining Co. have been underway for some time, it has been revealed here officially. Senator Bunker of Nevada said in Washington that he had been "reliably informed" that Anaconda had purchased the property at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

Officials of the Defense Plant Corp., which financed construction of the magnesium plant, have made no statement regarding the negotiations.

Management-Fee Basis

Basic Magnesium Inc. developed and put into operation recently this plant, the largest single plant in the country for the production of magnesium. The company operates the plant for Defense Plant Corp. on a management-fee basis.

Senator Bunker demanded an investigation last spring of the Defense Plant Corp. as an outgrowth of its dealings with Basic Magnesium in connection with construction of the plant. Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce, subsequently said there was no foundation for criticism by a Senate defense sub-committee of a contract between DPC and Basic Magnesium Inc.

SEP. 29, 1942
COL. SPRINGS, COL. GAZETTE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (AP)—Senator Bunker (D., Neb.) said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper company had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation.

Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

America's Leading Business Newspaper

New York City

SEP 29 1942

Report Anaconda Buys Magnesium

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (AP)—Senator Bunker (Dem., Neb.) said today that he had been "reliably informed" that the Anaconda Copper Co. had purchased Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000 from the Defense Plant Corporation.

Defense Plant Corporation officials would not comment.

Magnesium Plant Pours Out Metal

Initial Operation Described By Nevada Editor

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—The operation of the big Basic Magnesium Inc. plant at Gabbs has started. The editor of the Las Vegas Age gives his impression of the initial operation as follows:

"I was one of the guests invited out to Gabbs the other day to witness the start of the first furnace at the plant and the pouring of the first charge of anhydrous magnesium chloride into the first of the series of eight dechlorination cells which are fed by each furnace.

"There was considerable of a thrill when the big furnace was put in action. Perhaps you remember the old style arc lamps which once were used for providing a glittering, purplish light for our streets. The carbons in those wonderful lamps were slightly larger in diameter than a lead pencil, but they made a blinding glare when the juice arced between them.

"The carbons in these electric furnaces at the Basic Magnesium plant are about 14 inches in diameter and when the mighty current of electricity from Boulder Dam goes coursing between them things really do warm up.

"Because chlorine is subtle, hard to corral and hard to control, and vicious, contrary and subversive to human health and happiness when loosed upon the public, nearly all the workmen wore masks dangling from straps about their necks. You see in the process of manufacturing the thousands of tons of chlorine which have been in process of manufacture and shipping for the past month or two, a little once in a while has escaped and sent the whole gang choking and coughing and tear-shedding into the open air.

"There proved to be nothing to fear from escape of a few whiffs of chlorine from the furnace. Even if some does escape it is drawn by a powerful ventilating system into the air discharge pipes.

"We stood around for a little time while a gang of electricians working under direction of Dr. Fleming, technician in charge who was loaned to the United States by the British government, changed the connections of the great buss bars to shoot alternating current through the electrothermal cells. Instead of the direct current with which the initial heating of the cells was done.

"Finally a fellow standing on a platform in front of the furnace, began to poke a long sharp rod into the sealed opening in the base of the furnace. Out spurted a blazing white-hot stream of material which reminded me of the tapping of a blast furnace on a little smaller scale. Into a great hopper standing below flowed the fiery mass. Then when it was full, a man stepped on the little platform of the hopper, pulled a little lever and away she went stopping beside the first of the cells.

"A funnel inserted into the cell opening received the charge and the process was really under way. It was anhydrous chlorine of magnesium, they said, which came from the furnace into the cell, and it was function of the cell to remove the chlorine and leave the crude magnesium metal.

"Everything worked exactly as programmed and the staring group sighed with relief that nothing happened—no chlorine gas escaping, no destructive magnesium powder explosion, none of the terrible disasters for which Hitler and Hirohito had been hoping came to delay the miracle which Basic Magnesium had accomplished in less than one year of plant construction.

Anaconda Takes On BMI Plant Control

Jesse Jones, In Statement Today Reveals Transfer

\$75,000 Is Paid For Controlling Unit of BMI Stock

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 (UP) Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced last night that Anaconda Copper Mining company had acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators and builders of what is scheduled to be the world's largest magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jones said that Anaconda had purchased 52½ per cent stock interest in BMI from Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, for \$75,000. The text of Jones' announcement:

DPC Buys Ore

"Anaconda Copper Mining company has acquired by purchase the 52½ per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for \$75,000. In connection with the purchase, Defense Plant Corporation bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nevada, for a consideration of \$450,000. These ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

"Basic Magnesium, Inc., is operating and will complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, which is owned by Defense Plant Corporation. The first unit of the plant produced magnesium on August 31, 1942. Additional units have been brought in since that time, and it is estimated the entire plant will be completed by April 15, 1943.

"This is the largest magnesium plant in this country, and probably in the world. It will have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium, and when completed will cost in excess of \$100,000,000. It covers four square miles of desert land in Nevada, and this site was selected because of its immediate proximity to the government owned Boulder dam power project from which it takes power.

Big Electric Use

"When in full operation the plant will use annually in excess of 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which is equal to the amount of electricity used annually in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined.

"Approximately 12,000 men are employed in construction and in operations at this time. When construction is completed, the plant in full operation will employ approximately 5,000 people. It has been necessary to provide temporary housing and living quarters for the large construction force. In addition to barracks, trailer camps, etc., more than 1,000 two and three bedroom houses, a hospital, a school, a theatre and store buildings have been constructed near the plant site which is approximately 12 miles from Las Vegas and an equal distance from Boulder dam.

MUCH WATER
"Water to supply the plant and the workers is pumped 18 miles through a 40-inch main from Lake Mead, which was created by Boulder dam. The daily requirements of water are approximately 37,000,000 gallons.

"The magnesium is produced from magnesite, of which an abundant quantity is accessible. "The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that purchased by Anaconda Copper Mining company, is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium, Inc., will operate the plant for account of Defense Plant Corporation, receiving one-half cent a pound on the magnesium produced, which will approximate 2 per cent of sales."

L V Review Journal
October 27, 1942

BMI TOWNSITE WILL HAVE PROGRAM OF VARIED ACTIVITIES

Beginning at 7 o'clock tomorrow night at the Basic Magnesium Townsite high school auditorium, nightly recreational programs will be staged by the Las Vegas USO club, for the Townsite residents, under the direction of Miss Margaret Bushard, director of the Las Vegas USO Women's Residence club, in co-operation with W. Harold Kingsley, of the industrial relations department of BMI.

The program, presented in conjunction with Basic high school officials, will be inaugurated with Wednesday night's session of badminton and volley ball. Each Wednesday night thereafter will be devoted to those basic activities. The American Legion is sponsoring a dance on Wednesday, November 11, Armistice Day and badminton will be omitted that night.

Badminton and volley ball tournaments are being planned among teams of Basic Townsite, Las Vegas, the gunnery school and Boulder City, according to Miss Bushard, who also is directing the badminton program of Las Vegas, with the co-operation of the city and county officials.

Each evening throughout the week, excepting Sundays, will feature organized recreational programs, and residents of the townsite—men, women and children—are urged to participate. Schedule for the week, as outlined by Miss Bushard and Kingsley, is as follows:

Second and fourth Monday nights will feature bridge, chess and checker tournaments; quiz programs among the various departments of BMI; community sings; and amateur plays and vaudeville nights by local townspeople.

Second and fourth Tuesday nights will be devoted to square dances—and music will be furnished by the newly organized Arkansas Traveler's band. Instructional classes will be held for those interested.

Wednesday nights' badminton and volley ball games will be for mixed groups, and Thursday evenings are scheduled for two showings of current moving pictures; admission will be charged, and only residents of that BMI area will be admitted.

Friday evening high school dances will be held under the auspices of the high school, and Saturday night dances will be held by the American Legion post of BMI.

Saturday afternoons will feature a moving picture program for children of the townsite. Arts and crafts classes, which will include leather work, stone polishing, wood work, block printing and other crafts, are planned for within the next month.

According to Miss Bushard, authorities are planning to book lectures and study groups are to be held, as are classical hours, when the program is under way.

L V Review Journal
October 28, 1942

BMI President Relates History Of Development at Big Plant Here

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Oct. 28 (Special)—Referring to the announcement that Anaconda Copper Mining company has acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., Howard W. Eells, Jr., president of BMI, issued a statement yesterday giving the background of the development of the largest magnesium plant in the world, at Las Vegas, Nevada, and the reasons for the sale by his company.

Eells stated, "Basic Refractories, Incorporated, for the past 25 years has been engaged in the production of dolomitic refractories. In 1936 this company commenced the development and production of magnesia refractories and, in seeking sources for raw material, obtained a leasehold interest in an extensive deposit of brucite in Nevada.

"Later it discovered and acquired a number of adjacent mining claims containing deposits of magnesite. Early in the year 1941 when this country was engaged in the defense program, it became apparent that the manufacture of airplanes and other materials would require metallic magnesium and the alloys thereof greatly in excess of existing capacity to produce metal on this continent.

"The mining claims of Basic Refractories, Incorporated, were held by a wholly owned subsidiary then known as Basic Ores, Incorporated. By arrangement with representatives of a company that had built plants producing magnesium in Great Britain, the name Basic Ores, Incorporated, was changed to Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, and shares of the corporation were issued to the British interests in exchange for plans, engineering experience and technical knowledge.

"The proportion of shares retained by the Refractories company was 52½. Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, thus possessed the raw material and the experience necessary to produce metal entered into a contract with Defense Plant Corporation which required that it provide the designs to supervise the erection of facilities for the production of magnesium in the vicinity of Boulder dam and manage these after their completion. The original proposals calling for a plant of moderate size

were expanded by governmental agencies into the requirements for the construction and operation of the largest magnesium undertaking in the world at a cost in excess of \$100,000,000.

"At the time when the contract with Defense Plant Corporation was signed on August 13, 1941, the project was no more than a plan in the minds of a few men who were without the benefits either of an organization through which to develop and execute it or of engineering drawings upon which to build it.

"Within a period of one year and 15 days from that date, the successful production of metallic magnesium was commenced and the early completion of the undertaking assured. To the accomplishment of this end around a starting group of three executives and a technical staff of four men there had been assembled and coordinated within a period of months the service of a force which at the peak of the endeavor reached 13,000 persons.

"Notwithstanding such progress, it became apparent early that this immense undertaking and hence the war effort would benefit immeasurably from the backing of a corporation with resources comparable to its size. Accordingly Basic Refractories, Incorporated, sought, though it failed, to enlist such an organization. The fact that the interest of the Anaconda Copper Mining company was developed by governmental authorities made no less welcome the prospect of its active participation in the magnesium company management.

"By reason of resulting negotiations, the position heretofore occupied by Basic Refractories, Incorporated, in Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, will be taken by the Anaconda Copper Mining company, which has purchased the entire stock interest of Basic Refractories, Incorporated.

"The consideration received by the Refractories company has provided fair compensation for the value of its mining claims and for the efforts that it has made in connection with the project," Eells concluded.

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

Magnesium is rolling out of the B. M. I. plant in quantity. The daily production is reaching a point worth talking about, but executives at the plant aren't talking because the war department says no. Suffice to say that magnesium from Clark County IS going into the war effort NOW in a pleasing amount. Figures are not available.

6.—Home mortgages cannot be foreclosed without the court's permission and the courts are given the power to suspend foreclosures for the duration.

7.—If a soldier desires to cancel leases on residence, farm or business, he needs give only 30 days' notice in writing.

8.—A maximum of 6 per cent interest may be charged soldiers or sailors, even on old loans made at a higher figure.

These provisions may be invoked by the soldier's dependents or insurance beneficiaries as well as by the soldier himself. In 50 cities member agencies of the Legal Aid Society will help enforce the law without charge. In every county, the American Bar Association plans to set up free advisory services where service men and their wives can get advice as to their particular problem without cost.

James F. Byrnes, former U. S. Supreme Court Justice and former Senator from South Carolina, gave up a \$20,000 a year job to take over as economic czar at the request of old friend Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was harder hit by the recent tax bill than many. He must pay income levy on the \$20,000 salary—about \$7,000. His apartment in a fashionable Washington hotel costs \$3,200 a year. That adds up to \$10,200 before he ever started on his new job.

Usual salary for administrative jobs in government is \$10,000, same as that of a senator or congressman. If Byrnes' recompense was placed at that figure, he was \$300 in the hole without any living expenses. Bureau experts came to the rescue, decided there was no limit on the salary that could be paid, so set Byrnes' at \$15,000.

The czar's position is no different than a lot of others who will make sizeable salaries this year and less next year. Defeated senators and congressmen, for instance, will find the going rather tough and wish they had voted to adopt the Ruml plan.

- 1.—Men in the armed forces need not meet income payments while in the service and for six months afterward—though they will have to settle later.
- 2.—The tax collector cannot foreclose on the home or personal property of a soldier or sailor if he's behind on local taxes, unless the court gives permission.
- 3.—No insurance company can void a policy of \$10,000 or under because premiums are not paid. After the war, the soldier will have two years to make up back payments.
- 4.—The court can suspend debts incurred by soldiers or sailors before entering the army, until they are discharged and able to pay.
5. Personal property, bought

L V Review Journal
October 28, 1942

BMI TOWNSITE NOTES

Masonic Club at BMI
Plans for organization of a social club for members of the Masonic lodge residing at Basic Townsite were made Monday evening, when an informal gathering of 50 Masons was held. Jay C. Robinson, who called the meeting, acted as temporary chairman and appointed J. C. Crawford as temporary secretary.

A committee was appointed to make plans for a permanent organization, composed of the following: N. O. C. Miller, chairman; Clark S. Hardy, J. E. Irwin, Fred M. Paulson, W. T. Voss, and Al Weinberg.

The next meeting of the group is planned next Monday evening at the BMI school.

BMI People Form P.-T.A.
About 200 parents of children attending the school at Basic Townsite participated in a P.-T.A. meeting held Monday evening, when Hillebert W. "Bob" Smith was elected president.

Other officers named included: Harold Kingsley, first vice-president; Henry Bryant, second vice-president; Mrs. Helen Pitkin, third vice-president; Mrs. F.

Longdale, secretary; Vada Mae Simpson, treasurer; and Mrs. Rosalie Hamilton, historian.

Committee chairmen were named by the president, including: Mrs. Edna L. Smith, hospitality; Mrs. Bernard Provenzano, membership; Miss Kathryn Hackwood, music, art, and drama; Dr. Chaunsey Baird, health and welfare; Al Weinberg, ways and means; Edgar Hamilton, finance and budget; Mrs. Frances Beckwith, room-mother representative; and Mrs. Elizabeth Vassar, education.

The executive committee of the P.-T.A., comprised of officers and committee chairmen, will meet at 7:30 o'clock tomorrow evening at the home of Smith, 18 Utah street, Basic Townsite. The next meeting of the P.-T.A. body will be on November 9 at the school auditorium.

At the organization meeting this week, post number 40 of the American Legion at BMI presented the P.-T.A. with \$25 and endorsed the program.

Right on Schedule

A short time back, Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones; the Reconstruction Finance Corporation; the Defense Plant Corporation; Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, and its officers and employees were under the fierce attack of a group of United States senators seeking, apparently to disorganize and disrupt what has well been called, "America's No. 1 Defense Project."

It was charged that the officials of Basic Magnesium had falsified their records; had "conveniently" committed the crime of arson by burning that administration building; had misled the public by claiming that the work of building the great plants at Las Vegas and at Gabbs was proceeding on schedule, and, by direct inference, that high officials of the government were conspiring with them to waste the people's money and allow ambitious promoters to reap extortionate profits.

Now that more than three months have passed since those charges were publicized over the entire United States, we may again review and analyze the situation in the light of actual developments.

In the first place, immediately following those charges statements by officials of Basic Magnesium and by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones and other government officials completely refuted and discredited the attempts which had been made to mislead and misinform the public.

Then, the public interest having waned to some extent, there still remained in the minds of many politically interested persons, especially within the State of Nevada, the fear that, perhaps, the Basic Magnesium officials had overestimated their powers or had been unduly optimistic as to the progress being made. There became established in the minds of many a rather vague, unsubstantiated idea that, after all, operations of Basic Magnesium would fall far behind schedule and the actual production of magnesium be delayed for long after the public had been led to expect.

First of the developments to restore confidence in Basic Magnesium was the beginning of operations June 26, strictly on schedule, of the great magnesium oxide plant at the Gabbs mines. That plant is now steadily procuring the ore and producing magnesium oxide from which the Las Vegas plant will soon be producing magnesium metal for which the army is crying.

At the La Vegas plant also the work has progressed strictly on schedule, made possible largely through the unflinching loyalty of its employees laboring under difficulties of heat and lack of adequate housing.

Already large quantities of salt from Death Valley are being processed at the plant in preparation for use in the production of magnesium metal in the first of the ten great chlorination units.

Unit No. 1 of the chlorination plants is close to completion and will be in operation within a very short time, the actual date being kept secret by orders of the War Department at Washington.

Those who have had no contacts with the great enterprise and have consequently no knowledge upon which to base an intelligent opinion, may take these developments as a matter of course. But to those who have witnessed the vastness and the complexity of the work, the results are amazing beyond the power of expression or understanding.

Nevada may well be gratified at the great industries being created within her boundaries and at the part her resources and her energies are playing in the great work of winning this World War II. She also may be happy that the strenuous attempts made to wreck this great enterprise of Basic Magnesium, Inc., have completely and ignominiously failed. Las Vegas Age.

Thanks, Elko Free Press

The Elko Free Press is glad Clark County's forging ahead—glad we're growing, glad we're building an industrial empire in these parts that will bring prosperity to the entire state.

In a highly flattering editorial, the paper congratulates us, expressing the hope that we will not, because of our voting strength, get so strong politically that we might "attempt to impose our will on the rest of the state."

We are certain there's no substance to the Free Press fears—that there's no intent on the part of the people of this area to take advantage of any political power we might have to the detriment of the rest of the state.

Clark County is a community of builders and pioneers. We are interested not only in our own section, but in the entire state. We're just as loyal Nevadans here as you'll find anywhere.

We'll admit we've been a bit disgruntled over some of the things handed us in years gone by because we lacked the political strength of some other communities. And we'll admit that for years this newspaper has been predicting just what has happened, and pleaded with the balance of the state for fair treatment to the end that there would be no sectional feeling when the moment DID arrive that we gained the population we now have.

We recall, also, that instead of analyzing our remarks on the merits of the case, we were accused of delving into the fantastic in predicting we'd one day become the most populous county in the state, and of fomenting sectional jealousies ourselves.

If we are to exercise leadership in state affairs, we will do so with a deep sense of the grave responsibilities that go with it, and attempt to profit by the mistakes others have made in dealing with southern Nevada in years gone by—mistakes the injustice of which we realize only too well.

If Clark County can lead the parade in Nevada's march of development, we will be more than proud, but we will do so as a worker in the ranks who, favored by nature with a powerful physique, strong heart and intelligence, is able to carry a heavier load and heavier responsibility, but who never forgets for an instant that it's team work that counts and cooperation that builds.

We hope we deserve all the nice things the Free Press editor sends our way when he says under the caption, "The Great Growth of Clark County," which follows:

According to the sugar rationing figures, Clark county is the most populous county in the state of Nevada at the present time. Its growth has been phenomenal, reaching 34,600 persons, under the sugar rationing figures, as compared with 16,414 at the 1940 census.

We have watched the growth of Clark county, centered in the Las Vegas area for the past 16 years, before the construction of Boulder dam, through that hectic period and up until today when the expansion has been greatly stimulated by the war effort, particularly as a result of the building of the Basic Magnesium plant.

There were those who said that the city of Las Vegas would stop growing after the construction of the dam, that it would drop back to a similar place to that which it held before the dam was built. This writer could never believe that and still feels that the southern section of the state shows great promise of being a great center of population.

After the present emergency is over there may be a slump there as is anticipated in so many other places. However, we feel that it will continue to move forward despite any setbacks it might sustain. We feel this is true because of the natural assets of the section, the power, the water and the climate. Its easy access to the coast and great attractiveness to tourists has been one of its greatest claims to fame, in addition to the great Boulder Dam itself.

Other great industries are going to be located in that district because of the cheap power. It is true that the weather is extremely warm in the summer, but barring the three hot months the rest of the year is ideal and homes are easily air conditioned these days.

One of the reasons, too, for the growth of Las Vegas is that the boys have been on their toes there. They are real promoters, getting some of the Los Angeles atmosphere into their boosting efforts. We dislike seeing any section of the state getting so strong politically that it might dominate the field of politics and impose its will upon the rest of the state, but we may as well recognize the fact that Las Vegas is going to continue to grow and our only hope can be that the interests of the entire state will be given consideration in matters of state-wide interest.

The Pioche Record
July 23 1942

The Observer

By R. G. S.

Of interest in Las Vegas: The Basic Magnesium plant is well along the road to completion. The gigantic structures are sticking out of the desert like a sore thumb. On the left and right of the highway passing the plant, most of the "demountable" housing units have been completed. They are nice-looking places, notwithstanding the sameness. What a hideous time a tipsy boomer must have, trying to find his particular home at midnight.

Right On Schedule

(Las Vegas Age)

A short time back, Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones; the Reconstruction Finance Corporation; the Defense Plant Corporation; Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, and its officers and employees were under the fierce attack of a group of United States senators seeking, apparently to disorganize and disrupt what has well been called, "America's No. 1 Defense Project."

It was charged that the officials of Basic Magnesium had falsified their records; had "conveniently" committed the crime of arson by burning their administration building; had misled the public by claiming that the work of building the great plants at Las Vegas and at Gabbs was proceeding on schedule and, by direct inference, that high officials of the government were conspiring with them to waste the people's money and allow ambitious promoters to reap extortionate profits.

Now that more than three months have passed since those charges were publicized over the entire United States, we may again review and analyze the situation in the light of actual developments.

In the first place, immediately following those charges statements by officials of Basic Magnesium and by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones and other government officials completely refuted and discredited the attempts which had been made to mislead and misinform the public.

Then, the public interest having waned to some extent, there still remained in the minds of many politically interested persons, especially within the State of Nevada, the fear that perhaps the Basic Magnesium officials had overestimated their powers or had been unduly optimistic as to the progress being made. There became established in the minds of many a rather vague, unsubstantiated idea that, after all, operations of Basic Magnesium would fall far behind schedule and the actual production of magnesium be delayed for long after the public had been led to expect.

First of the developments to restore confidence in Basic Magnesium was the beginning of operations June 26, strictly on schedule, of the great magnesium oxide plant at the Gabbs mines. That plant is now steadily procuring the ore and producing magnesium oxide from which the Las Vegas plant will soon be producing magnesium metal for which the army is crying.

At the Las Vegas plant also the work has progressed strictly on schedule made possible largely through the unflinching loyalty of its employees laboring under difficulties of heat and lack of adequate housing.

Already large quantities of salt from Death Valley are being processed at the plant in preparation for use in the production of magnesium metal in the first of the ten great chlorination units.

Unit No. 1 of the chlorination plants is close to completion and will be in operation within a very short time, the actual date being kept secret by orders of the War Department at Washington.

Those who have had no contacts with the great enterprise and have consequently no knowledge upon which to base an intelligent opinion, may take these developments as a matter of course. But to those who have witnessed the vastness and the complexity of the work, the results are amazing beyond the power of expression or understanding.

Nevada may well be gratified at the great industries being created within her boundaries and at the part her resources and her energies are playing in the great work of winning this World War II. She also may be happy that the strenuous attempts made to wreck this great enterprise of Basic Magnesium, Inc., have completely and ignominiously failed.

Las Vegas Review Journal
July 28 1942

Electrical Storm Snaps Power Flow

An electrical storm, moving from Boulder City toward Las Vegas, brought interruptions to the power service today as lightning struck the line and blew out the circuit breakers, en route.

Not much damage was done and the power interruptions were of very short duration.

A cloudburst struck Railroad pass on the Boulder highway about 1:30 o'clock this afternoon, and water descended as though by the bucketful on the limited area from Mace's bar to the Searchlight road intersection. In this quarter-mile area, the highway was under water, and the rain poured down in torrents.

The storm was very limited in its scope and did not extend to the magnesium plant.

In Las Vegas the temperature dropped from a maximum of 111 yesterday to 107 today, but the humidity climbed from 11 per cent yesterday to 21 per cent today.

Serious Aluminum Shortage Still Interferes With All-Out War Effort

By Herbert C. Lewis

Despite drastic priorities put into effect more than a year ago, it develops there will be a shortage of more than 600,000,000 pounds of aluminum annually.

On the day following this startling revelation by the Senate committee investigating the defense program the then Office of Production Management, in a press release, announced plans for eight aluminum producing plants. The capacity of the plants

was estimated at 600,000,000 pounds a year. The expected aluminum capacity was based upon the number of kilowatt hours of electrical current available.

It has since developed that instead of plans for aluminum-producing plants nothing more than a list of favorable geographical areas was filed with the undersecretary of war. The companies to produce the aluminum were not designated; locations of the plants were not designated,

and there was no suggestion of the terms on which contracts were to be let.

Serious Shortage Bared

Testimony before the committee admitted a serious immediate shortage of light metal. This information was relayed to the then director of OPM, William S. Knudsen. It took eight days for the information to reach Mr. Knudsen. At the capacity production of 600,000,000 pounds a year it took longer to get the information of the shortage to Knudsen's desk than it would to produce all the aluminum collected in the pots-and-pans collection.

Not until July 15 was there any designation of companies to produce aluminum. Negotiations were then begun with the Aluminum Company of America by the Defense Plant Corporation. The DPC in a corporation set up by the OPM, Bohn Aluminum and Brass Company and Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation were not invited to any of the conferences until early September. Later in the month of September two other companies were brought into the conferences.

Thus the OPM failed miserably to take the necessary steps to increase the production of light metals which its own experts had testified were absolutely necessary to the defense program.

Indefinite Contract

Out of all this mismanagement by the OPM came a contract which was very indefinite and contrary to good business principles.

So little information had been submitted to the DPC that it was necessary for Alcoa to explain the simplest details of the processes involved—that alumina is produced from bauxite and that aluminum is produced in turn from alumina. Alcoa was requested to draw up the terms under which Alcoa was to produce aluminum for the defense program.

The substance of the resulting contract was that the government would bear all the expense involved, but before anything could be done or other contracts written Alcoa had to concur in the proposals. The Senate investigating committee so severely criticized that contract that the DPC and Alcoa negotiated a new contract on Dec. 12, 1941.

Related Contract

Eight months after OPM discovered the shortage of aluminum, a contract is agreed upon for the production of aluminum in something near quantities needed. However, by the terms of the contract Alcoa can collect one cent a pound of alumina produced and one cent a pound of aluminum ingots produced in leased smelting plants. On a basis of annual production of 512,000,000 pounds that would amount to \$15,120,000.

The chairman of the board of Alcoa says the company never anticipated receiving this sum and insists it was not in the contract at the request of the company.

As a further instance of monopoly control of the production of aluminum the investigating committee revealed the substance of a proposed contract with Basic Magnesium, Inc.

The company proposes to lease to the government 600 acres of magnesite ore deposits. The 600 acres were claimed from public domain (department of interior) by Basic Ores. Basic Ores is a subsidiary of Basic Refractories.

Eells, president of BMI, testified that less than \$50,000 was spent in proving up claims to the 600 acres of ore deposits.

No drilling has ever been done on the land. All cost of quarrying, in the proposal of BMI, is to be paid by the government. BMI is asking the government to pay \$1 a ton royalty.

If the plant operated at capacity this would amount to \$280,000 a year. Under BMI's proposal the royalties are to be doubled if it is not permitted to operate the plant.

The committee concludes in its recent supplemental report that "There still is something seriously wrong in the light metals section of the War Production Board, successor to the old OPM section, which failed so miserably to anticipate and prepare for the greatly increased demand for these metals."

Government Foots Bill
Basic Refractories owns 55 per cent of BMI's stock. Howard

BMI PRODUCTION WILL START NEXT MONTH, BALL SAYS

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Major Ball, a veteran of the last world war holds the D. S. O. military cross, one of Britain's highest honors, and is chairman of Magnesium Electronics Ltd., the company manufacturing magnesium in England. He is vice president of Basic Magnesium, Inc.

Vegas Plant of BMI Starts Soon

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Gabbs Valley Valuation Set

TONOPAH, July 14. (Special)—Improvements owned by Basic Magnesium, Inc., in Gabbs Valley will be assessed on a valuation of \$396,611.40 for the current year, it is announced by W. H. Thomas, Nye county sheriff and assessor.

The valuation does not include the personal property owned by the workers in the defense area. A deputy assessor was in the district Thursday completing the assessment of the various other property owned by private individuals. The Basic Magnesium assessment will go on the outside tax roll, Thomas said.

CHICAGO JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

Chicago, Ill.
JUL 14 1942

\$100,000 Spent to Correct DPC Error, Senator Says

WASHINGTON, July 13.—(AP)—Senator Berkeley L. Bunker (D., Nev.) told the senate today that the Defense Plants Corporation had signed a contract to pay a New York firm \$100,000 "to provide competent management" for the operation of a mining project at Las Vegas, Nev., by Basic Magnesium, Inc.

Referring to Basic Magnesium as "the company that stands to make a profit of 4,200 per cent on an investment of less than \$50,000," Senator Bunker said that "gross mismanagement on the part of Basic Magnesium officials was established" in an investigation by the Senate defense investigating committee.

"Although Jesse Jones made a feeble and unsuccessful attempt to justify the miserable progress and delay on the part of Basic officials, yet he was willing to spend \$100,000 to correct the same," Senator Bunker declared.

OIL PAINT & DRUG REPORTER

"The market authority since 1871—Chemicals,
Dyestuffs, Drugs, Paints, Oils, Fertilizers."

New York City

JUL 13 1942

Basic Magnesium Starts Calcining

The calcining plant of the Basic Magnesium Company, Gabbs Valley, near Luning, Nev., began operations June 26, using magnesite mined in Gabbs Valley.

The calcined magnesite will be concentrated and then shipped to Las Vegas, Nev., where the metal smelting unit of Basic Magnesium's \$63,000,000 project is located.

Labor Scarcity Draws Comment Of Carpenter

Bureau Director Visits
Basic Magnesium,
Ely, Pioche

Returning from a visit to Las Vegas, Ely and Pioche, Jay A. Carpenter, director of the Nevada State Bureau of Mines, said Wednesday that what impressed him most on the trip was the extreme scarcity of labor of all kinds.

For instance, at Basic Magnesium, near Las Vegas, where the big plant is under construction, ten thousand employees are on the payroll, but still more are needed, and it is hoped finally to have twelve thousand working.

Even with the best accommodations possible all of the workers cannot be kept on the job, notwithstanding high wages, because of the high cost of living and the heat, it was said.

After the plant is completed it will still take five thousand people to keep it running to capacity.

It is planned to build a thousand houses for the force, and four hundred are already completed. Generally they contain two bedrooms, and all the modern features, including cooling fixtures on the roof. These houses rent for \$11.50 a week, including heat, hot and cold water, light and cooling system, all electrically operated.

THE MINING JOURNAL
PHOENIX ARIZ.
6/30/42

The first load of salt from Death Valley in California has been received by the Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nevada, preparatory to the start of magnesium production. The shipment consisted of 150,000 pounds of salt and trucks will continue to deliver salt until the stockpile reaches the 200,000,000-pound mark. Hauling is being done under contract by Wells, Inc., of Reno. The 64-mile power line from Millers to Gabbs Valley has been completed and is in service ahead of schedule. Walter Patnoe, Luning, is chief engineer of mining and the oxide plant.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
WESTERN MINERAL SURVEY
JULY 3, 1942

Preparations Start For Magnesium Output

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—A modern desert trucking outfit, rubber tired and powered by internal combustion engines, rolled into the Basic Magnesium plant recently bringing the first shipment of salt out of Death Valley in preparation for actual start of producing magnesium.

This shipment consisted of 150,000 pounds of salt and trucks will continue moving regularly until the total stockpile reaches the 200,000,000 pound mark.

Contract for hauling the salt is held by Wells Fargo Inc., of Reno.

The "Pine Tree" Camp



Above is pictured the gold district of Manhattan, in Nye county, taken in the early days, when everything was booming.
(From collection of A. C. Langar)

PICHOE, NEV. READING
JULY 16, 1942

LAS VEGAS, NEV. ACE
CIV. 1-220
JULY 17, 1942

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Major Ball, a veteran of the last world war holds the D. S. O. military cross, one of Britain's highest honors, and is chairman of Magnesium Electronics Ltd., the company manufacturing magnesium in England. He is vice president of Basic Magnesium, Inc.

OBSERVATIONS

By CHARLES P. SQUIRES

THIS CHANGING CITY

Like a strange panorama of dreams, Las Vegas has moved and swirled and changed its shape before our eyes during the past twelve months until we see almost a strange place.

Our first great thrill of anticipation came with the word, a little more than a year ago, that a great school of air gunnery would be established at McCarran Field, just north of Vegas. We were quite impatient for a time at the seeming slowness with which that enterprise developed and some of our hard-headed, pessimistic citizens, just to show their superior business judgment, derided the idea as "bunk" and smiled in a pitying way at those of us who had faith in it.

What a panorama of change that enterprise has wrought where once was only an area of sand and weeds and brush. There a complete city accommodating four thousand souls was built in the course of three or four months. Great runways on the airport were graded and paved. Water supply, light system, telephones and sewer system were created where before had been nothing.

Now we find that the picture again is changing and that the great work is under way of doubling the size of that city and its population. In itself quite a thrilling act in the drama of development.

A year ago now we heard faint echoes of another story of a magnesium industry which might be established near Las Vegas. It seemed incredible that such an enterprise would reach any considerable proportions. Yet now we contemplate a plant which in its entirety will represent the expenditure of something less than one hundred million dollars.

It started slowly, with only the shifting of vast quantities of dirt here and there over the desert and the digging of many great excavations which did not make much of a show.

Gail Dyer praises English for ability "to take it"—on his return from England

Gail M. Dyer, a former Alamosa who has been in England for the past six months studying production methods of magnesium for Basic Magnesium Inc., in Las Vegas, Nev., spent Monday in Alamosa visiting friends and in Sanford with his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Max Dyer.

Dyer said he could not compliment the English people highly enough for their courageous stand in the war and for their uncomplaining acceptance of all rationing and restrictions placed upon them.

"It was surely good to get to a place where you could eat what you want," Dyer said yesterday in an interview with an Alamosa Daily Courier reporter. "That is something the American people should appreciate. For instance in January and February the rations were one egg per person per month. When spring came and the hens began to lay better the ration was increased to four eggs per person per month. The meat ration allows each person one shilling, approximately 20 cents, worth of meat per person per week. Workmen have

special rations which gives them a little more and they can get by—but it's tough.

"When one lives at a hotel for a period of time he must turn his ration cards over to the hotel. That is why a person of means, who is able to eat out often and in various places fares better than those who have to eat at home all the time.

"In the hotels, I noticed, the waiters dressed in long tailed coats do a lot of bustling around but they do not seem to get much food delivered to the table."

"The people of England have been putting up for two years with conditions we have not begun to have, but they are not complaining—the only thing is to win the war, and we will win!" Dyer said.

When asked about the condition of many parts of England which had suffered bombing attacks, Dyer said that the people had done much in clearing the bombed areas and Coventry, which he visited, is already rebuilding and many temporary dwellings have been erected.

"I admire the way the English people can take it. One who has been in England awhile cannot help but notice this attitude. The

English people are well organized for their home defense work and everyone knows just what his or her duty is."

Dyer was born and reared in Alamosa. He was graduated from Alamosa high school in 1932 and from Utah university in 1936 with a bachelor of science degree in metallurgy engineering. He holds a rank of first lieutenant in the U. S. army reserve and does not know when he will be called into active duty.

He left Alamosa Tuesday for Salt Lake City, Utah to visit his father, J. W. Dyer of Sanford, who is spending some time there, before continuing on to his work in Las Vegas, Nev. Mrs. Gail Dyer had visited in Sanford with her sister, Mrs. Max Dyer, for a part of the time her husband was in England. She had recently been visiting in Salt Lake City, Utah, but joined her husband for his visit here and will accompany him back to Utah and Nevada.

Las Vegas Review Journal
June 20 1942

MAGNESIUM PLANT WAR BOND TOTAL INCREASES WEEKLY

Workmen at the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant, including those of the sub-contractors, are contributing approximately 26 per cent of the state's quota of war bonds, it was revealed today by figures compiled by officials at the plant.

At the present time, the BMI and McNeil employes are contributing approximately \$58,500 per week from their pay checks to purchase bonds, and the total is more than double the quota for Clark county, according to figures released.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., has been qualified as an issuing agency for the United States treasury department. This was done on June 3 and the company was the first to qualify as a direct issuing agency in the state.

T. W. Harris, assistant treasurer of BMI, is the issuing officer and he reports that during the first week 240 bonds were issued, all on payroll allotments. The second week more than 400 were issued on the payroll allotment.

In addition, Harris reports, more than \$15,000 worth of bonds were purchased by cash by employes through the postoffice and banks, prior to the opening of the office at BMI.

The McNeil company work is in charge of E. H. Davis, chief accounting officer, and he reports that payroll deductions are going into effect this week. Approximately 5,500 cards are on hand authorizing the deductions and it is estimated that the initial amount of payroll deductions will approximate \$50,000 the first week with the amount increasing each week.

In the BMI organization there are 25 departments which are 100 per cent in deductions of 10 per cent of each week's wages for war bonds, while the over-all average is about 85 per cent. That percentage is expected to increase, weekly, until near-perfection is obtained.

The police department, with 211 employes, was the largest group to reach the 100 per cent mark.

Las Vegas Age
July 24, 1942

Armoured Battalion Here on Test March

Brigadier General Amos Thomas, commanding general of the Southern Defense Area combat zone, with headquarters at Victorville, accompanied by Major L. B. C. Jones, staff officer from the Ninth Service Command, is in Las Vegas for the purpose of inspecting a completely motorized provisional combat battalion force of one thousand men who are engaged in a practice forced march.

The organization left Camp Young, near Indio, California, late last night and are expected to arrive in the vicinity of Camp Sibert this morning.

This is the first time on the Pacific slope and perhaps in all America, that this sort of an outfit has been organized and engaged in maneuvers.

This organization has been engaged in intensive training under desert conditions for several months as part of the new armored forces of the United States army. It is one hundred per cent motorized and carries with it complete equipment and supplies so that it is entirely self-sustaining while on the march and in bivouac. Food, water, radio and live ammunition are part of the equipment.

Furthermore, the outfit is armed with automatic rifles, machine guns and one-pounders, all with live ammunition, ready for combat at a moment's notice. Contrary to the usual custom, this outfit carries no bank ammunition whatever.

The organization requires an area of forty acres for camping and while here will be located near camp Sibert, Boulder City. They are coming by way of Needles and Searchlight.

The camp may be open to visitors today and tomorrow.

The organization is under command of Lt. General Horan. While here the officers and some of the men will be given the opportunity of visiting Basic Magnesium and seeing America's Number One Defense project.

Las Vegas Review Journal
June 20 1942

BMI Workers To Join Rubber Drive

All employees of Basic Magnesium, Inc., were urged today to join in the drive for salvage rubber by Howard C. Mann, project manager.

"The acute shortage of rubber seriously threatens our national defense," Mann said in a bulletin to all B. M. I. workers. "The United States government has requested that a determined effort be made to salvage all rubber immediately.

"Employees can assist national defense materially if they will gather up and turn in to any oil station in Clark county such salvage rubber as may come to hand."

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Enthralling Story Told To Rotarians

At Thursday's meeting of Las Vegas Rotary Club, one of the most enthralling recitals of the origin and rise of a great industry was told, earnestly, quietly and simply, by Major C. J. P. Ball, late of the British army and now chairman of Magnesium Elektron, of England, also vice-president of Basic Magnesium Inc.

The simple story of facts without oratorical flourish or undue emphasis, gave a brief outline of the manner in which this officer, then serving in the British artillery in World War I, in 1917, investigated quietly the cause of terrible destruction wrought by some new projectiles fired by the enemy. In the course of that investigation he picked up a pencil-like piece of whitish metal, very light, which came from one of the new instantaneous fuses for heavy shells. Not knowing what it was, he nevertheless kept it as a souvenir.

Later, on duty in the conquered Rhineland industrial district of Germany, he was struck with the significance of a peculiar white metal produced there and on comparison with his battlefield souvenir, found them to be the same—magnesium, a metal 40 per cent lighter than aluminum, with strange properties.

In 1923 Major Ball retired from the army, but still pursuing his inquiries went back to Germany and found and secured the processes of magnesium production. Attempting to establish the industry in England he met with many rebuffs, discouragements and delays, but by 1929 the enterprise began to move slowly and by 1938 after successive increases, the plant was producing 90 per cent of the magnesium of the British Empire.

In 1940, Maj. Ball had a cablegram from Howard Eells, suggesting the establishment of magnesium plants in the United States. He would have preferred to start the enterprise in Canada, but in 1941 in response to a message from the United States government, he came over and with Mr. Eells, inspected the opportunities for producing magnesium in Nevada. He found the magnesite at Gabbs, salt in Death Valley and ample power at Boulder Dam.

Two technicians came from England, bringing plans and details for a great plant. Their ship was torpedoed enroute and nearly all the plans lost, but fortunately the technicians escaped with their lives.

Out of these incidents arose the great enterprise now under construction near Las Vegas. The future of Southern Nevada will flourish due to the vision and enterprise of Howard Eells.

The speaker declared that the future of the world lies in the hands of those who control the air and that tremendous responsibility and a great opportunity lies in America, because America alone can produce the airplanes to blacken the skies over Germany and over Japan.

The speaker expressed the belief that the great Las Vegas project can produce metal in quality and price comparable with other producers in the U. S.

Much more was said by the speaker "off the record." It is sufficient to say that his address was one of the most interesting, instructive and encouraging it has ever been the privilege of Rotarians to hear.

Other guests were Howard Mann and Guensey Frazer.

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THIS CHANGING CITY

Like a strange panorama of dreams, Las Vegas has moved and swisted and changed its shape before our eyes during the past twelve months until we see almost a strange place.



Our first great thrill of anticipation came with the word, a little more than a year ago, that a great school of air gunnery would be established at McCarran Field, just north of Vegas. We were quite impatient for a time at the seeming slowness with which that enterprise developed and some of our hard-headed, pessimistic citizens, just to show their superior business judgment, derided the idea as "bunk" and smiled in a pitying way at those of us who had faith in it.

What a panorama of change that enterprise has wrought where once was only an area of sand and weeds and brush. There a complete city accomodating four thousand souls was built in the course of three or four months. Great runways on the airport were graded and paved. Water supply, light system, telephones and sewer system were created where before had been nothing.

Now we find that the picture again is changing and that the great work is under way of doubling the size of that city and its population. In itself quite a thrilling act in the drama of development.

A year ago now we heard faint echoes of another story of a magnesium industry which might be established near Las Vegas. It seemed incredible that such an enterprise would reach any considerable proportions. Yet now we contemplate a plant which in its entirety will represent the expenditure of something less than one hundred million dollars.

It started slowly, with only the shifting of vast quantities of dirt here and there over the desert and the digging of many great excavations which did not make much of a show.

Soon, however, great structures began to cover many acres of the site. Gigantic steel frameworks and walls of concrete began to rear themselves out of the nothingness of the wastelands, until today we have one of the most extensive and complicated manufacturing enterprises of its kind in the country, sprawling its greatness over a site a mile wide and two miles long in a vast succession of structures, storehouses, shops and stock piles, so many and so great as to tax our credulity even as we view them.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., in the face of untold obstacles, facing the destructive criticism of jealous competitors and political enemies, has gone forward with the one steadfast purpose of preparing to produce the indispensable magnesium metal which America must have to win the war.

Those who have had the opportunity to observe the progress of this great work are amazed by the efficiency and speed with which its loyal officials and workers have advanced the work day after day, regardless of the flying dust, the heat and unpleasant conditions of summer in the open desert. It is, to me, one of the miracles of modern science and enterprise.

U. P. Rail Heads To Visit Defense Plant Here Today

Conferences With BMI Officials Are Set By Group

Inspection of railroad properties and conferences with Basic Magnesium, Inc., and McNeil officials will occupy the attention of ranking officials of the Union Pacific railroad company today and tomorrow after their arrival here from Salt Lake City.

Heading the official party of railroad men will be Wm. M. Jeffers, president of the company, who joined the others in Ogden after a meeting in San Francisco.

Go To Plant

Immediately after arriving in the city at 4 o'clock this afternoon, the officials were scheduled to go to the plant for an official tour of inspection and later, possibly tomorrow, will confer with the officials.

It was pointed out that the Union Pacific railroad has made service to the military and naval operations and defense plants its main objectives and such conferences, planned for this evening, are expected to give the key as to how this best can be done.

With Jeffers will be the following: F. W. Charske, chairman of the company's executive committee; W. Dale Clark, director; George F. Ashby, vice president and assistant to the president; E. J. Connors, vice president in charge of operations; F. W. Robinson, vice president in charge of traffic; O. Jabelmann, vice president in charge research and me-

McNeil Constructor
July 17 1942

MAGNESIUM EXHIBIT INCLUDES PARTS OF PLANTS SHOT DOWN

McNeil employees are invited to inspect an interesting exhibit of magnesium now on display in the lobby of the B. M. I. administration building. Including parts of German planes shot down in England and a number of airplane parts used on the ships of Allied nations, the exhibit was brought to Basic from England by D. W. Stewart, their assistant project manager of operations, who returned home on the Atlantic Clipper over a route which touched four continents.

Particularly interesting are the two samples of magnesium in rolled sheets from the fuselage of a German plane shot down over England. It is riddled with bullet holes as is a line of sealed tubing from a German plane. These pieces were salvaged from planes shot down in England and brought to Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., the English plant on which this one is being modeled.

The exhibit also includes several magnesium forgings, castings and machined parts as used on joint English and American fighters and bombers. In order that the field men may have an opportunity to see the exhibit, plans are being made to mount it on a truck and exhibit it at various canteen locations during the lunch hour.

Raab Says That English Feel U.S. Adds to Winning Chances

"The English feel that we can win the war—if we send over enough Americans."

That was the statement of Hilary Raab, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Raab of this city, who returned to the United

States on June 7 after spending six months in England on a special assignment for Basic Magnesium, Inc. of Las Vegas, Nev.

Raab was one of 16 metallurgical engineers sent by the firm to England to study a new process for making magnesium. The group made the trip to England by troop convoy and returned in a freight convoy. The trips to and from England were described as "quiet and uneventful."

NOT READY

"The British are hollering for a second front," Raab said in an

interview yesterday. "The government doesn't feel that England is prepared to strike with land forces—they don't want another Dunkirk.

"I imagine that approximately 50 per cent of England's production is now going to Russia," he said.

"England is not pro-Russian," he declared. "They feel that Russia entered the war for her own protection, not for England's, but they feel that Russia's entrance into the war saved England."

"England feels that the allies will win the war but they feel that it will be a long fight," the young man said. "They are more certain of the allied chances for victory with America in the conflict."

BOMBS ACCURATE

The engineers, who resided in Lancashire county, visited Liverpool, Manchester, Coventry and Birmingham during their stay in England. "We saw quite a bit of damage which had been done by the German attacks," the engineer said. "It is surprising how accurate the bombings were. In what destruction we saw, the Germans had aimed at disrupting communications and war industries and they didn't miss. The English said it was 'hell while it lasted' but they came through with a smile and the attitude, 'we're tough and we can take it.'"

VISIT BRIEFLY

Raab and his wife, whom he joined at Hamilton, Ohio, arrived here Sunday to visit the young man's parents. Raab plans to continue to Las Vegas in the next day or two.

"The English papers and news broadcasts kept us posted on what was happening over here," he stated. "Although the news stories were brief, lacking details because of the paper shortage, they were accurate."

Raab spoke of the "class distinction" in England and asserted, "the majority of the workmen with whom we talked want to come to the United States some day—our Democratic way of living appeals to them. England and America are the English speaking nations," he said, "but we are two different peoples—they are definitely Continental. They have the Continental way of doing things. They haven't the initiative for high speed production that Americans have."

The engineer, who spent three years in South America before he returned here to take the post with the magnesium firm, said, "South America is just 20 years behind us, England is 50.

He explained this statement with the assertion that the engineers found it extremely difficult to obtain a room with bath in a first class hotel, and ice for drinking water "simply wasn't." The party searched for some time before they located a suite of rooms which were heated by a central heating system. "The Englishman depends on his open fireplace for heat and the open fireplace doesn't throw heat far enough," he said.

STAY AT HOMES

"We seldom found an Englishman who had traveled extensively out of his own county. They are great people to stay at home. They live in the same house, generation after generation."

During their stay in England the engineers were entertained "royally" by the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Manchester at the Town Hall which serves as the office building for the city government and as the mayor's mansion.

How does it feel to be back home?

"England was okay, but say it's great to be back in God's country!"

Protest Is Lodged On Big Salt Trucks

A protest regarding the parking of the salt trucks, running from Gabbs valley to the magnesium plant here, in the vicinity of Ninth and Stewart was lodged with the city commission last night. A delegation of residents from the area appeared before the board to enter the protest.

Al Moser, spokesman for the group, reported that the trucks were running in the area day and night, that the noise was so terrific as to preclude sleep at night, and that the heavy trucks were tearing up the streets.

City Attorney Paul Ralli was ordered to contact the officials of the trucking company to determine if the trucks could not be moved elsewhere.

The Answers to Four Questions

The administration's public opinion bureau, charged with the job of keeping in close touch with what the American people are thinking about this war and problems attendant thereto, has asked its field men to get answers to four questions, apparently regarded as of the utmost importance in civilian opinion.

These questions were submitted to us last week and we attempted to provide the answer as we felt local public sentiment would react to each.

Because the questions come from Washington, because of the importance Washington seems to attach to their state of the public mind in regard to each, we'll give our analysis of each as we passed it on to the state director who gave them to us.

They follow:

Question 1.

What has happened to local opinion about the probable duration of the war since the British retreat in North Africa? Do the people think the war will last longer than they thought before the retreat and how much longer?

Answer:

People here have never had any very concrete idea as to the probable duration of the war. They have been rather philosophical about the question. The average individual feels we're in the war to the finish and MUST win no matter how long it takes. For the vast majority, day to day events so far haven't been analyzed in the light of prolonging or shortening the war. The short end folks, and there are a few, who have been predicting the conflict would be over this summer aren't talking that way any more. In fact they're very silent on the subject. The African debacle has been responsible for that.

Question 2.

Does local opinion consider workers to be doing all they can right now to win the war?

Answer:

Our interpretation of that question is that it applies to the toilers of the nation engaged in war industries. The answer to that in this area is that spirit is high, workers are doing their level best in most instances, as will be demonstrated when magnesium starts rolling out of the local plant on schedule. Construction workers will make that possible. The record of workmen in the purchase of war bonds is likewise excellent — probably outshining that of some engaged in other pursuits—business men, professional men, and public men. The record of war industries the land over is the outstanding miracle of the age.

Question 3.

If a certain plant has a 40 hour week what does that mean to most local people? Does it mean that workers can't work more than 40 hours or that they must be paid overtime if they work more than 40 hours a week?

Answer:

This question apparently seeks to determine the basis for the constant clamor for amendment of the wage hour act to lengthen the work week. The government is seemingly trying to find out whether those who demand this amendment are attempting to wipe out overtime pay over the 40 hour mark each week, or are criticizing under the impression that no one can work more than 40 hours a week and that this restriction is impeding production and therefore the all-out war effort. There is a good deal of misunderstanding about this point everywhere. Here, where some 10,000 men are working sixty hours a week, it is pretty definitely understood that the 40 hour provision merely sets that as a basis for pay—that while working sixty hours a week at the plant, the men are paid for seventy—a time and a half for the extra twenty.

Question 4.

How would local people feel if the government took people out of their jobs and required them to work in defense plants?

Answer:

People would first have to be convinced of the necessity of such a program. This can ONLY be done by giving the public all the details of reversals as well as victories. Too much soft soap—too much coddling — too much letting us down easy when we've suffered reverses—is responsible for the business-as-usual attitude wherever it exists—for the public's failure to respond to appeals for sacrifice. If they're convinced it's necessary the American people will follow any program.

Secondly, they must KNOW from the method used that everyone will be treated alike. This means a selective service program for industry similar to the selective service program to build up the war machine. Let men be called in accordance with their ability, number of dependents AND the necessity of their services to the continuance of their business—the necessity of their business to the war effort. If this is fairly and impartially done, there will be criticism only from the bellyachers who want George to win the war for them, make the sacrifices, preserve their business and protect their home, to the end that they can go on as usual without being discommoded in any manner whatsoever.

All loyal Americans are waiting only for their government to tell them where they fit best in the war picture—where their services will be most valuable, will contribute MOST to winning the struggle. This involves a master plan for the man-power of the nation. If that is drafted, and each individual catalogued, as nearly as possible, as to the niche HE should occupy, everyone, except the synthetic patriots will be glad to answer the call.

Transfer of work must NOT be a voluntary matter, for that places a premium on chiseling, slack-erism, selfishness. It should be mandatory after the fashion of military service.

An Important Discovery

When Howard Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., told a group of local business men last January, that Las Vegas is destined to become the Pittsburgh of the light metal industry, those present hailed the statement with enthusiasm, but went away asking themselves how that could come about, aluminum being king in that field and there being no aluminum in this area.

Eells was speaking of magnesium, the metal never before produced in the United States in any quantities which his company was, as agent for Defense Plants Corporation, preparing to manufacture in this area.

Later, when glowing accounts of the possibilities of magnesium were expounded—when Basic engineers predicted it would one day be the primary metal used in building airplanes, automobiles, railroad cars and such—many still were pleased at the prospect, but doubtful of the practicability because it had never been done before—appeared to the layman to be largely in the experimental stage.

The fact that British manufacturers were using a great deal of the metal in the construction of war planes, and declared they would use the metal exclusively if there were enough, sounded good, but still a long way off.

The future of the magnesium industry in this area, it was conceded, depended to a large degree on the future of the metal itself in the American industrial scheme after the war. There was no question about its utility for the duration—but if the prediction of the Basic engineers came true, there could be no question then about the continued operation of the plant as the backbone of a new industry destined to revolutionize manufacture of many basic products in the metal field.

It won't be long now until B. M. I.'s Las Vegas plant starts producing the new metal in quantity. And as this big moment nears, it is significant that interest in magnesium is quickening in several fields.

Typical of this is the comment in Time Magazine of July 6, in the section headed "Science" which makes out a most optimistic case for magnesium as a basic material in airplane manufacture.

Announcing a "sensational advance in industrial technique last week" which "immediately opened the way for major advances in the aviation industry" Time held that the successful arc-welding of magnesium would make the metal available for widely diversified uses in the field of aviation in the future, where it couldn't be used before.

First result pointed to was "further development of the so-called flying wing—a weird, batlike plane with no tail, no fuselage and an extraordinary efficiency." This plane, being developed by Northrop, is expected to prove one of the real sensations of the war, once produced in quantity.

Other results predicted by Time include:

"Magnesium— one-third lighter than aluminum — can now become a primary aeronautical material, rivaling aluminum and competing with stainless steel, instead of remaining a secondary metal used only in engine parts, wheels and accessories.

"Construction of planes, especially their wings, can be much simplified and cheapened.

"Magnesium arc-welding—and perhaps the flying wing—will remain monopolies of the U. S. and its allies, since arc-welding magnesium requires helium, which is found in useful quantities only in the U. S."

Until last week, the magazine points out, arc-welding magnesium was almost as impossible as welding paper and for the same reason: this most inflammable metal (exposed magnesium parts of planes are coated with a secret, fire-resisting paint) would ignite from the heat of the welder's electric arc just as it does in magnesium incendiary bombs.

But after two years of research, engineers of Northrop Aircraft, Inc., discovered that magnesium can safely be arc-welded if the hot metal is blanketed with helium to exclude atmospheric oxygen. The helium also cools the molten metal, acting as a metal-cleaning flux.

The advantage of welded magnesium on the wing surfaces of planes is that it can be used in thicker sheets than steel and aluminum. The increased thickness lessens surface vibration which, in time, will weaken the wing, and simplifies the maze of ribs and spars now built into wings to stiffen them, Time points out.

These factors are major steps in development of the flying wing, for this bodiless plane must have clear wing interiors to make room for passengers, cargo, bombs, etc.

Northrop built a two-motored flying wing with a 38-foot span, flew it so successfully last fall that the U. S. Army moved the queer plane out of sight for further development. Some engineers estimate that this plane, lacking in tail, has 40 per cent less head resistance than the conventional plane, with every square inch of its body contributing to its lift. Hence, designers believe the flying wing can get either the same speed with half the horsepower of a normal plane or 25-30 per cent more speed with the same horsepower.

Considering this analysis, it can be said that the perfection of the magnesium welding process insures the permanency of Basic's Las Vegas plant and gives reasonable assurance that Eells' prediction will come true.

The welding discovery is as important to southern Nevada in one way, as it is to the aviation industry and the war effort in another.

OCT 12 1942

Anaconda Magnesium

Young (36) Senator Berkeley Lloyd Bunker of Nevada is a serious Mormon ex-Bishop who looks like Tyrone Power and is more often seen than heard on the floor of the Senate. Since he took the late silver Senator Key Pittman's place two years ago, he has made the headlines on only one subject: Nevada's huge Government-financed magnesium plant, world's largest (rated capacity: 112,000,000 lb. a year, 3½ times U.S. output last year), which went into production last month.

First time Senator Bunker jumped into the news with magnesium (TIME, April 20) he had a scandal story that sizzled even long-untouchable Jesse Jones: he charged that Basic Magnesium Inc., which had contracted to build and run the plant for the Government's Defense Plants Corp., had bargained so well with Banker Jones that it stood to make a 4,280% profit on its investment. Jesse harrumphed about "statements unworthy of a U.S. Senator . . . false and misleading," and the public forgot. In any case, the exorbitancy of the fees Jesse allowed Basic Magnesium Inc. depended largely on whether you figured it as a percentage of what the new operation was costing the Government (then estimated at \$70,000,000) or on Bunker's estimate of B.M.'s own original investment (\$50,000).

But last week Berkeley Bunker came up with some news that really put B.M. into the big time. He said he had heard "reliably" that huge Anaconda Copper Co. was buying B.M. "lock, stock and barrel" for \$75,000,000, that its former owners were getting \$1,000,000 from Defense Plants Corp. on the deal, although the Government's bill for building the plant would now run over \$100,000,000 rather than \$70,000,000. Even so, said Senator Bunker darkly, "the Government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing."

As the week wore on Berkeley Bunker's big news was surrounded with hunks of silence: B.M.'s President Howard P. Eells Jr. said no one could talk but Anaconda; Anaconda said it had nothing to say; Jesse Jones did not even say that much. But if Senator Bunker's information was right (and at week's end no one had yet denied it) it was important: for the first time one of the great old-line metal producers was getting into light metal production in a big way.

S. F. CALIF. PACIFIC FRICTION
OCT. 1942

Basic Magnesium

The world's largest magnesium plant, with a rated capacity of approximately three and one-half times the total U. S. output in 1941, is now in production, it was announced recently. It is the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nev. Construction of the huge enterprise was financed through the Defense Plant Corp.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., SO. CALIF. BUSINESS, Cir. 8,200
OCTOBER 26, 1942

Basic Magnesium Chief Will Address Chamber Group

Members of the Chamber's Mining Committee today (October 26) will be given the complete story of the greatest industrial venture in the American southwest—the giant undertaking of Basic Magnesium, Inc. near Las Vegas, Nev.

The regular monthly meeting of the committee will be held a day ahead of schedule in order to hear Basic Magnesium's story from Major C. J. P. Ball, vice-president of the company and president of Magnesium Electron, Ltd., of England.

Major Ball will present a technical discussion of magnesium and its alloys and then describe production processes used in the company's plant, the world's greatest single source of magnesium metal. He will give a résumé of all activities from the breaking of ground on September 16, 1941, to the initial production of magnesium ingots on August 31, 1942.

For reservations: PR-3431, Sta. 224

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLA

Without benefit of any formal announcement, officials of Anaconda Copper Company are moving in at Basic to take over operation of the giant magnesium plant. There never has been anything official released on the transaction, no statement from anyone in government or otherwise, confirming the purchase by Anaconda, of the Eells' interest (55 per cent) in B. M. I. There seems no doubt at all that this has occurred, and that the great western outfit is in the saddle.

What happens next is anybody's guess. Whether there will be complete reorganization of the operating forces, or the present group will be merely streamlined to correspond with Anaconda's ideas of how the plant should be run, remains to be seen. Such information would be contained in the formal announcement which, for some reason, has not yet been made, though scheduled for at least two different dates in the recent past.

One thing becomes more certain every day—that the government is counting HEAVILY on production from the Las Vegas magnesium plant and doesn't propose to let anything interfere. Anaconda is probably the best equipped concern in the country for the job assigned here.

As management changes hands, Clark county cannot forget Howard Eells, Jr. His was the idea that brought Basic Magnesium into being. It was his foresight and vision that brought material, process and government together. He was responsible for the choice of Las Vegas as the site for the plant.

His was the position of an inventor who perfects a much needed something—or other which opens up an entirely new field of industry and then through force of circumstances finds it necessary to sell his invention to a large manufacturer in order to get into production. But for the idea, there would be no production—no new industry created.

In this instance, Eells had the idea, the determination and bulldog tenacity to fight the thing through the earlier stages of organization, and then on into Washington where he sold it to the War Department and Defense Plants Corporation. It took a man of his caliber to get the idea accepted and on the way to reality.

It was Eells also who selected McNeil Construction Company to build the plant, and the superb record this western concern has made will go down as one of the many miracles American construction genius has performed

in the war effort.

Eells himself realized that the magnitude of the operation called for a larger and more experienced concern than his. He admitted that in so many words and asked Anaconda in. His choice again was the best the is, for Anaconda's record over half century or more of operation in this western country is one of getting the job done WEI wherever they have been.

Someday, perhaps not until the war is over, the whole story of Basic Magnesium will be written for all to read. It will detail the events from the birth of the idea in Howard Eells' fertile brain on through the important role the plant played in winning the greatest struggle the world has ever known. There is a more dramatic story in all the long history of American industry.

And what of the rumors that Henry Kaiser's cargo plane plan will be built on the shores of Lake Mead? Nothing authentic. Nothing more than rumor. Kaiser was quoted in one of the Los Angeles papers as stating several sites were under consideration. He specifically mentioned one, Lake Mead which would seem to indicate that was the one up permost in his mind. Subsequent interviews failed to elicit any thing further.

Rumor has had it that the plant probably would be built along the lake near Overton, where the whole vast sweep of the Virgin Basin would be available for trial. There are many advantages there. The site would be on an already established railroad line. It would be close to power. Plenty of government land available. Materials close at hand. Large body of water unused by any other craft.

The location for the new plant probably won't be decided for some little time. The problem of working out a design for the flying freight cars will require at least six months. We may wake up some morning to find construction under way. That's how things move in war time.

Whether the Kaiser plant comes here or not, you can write this down—development of this area will NOT cease with the magnesium plant. There will be other industries here—many of them. One to keep your eye on is the refinery we've long talked about as part of the lead-zinc development involving the mines in Lincoln County. International Smelting and Refining which is carrying on that development is a subsidiary of Anaconda Copper.

over 50 years the leading mining newspaper of the nation. Published every Saturday.

1829 Champa St., Denver, Colorado

OCT 8 1942

BASIC MAGNESIUM CONVEYOR SYSTEM SPEEDS UP OUTPUT

Movement of Mineral Is Economical Process at Nevada Plant.

Las Vegas, Nev.—With the beginning of production of magnesium metals at the huge Clark county plant, the weekly mimeographed publication of Basic Magnesium Inc., titled "The Big Job," gave some interesting facts concerning the transport of the calcined magnesite from the source of the raw material to the electrolytic cells from which is poured the vital lightweight war metal. The company's news report says:

The whole storage system at BMI closely tied in with the preparation units and all linked together by a smooth flowing system of conveyancing, is just another of those marvels that send visitors away talking to themselves.

Fine Powders
Raw materials in this process are largely fine powders, difficult to handle and often moved with great loss. That will not be true here.

Take magnesium oxide for example. It's fine as flour when ready to ship. Specially designed airtight trailers, with air pressure intake on top and outlet valves at the bottom, will haul this material either to the plant or to cars.

Here at the plant, facilities are provided for unloading either from trailers or from cars. In unloading a trailer a stocking will be attached to the bottom valves and the oxide pulled by suction thru air lines direct to the big silos. These air lines will be motivated by a 60 hp. motor.

Unloading Big Job
Unloading cars is something else and here is where housewives around these embattled parts give a gasp. It is done with vacuum cleaners.

Great big vacuum cleaners, four of them, each operated by a 40 hp. motor. Each one of these giant house cleaners (or powder unloaders) can suck up 30 tons an hour.

A car arrives from the mine. In go a couple of the "house cleaners." The boys don't even have to push or steer them. There's a little motor on each wheel. Touch one button and she turns right; touch the other and she turns left.

With only one finger effort by the operator, she can be made to spin on a dime. Well, in they go. The motors start. Into the main air line, with a capacity of 60 tons an hour, flows the magnesium oxide, headed for the silos. Two of these big vacuum cleaners can empty a whole car and move its load into storage in less than an hour. Nix, ladies. You can't borrow these vacuum cleaners after a sandstorm! You'd lose your rugs and furniture.

California's New War Industries Expected to Continue in Peace

By H. F. BURMESTER.

CALIFORNIA is participating in a number of new major industries resulting from the war emergency which are expected to continue large scale operations after the conflict is ended. Production of rubber is one; magnesium another. Steel, for the first time in the state's history, will be established as an integrated process from mine to plates.

California will contribute rubber from two sources, petroleum and guayule. Establishment of plants to create from petroleum the basic material required for one type of synthetic rubber already has been authorized by the federal government. Long Beach is scheduled to figure quite prominently in this endeavor.

The federal government already has started construction of

huge guayule nurseries at Ocean-side and Indio, following experiments at Salinas. Next year guayule will be grown in a dozen other sections of Southern California and plans for the erection of mills to extract rubber from the shrub already are said to have Congressional approval. A program calling for the expenditure of \$130,000,000 has been recommended by the Department of Agriculture.

Over at Fontana the new steel plant of Henry Kaiser, "miracle shipbuilder," is nearing completion. Reports from Washington in the past week indicate that Reconstruction Finance Corporation will advance \$25,000,000 to Kaiser to finance an expansion to the original plant. Treatment of Southern California iron ore is contemplated. The steel produced will be used in shipbuilding operations here and at other Pacific Coast points. Thus California will get its first real steel plant where metal from the mines will be translated into plates for cargo ships and to other uses.

Up at Los Gatos and at near-by Las Vegas, Nev., huge plants are

nearing completion which will produce all-important magnesium from ore mined in Nevada. Leading industrial engineers predict a much broader use of magnesium following the war than the country has ever known. Dow Chemical, which operates a chemical plant at Seal Beach, is now extracting magnesium from ocean water at Gulf coast plants.

Synthetic rubber alone is pictured now as a "new million-ton industry for America and a new 600,000-acre farm crop—waiting for our boys when they come back." California, because of the natural resources involved, is destined to become one of the leading participants in this new industry.

RENO NEWS-GAZETTE
OCTOBER 20, 1942

Jay A. Carpenter Monday Club Speaker

Mrs. A. E. Hill and Mrs. Emmett D. Boyle were hostesses yesterday to members of the Monday club at the Maple street home of Mrs. Hill. A buffet luncheon was served at one o'clock from a table graced with autumn flowers and autumn fruits in attractive combination.

Following a brief business meeting conducted by Mrs. John W. Hall, Jay A. Carpenter, head of the state bureau of mines and also head of the Mackay School of Mines at the University of Nevada, spoke on "Nevada Magnesium." He traced the history of this metal from its original discovery in Nevada up to the present time and gave a detailed description of Basic Magnesium Inc., which is located between Las Vegas and Boulder City where there is a large raw deposit and where cheap electrical power is available.

Guests for the afternoon were Mesdames Eugene Allen Noble and Mrs. L. D. Graham.

Members of the Monday club include Mesdames Brewster Adams, Emmett D. Boyle, George S. Brown, Jay A. Carpenter, Walter E. Clark, Lester P. Curtis, H. P. Dayton, John A. Fulton, Prince A. Hawkins, Robert Z. Hawkins, Leon W. Hartman, A. E. Hill, A. L. Higginbotham, Frank E. Humphrey, S. K. Morrison, Lora Knight, T. L. Oddie, Frank Peterson, Robert M. Price, J. LaRue Robinson, J. G. Scragham, Forest Lovelock and Warren V. Richardson.

POMONA, CALIF., PROGRESS-BULLETIN, Cir. 7,128
OCTOBER 20, 1942

Basic Magnesium, Inc., is building at Las Vegas what it is believed, will be the largest magnesium producing works in the United States. One unit is already in operation. When completed the plant will have capacity to turn out 112,000,000 pounds of this strategic light war metal a year.

That's a lot of magnesium. Ten years ago total production of magnesium in the United States was less than one million pounds annually.

Alameda, Cal., Times-Star
OCTOBER 24, 1942

government edict.

NEW YORK—Purchase of the controlling stock interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., by the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. was made at the request of the United States government and private American and British interests connected with the enterprise, Cornelius F. Kelly, Anaconda's board chairman, said yesterday.

PORTLAND, ORE., JOURNAL OF COMMERCE
OCT. 28 1942

Anaconda Acquires Control of Magnesium Plant at Las Vegas

(D. J. of C.—Oct. 28, 1942)
Washington, Oct. 27. (UP)—Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced today that Anaconda Copper Mining Co. had acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators and builders of what is scheduled to be the world's largest magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jones said that Anaconda had purchased 52½ per cent stock interest in BMI from Howard P. Eells, Jr., and Associates, of Cleveland, for \$75,000.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., is operating and will complete the construction of the magnesium plant, which is owned by Defense Plant Corp. The first unit of the plant produced magnesium on Aug. 31, 1942. Additional units have been brought in since that time, and it is estimated the entire plant will be completed by April 16, 1943.

MODERN INDUSTRY

"For All Management Men Concerned With Making & Marketing Better Products At Lower Cost."
New York City

OCT 10 1942

low Run, Mich., bringing the National Housing Agency program for the locality to 13,000 dwelling units.

Chemicals, Metals

Five important new magnesium plants have recently gone into production, including the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant in Nevada whose rated capacity is three-and-one-half times total U. S. magnesium production in

1941. Three of the other four plants use a new ferro-silicon process developed within the past year. Four more plants are under construction. . . . A \$3-million calcium carbide plant will be constructed and operated at Ashtabula, Ohio, by National Carbide Co.

An Important Discovery

When Howard Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., told a group of local business men last January, that Las Vegas is destined to become the Pittsburgh of the light metal industry, those present hailed the statement with enthusiasm, but went away asking themselves how that could come about, aluminum being king in that field and there being no aluminum in this area.

Eells was speaking of magnesium, the metal never before produced in the United States in any quantities which his company was, as agent for Defense Plants Corporation, preparing to manufacture in this area.

Later, when glowing accounts of the possibilities of magnesium were expounded—when Basic engineers predicted it would one day be the primary metal used in building airplanes, automobiles, railroad cars and such—many still were pleased at the prospect, but doubtful of the practicability because it had never been done before—appeared to the layman to be largely in the experimental stage.

The fact that British manufacturers were using a great deal of the metal in the construction of war planes, and declared they would use the metal exclusively if there were enough, sounded good, but still a long way off.

The future of the magnesium industry in this area, it was conceded, depended to a large degree on the future of the metal itself in the American industrial scheme after the war. There was no question about its utility for the duration—but if the prediction of the Basic engineers came true, there could be no question then about the continued operation of the plant as the backbone of a new industry destined to revolutionize manufacture of many basic products in the metal field.

It won't be long now until B. M. I.'s Las Vegas plant starts producing the new metal in quantity. And as this big moment nears, it is significant that interest in magnesium is quickening in several fields.

Typical of this is the comment in Time Magazine of July 6, in the section headed "Science" which makes out a most optimistic case for magnesium as a basic material in airplane manufacture.

Announcing a "sensational advance in industrial technique last week" which "immediately opened the way for major advances in the aviation industry" Time held that the successful arc-welding of magnesium would make the metal available for widely diversified uses in the field of aviation in the future, where it couldn't be used before.

First result pointed to was "further development of the so-called flying wing—a weird, batlike plane with no tail, no fuselage and an extraordinary efficiency." This plane, being developed by Northrop, is expected to prove one of the real sensations of the war, once produced in quantity.

Other results predicted by Time include: "Magnesium—one-third lighter than aluminum—can now become a primary aeronautical material, rivaling aluminum and competing with stainless steel, instead of remaining a secondary metal used only in engine parts, wheels and accessories.

"Construction of planes, especially their wings, can be much simplified and cheapened.

"Magnesium arc-welding—and perhaps the flying wing—will remain monopolies of the U. S. and its allies, since arc-welding magnesium requires helium, which is found in useful quantities only in the U. S."

Until last week, the magazine points out, arc-welding magnesium was almost as impossible as welding paper and for the same reason: this most inflammable metal (exposed magnesium parts of planes are coated with a secret, fire-resisting paint) would ignite from the heat of the welder's electric arc just as it does in magnesium incendiary bombs.

But after two years of research, engineers of Northrop Aircraft, Inc., discovered that magnesium can safely be arc-welded if the hot metal is blanketed with helium to exclude atmospheric oxygen. The helium also cools the molten metal, acting as a metal-cleaning flux.

The advantage of welded magnesium on the wing surfaces of planes is that it can be used in thicker sheets than steel and aluminum. The increased thickness lessens surface vibration which, in time, will weaken the wing, and simplifies the maze of ribs and spars now built into wings to stiffen them, Time points out.

These factors are major steps in development of the flying wing, for this bodiless plane must have clear wing interiors to make room for passengers, cargo, bombs, etc.

Northrop built a two-motored flying wing with a 38-foot span, flew it so successfully last fall that the U. S. Army moved the queer plane out of sight for further development. Some engineers estimate that this plane, lacking in tail, has 40 per cent less head resistance than the conventional plane, with every square inch of its body contributing to its lift. Hence, designers believe the flying wing can get either the same speed with half the horsepower of a normal plane or 25-30 per cent more speed with the same horsepower.

Considering this analysis, it can be said that the perfection of the magnesium welding process insures the permanency of Basic's Las Vegas plant and gives reasonable assurance that Eells' prediction will come true.

The welding discovery is as important to southern Nevada in one way, as it is to the aviation industry and the war effort in another.

Way Cleared For School Building At Plant of BMI

\$105,000 Structure Not To Cost Taxpayers Of County

The way was cleared yesterday for the immediate construction of a school building by the Basic Magnesium, Inc., in the demountable housing unit, which will cost approximately \$105,000. The school will be open for the fall term, and will provide a full curriculum for grammar school and high school classes. Action of the Clark county commission in enlarging the Railroad Pass school district, taking 12 sections of land from the present Duck Creek school district, will enable BMI to proceed with plans for the school, and assure financing according to the statement of Guernsey Frazer, assistant to the project manager for BMI.

At a hearing held by the county board yesterday, a committee from Whitney protested the division of the Duck Creek district. Information presented to the board by Frazer indicated that the BMI townsite, trailer camp, and Camp Anderson, (the area in which employees of the plant reside with their families), are within the Railroad Pass district, while about 60 per cent of the magnesium plant property lies in the Duck Creek district. If revenue is derived from taxation, the principal revenue would not be supporting the school in which BMI employees' children would go to school, he said.

DPC To Aid

With the new division of the school district, BMI, in cooperation with the Defense Plant Corporation, will erect in the demountable housing district a modern up-to-date school, fully equipped, costing more than \$100,000. Funds for the construction will be made available through the Defense Plant Corporation, thereby relieving the taxpayers of this expense. Funds for the staff salaries will be provided through the federal works agency by direct grant. This support will be given until July, 1943.

Two petitions asking for the re-distribution of the land for enlargement of the Railroad Pass district were presented to the county board yesterday. One was from Duck Creek and carried 623 names, and the other was from Railroad Pass and had 435 names, making a total of 1058. The action of the county board yesterday now places all BMI property in the Railroad Pass district.

Erection of the big school in the BMI area will lift a load of about 250 children from the Whitney and Midway areas who would be required to attend the new proposed three-room school at Whitney, which is expected to be constructed at a cost of \$20,000.

It was indicated by the board yesterday that as soon as the present building program at BMI and Whitney is complete that a survey be made of both districts, with the possibility of consolidating the two districts into one large district. Thus small children would attend the grammar schools in Whitney and in the Railroad Pass district, and all children of high school age in the area would attend the high school at the BMI school.

RIGHT ON SCHEDULE

A short time back, Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones; the Reconstruction Finance Corporation; the Defense Plant Corporation; Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, and its officers and employees were under the fierce attack of a group of United States senators seeking, apparently to disorganize and disrupt what has well been called, "America's No. 1 Defense Project."

It was charged that the officials of Basic Magnesium had falsified their records; had "conveniently" committed the crime of arson by burning their administration building; had misled the public by claiming that the work of building the great plants at Las Vegas and at Gabbs was proceeding on schedule and, by direct inference, that high officials of the government were conspiring with them to waste the people's money and allow ambitious promoters to reap extortionate profits.

Now that more than three months have passed since those charges were publicized over the entire United States, we may again review and analyze the situation in the light of actual developments.

In the first place, immediately following those charges statements by officials of Basic Magnesium and by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones and other government officials completely refuted and discredited the attempts which had been made to mislead and misinform the public.

Then, the public interest having waned to some extent, there still remained in the minds of many politically interested persons, especially within the State of Nevada, the fear that, perhaps, the Basic Magnesium officials had overestimated their powers or had been unduly optimistic as to the progress being made. There became established in the minds of many a rather vague, unsubstantiated idea that, after all, operations of Basic Magnesium would fall far behind schedule and the actual production of magnesium be delayed for long after the public had been led to expect.

First of the developments to restore confidence in Basic Magnesium was the beginning of operations June 26, strictly on schedule, of the great magnesium oxide plant at the Gabbs mines. That plant is now steadily procuring the ore and producing magnesium oxide from which the Las Vegas plant will soon be producing magnesium metal for which the army is crying.

At the Las Vegas plant also the work has progressed strictly on schedule, made possible largely through the unflinching loyalty of its employees laboring under difficulties of heat and lack of adequate housing.

Already large quantities of salt from Death Valley are being processed at the plant in preparation for use in the production of magnesium metal in the first of the ten great chlorination units.

Unit No. 1 of the chlorination plants is close to completion and will be in operation within a very short time, the actual date being kept secret by orders of the War Department at Washington.

Those who have had no contacts with the great enterprise and have consequently no knowledge upon which to base an intelligent opinion, may take these developments as a matter of course. But to those who have witnessed the vastness and the complexity of the work, the results are amazing beyond the power of expression or understanding.

Nevada may well be gratified at the great industries being created within her boundaries and at the part her resources and her energies are playing in the great work of winning this World War II. She also may be happy that the strenuous attempts made to wreck this great enterprise of Basic Magnesium, Inc., have completely and ignominiously failed.

Desert Giant

By WEBB WALDRON

The world's greatest war plant, it will mean magnesium aplenty

UNDER the blazing Nevada sun, in a harsh reach of desert ringed by jagged mountains, an army of sweaty men is building the most gigantic war plant in the world.

Everything about it is dramatic—its inception, its location, its construction, its potentiality.

When complete, this \$75,000,000 plant will annually produce more than 100,000,000 pounds of magnesium—the magically light-weight metal vital to air power and victory.

To create this giant there have come together in the Nevada desert an amazing diversity of people and things.

The very look and feel of the job is fantastic—you rub your eyes, wondering whether you're drunk or dreaming. Thousands of red steel columns rise out of the sage-brush and greasewood, half way between Las Vegas and Boulder City; a vast rectangle of structures steadily being enclosed by asbestos-covered sheet-steel and concrete.

PROJECT DWARFS MEN

Besides these main buildings, there are towering concrete silos, structures that look like the flanks of titanic football stadiums, great wooden workshops and storehouses. The brutal heat often goes to 115° or 120° in the shade (if there is any shade) and 140° in the sun and dust-twisters blind you. Swarms of men are dwarfed to ant-size even as the giant job itself is dwarfed by the encircling mountains. Gleaming new high-power transmission lines march across the desert from Boulder Dam. Power shovels gouge the earth. Barracks and tents sprawl over the seared acres and beyond them, on the road to Las Vegas, trailers and trailer camps and shacks, house workers and camp-followers. Gambling joints and honky-tonks are scattered in the greasewood. Gaudy Las Vegas itself is a wide open town, where the croupier and the gal wait, eager to snatch the earnings of the sunburned men who are building that desert-giant.

WEBB WALDRON is a well-known contributor to leading magazines and author of several books.

The half-finished buildings crowded with a Rube Goldberg phantasmagoria of furnaces, grinders, tanks, mixers, motors, belts, conveyors, pumps, blowers, pipes, ducts, and countless unrecognizable contraptions. You are told that underneath are miles of tunnels jammed with more pipes, transmission lines, conveyors.

COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION

Other titanic construction jobs—Boulder Dam, Grand Coulee Dam, the Empire State Building, Willow Run—have been big but relatively simple, using vast quantities of a few fundamental materials, concrete, steel, stone, lumber. Basic Magnesium is using larger quantities of certain materials than have ever before been used on any one job—for instance, 8,500,000 pounds of busbar copper, 50,000 tons of structural steel and 30,000,000 ft. of lumber—but also a bewildering variety of other things from platinum to bolts of muslin, from 100-ton electrical transformers (biggest ever built) to ice-cream freezers—used not to freeze cream but to keep mortar cool!

The complexity of construction reflects the intricacy of the process it will house. Put in short-cut terms, here is what happens: The ore, chiefly magnesium carbonate, is burned at the mine into magnesium oxide. Shipped to the Las Vegas plant, this white powder is mixed with coal and peat moss into pellets about the size of tennis balls. These are poured into furnaces into which is pumped chlorine gas. The result, molten magnesium chloride, is drawn off from the bottom of the furnace and piped to electrolytic cells where high-voltage direct current separates magnesium and chloride. The molten magnesium is ladled off and poured into moulds. Later, it is remelted, refined and alloyed, when it is ready to go into airplanes, incendiary bombs, tracer bullets.

Behind this fantastic desert-giant are the personalities of two men, strangely contrasting, one a quiet, shrewd, per-

sistent Englishman, Major Charles J. P. Ball of London; the other a big, buoyant, hard-driving American, Howard P. Eells, Jr., of Cleveland.

As a member of the Disarmament Commission after the last war, Ball was observer at various German industrial plants and thus became interested in the way they were developing magnesium. In 1923, he quit the Army, secured the sales rights in Britain for the German-produced magnesium and, against a good deal of skepticism and indifference, preached its usefulness.

By 1935 he had built up a sufficient market to justify a factory. He bought the manufacturing patents from I. G. Farbenindustrie, with drawings and specifications for a factory and the assistance of German technicians to get it going. Just like that! "But," I asked Ball in amazement, "why were the Germans willing to sell the patents?" "Well," he said, "in 1935 there were still in Germany plenty of men, especially in the Prussian Army, who wanted to keep England strong. They overestimated the strength of France and thought the only salvation of Germany was to cultivate English friendship."

ONE AMERICAN'S IDEA

Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., the company he formed, got into production late in '36, using magnesite ore from Greece, Canada and India.

Now for the other figure in the drama—the American.

Howard Eells, who served under Douglas MacArthur in France in World War I, comes of an old Cleveland family long interested in finance and manufacturing. Basic Refractories, an Eells company making refractory brick, for many years got its raw material in Ohio. Looking for new sources, his men found brucite deposits in Nevada, and later discovered that adjoining claims were rich in high-grade magnesite.

It was not until 1941 that Eells learned of Magnesium Elektron's successful experience in extracting mag-

...k in the plants for four to six back to act as remen in the

...overnment has air-cooled de-ae families of perating staff. rom \$11.50 to g all utilities. It is not merely he increasing sium will keep duction, Eells tly believe. It e first of many r Dam power the desert into

nesium from magnesite. He cabled to Ball, proposing a combination of British "know-how" and American management and raw material. Ball hesitated. Eells put his facts and his idea up to OPM in Washington. OPM appealed to the British Air Ministry, which asked Ball to go to America. Ball came by clipper, sending his two top technicians by ship. The ship was torpedoed in mid-Atlantic. The technicians got away in the boats and reached Newfoundland but the blueprints and data went down with the ship. Ball cabled to have duplicate drawings and data microphotographed and rushed to the U. S. by bomber.

In April '41 Eells put up to OPM the proposal for a sizable plant, to be built by the Government and leased and operated by Basic Magnesium, a company they set up. Arrangements were completed whereby the project was to be financed by the Defense Plant Corporation, a subsidiary of the R.F.C., which had made possible the construction.

Though the Government had already financed Dow Chemical's immense plant for the production of magnesium from sea water, even greater supplies of the metal were imperative, and the Government hiked the size considerably. Instead of a lease, the contract provided that the plant was to be operated on a management fee arrangement and the ore bought from Basic.

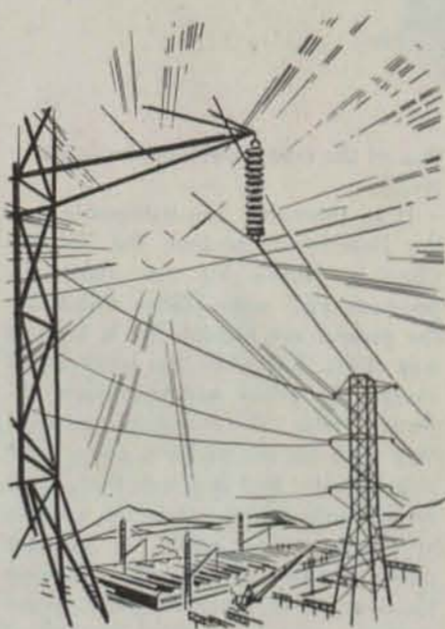
The plant would need tremendous power (enough to serve a city of 1,000,000 people!), water (millions of gallons a day), coal, salt. Boulder Dam was the obvious source of power; Lake Mead a boundless supply of water; the ore was only a few hundred miles away.

FIGHTING AGAINST TIME

Time pressed. The company promised metallic magnesium sometime in 1942. Engineering and construction had to go ahead together, one just a jump ahead of the other—saving months. With Army and DPC approval, Basic picked the McNeil Construction Co. as contractor. A handful of engineers and draftsmen set to work in an empty Boulder City hangar. Their job was to take the drawings of the English plant, translate them into American terms, then multiply them several times. Almost as soon as the first drawing was off the boards in October '41, McNeil's power shovels were taking their first bites.

Four thousand McNeil men who had

been at work on the Coast surged up into the desert. Other thousands came on their heels by car, trailer, truck—some with families, but mostly not—till there were 12,000 on the job. Many were "boomers," men who had moved from big job to big job in the West—Boulder Dam, Los Angeles Aqueduct, Golden Gate Bridge, Parker Dam, Bonneville, Grand Coulee. Basic built a mess hall, recreation hall, barracks



and a tent city on the desert near the job. Here a man gets a bed in an air-cooled tent for two bits a night, or one in the barracks for 45c—showers, hot and cold water, toilets. This camp houses 4,800. Some men, irked by the restrictions against hard liquor and women in the camp, get beds at higher prices but with no conveniences in trailer camps and shacks off in the sage-brush.

Men with families are up against it. Some have crowded into over-crowded Las Vegas. Others camp on the desert, in trailers or in shacks built out of flattened gasoline tins and paste board cartons. I visited one shack that had two rooms divided by a gunny sack. Here lived two families totaling seven people. The two men worked on the job, earning good money, but they couldn't find anything better than this, with no sanitation, no water, stifling hot day and night.

Office girls sometimes pay as much as \$150 a month for one room in a

tourist camp, splitting it three ways, sleeping three in a bed. But now the Government has begun to build attractive dormitories for office girls in Boulder City.

Almost every ounce of food has to be brought in from somewhere else. Some milk, for instance, comes 300 miles. The mess hall at the camp could use 8,000 pints of milk a day and can get only 3,000.

The contrast of the miserable shacks on the desert and the gaudy luxe of Las Vegas gambling joints and night clubs and their clientele of play-people is one of the most curious shocks this roving reporter has met.

The first problem in building this giant plant on time was to buy a multitude of things from every industrial center in the U. S.—many of them of unprecedented quantity or type—and bring them on rigid schedule to a remote spot in the desert served by only one railroad—a branch line at that.

Take brick. There were American brick that would resist high heat and brick that would resist acid and gas, but none that would do all three. British technicians helped American manufacturers develop one. The unusual shapes of furnaces and cells require 2,400 different shapes of brick. Men who had worked on plaster of paris models for Hollywood studios were called in. They lined sample furnaces and cells with plaster of paris bricks. Then the exact measurement of each piece was sent to the manufacturers. Even so, the bricks have to be ground on the job to make a gas-proof fit.

BREAK FOR BRICKLAYERS

Bricklaying on this job is a precise art. Because the weather is so hot and dry, the acid-proof mortar must be mixed in small quantities and kept iced until the moment it is buttered on the brick. Otherwise it would set too quickly. Bricklayers who can do this precision work or learn to do it are hard to get. When I was at the job, there were 460 at work making \$105 a week with overtime.

Howard C. Mann, who as chief engineer and then vice-president of the Union Pacific had learned U. S. transportation like a book, mapped rail and truck lines from East and West, figuring what was the best route for each type of equipment or material. Several Western railroads widened their clearances to let the enormous electrical transformers through.

(Continued on page 34)

DESERT GIANT

(Continued from page 11)

In the work-mapping room of the McNeil Construction Co. hang wall-sized charts. One shows in what spot in the job every one of thousands of items of equipment will go, from whom it was ordered, and the promised delivery date. Another shows who in the organization is responsible for the installation of each item of equipment. Another, the day-by-day degree of completion of each detail of construction. It is a thrilling picturization of the forward drive of the job.

One night last Spring—a night of howling desert wind—the office building caught fire. Men ran from barracks, trailer camps, shacks and gambling joints in the desert to fight it. But no use. There was no water supply piped in as yet. The building was gone completely in an hour. (There was no evidence of sabotage.) The destruction of the telephone switchboard and the office, engineering and drafting-room equipment paralyzed the nerve-center of the job. But before the fire was out, carpenters had begun to put a floor and windows in a warehouse and improvise drafting tables out of scrap lumber. Equipment was rushed from Los Angeles. A telephone switchboard was found in Chicago and the Army flew it to the job in a bomber. In less than six days, office and engineering staffs were at work in a new 56,000-square-foot building of 100 rooms. "McNeil's men acted like angry ants when you kick over their nest," said a visitor.

"Usually," said Larry McNeil, head of the McNeil Construction Co., "I turn a job over to a superintendent after I get it started, but do you think I'd turn *this* job over to any superintendent? When would I ever have a chance to handle another like it? Another as *big*—and as *tough*?" "It's an electrician's nightmare," said an electrician on the job, "never saw anything like it." "It's a *hell* of a job," said a structural steel worker, "heat—dust . . . God!" "Going to quit?" I asked. "Hell, no, I'm going to see her through!"

By the time this article is published silvery gleaming magnesium will be flowing out in increasing volume for planes. Last Winter Eells sent 45 American engineers—carefully picked for their intelligence, energy, powers of observation and ability to handle

men—to England to work in the plants of Magnesium Elektron for four to six months. Now they are back to act as superintendents and foremen in the new plant.

Near the job, the Government has just completed 1,000 air-cooled demountable houses for the families of men on the permanent operating staff. These houses rent for from \$11.50 to \$13.50 a week, including all utilities.

This giant in the desert is not merely a wartime apparition. The increasing peacetime use of magnesium will keep it permanently in production, Eells and Ball both confidently believe. It may, in fact, be only the first of many industries using Boulder Dam power to convert the riches of the desert into human use.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., Means Bread and Butter to Nevada

Large Part of State's Population Supported by Payroll of Single Industry; Group of Workers Wage Daily Fight, Need Backing.

(By a Contributor in the Las Vegas Age.)

Seldom has any state had the opportunity for industrial and social advance now made possible to Nevada by the establishment of the Basic Magnesium industry in our midst. It is and must be the headline interest for our people throughout the state from the mining regions of the north to the reduction, refining, and processing industrial area now growing up right here in the power center of the great southwest.

Rich as is our state, the wealth is hidden in the mysterious metallic ores and chemical compound which wait the science of the metallurgist, and the engineer to explore and the vision and courage of the industrialist to make available.

Under the terrific pressure and necessities of war the pulse of progress has been quickened until now the activity has become so extensive that between a third and quarter of all the population of this state is directly or indirectly supported by the payroll of this single industry.

Here a huge group of strong and fearless men, and equally strong and fearless women daily wage their fight for everything that life holds dear. Make no mistake about it, this job is a fight and the physical surrounding and misery in general is a real battlefield. It is their fight but it is also your fight.

These thousands of skilled and resourceful men and women workers entirely lack a sponsor, a defender in the press, or even a friendly voice over the radio while they can be and are personally vilified, misrepresented, slandered and disparaged in every conceivable way and can reply exactly nothing. Free speech appears to be only available to those who wish to destroy every thing, from morale to progress—and do these worthies make use of it!

The columns of the press from one end of the country to the other are available to those who wish to obstruct progress at this project and one has to be very glib not to feel that it is greatly desired by many that not a pound of metal ever be produced at this great plant. Just what is back of this consuming interest? Who keeps their ball rolling? Enemies? Competitors? Germans? Japanese? Who else?

One thing is certain and that is that it is only those who would speak the truth about this project who are muzzled at the present time. Its enemies speak or publish any misrepresentation which comes to their minds. Lies travel fast and make readable news while the truth goes by slow motion and in this case cannot even get started.

Whether you work within the organization of this great in-

dustry or in other business or enterprise within this state you are directly affected, and the coins in your pocket, the "folding money" in your wallet, and whatever nest egg you may have in the bank got there and is getting there very largely through the medium of this industry. Any doubts you may have on this point will be quickly dissipated if this tremendous undertaking folds up.

Good men, able men, will take just about so much beating. They do not have to take more but if they do for your sake and mine then we had better get busy and give them support while it can be effective. Your bread and butter is very definitely involved. If you are not hungry now you may be later on.

FIRST DEATH VALLEY SALT AT BIG PLANT

(Scout Special)

LAS VEGAS—A modern 20-mule team, rubber tired and powered by internal combustion engines, rolled into the Basic Magnesium plant near here last Thursday bringing the first shipment of salt out of Death Valley in preparation for actual start of producing magnesium.

BUILDING STOCKPILE

The shipment consisted of 150,000 pounds of salt, and trucks are continuing to move regularly until the total stockpile reaches the 200,000,000 pound mark. Contract for hauling the salt is held by Wells Inc., of Reno. Some difficulty has been experienced in the salt loading process. A caterpillar became stuck in one marsh. The treacher of the salt marsh presents a problem now under study.

Basic Magnesium Has Huge Power Project

Great War Metal Plant Will Use as Much Electricity as Los Angeles Alone

(Star Special)

LAS VEGAS—Another indicator of the immensity of the \$63,000,000 Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant now almost ready to begin production, is given through its huge electrical system which must supply as much power for the milling unit as used by the entire City of Los Angeles.

RIVER ROUGE IS LARGER

Only the Ford Motor company's River Rouge plant will exceed the magnesium plant here in the amount of electricity required to

carry on installations. Some of the installations in the power line project for the magnesium plant are the largest of history.

The power line carries 230 KVA, which is equal to any line on the western slope. It is slightly more than 15 miles in length.

There are three lines, strung from the towers, each 1,005 inches in diameter. There is one static line and one ground line. Four towers have been erected in each mile of the line.

329 TONS OF MATERIALS

The total materials in the line alone weighs 329 tons, of which 210 tons are copper and 119 tons are steel. The power system begins at the switchback at Boulder dam and ends at the main control house at the Basic plant. There are 450 tons of steel in the towers and footings.

The southern line, which will be auxiliary equipment is well underway, and work is progressing on a tunnel in connection with the installation.

Total cost of the electric service project for the plant is approximately \$5,000,000.

Bridgeport, Cal., Bridgeport-Labor, Cal., 5:30 p.m. MAY 28, 1942

Power Supplied Brucite Plant from Millers

The new sixty-four-mile high tension electric transmission line extending from Millers, Nevada, to Gabbs Valley (Brucite) in northern Nye county, was put into service last Sunday, according to a report made by Basic Magnesium, Inc., officials.

The 55,000-volt transmission line was recently completed and electrical energy is furnished by the California Electric Power Company, Nevada district, with headquarters in Tonopah. The electrical energy will be used to power the calcining plant, quarry and crushers to be operated by Basic Magnesium, Inc., and located in Gabbs Valley. At present most of the power will serve construction units which are at work in the defense area. General service is also provided in the vicinity of the plant, it was said. The Millers to Gabbs Valley

line, which ties into a 4000-kilowatt sub-station at the BMI plant, was built ahead of schedule and will serve to speed up construction work in Gabbs Valley, it was said.

Power System at Magnesium Plant Is Huge Undertaking

It is stated in a report appearing in the Las Vegas Review-Journal that construction work at the Basic Magnesium defense plant continues to roll along ahead of schedule and almost daily new building records are being set by the various contractors engaged in the jobs which go to make up this huge, vital project.

The latest concern to hang up a new mark is the Fritz Ziebarth Co. of Long Beach, Calif., lately which cut in the north power line leading from Boulder dam to the plant.

The contract called for completion of this line by June 10, and Ziebarth finished his work 25 days ahead of schedule. The vast power system for the plant, a major undertaking in itself, was completed some time ago right on the date called for by the contract.

The plant will use approximately as much electricity as the city of Los Angeles. Only Ford's River Rouge plant will exceed the magnesium plant here in the amount of electricity required to carry on operations.

Some of the installations in the power line project for the magnesium plant are the largest in the history of electricity. The power line carries 230 KVA, which is equal to any line on the western slope. It is slightly more than 15 miles in length.

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The total materials in the line alone weighs 329 tons, of which 210 tons are copper and 119 tons are steel. The power system begins at the switchback at Boulder dam and ends at the main control house at the Basic plant. There are 450 tons of steel in the towers and footings.

The south line, which will be auxiliary equipment, is well under way, and work is progressing on a tunnel work in connection with the installation.

The total cost of the electrical service project for the plant is approximately \$5,000,000.

BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NEV., SCOUT CH. 1, 174 JUNE 4, 1942

Basic Magnesium Has Huge Power Project

Great War Metal Plant Will Use as Much Electricity as Los Angeles Alone

(Star Special)

LAS VEGAS—Another indicator of the immensity of the \$63,000,000 Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant, now almost ready to begin production, is given through its huge electrical system which must supply as much power for the milling unit as used by the entire City of Los Angeles.

RIVER ROUGE IS LARGER

Only the Ford Motor company's River Rouge plant will exceed the magnesium plant here in the amount of electricity required to

carry on installations. Some of the installations in the power line project for the magnesium plant are the largest of history.

The power line carries 230 KVA, which is equal to any line on the western slope. It is slightly more than 15 miles in length.

There are three lines, strung from the towers, each 1,005 inches in diameter. There is one static line and one ground line. Four towers have been erected in each mile of the line.

329 TONS OF MATERIALS

The total materials in the line alone weighs 329 tons, of which 210 tons are copper and 119 tons are steel. The power system begins at the switchback at Boulder dam and ends at the main control house at the Basic plant. There are 450 tons of steel in the towers and footings.

The southern line, which will be auxiliary equipment is well underway, and work is progressing on a tunnel in connection with the installation.

Total cost of the electric service project for the plant is approximately \$5,000,000.

LAS VEGAS, NEV. REVIEW-JOURNAL CH. 5, 185 JUNE 4, 1942

organization's streamlined 1942 convention will be held at Kansas City, Missouri, September 19-21.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE OPEN

The office of Clark County Assessor Frank DeVinney in the county courthouse in Las Vegas will remain open from 5 until 8 o'clock this evening and tomorrow night for the issuance of Nevada license plates for automobiles. This special service is offered particularly for employees of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., and the McNeil Construction company, DeVinney stated.

This article was clipped from THE MINING RECORD DENVER COLO. 6/11/42

SALT SHIPMENT REACHES BASIC MAGNESIUM PLANT

Las Vegas, Nev. — A modern desert trucking outfit, rubber tired and powered by internal combustion engines, rolled into the Basic Magnesium plant recently bringing the first shipment of salt out of Death Valley in preparation for actual start of producing magnesium.

This shipment consisted of 150,000 pounds of salt and trucks will continue moving regularly until the total stockpile reaches the 200,000,000 pound mark.

Contract for hauling the salt is held by Wells Fargo Inc. of Reno.

Anaconda Copper Buys Stock Interest In Basic Magnesium

WASHINGTON—Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has purchased the 52½% stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and Associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc. for \$75,000. In connection with the purchase, Defense Plant Corp. bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nevada, for \$450,000. Secretary Jones announced these transactions.

The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that purchased by Anaconda Copper Mining Co., is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium, Inc., will operate the plant for account of Defense Plant Corp., receiving one-half cent a pound on the magnesium produced, which will approximate 2% of sales.

Senators had criticized Secretary Jones for

the old Basic Magnesium set-up.

Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda's board in New York City, said participation of his company in the enterprise "has been undertaken at the invitation of the Government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium."

"Our function is that of management," Mr. Kelly said, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all the interested parties to aid in the war effort."

"J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium. Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operations, has been elected vice president and they, with myself, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium."

"Members of Anaconda's staff have been on the ground for some time, have studied the program and will take charge of the operation of the project."

Las Vegas Age
Nov 6 1942

LANDSCAPING BEGINS

Four and one half million square feet of grass. That calls for several carloads of seed, 8,000 cubic yards of top soil and tons of fertilizer. That's what it takes to provide for the initial landscaping in Basic Townsite which has already been started. Special instructions are being sent to all householders advising them as to the most effective methods of watering the new lawn.—The Big Job-Basic Magnesium news-letter.

Pioche Record
Nov 12 1942

Clark Magnesium Deposits To Be Developed To Feed New Refining Plant

Washington, Nov. 10. — The Bureau of Mines said today that several extensive magnesium-bearing deposits in the Boulder Dam area of southern Nevada may provide additional sources of raw material for the Basic Magnesium Company plant near Las Vegas.

Utilization of the deposits, according to Dr. R. R. Sayer, director of the bureau, depends "only upon development of an economical method of recovering the contained magnesium oxide."

The magnesium plant at present is using crude magnesium oxide obtained from large Luning magnesite deposits in the Paradise mountain range in Nye county about 325 miles by highway from the plant.

Luning magnesite, the report said, must be treated in the \$5,000,000 milling and calcining plant at Luning and then be transported by runabout rail line approximately 1,000 miles by way to Salt Lake City because there are no direct rail connections.

In an effort to eliminate this circuitous haul, the Bureau of Mines' station at Boulder City is working on methods which it is hoped will permit utilization of mineral deposits nearer the main plant. Rock samples from deposits in the Boulder Dam area have been substituted to the bureau's experiment station for identification and appraisal.

Two of the more extensive deposits, the bureau said, are near Overton, Nevada, about 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas. Other low grade magnesite deposits in the area, lying within 200 miles of the dam, are near Bisell, Afton, Needles and Cima, all in California, and near Indian Springs, Nevada.

The bureau said that in addition to the low grade magnesite deposits, the Boulder Dam area contains "an almost inexhaustible source" of magnesium in the form of extensive dolomite deposits.

The bureau has conducted preliminary experiments on several processes for treating high grade Nevada dolomites to obtain magnesium oxide.

Results of the experiments are expected to be announced later.

Nevada Plant Row Stirs Mining Men

By the Shift Boss

The charges and countercharges concerning the management and methods involved in the building of the immense Basic Magnesium magnesium refinery near Las Vegas became the main factors in the recent senatorial race in Nevada. The political football features of the controversy resulted in representative mining executives and business men becoming involved in a manner usually frowned upon by the mining engineering profession.

Defenders of the management emphasized the benefits that will accrue to the state and two counties as a result of the operation of the plant in the form of taxes, employment and similar items and seemed to dismiss the charges of waste and bad management with general statements as to the "excellence" of both. Labor was also dragged into the political campaign because of a statement attributed to the general manager when testifying before the senate investigating committee to the effect that "organized labor was to blame for the poor showing."

Indicates Wrong

It is apparent that such a statement constitutes an unconscious admission of something being wrong, calculated to strengthen belief in the unfavorable report of the Truman senate investigating committee, an investigation resulting from charges made by a Nevada senator then running for re-nomination and reelection. The blame shifted upon organized labor by the manager rallied the ranks of labor and their leaders to the support of the accusing senator, ultimately defeated by a narrow margin.

On the other hand, the governor of Nevada issued a general statement calculated to convey the impression of complete perfection pertaining to the entire Basic Magnesium project. So sweeping an approval of the project was indicative of studied avoidance of facts and factors unfortunately inherent in much of our frantic war plant construction.

Engineers Speak

Qualified engineers and equipment specialists have testified to the usual, perhaps somewhat greater than usual, waste and confused acts of management, not uncommon in spending sums of more than one hundred million dollars in government funds in designing and building plants based upon foreign processes and methods, accompanied by the mixing of foreign and domestic engineers in the carrying out of any immense project.

Engineers are inclined to feel that government financing of specialized metallurgical and processing plants leads to waste and false starts in contrast to complete private industry financing of similar effort wherein engineers and managements must keep within financial and performance bounds in order to retain their jobs.

How the plant operates when completed is the most important feature of the situation.

S. F. CAL. WALL STREET JOURNAL
OCTOBER 21 1942

Major C. J. P. Ball, vice president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., and president of Magnesium Electron Ltd. in England, on Monday will speak at a special meeting of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce mining committee when he will describe production processes at the Basic Magnesium plant near Las Vegas.

S. F. CAL. CHRONICLE
Cir.—Daily 119,155; Sunday 210,264
OCTOBER 29, 1942

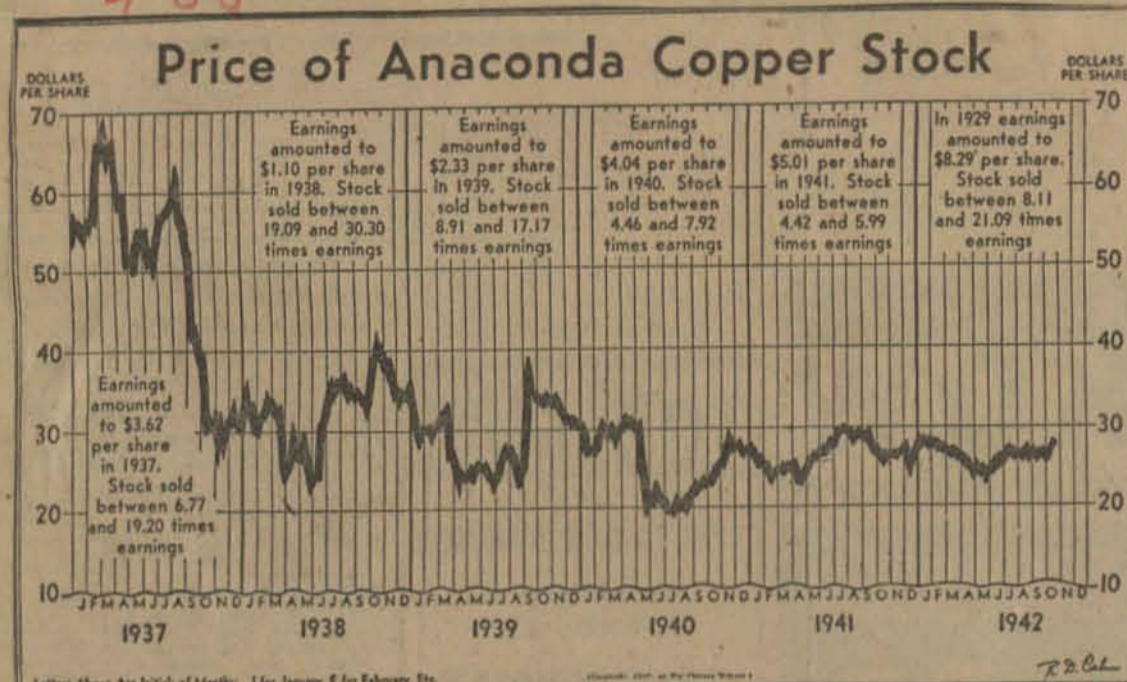
Las Vegas Age
Nov 13 1942

Protective Plans at Basic Magnesium

IS THERE AN AMERICAN SHANGRI LA?—Jimmie Doolittle and his boys bombed Tokio—and the Japs still don't know how they did it. A gang of parachute troops conceivably could land on this project and raise hell with the works before they could be rubbed out.

There ARE saboteurs in the West. The Army knows it. The Navy knows it. The FBI knows it. That's why such painstaking precautions are taken to inspect badges, passes, lunch-buckets and so forth. The first duty of Plant Protection is to PREVENT sabotage—not to catch saboteurs AFTER the job has been done, and you, maybe, have been killed.

There IS a chance that parachute troops could land on the project—that enemy planes could get this far, that saboteurs could get inside the plant. Official information has revealed that the Nazis have given saboteurs special training in methods of knock-out LIGHT METALS plants, and have been instructed to move against these plants as a first order of business. To meet such possibilities requires a guard force thoroughly trained and under rigid military discipline. That is why the Army has taken over this job of training. That's why the Guard Force has become an official auxiliary of the Army military police. That's why the Army detailed an officer and a sergeant to BMI to take over the work of guard training. And that's why—if plant protection regulations seem a little rigid to us—we ought to be glad and quit squawking. Remember—the Army KNOWS WHAT IT'S DOING—and the ARMY ISN'T FOOLING. Let's help—not hinder.—The Big Job—Basic Magnesium News Letter.



Facts Behind Anaconda Magnesium Deal

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (AP)—Purchase of the controlling stock interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company was made at the request of the United States Government and private American and British interests connected with the enterprise, Cornelius F. Kelly, Anaconda's board chairman, said yesterday.

Anaconda Copper has obtained the 52½ per cent stock interest in the magnesium company formerly held by Howard P. Eells Jr., and associates of Cleveland, for a price of \$75,000. The defense plant corporation, meanwhile, has bought the company's ore lands near Gabbs, Nevada, for \$450,000.

"The participation of Anaconda

in this great enterprise has been undertaken at the invitation of the Government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium," Kelly stated.

"Our function is that of management without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken only for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all interested parties to aid in the war effort."

J. R. Hobbins, Anaconda president, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium; Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operations, has been named vice president, and both, in addition to Kelly, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium.

A spokesman for the Reconstruc-

tion Finance Corporation said today the purchase of controlling stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, will not cause any contractual changes in the operation of the huge magnesium works for the Government.

He pointed out that the plant near Las Vegas, Nevada, is owned by Defense Plant Corporation, a subsidiary of the RPC, Basic Magnesium operates the project for the Government. The fact that the controlling stock of Basic Magnesium, Inc., has been sold does not change the contractual relationships between the operating company and DPC. The contract provides for BMI to receive a fee of one-half cent a pound for the magnesium produced.

Are We Prepared?

Southern California is intensively preparing for an anticipated Japanese air raid, designed to demonstrate to a restive populace at home that they possess the power to retaliate for General Jimmy Doolittle's sensational attack on Tokyo.

No effort is being spared to the end that every civilian knows just what to do if the emergency does arise.

Do YOU know what your job is if Nipponese planes should strike here? Do you know the difference between an air raid signal and a fire alarm? Are you prepared to black-out your home, your place of business?

There MIGHT be a sneak attack on Boulder Dam power houses or the magnesium plant. It would be well to be prepared.

It Might Work Out

We suggested here the other day that arrangements be made to clear the streets in this area of scrap metal—mostly nails, spikes and such—in the interest of tire conservation.

This followed the announcement that Carson City had already inaugurated such a campaign through use of the big magnet the state highway department has used in various sections from time to time.

Not only would such a campaign save tires, but it would collect a surprising amount of scrap metal, badly needed right now.

Probabilities are the highway magnet would be a long time getting here. But there is such an outfit in operation at the magnesium plant. Maybe it would be possible to borrow or rent it a day each week for use on Las Vegas streets and alleys with extremely beneficial results for all concerned.

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

Ford Gilbert tells a weather story that bears repeating in light of the recent very disconcerting tendency of the wind to kick up a gale in these parts at the least provocation.

It happened many years ago when rain was as frequent here as the wind has been this spring. Day after day the heavens poured moisture on the earth beneath. I know that sounds fantastic to those whose residence in the valley had its inception within the last year or two, but it actually occurred.

Old-timers may not remember the rain—we're prone to forget details of weather—but they'll never forget the array of wildflowers that covered the desert everywhere for several weeks. There has been nothing like it since.

Reverend Gilbert was walking past the home of a pioneer colored resident and noticed her sitting on her porch, head in hands, in a very distracted state. There was mud everywhere. It had ceased raining only a few minutes before, but the skies were heavily overcast and appeared ready to resume the downpour most any time.

"What seems to be the trouble?" Gilbert asked solicitously, very much concerned as to the mental state of his friend.

She looked up with a woe-begone expression on her face and said: "Brother Gilbert, Ah'm a gonna get mahself a new desert."

Incidentally, it seems to me the wind ought to remove all arguments against women in slacks. I can't imagine any man fighting very long to keep skirts under control in the breezes we've been having lately—not when there's an alternate garb available.

Seriously, this wind has proved the mettle of the American worker. If there ever was a tough spot anywhere in the land, it's the magnesium plant in the wind. When the breezes are blasting, it's difficult to see twenty feet in front of you, and it's anything

but pleasant trying to get a job done. But several thousand men have stuck it out, determined to see this important war project through to the finish.

With the great shortage of workmen over the land, it would be perfectly human to give up, go somewhere else where wind and dust are unknown quantities. Contrary to general impression, the labor turnover at the plant here is about half that anticipated, half what it is on the average run of work of this magnitude, except in large centers of population.

There'll be a post-office at the plant one of these days. Its name will in all probability be "Magnesium, Nevada." It was originally planned to call it Pittman in honor of the late champion of Boulder Dam, whose cherished dream is coming true out there on the hillside. But Midway grabbed the name after the post-office department said there were too many Midways in the country already and suggested some other title be chosen.

Royson is the name of the railroad station at which the Basic spur leaves the Boulder branch of the Union Pacific. It was at first thought this might be the name of the post office at the plant, but it has never been accepted. Right now all telephone calls to and from the plant are carried under the name, "Magnesium, Nevada."

Many trailer sales concerns which have flourished here during the past few months, are going out of business. The reason they give is that the market is no longer here—too many people moving into houses. That sounds as though the housing problem were easing up a bit.

There's still a lot to be done, however, hundreds of families are still without proper housing, although if the remaining 600-700 of Las Vegas' quota are built this summer, September should see a general improvement all over the area. And September will be the peak month of employment at the plant.

BASIC MAGNESIUM, INC., MEANS BREAD AND BUTTER TO NEVADA

Large Part of State's Population Supported By Payroll of Single Industry; Group of Workers Wage Daily Fight, Need Backing

(By A Contributor)

Seldom has any state had the opportunity for industrial and social advance now made possible to Nevada by the establishment of the Basic Magnesium industry in our midst. It is and must be the headline interest for our people throughout the state from the mining regions of the north to the reduction, refining, and processing industrial area now growing up right here in the power center of the great southwest.

Rich as is our state, the wealth is hidden in the mysterious metallic ores and chemical compound which wait the science of the metallurgist and the engineer to explore and the vision and courage of the industrialist to make available.

Under the terrific pressure and necessities of war the pulse of progress has been quickened until now the activity has become so extensive that between a third and quarter of all the population of this state is directly or indirectly supported by the payroll of this single industry.

Here a huge group of strong and fearless men and equally strong and fearless women daily wage their fight for everything that life holds dear. Make no mistake about it, this job is a fight and the physical surrounding and misery in general is a real battlefield. It is their fight but it is also your fight.

These thousands of skilled and resourceful men and women workers entirely lack a sponsor, a defender in the press, or even a friendly voice over the radio while they can be and are personally vilified, misrepresented, slandered and disparaged in every conceivable way and can reply exactly nothing. Free speech appears to be only available to those who wish to destroy everything from morale to progress—and do these worthies make use of it.

The columns of the press from one end of the country to the other are available to those who wish to obstruct progress at this project and one has to be very glib not to feel that it is greatly desired by many that not a pound of metal ever be produced at this great plant. Just what is back of this consuming interest? Who keeps their ball rolling? Enemies? Competitors? Germans? Japanese? Who else?

One thing is certain and that is that it is only those who would speak the truth about this project who are muzzled at the present time. Its enemies speak or publish any misrepresentation which comes to their minds. Lies travel fast and make readable news while truth goes by slow motion and in this case cannot even get started.

Whether you work within the organization of this great industry or in other business or enterprise within this state you are directly affected, and the coins in your pocket, the "folding money" in your wallet, and whatever nest egg you may have in the bank got there and is getting there very largely through the medium of this industry. Any doubts you may have on this point will be quickly dissipated if this tremendous undertaking folds up.

Good men, able men, will take just about so much beating. They do not have to take more but if they do for your sake and mine then we had better get busy and give them support while it can be effective. Your bread and butter is very definitely involved. If you are not hungry now you may be later on.

Magnesite Production Is Expanding Rapidly

LUNING (Nev.) June 2.—Magnesite production is expanding rapidly in the Mammoth district, approximately thirty five miles north-easterly from Luning.

The Basic Magnesium Company is mining ore in two quarries, from two to three carloads of magnesite are shipped daily to California.

The company is preparing to resume diamond drilling of 120 acres located in the heart of the field.

Richard L. Smith, consulting engineer for the Standard Slag Company of Youngstown, Ohio, reports equipment for the new explorative campaign is expected to be on the ground immediately.

Magnesium Plant Gets Salt Shipment From Death Valley

According to reports from Death Valley, the first truckload of salt was loaded from the salt beds Wednesday for delivery to the Basic Magnesium plant near Las Vegas.

It was stated that some difficulty was experienced as the caterpillar used in the loading process became stuck in the marsh and was released only after considerable effort.

The treachery of the salt marsh presents a problem which is being studied in order that the work may proceed without interruption.

In this connection, the Las Vegas Review-Journal of Thursday said:

A modern 20-mule team, rubber-tired and powered by internal combustion engines, rolled into the Basic Magnesium plant yesterday bringing the first shipment of salt out of Death Valley in preparation for actual start of producing magnesite.

This shipment consisted of 150,000 pounds of salt, and trucks will continue moving regularly until the total stockpile reaches the 200,000,000 pound mark.

Contract for hauling the salt is held by Wells Inc., of Reno.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE OPEN

The office of Clark County Assessor Frank DeVinney in the county courthouse in Las Vegas will remain open from 5 until 8 o'clock this evening and tomorrow night for the issuance of Nevada license plates for automobiles. This special service is offered particularly for employees of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., and the McNeil Construction company, DeVinney stated.

BMI to Raise 'H' With Devil's Golf Course

The legendary denizen of the lower Death Valley region who laughs and shouts with glee at night as he makes impossible shots on the Devil's Golf Course, is probably tearing his hair and roaring with rage these days.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., this week secured a short-term contract to take salt pinnacles to use in processing magnesium in the new Las Vegas plant, slated to start operations soon.

This huge salt deposit lies eight miles south of Furnace Creek Inn. Huge bulldozers will scrape salt from the surface, and heavy equipment was moved onto the "fairways" this week, it was reported here.

The heavy salt crust is reported to be of an average depth of eight inches, and will be loaded onto trucks and hauled to Las Vegas. Geologists estimate that it will take five years of normal precipitation to replace the salt pinnacles.

Donald Seal of Furnace Creek has been made project superintendent.

Electric Power Line Completed To Basic Plant

A new 64-mile high tension electric transmission line extending from Millers to Gabbs Valley (Bridite) in northern Nye county is now in service. It was revealed in a report from G. P. Frazer, Basic Magnesium, Inc., official, to the Times.

The 55,000 volt transmission line was recently completed and electrical energy will be furnished by the California Electric Power Co. Nevada district, with headquarters in Tonopah.

The electrical energy will be used to power the calcining plant, quarry and crushers to be operated by Basic Magnesium, Inc., and located in Gabbs Valley.

At present most of the power will serve construction units which are at work in the defense area. General service will also be provided to homes and businesses in the vicinity of the plant, it was said.

The Millers to Gabbs Valley line which ties into a 4000 kilowatt sub-station at the BMI plant, was built ahead of schedule and will serve to speed up construction work in Gabbs Valley, it was said.

Ship Death Valley Salt for Use in Magnesium Plant

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—The first truckload of salt has been delivered to the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant here from the Death Valley salt beds.

Some difficulty has been encountered in loading the salt because of the treacherous salt marshes which have bogged down tractors engaged in the work.

The salt is to be used in the processing of magnesium for war use. The first shipment was of 150,000 pounds and trucks will continue to move it until a stockpile at the BMI plant reaches 200,000,000 pounds. Contract for the salt hauling is held by Wells, Inc., of Reno.

Nevada Magnesium Industry in Danger?

Following is an editorial clipped from The Fallon Eagle (Fallon, Nevada) of April 18, 1942.

IS NEVADA MAGNESIUM INDUSTRY IN DANGER?

That there may be something a lot bigger than appears on the surface back of the uproar about Basic Magnesium is hinted in recent rumors to the effect that the Nevada skirmish is part of a titanic struggle for control of the light metals industry.

According to these rumors, the aluminum trust has its eyes on Grand Coulee where power is generated almost on top of the magnesium deposits, and where development of magnesium metal would be inexpensive by comparison to the cost of producing the mineral at Gabbs Valley and transporting it to Las Vegas for processing.

From persons in Washington close enough to the top to know something about the situation, have come the prediction that the Nevada producing quarries and the great processing plant at Las Vegas may be lost to the state if the aluminum trust has its way.

Accusations against Basic Magnesium by Senator Bunker of Nevada, have focused attention on that corporation which, if the senator is upheld in his contentions, has a lush thing in its contracts with the government—which Jessie Jones of the R. F. C. hotly denies.

While the senate committee is investigating the Bunker charges, perhaps it had better go a step further and look into the whole light metal setup, far enough to determine who is to dominate magnesium production and processing in this period of national peril.

The public is clamoring for a cleanup of any rottenness that may exist in war industries, and if Senator Bunker has uncovered some dirt, that's to his credit, whether it helps him get himself elected to the post he now holds by appointment or not. If there's a bigger game than Basic Magnesium, Inc., in the offing, however, Thurman Arnold and the Truman committee had better go gunning for it and not waste all their ammunition on the smaller fry.

On the other hand, there may not be anything radically amiss anywhere as far as magnesium is concerned, and if that is the case the public mind will be eased considerably if the truth is dug out quickly and given to the people, who are uneasy enough about war production as it is, without having this, too, to worry about.

Magnesium Plant Waste to Be Aired

Truman Committee Expected to Disclose Evidence of Excessive Spending

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—Evidence of needless dissipation of the taxpayers' money in the construction and operation of the vast magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., will be disclosed within a few weeks by the Truman committee, The Times learned exclusively today.

Although the operational activities of the company have been transferred from Basic Magnesium, Inc., to the Anaconda Copper Mining Co., the committee is known to be privately dissatisfied with the financial arrangements which accompanied the transfer and to be deeply concerned over the fate of the Las Vegas "white elephant" when the war is over.

STORMY HISTORY
The magnesium project, which includes a \$100,000,000 plant at Las Vegas, a \$5,000,000 processing plant at Lansing, Mich., and numerous magnesium deposits in the United States, is headed by Howard P. Ellis Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, Inc. It has a stormy history since its inception in August, 1941. Related construction, excessive profits, uncoordinated operation and other evidences of mismanagement have been charged against the company repeatedly. Efforts to get to the bottom of the situation have been consistently deflected by some of those responsible for the tremendous sums of money made available to the concern and by the company itself.

CHARGES LISTED
Here are some of the charges against Basic Magnesium, Inc., as brought by Senator Bunker (D.) Tex. and a special subcommittee of the Truman committee, which conducted hearings last April at Las Vegas:

After investing less than \$20,000, by its own admission, Basic Magnesium in Cleveland, Ohio, a corporation which had no previous experience in metals used to make a profit of \$280 per ton in one year. The Las Vegas plant, originally allocated \$33,000,000 by the Defense Plant Corporation, actually had received up to last month \$19,000,000.

Relatives of the company's parent, numbering 42, were set at nearly \$40,000 a year—all crisscrossed by the government funds advanced by D.P.C. But assets of the company comprised development rights on 36 million acres on the public domain, originally owned by Basic Refractories, Inc., of Cleveland, which was engaged in the manufacture of refractories.

OCTOBER CONDITIONS
Bunker, who denounced the magnesium company from the floor of the Senate on numerous occasions last spring, once charged that D.P.C. had "entered into an agreement with Basic Magnesium, Inc. that is so obvious to indicate that some officials in our government are guilty of malfeasance in the performance of their duties." For his pains he was rebuffed in a "book" the next story of Basic Magnesium the Nevada Senator was defeated for reelection this year.

Interviews with officials at the various government agencies concerned with the magnesium situation, and Senator Bunker, Truman and other members of Congress developed the very definite impression that the Las Vegas project and its processing plant at Lansing were in such desperate shape last month that purchase by Anaconda of the 51% per cent stock interest of Basic Magnesium, Inc., in the enterprise was the only course left.

AUTHORIZED DEAL
Complete collapse of the plant project appeared to be imminent when Jesse Jones, chairman of D.P.C., authorized the deal.

The stock purchase involved \$75,000 but the original asking price of Basic Magnesium was more than 16 times that amount, it is understood. A 25 per cent reduction in price terms at the result of vigorous objections by the Truman committee, according to corroborating sources.

Even though Basic Magnesium had in come down in its price the Cleveland company made up much of its losses by charging Anaconda an additional \$100,000 for its magnetic claims. While the deals by the company from its original investors have not yet been disclosed they are considered "lucrative" sources the Times was told.

SCANDAL FEARED
Panic of Senator Bunker that "another Teapot Dome scandal only on a smaller scale," which result from thorough investigation of Basic Magnesium's activities, appear to have persuaded the D.P.C. and other agencies concerned with the extreme generally chosen the company in the wilderness, a decision which has been poured into the press.

Magnesium Plant Rises In the Desert

BOULDER CITY, Nev., Aug. 9 (AP)——No you thought the building of Boulder dam was a big story? Well, that Basic Magnesium, Inc. is building that's the new plant rising in the desert near here, which at full capacity will make 20 times more magnesium than was produced in the entire world six years ago.

They're just now starting them of information about the project. There are lots of stories that the War Production Board "looks over" but here are a few it appears for public consumption.

Boulder dam employment at its peak, behind 5200 workers. Basic Magnesium had 12,618 on the pay roll last week—and that pay roll is greater each week than it was each month at the dam.

It would take a freight train to empty cars to unload the materials already delivered to Basic. And there's still more to come.

Of course, Boulder dam makes the Basic project possible. The dam's early at most, non-polluted electricity at peak times that the workers have to be sent back to camp to get the electricity when a full load of current is turned on.

The painting project is a mighty thing in itself. Pipe painting includes scrubbing from fact-inside lines in six ducts big enough to drive a truck through.

The whole job will take 200 tons of paint, which is used at a rate of 1100 gallons a day. Two of every known color, shade and brand, must be made to withstand temperatures of 400 degrees and over. Our money is applied at a rate of 300 degrees Fahrenheit.

The spent, much of the pipe is stored in large piles.

Painters who work inside exhaust lines look like deep-sea divers. No dangerous are the fumes that they wear special clothing and gas masks. They are lowered into the pipe one at a time and are hoisted out the moment they stop working.

Incidentally, steel painters would work a mile for a steady fair wind would. The war has changed the lives of Chinese sailors here. Old sailors have come to the coast, but the war has changed the lives of Chinese sailors here.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
"Devoted to economic and business problems and marketing, buying and sale of chemicals."

OCT 1942
COMPANIES
Basic for Sale?
Basic Refractories, Inc., the company which controls Basic Magnesium, Inc. is reported to be engaged in negotiations looking toward possible sale of that company's interest to Anaconda Copper Mining Co., according to information received here in New York.

WORK DEFERRED
He said, however, that the committee was "puzzled" when operation of the Nevada plant was turned over to Anaconda because he had "some misgivings" as to the ability of the well-known mining company to handle the affairs of the plant.

Officials at Defense Plant Corporation insisted the plant was making favorable progress, pointing out that 600,000 pounds of magnesium were produced last month. The annual production, however, is estimated at 112,000,000 pounds per year, or approximately 200,000 tons a month.

MAMMOTH WAR PLANT RISES IN BARREN DESERT

Project Target of Senate Criticism.
BY CAPT. M. M. CORNING.
Los Vegas, Nev., May 31—Out here in the barren desert of eastern Nevada, where the atmosphere seems to be 125 degrees in summer and drops to 25 below in winter, a mammoth plant is rising from the earth.

The 500-million dollar plant will produce magnesium, which is of great importance as a war material, and also other metals.

The project has been the subject of considerable criticism. A Senate committee, created to investigate the war production program referred to in the report April 23, is "one of the most important elements at work here," which had come to the committee's attention.

Operations Are Divided.
Producing out here appear to be divided into two main sections. One is the plant in the north of a fairly large of stored material. Basic magnesium is produced here, and the other part, which others covered in this article, and concentrates are produced by the New Deal.

More than 40 million tons of supplies have been brought here for the project. The most important are the various types of pipe, steel, iron, copper, and other materials. The project is being built by the United States Steel Corp.

The plant is being built in a barren desert, where the weather is extremely hot in summer and very cold in winter. The project is being built by the United States Steel Corp.

S. PLANE SINK
A SINKING PLANE

Las Vegas Magnesium Plant Reported Sold

WASHINGTON, May 30 (AP)—Senator Bunker D. (D.) Tex. said today he had learned reliably that the Anaconda Copper Co. had acquired Basic Magnesium, Inc., which operates a plant at Las Vegas, Nev., for \$75,000,000.

The transaction, Bunker said, gives Anaconda Copper the only position "lock, stock and barrel." "The government, on condition their lucky to get out of this thing," Bunker said, "is now selling Basic Magnesium to receive \$100,000,000 from the defense plant corporation. I am not sure in this view of the bargaining job Basic Magnesium did in its year's operation. The job was bought, because if it hadn't been, Basic Magnesium would not have sold out as they have."

Officials at Defense Plant Corporation insisted the plant was making favorable progress, pointing out that 600,000 pounds of magnesium were produced last month. The annual production, however, is estimated at 112,000,000 pounds per year, or approximately 200,000 tons a month.

Officials at Defense Plant Corporation insisted the plant was making favorable progress, pointing out that 600,000 pounds of magnesium were produced last month. The annual production, however, is estimated at 112,000,000 pounds per year, or approximately 200,000 tons a month.

Anoconda Copper Buys Basic Magnesium Control

Announcement is made by Jesse Jones, secretary of commerce, that Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has purchased the 51% per cent stock interest of Howard P. Ellis Jr. and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc. In connection with this purchase, Defense Plant Corp. has bought one fourth of Basic Magnesium stock from Galvin, Nev.

Basic Magnesium, Inc. is operating and will complete the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., owned by Defense Plant Corp. The first unit produced magnesium Aug. 11 and additional units have been brought to date. Completion is scheduled for April 15. It will have capacity for 112,000,000 of installable magnesium and will cost over \$100,000,000. Basic Magnesium stock, in addition to that bought by Anaconda, is owned by British interests represented in this country by Maj. C. J. F. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium will operate the plant for account of Defense Plant Corp. and will receive 9 per cent per pound in magnesium produced, which will be about 2 per cent of sales.

At New York Cornelius P. Kelly, chairman of the board of Anaconda,

WALL STREET JOURNAL
New York City
NOV 5 1942

Basic Refractories Receives \$454,000 in Stock Disposal

CLEVELAND—Through its sale on October 27, part of stock of Basic Refractories Co., \$454,000 was received by the United States Dept. of Commerce, according to a report covering the transaction filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

According to the report, Basic Refractories and the stock in Basic Magnesium, the mining corporation, for \$100,000, paying \$75,000 in cash and the balance through mortgage by Basic Magnesium to Basic Refractories of \$25,000. The stock was sold by Basic Refractories to Defense Plant Corp. for \$454,000.

The transaction involved all the stock of Basic Refractories owned by Basic Magnesium, which is a subsidiary of Basic Magnesium, Inc. at Las Vegas, Nevada, which is owned by Defense Plant Corp.

Biggest Magnesium Plant Producing

The world's largest magnesium plant with a rated capacity of approximately 110,000 tons of U. S. output in 1941, has started production, A. H. Bunker, chief, administration and magnesium branch, W.P.B., advised the regional W.P.B. today.

It is the Basic Magnesium Inc. plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, the latest of five important magnesium plants that have entered production in recent weeks. The others are the New Dew Chemical Co. plant in Texas, the Ford Motor Co. plant in Michigan, the Permutit Co. plant in California, and the New England Lime Co.'s plant.

said. "The release by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones sets forth in detail the nature of the transaction. All that I wish to add is that the participation of Anaconda in this great enterprise has been undertaken at the invitation of the government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium. Our function is that of management, without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over and is undertaken only for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all interested parties in the war effort."

J. E. Hobbs, president of Basic Magnesium, Frederick Lisot, vice president of Anaconda has been elected vice president and they, with myself, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium."

Contract No. 1788
NOV 12, 1942

Anoconda Magnesium
Young (R) Senator Berkeley Lloyd Bunker of Nevada is a serious Mormon ex-hippy who looks like Tyrone Power and is more often seen than heard on the floor of the Senate. Since he took the U. S. silver Senator Roy Pittman's place two years ago, he has made the headlines on only one subject: Nevada's huge Government-financed magnesium plant, world's largest (rated capacity, 112,000,000 lb. a year, 25 times U. S. output last year), which went into production last month.

First time Senator Bunker jumped into the news with magnesium (The April American magazine) when he stated even more unambiguously Jesse Jones is charged that Basic Magnesium, Inc. which had contracted to build and run the plant for the government's Defense Plants Corp., had bargained so well with Bunker Jones that it stood to make a 4.87% profit on its investment. Jesse harangued about "statements unworthy of a U. S. Senator."

Senator Bunker's "fairness and misfeasance," and the public target. In any case, the ex-hippy of the first Jesse allowed Basic Magnesium, Inc. depended largely on whether you figured it as a percentage of what the war operation was costing the Government (then estimated at \$2,300,000) or as Bunker's estimate of B.M.'s own original investment (\$20,000).

But last week Berkeley Bunker came up with some news that really put B.M. into the big time. He said he had heard "reliably" that huge Anaconda Copper Co. was buying B.M. "lock, stock and barrel" for \$75,000,000, that its former owners were getting \$1,000,000 from Defense Plants Corp. on the deal, although the Government's bill for building the plant would now run over \$500,000,000 rather than \$200,000,000. Even so, said Senator Bunker darkly, "the Government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing."

As the week wore on Berkeley Bunker's big news was surrounded with hanks of silence. B.M.'s President Howard P. Ellis Jr. said no one could talk; but Anaconda, which did not even say that much, but Bunker Bunker's information was right (and at week's end no one had yet denied it) it was important for the first time one of the great low-line metal producers was getting into light metal production in a big way.

Las Vegas Age
Nov 20 1942

Rust Engineering Co. Will Build Chimneys

Contract for erection of three 125 ft. x 3 ft. reinforced concrete chimneys for Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Las Vegas, Nevada, has been awarded to the Rust Engineering Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.

BASIC MAGNESIUM, INC., MEANS BREAD AND BUTTER TO NEVADA

Large Part of State's Population Supported By Payroll of Single Industry; Group of Workers Wage Daily Fight, Need Backing

(By A Contributor)

Seldom has any state had the opportunity for industrial and social advance now made possible to Nevada by the establishment of the Basic Magnesium industry in our midst. It is and must be the headline interest for our people throughout the state from the mining regions of the north to the reduction, refining, and processing industrial area now growing up right here in the power center of the great southwest.

Rich as is our state, the wealth is hidden in the mysterious metallic ores and chemical compound which wait the science of the metallurgist and the engineer to explore and the vision and courage of the industrialist to make available.

Under the terrific pressure and necessities of war the pulse of progress has been quickened until now the activity has become so extensive that between a third and quarter of all the population of this state is directly or indirectly supported by the payroll of this single industry.

Here a huge group of strong and fearless men and equally strong and fearless women daily wage their fight for everything that life holds dear. Make no mistake about it, this job is a fight and the physical surrounding and misery in general is a real battlefield. It is their fight but it is also your fight.

These thousands of skilled and resourceful men and women workers entirely lack a sponsor, a defender in the press, or even a friendly voice over the radio while they can be and are personally vilified, misrepresented, slandered and disparaged in every conceivable way and can reply exactly nothing. Free speech appears of be only available to those who wish to destroy everything from morale to progress—and do these worthies make use of it.

The columns of the press from one end of the country to the other are available to those who wish to obstruct progress at this project and one has to be very glib not to feel that it is greatly desired by many that not a pound of metal ever be produced at this great plant. Just what is back of this consuming interest? Who keeps their ball rolling? Enemies? Competitors? Germans? Japanese? Who else?

One thing is certain and that is that it is only those who would speak the truth about this project who are muzzled at the present time. Its enemies speak or publish any misrepresentation which comes to their minds. Lies travel fast and make readable news while truth goes by slow motion and in this case cannot even get started.

Whether you work within the organization of this great industry or in other business or enterprise within this state you are directly affected, and the coins in your pocket, the "folding money" in your wallet, and whatever nest egg you may have in the bank got there and is getting there very largely through the medium of this industry. Any doubts you may have on this point will be quickly dissipated if this tremendous undertaking folds up.

Good men, able men, will take just about so much beating. They do not have to take more but if they do for your sake and mine then we had better get busy and give them support while it can be effective. Your bread and butter is very definitely involved. If you are not hungry now you may be later on.

DISCOURAGING ENTERPRISE

On page one of this issue of the Age we print an article, written from the standpoint of a Basic Magnesium, Inc., employee, discussing the unsatisfactory relations which, unfortunately, have developed between the company and a portion of the business people of Las Vegas.

The writer sounds a note of warning which should be considered by Las Vegas. That is the unfortunate effect on other prospective enterprises which the rebuff of Basic Magnesium may cause.

The Labor Freezing Order

There is perfect justice in the plan to freeze the employees in war industries, thus eliminating for the duration, the tendency of workers to migrate from job to job to the detriment both of themselves and the job they're trying to do.

Production is the greatest factor in winning this war. That production must be steady and dependable. Whether it is or not depends to a large degree on the permanence of the crews on the job, for veteran workers, used to pulling together, are far more valuable on any job than crews composed of constantly shifting personnel.

The men of the army, navy and air corps, whose job it is to win the struggle, no matter what the personal sacrifice, are assigned to the place they can serve best.

Soldiers can't quit on a moment's notice, or transfer from the infantry to an anti-aircraft battalion, or leave the artillery on one coast to join up on the other. They're in for the duration of the war, and will be placed in service where the high command decides they fit best.

We're all enlisted until victory finally crowns our effort. We're all soldiers in a mighty army, and every last one of us wants to do his duty wherever that duty lies. All we ask is that we be told what our job is to do—where we fit into the vast national picture.

Freezing workers on their present jobs means only that the high command feels those men can serve best where they now are, and that they should stay there until the war's over or the job's completed, unless it is decided some are needed elsewhere.

Wages and hours are pretty well stabilized over the country, and as to types of work, soldiers and sailors aren't choosers, why should any of the rest of us be.

The only valid complaint we can see that might arise, is in areas where housing conditions aren't satisfactory—where the health of the workers and their families is actually imperiled by lack of proper homes.

Where this situation DOES prevail, there should be an immediate rush to provide housing to meet the need—and here we run smack up against the priorities situation.

Las Vegas would have had several hundred more homes and an adequate sewer system right now, if it weren't for failure of someone in Washington to realize the need for speed.

That's water under the bridges now, of course, but when the labor freezing order is issued, it should be accompanied by another, insuring IMMEDIATE solution of the housing situation in areas like this one where it is entirely inadequate and is MADE inadequate by Washington itself.

Spirit of West



H. C. "Smiley" Mann, project manager, for Basic Magnesium, Inc., who joined wholeheartedly in the Helldorado spirit, along with the rest of the BMI and McNeil Construction officials. Mann is shown, above, with R. C. Kelley in a photo taken before Mann entered the old timers' parade last night.

Nevada Magnesium Industry in Danger?

Following is an article clipped from The Fallon Eagle (Fallon, Nevada) of April 18, 1942.

IS NEVADA MAGNESIUM INDUSTRY IN DANGER?

That there may be something a lot bigger than appears on the surface back of the uproar about Basic Magnesium is hinted in recent rumors to the effect that the Nevada skirmish is part of a titanic struggle for control of the light metals industry.

According to these rumors, the aluminum trust has its eyes on Grand Coulee where power is generated almost on top of the magnesium deposits, and where development of magnesium metal would be inexpensive by comparison to the cost of producing the mineral at Gabbs Valley and transporting it to Las Vegas for processing.

From persons in Washington close enough to the top to know something about the situation, have come the prediction that the Nevada producing quarries and the great processing plant at Las Vegas may be lost to the state if the aluminum trust has its way.

Accusations against Basic Magnesium by Senator Bunker of Nevada, have focused attention on that corporation which, if the senator is upheld in his contentions has a lush thing in its contracts with the government—which Jesse Jones of the RFC hotly denies.

While the senate committee is investigating the Bunker charges, perhaps it had better go a step further and look into the whole light metal set-up, far enough to determine who is to dominate magnesium production and processing in this period of national peril.

The public is clamoring for a cleanup of any rottenness that may exist in war industries, and if Senator Bunker has uncovered some dirt, that's to his credit, whether it helps him get him-

self elected to the post he now holds by appointment or not. If there's bigger game than Basic Magnesium, Inc., in the offing, however, Thurman Arnold and the Truman committee had better go gunning for it and not waste all their ammunition on the smaller fry.

On the other hand, there may not be anything radically amiss anywhere as far as magnesium is concerned, and if that is the case the public mind will be eased considerably if the truth is dug out quickly and given to the people who are uneasy enough about war production as it is, without having this, too to worry about.

Will Take Salt From Devil's Golf Course

Basic Magnesium Inc. of Las Vegas last week secured a short-term contract to take salt pinacles to use in processing magnesium in their new plant, operation of which is expected to start immediately.

This huge salt deposit lies eight miles south of Furnace Creek Inn. Huge bulldozers will scrape salt from the surface, and heavy equipment was moved onto the "fairways" last week.

The heavy salt crust is reported to be of an average depth of eight inches, and will be loaded onto trucks and hauled to Las Vegas. Geologists estimate that it will take five years of normal precipitation to replace the salt pinacles.

Donald Seal of Furnace Creek Inn has been made superintendent of the project.

BMI Employees To Buy War Bonds

Large Employer To Join Program

First large Nevada employer to seek qualifications as an issuing agent for United States war savings bond is Basic Magnesium, Inc., operator of the large magnesium plant being built at Las Vegas and in Gabbs valley. Through Howard P. Eells, Jr., president, the company has asked R. L. Douglass, administrator of the war savings bond program in Nevada, to supply information and assist in setting up the program.

In his message to the state administrator, Eells said he felt qualification of Basic Magnesium as an issuing agent for bonds would assist the government's war financing program and facilitate the delivery of bonds to employs of BMI who make the purchases.

Will Take Salt From Death Valley

Ban Is Waived by Secretary Ickes

WASHINGTON, May 15—(AP)—Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes has authorized Basic Magnesium, Inc., to extract salt from Death Valley during the next six months, waiving the ban on commercial exploitation of the national park.

The war production board announced removal of the 36 per cent strategic metals provision affecting gold and silver mines.

"The amount of critical minerals produced will continue to be the guide in determining preference for mining equipment," the board stated.

Company Requests Power to Dispose Of Savings Bonds

Basic Magnesium, Inc., the company which is constructing the huge magnesium refining plant near Las Vegas, has applied to the war savings bond program for permission to act as an issuing agent for war savings bonds. R. L. Douglass, administrator of the program for Nevada said yesterday.

The company is the first large employing concern in the state to seek qualification to issue war bonds. Howard P. Eells, Jr., presi-

dent of the company, has written to Douglass asking for information and assistance in setting up the program for the company.

MINING & CONTRACTING REVIEW SALT LAKE CITY UTAH 5/31/42

The Department of the Interior has authorized Basic Magnesium, Incorporated to obtain salt for its Las Vegas, Nevada magnesium refinery from Death Valley National Monument deposits.

L V Review Journal
Nov 27 1942

Land Set Aside In State for BMI

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 27 (WNS) — In order to facilitate the operations of the Basic Magnesium Inc., plant, 414,720 acres of public lands have been set aside in Nye county to house magnesium ore workers, Senator Pat McCarran's office announced today.

SEP. 26, 1942

OMAHA, NEB, HORN

BAS. M. G. I., 194,000,000

Nevada Silver Finds Place in War Building

Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 25 (AP)—An army-approved program to substitute Nevada silver for copper in future construction at Basic Magnesium, Inc., huge new plant here, was announced today by Senator Pat McCarran.

Plant officials said McCarran wired them the plan would release large quantities of copper now used for railings in buses and electrical appliances.

McCarran further said silver used thus for non-consumptive purposes would "in no wise detract from its value as metal for money." He predicted 1,600,000 pounds of silver would be used in the program.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

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OCT 1942

COMPANIES

Basic for Sale?

Basic Refractories, Inc., the company which controls Basic Magnesium, Inc., is reported to be engaged in negotiations looking toward possible sale of that company's interest to Anaconda Copper Mining Co., according to information received here in New York.

Helldorado Spirit Bubbling Over As Fete Date Nearing

Old Timers' Parade to
Be Most Colorful
Event Thursday

The spirit of Helldorado was bubbling over in Las Vegas, along with the weather today, and M. E. Sullivan, general chairman of the annual celebration predicted "the greatest show in history and one which will rival any affair of its kind staged in the United States today."

The wheels of the old wagons, used yearly in the old timers' parade which opens the show Thursday night, were receiving coatings of axle grease and the horses which will draw them were being curried and shined up for the big affair. So great has been the response to the call for entries that James Cashman, chairman of the parade committee, announced today that the procession would be the longest and most colorful of any held here since the big fete started.

20-Mule Teams

Stagecoaches, surreys, tally-hos, ox-teams and just plain wagons will be seen along the line of march and it is expected that the 20 mule borax wagons will be somewhere in the parade, although the string of mules hauling them will be materially cut because mule skinnners, capable of handling such lengthy teams are too few and far between.

The local entries in the parade will be competing for three beautiful trophies while another award will be made to the best out of town entry. There will be a first, second and third prize given for the local entries after the judging committee has turned in its verdict.

B.M.I. Joins Fun

The Basic Magnesium plant has joined whole heartedly in the big affair, and it was announced today that the offices would be closed at 4 o'clock to enable everyone to participate in the opening ceremonies.

H. C. Mann, manager of production at Basic, has set the style for the employees at the plant, blossoming forth in a complete western outfit today. The order also has gone out that all B.M.I. workers are to don western costumes, starting Monday, and these are to be purchased from local merchants.

It also was announced that the plant will have a number of entries in the bathing beauty parade on Sunday, featured by a mystery entry "Miss Missouri."

Prizes Upped

The Elks announced that the prizes for the winners of this contest will receive cash awards of \$60, \$40 and \$25, a boost of \$15 in each award.

Trophies also will be awarded for the best floats entered in the parade, with three cups going to local concerns and one to outside entries.

CO. FIELD, NEV. & CO. TRIBUNE
MAY 23, 1942

DEATH VALLEY GIVES FIRST MAGNESIUM SALT

According to reports from Death Valley, the first truck load of salt was loaded from the salt beds Wednesday for delivery to the Basic Magnesium plant near Las Vegas.

It was stated that some difficulty was experienced as the caterpillar used in the loading process became stuck in the marsh and was released only after considerable effort. The treachery of the salt marsh presents a problem which is being studied in order that the work may proceed without interruption.

Gabbs Valley Power Line Now Is in Service

TONOPAII, May 23—The new sixty-four-mile high tension electric transmission line extending from Millers to Gabbs Valley (Bruce) in northern Nye county, was put in service Sunday, according to a report made by Basic Magnesium Inc. officials.

The 55,000-volt transmission line was recently completed and electrical energy is furnished by the California Electric Power company, Nevada district, with headquarters in Tonopah. The electrical energy will be used to power the calcining plant, quarry and crushers to be operated by Basic Magnesium, Inc. and located in Gabbs Valley. At present most of the power will serve construction units which are at work in the defense area. General service is also provided in the vicinity of the plant, it was said.

The Millers to Gabbs Valley line, which ties into a 4000-kilowatt sub-station at the B.M.I. plant, was built ahead of schedule and will serve to speed up construction work in Gabbs Valley, it was said.

B.M.I. Authorized To Sell Bonds

Basic Magnesium, Inc., has become the first concern in the state of Nevada to be designated as an issuing agent for defense bonds, according to word received here from R. L. Douglass of Reno, administrator of the Nevada war savings staff.

Authorization for the issuance of the bonds was given by the federal official on the request of Howard P. Eells, Jr., president of B.M.I. Howard C. Mann, production manager for B.M.I. is in charge of details.

The magnesium officials have arranged for an intensive bond sale at the plant, which already is in progress, in order to encourage defense workers to save for the future and to aid the government in the war effort.

First Shipment Of Salt Lands At B.M.I.

A modern twenty-mule team, rubber tired and powered by internal combustion engines, rolled into the Basic Magnesium plant yesterday bringing the first shipment of salt out of Death Valley in preparation for actual start of producing magnesium.

This shipment consisted of 150,000 pounds of salt, and trucks will continue moving regularly until the total stockpile reaches the 200,000,000 pound mark.

Contract for hauling the salt is held by Wells-Fargo, Inc., of Reno.

Labor "Freezing" Program Mapped By U. S. Officials

Plan Designed to
Halt "Pirating"
Of Workers

WASHINGTON, May 28 (UP)—The manpower problem has reached such a critical stage that the government today is prepared to "freeze" millions of war industry workers and some essential farm workers at their present jobs.

War Manpower Commission Chairman Paul V. McNutt has been directed to draft a policy statement on a "freezing" plan agreed to in principle last night by the commission. The plan is designed to stop "pirating" of workers—a practice that is hampering some war industries—and to give complete control of war worker placement to the federal government.

Draft Deferment

The plan in its present form also provides for draft deferment for key war industry workers through selective service directives. There would be no blanket deferments.

The United States employment service would become the sole hiring agency for war industries which are considered critical. Employers could get new workers only through that agency; workers could get jobs or change jobs only with the service's approval.

Officials have indicated that the manpower problem—hundreds of thousands of new men for the armed forces and additional millions for war industries—is approaching a crisis requiring drastic control measures.

Brigadier General Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, already had indicated that the armed service problem may be eased a little by seeking legislation to permit the drafting of 18 and 19 year olds. They have to register June 30 but the present law prohibits their induction.

The "freezing" plan for workers would be the most ambitious attempt by the government to control labor supply and to prevent war workers from changing jobs because of the lure of higher wages or other incentives.

Piracy of workmen has been especially prevalent in the aircraft, shipbuilding and automobile industries and officials said it has reached proportions in some areas where its effect is being reflected in lower production.

Industries working on government contracts would be required to hire only workers certified by the employment service. But the commission's deputy chairman, Fowler V. Harper, explained that there would be "no legal compulsion on a worker to take a job to which he is referred."

McCarran Tells Of Labor "Freeze"

Whether the war labor freezing order will apply to construction workers on defense plants has not been determined, it was revealed today by Senator Pat McCarran in a wire to the Review-Journal.

McCarran said in his wire: "I have protested the application of the order to construction workers, but am unofficially advised there is a strong sentiment to include workers operating existing defense plants and also construction workers who are building defense plants to prevent migration of workers from job to job."

Magnesium Plant Goes "Western"



Above is shown members of the official family at the magnesium plant as they prepared to join with Las Vegas in celebrating the eighth Helldorado celebration, starting today. From left to right are shown: L. G. "Buck" McNeil, president of the McNeil Construction company; H. A. "Cowboy" Sargent, assistant to Howard Eells; T.

R. "Puncher" Cook, manager of the engineering; R. C. "Cash" Kelley, purchasing agent; G. W. "Slats" Burpee, Cloverdale and Colpitts engineer; J. R. "Tex" Coulter, works manager; H. R. "Jazz" Williams and G. H. "Bucker" Warfield, both of Cloverdale and Colpitts, and J. R. "Handsome Jack" Charles, chief consulting engineer.

A Sensational Record Indeed!

There will be no more new war plants.

Last year, the government ordered many built-brand new plants, starting from scratch. It is now discovered that the order was too big—too many plants, and there will be no further expansion, and some just barely started, are being halted where they stand.

The reason is NOT that the government erred in figuring the original necessity, but that American industry and labor have snapped into the pace so SENSATIONALLY that all production estimates are being exceeded by going plants already built.

This applies generally. There are few exceptions. Factories are turning out so much war stuff that new ones aren't needed. In many factories production is 150% to 200% above the most optimistic estimates a few months ago.

Industry and labor are cooperating one hundred per cent to make this record possible, and it's one of the most thrilling chapters of the whole war.

The full story cannot be written yet, too many war secrets involved. But it is romantic, spectacular and superlative. New tricks, new processes, streamline mass production of things formerly hand made, have featured the drama. Things rolling out cheaper, quicker and in greater quantities. We are learning lessons that will revolutionize much industrial production when peace comes.

Even the current chaos in the field of priorities for vital materials which is hounding the building industry even in recognized critical areas like our own, is attributable directly to the great record in production of war necessities.

More materials have been used than originally figured—factories are chewing up the raw stock and fashioning them into guns, tanks, planes, ships, etc., so rapidly as to cause an unanticipated squeeze on all materials available for civilian purposes.

But we'll soon begin to pick up the slack in many fields. Magnesium will be rolling out of the local plant by the middle of August, and by the first of the year the production will really reach important proportions. The same thing goes for other similar projects in the raw material field.

The record of American industry and labor in this war will be one of the most sensational examples of perfect team work and impossible achievements in all history. It is already the marvel of the conflict.

Busting Devil's Golf Course

The legendary denizen of the lower Death Valley region, who laughs and shouts with glee at night as he makes impossible shots on the Devil's Golf Course, is probably tearing his hair and roaring with rage these nights, says the Inyo Independent.

Basic Magnesium Inc. of Las Vegas this week secured a short-term contract to take salt pinnacles to use in processing magnesium in their new plant, operation of which is expected to start immediately.

This huge salt deposit lies eight miles south of Furnace Creek Inn. Huge bulldozers will scrape salt from the surface, and heavy equipment was moved onto the "fairways" this week.

The heavy salt crust is reported to be of an average depth of eight inches,

and will be loaded onto trucks and hauled to Las Vegas. Geologists estimate that it will take five years of normal precipitation to replace the salt pinnacles.

Donald Seal of Furnace Creek has been made superintendent of the project.

Will Use Salt From Death Valley

LAS VEGAS, Nev., May 23 (AP)—Salt deposits from the remote desolation of Death Valley will be diverted into war industry channels.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., announced today it had contracted for the salt, of which 175,000 tons a year will be needed for conversion into Chlorine gas for conversion into magnesium. The big plant is expected to start production in a few days.

There is a vast salt bed in the lower end of the valley, lowest point in the United States. The material will be trucked to Las Vegas.

B.M.I. Authorized To Sell Bonds

Basic Magnesium, Inc., has become the first concern in the state of Nevada to be designated as an issuing agent for defense bonds, according to word received here from R. L. Douglass of Reno, administrator of the Nevada war savings staff.

Authorization for the issuance of the bonds was given by the federal official on the request of Howard P. Eells, Jr., president of B.M.I. Howard C. Mann, production manager for B.M.I. is in charge of details.

The magnesium officials have arranged for an intensive bond sale at the plant, which already is in progress, in order to encourage defense workers to save for the future and to aid the government in the war effort.

Magnesium Plant To Join in Elks Helldorado Fete

Old Time Parade to Be
Greatest Event in
Fete History 5/21

Workers at the magnesium plant will go Helldorado in a big way for the annual fun-fest, and within a day or two, will be togged out in western costume from President L. J. McNeil of McNeil Construction company, Superintendent Howard Mann of Basic Magnesium, Fritz Ziebarth of Ziebarth Construction down through the office forces and workers, according to word received by the Elks committee in charge today.

For weeks beards have been sprouting at the plant, and now everything is set to go the rest of the way.

The various companies already have promised to participate in the old-timers parade, which opens the show one week from tonight, and each one is preparing a float for this occasion and the bathing beauty parade three nights later.

Big Parade

According to Chairman Jim Cashman, the Thursday night parade will outdo anything yet seen during the Helldorado performance.

In addition to Basic Magnesium, McNeil Construction, Ziebarth and Engineers Limited at the magnesium plant, scores of other interesting entries have been lined up.

Tom Hull of El Rancho Vegas is bringing a six-horse stage coach from Hollywood; Nevada Consolidated Shippers are entering another old-time coach; the chamber of commerce will display an ox-team drawing one of the freighters predominant here in the early days; Bel-Yea Trucking company will be in with an entry as will El Cortez Hotel, and the Pioneer Club, all of which have already notified the committee of their intention to join the parade.

Riding units from San Fernando Valley, St. George, Cedar City, and the Moapa Valley will be here for the opening, and it is expected that at least six bands will be in the line of march.

"This will be by far the biggest show we've ever staged, and I'm sure it will provide plenty of relaxation from the tenseness and rush of the war. We want everyone to pitch in, forget their troubles for a few days, and believe me, everybody's welcome to enter any of the features of the show, the old-timers parade especially," Cashman said.

Nevada Magnesium Industry in Danger?

Following is an editorial clipped from The Fallon Eagle (Fallon, Nevada) of April 18, 1942.

IS NEVADA MAGNESIUM INDUSTRY IN DANGER?

That there may be something a lot bigger than appears on the surface back of the uproar about Basic Magnesium is hinted in recent rumors to the effect that the Nevada skirmish is part of a titanic struggle for control of the light metals industry.

According to these rumors, the aluminum trust has its eyes on Grand Coulee where power is generated almost on top of the magnesium deposits, and where development of magnesium metal would be inexpensive by comparison to the cost of producing the mineral at Gabbs Valley and transporting it to Las Vegas for processing.

From persons in Washington close enough to the top to know something about the situation, have come the prediction that the Nevada producing quarries and the great processing plant at Las Vegas may be lost to the state if the aluminum trust has its way.

Accusations against Basic Magnesium by Senator Bunker of Nevada, have focused attention on that corporation which, if the senator is upheld in his contentions, has a lush thing in its contracts with the government—which Jesse Jones of the R. F. C. hotly denies.

While the senate committee is investigating the Bunker charges, perhaps it had better go a step further and look into the whole light metal setup, far enough to determine who is to dominate magnesium production and processing in this period of national peril.

The public is clamoring for a cleanup of any rottenness that may exist in war industries, and if Senator Bunker has uncovered some dirt, that's to his credit, whether it helps him get himself elected to the post he now holds by appointment or not. If there's bigger game than Basic Magnesium, Inc., in the offing, however, Thurman Arnold and the Truman committee had better go gunning for it and not waste all their ammunition on the smaller fry.

On the other hand, there may not be anything radically amiss anywhere as far as magnesium is concerned, and if that is the case the public mind will be eased considerably if the truth is dug out quickly and given to the people, who are uneasy enough about war production as it is, without having this, too, to worry about.

A. C. A. vs. BASIC MAGNESIUM

In another column of this issue, The Age prints an editorial clipped from the Fallon, Nevada, Eagle, which drags into the open the smelly issue of the efforts of the Aluminum Corporation of America to forestall the building of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant for the production of magnesium.

It has been quietly suggested in many quarters that Basic Magnesium, Inc., cannot hope to compete with Aluminum Corporation of America and its subsidiaries, in the matter of producing magnesium and it has been studiously pointed out that the subsidiaries of the Aluminum trust possess the only feasible and workable process of producing magnesium.

The fact that one of the impelling reasons of government officials for the creation of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., organization, and the securing of the British government's processes which have been the most successful of any in the world in the economic production of magnesium, was the hope of breaking through the armor of the gigantic Aluminum Corporation trust which has so hampered America's war efforts through control of the production and marketing of aluminum.

Jesse Jones and others of the high officials of the government have believed that it is essential for the government to supersede the Aluminum Corporation in the production of magnesium. They secured the British rights and the British scientists, most expert in the world and the highest organization talent and constructive genius of America, to undertake the job. Basic Magnesium, Inc., is the result of those plans.

There has been and apparently still is a deep and bitter opposition on the part of the Aluminum trust, to Basic Magnesium. There appears to be an equally earnest determination on the part of Jesse Jones and other government officials, to break the grasp of the Aluminum Corporation of America upon the vital light metals industry so necessary to the prosecution of the war.

When the full truth is known it is very possible that the powerful hand of the aluminum trust may be found guiding the efforts to discredit and break down the Basic Magnesium enterprise.

Of one thing we are certain: If Basic Magnesium, Inc., can be destroyed and removed from the field as a competitor of the aluminum trust in the production of magnesium, it will be done. And if that should happen it will be a sorry day for Nevada and especially for Las Vegas.

LAS VEGAS, NEV. REVIEW JOURNAL
CIV. 5124
MAY 22, 1942

The Best Possible Proof

The power line from Boulder Dam to the plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., has been completed and power turned on forty-five days ahead of schedule.

Originally programmed for June 10, the job was finished last Sunday, the line tested, and is now ready for use just as soon as the first production unit is ready for operation.

Water was brought from the lake in record time and has been in use at the plant for several weeks.

Each job was a sizeable project in itself. In ordinary times, each would have required weeks if not months longer than the number of days it took the contractors to finish them under the pressure of the war emergency.

The Truman committee, which probed the Las Vegas project, was very much interested in these two contracts, and took exception to the progress being made there as elsewhere on the big job.

That these are completed ahead of schedule should answer some of the criticisms of the Truman committee.

To date, everything is proceeding either on schedule or ahead of it. Proof positive, of course, will be found in the actual production of magnesium metal, which the Truman committee was advised is scheduled for the middle of August. If this is accomplished, and present indications are it will be, the people of the United States will have a pretty good idea who was right in the recent controversy—and it won't come from vocal sources, but from actual results. After all that's the best test of any operation.

Intensive Rodeo Ticket Sale for Elks Helldorado to Open in Vegas

An intensive ticket sale for the rodeo events in Las Vegas next week end has been launched by Mrs. G. C. "Buck" Blaine, who is in charge of a committee of girls who are handling the tickets. Several young women are needed to assist with the sales campaign, and anyone interested in assisting with this part of the civic celebration is asked to contact Mrs. Blaine.

The first performance of the rodeo will be held next Friday afternoon at the city park. Two shows are planned next Saturday, one at 1 o'clock in the afternoon and one at 7:30 o'clock in the evening. The final performance will be on Sunday, May 31.

Stock for the rodeo, which is being furnished by J. C. "Doc" Sorenson of Idaho, will arrive in Las Vegas Sunday. According to E. W. Cragin, who is in charge of the rodeo events for the spon-

soring Elks lodge, reports that 3200 seats have been installed, and if necessary the number can be boosted to 4,000. Remodeling of the rodeo facilities are nearly complete, and under the new arrangement spectators will get a better view than in past years. Cragin reports.

New auto parking facilities are being prepared on property of the Elks lodge east of the Helldorado Village to accommodate the crowd expected.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., officials and employes are joining in the spirit of the fete whole-heartedly, it was reported today, and orders have gone out that every employe must be in Helldorado garb Monday. A kangaroo court will be held at the plant in charge of Mrs. Arden Lusch. A "tallyho" will be entered in the old-timers parade next Thursday evening on the opening of the celebration.

This article was clipped from

MINING JOURNAL
PHOENIX ARIZ.
4/15/42

METROPOLITAN POWER IS TO BE USED BY BASIC MAGNESIUM, INC.

A LARGE block of power will be furnished Basic Magnesium, Inc., by the Metropolitan Water District, with lesser amounts coming from Parker Dam and from the Nevada allotment of Boulder Dam power. Agreements with the Metropolitan district provide that the district will supply power, a large amount of which it has contracted to buy from the federal government for pumping operations on the Colorado River aqueduct, but which it does not need at present. In addition, it is proposed that electric energy to be generated at Parker Dam be used by the magnesium company.

Parker Dam was built by the United States Bureau of Reclamation with funds supplied by the Metropolitan Water District and the district holds the right to one-half the generating capacity of the dam. The Parker Dam power plant, which will have 90 000 kw. in installations, is nearing completion. The present plan is that the Metropolitan district will release at current cost a large block of firm energy for the first three years the magnesium plant operates. The district also will permit the transmission of power from Parker Dam over its line to Boulder. During this period the district will be relieved of practically all charges for unused energy, and there will be a substantial reduction of its generating charges at Boulder Dam in addition to credits for Parker power used. The total credits for the proposed three-year contract period would amount to several million dollars.

One of the reasons for the present choice of the Basic Magnesium plant site is that a large part of the two 82,500-kw. generators installed for the district at Boulder Dam is available to serve the magnesium plant. One additional generator of 82,500-kw. capacity is to be installed.

RIVERSIDE, CALIF. PRESS
CIV. 7487
MAY 23, 1942

Death Valley Salt to Be Used in War Industry

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Salt deposits from the remote desolation of Death valley will be diverted into war industry channels.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., announced today it had contracted for the salt, of which 175,000 tons a year will be needed for conversion into chlorine gas to process magnesium. The big plant is expected to start production in a few days.

There is a vast salt bed in the lower end of the valley, lowest point in the United States. The material will be trucked to Las Vegas.

GLINDALE, CALIF. NEWS-PRESS
CIV. 13127
MAY 23, 1942

Death Valley Salt To Aid War Output

Las Vegas, Nev. (AP)—Salt deposits from the remote desolation of Death valley will be diverted into war industry channels.

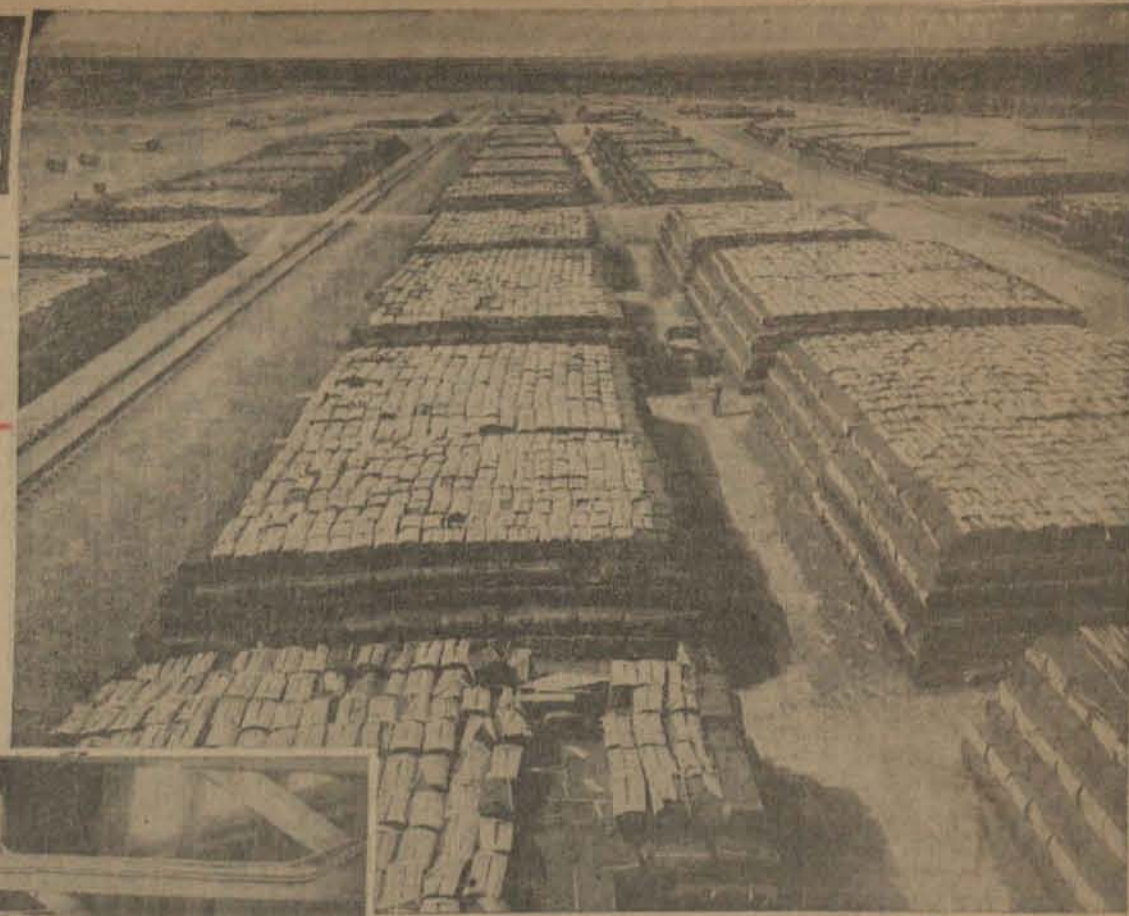
Basic Magnesium, Inc., announced today it had contracted for the salt, of which 175,000 tons a year will be needed for conversion into chlorine gas to process magnesium. The big plant is expected to start production in a few days.

THE CHRONICLE FINANCIAL NEWS

CCCCAA SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 1942 13

An Industrial Oasis

Located in a Southern Nevada desert, where a year ago there was no water, no power, and only a few houses, a gigantic plant, Basic Magnesium Inc., is producing the precious metal, magnesium, and an equally vital chemical, liquid chlorine. The plant, the world's largest of its kind, cost more than \$100,000,000. The surrounding Wide World photos give some idea of the enormous operations involved. The peat beds shown here will eventually be used in the manufacture of magnesium. The peat comes from Canada, is highly inflammable and the beds are constantly watered as a precaution against fire. To house the huge working force needed to operate the plant a model village of 1000 demountable homes has been built. There are also a camp accommodating 6000 single men, trailer camps, motor courts and hotels and homes in Las Vegas, 15 miles away.



ALHAMBRA, CAL., POST-ADVOCATE
Cir. 6,778
NOVEMBER 14, 1942

468 Science Parade

By SCIENCE SERVICE

New Safe Roach Powder Conserves Supplies

A roach powder that is deadly to roaches but non-poisonous to human beings, has been developed by Dr. Simon Marcovitch of the University of Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station. Only small quantities of sodium fluoride and pyrethrum, the usual roach poisons, are used in the new powder. These are diluted with a non-poisonous carrier which activates the insecticide and makes it effective in killing roaches, he explains.

The University of Tennessee is now negotiating with manufacturers to put the new powder on the market. Two years ago Dr. Marcovitch read about a cook in Pittsburgh who mistook roach powder for baking powder. Eleven died and 52 others became seriously ill after partaking of her provender. To prevent repetition of such accidents, he determined to develop a powder that would kill only roaches. Fluorine compounds cannot now be imported and are very scarce and pyrethrum is "frozen." The improved powder will make present stocks of insecticides go ten times farther, Dr. Marcovitch says.

Plastic Pipes Convey Light on Planes

The light-piping plastic, methyl methacrylate resin, is put to a novel use on TWA transport planes. Bent rods of the plastic convey light from the navigation lights located under the wing tips to the top where the pilot can see it. He must know where his wing tips are in night maneuvering and landing. The lightweight rods add little to the weight and drag of the plane.

Biggest Magnesium Plant Located in U. S. A.

The new magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, is the largest in the world with a capacity 3 1/2 times the total U. S. output in 1941, according to a statement of the Office of War Information of the WPB. The Basic Magnesium plant, as it is called, is the latest of five huge magnesium plants that have lately entered production. All were financed and are owned by the government.

Completion of the program will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries in the production of magnesium, a place formerly held by Germany, and will help us to produce more airplanes, incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

Unused Research Ability Mobilized

"Science scrap," the unused talents of retired research men, will be put to work for the war effort under a plan to be executed by a committee of the American Chemical Society.

More chemical research is needed and the plan will coordinate the use of men, facilities, and work projects. The committee will also act as a clearing house for research directors who can give all or part of their time, and for colleges that would be interested in having research advisers visit their departments to cooperate on war work.

Engineering Marvel WORLD'S BIGGEST MAGNESIUM PLANT RISES IN DESERT

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Nov. 21 (AP)—Little did the men who built Boulder Dam realize that their masterpiece of engineering skill was paving the way for an even greater project—the world's largest magnesium plant.

Located in a blistering southern Nevada desert, where a year ago there was no water, no power, and only a few houses, this gigantic plant, Basic Magnesium, Inc., already producing the precious metal and an equally vital chemical, liquid chlorine.

Without the energy generated by Boulder Dam, 15 miles distant, and the water it impounds, the magnesium plant could not exist. But just as important are Nevada's vast deposits of magnesium ore, close at hand.

A chemist with apparatus a yard square can make magnesium, but producing it in quantities required for global war is something else. Basic Magnesium, while only one of numerous such plants, as the largest of them all represents a new triumph of American ingenuity and inventiveness.

It cost more than \$100,000,000, required 50,000 tons of structural steel, and has the largest single electrical installation in the history of American industrial construction. It employs nearly three times

Boulder Dam's maximum working force, housing it in a new model village of 1000 demountable homes. A camp accommodating 6000 single men, trailer camps, motor courts, and hotels and homes in Las Vegas, 15 miles away.

Children attend a new 12-grade school. The sick are treated in a new concrete hospital. A restaurant, large enough to seat 2200 persons, serves 25,000 meals a day.

It was necessary to bring power and water over the mountains to the plant site. Bleak hills were straddled to carry the electricity generated at Boulder Dam. A huge pipe line brought water from Lake Mead to two huge reservoirs. A 26-mile railroad and 50 miles of temporary dirt road were built.

You get some idea of the tremendous size of Basic Magnesium, Inc., when you consider that this plant soon will produce 30 times as much magnesium as did the entire world six years ago.

Magnesium, although eighth in abundance among the elements, does not exist in a free state. It was discovered away back in 1808, and first separated into the pure metal just before the turn of the century. But as recently as the 1920's, work with the metal scarcely had passed the laboratory stage. Now that it can be produced in quantity, its



value to our war effort is incalculable. Magnesium is used for tracer bul-

lets, flares and incendiary bombs lighter than aluminum—Because it is so extremely

light—

in alloys wherever possible, in airplanes, engines, wings, fuselages, mountings, gas tanks, panels, floor-

ing, wheels, ventilating ducts, dust covers, to name a few. It has become the miracle metal of the war.

LAS VEGAS, NEV., REVIEW-JOURNAL
5, 128
OCTOBER 28, 1942

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

Magnesium is rolling out of the B. M. I. plant in quantity. The daily production is reaching a point worth talking about, but executives at the plant aren't talking because the war department says no. Suffice to say that magnesium from Clark County IS going into the war effort NOW in a pleasing amount. Figures are not available.

SANTA PAULA, CALIF.
CHRONICLE
OCTOBER 27, 1942

Anaconda Buys Basic Magnesium, Las Vegas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of Commerce Jesse H. Jones announced last night the Anaconda Copper Mining Company has purchased controlling interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators of the giant Las Vegas (Nev.) magnesium plant, from Howard P. Ellis, Jr., and associates of Cleveland.

He said the purchase price was \$75,000 and that Anaconda acquired 52 1/2 per cent of the company's "stock interest."

INQUIRER

Philadelphia, Pa.
OCT 27 1942

Anaconda Buys Basic Magnesium

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (U. P.).—Secretary of Commerce Jesse H. Jones announced tonight Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has purchased controlling interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators of the giant Las Vegas (Nev.) magnesium plant, from Howard P. Ellis, Jr., and associates of Cleveland. He said the purchase price was \$75,000 and that Anaconda acquired 52 1/2 per cent of the company's stock.

In connection with the transaction, he said, Defense Plant Corp.—owner of the Las Vegas plant—bought ore lands near Gabbs, Nev., from Basic Magnesium for \$450,000. He said the lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

Building and Metal Trades Pact Signed by Basic Magnesium Firm

Las Vegas, Nev.—Out in the desert, one of the hugest contracting jobs in the nation—the \$100,000,000 plant of the Basic Magnesium Corporation—is now beginning to take form. It is a 100 per cent AFL union job.

Agreements with the corporation, covering the 10,000 construction workers now on the site and the additional thousands who will be employed in the production of magnesium, have just been signed by the Building Trades and Metal Trades Departments of the American Federation of Labor.

These agreements are described by AFL officials as the finest existing anywhere in the country.

Magnesium, a metal lighter than aluminum, is vitally needed in aircraft manufacture. One unit of the plant is already in production and nine others are being rushed to completion.

Everett (Wn) Labor Journal
October 1, 1942

Magnesium Ore Fields Located

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Several extensive magnesium-bearing deposits have been found by the bureau of mines in the Boulder dam area of Nevada

RECORD
Philadelphia, Pa.

OCT 31 1942

ANACONDA ACQUIRES BASIC MAGNESIUM

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Oct. 30 (AP)—J. R. Hobbins, president of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., of whose stock Anaconda recently purchased 52 per cent, a BMI statement said today.

Anaconda agreed to assume the management of the Government's big magnesium plants, built by Basic, at Las Vegas and Gabbs, Nev.

DULUTH (MINN.) HERALD
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1942

and California which "possibly can be used as additional sources of raw material" for the new magnesium plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., between Las Vegas and Boulder Dam, Nev.

Use of these deposits in the world's largest magnesium plant "depends only upon the development of an economical method of recovering the contained magnesium oxide," the bureau stated today.

The new plant now is using crude magnesium oxide brought from the Luning magnesite deposits, about 325 miles by road from the plant.

Two of the larger new deposits found, the bureau said, were near Overton, Nev., 40 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

NOGALES, ARIZ., HERALD
CH. 3, 140
OCTOBER 30, 1942

PURCHASES STOCK

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Oct. 30—(AP)—The Anaconda Copper Mining Company has purchased 52 1-2 per cent of the stock of the new \$70,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., and will assume its management, a BMI statement disclosed today.

ELKO, NEV., FREE PRESS
OCT 28, 1942

Government Urged Purchase Of BMI, Says

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (UP)—The purchase of the controlling interest in Basic Magnesium by the Anaconda Copper company was made at the request of the government and private American-British interests, Cornelius F. Kelly, Anaconda Copper company board chairman, announced today.

MACK FIRM GETS MAGNESIUM TEST PROJECT IN UTAH

Development of what is believed to be the largest deposit of magnesium in the United States has been started by the United States Bureau of Mines at Moab, Utah, as a war measure. The Mack Drilling Co., of Wichita Falls, Texas, which just completed the drilling of a water well for the Santa Fe Railway here, has moved its crew of 25 men to Moab and is already starting to drill the first of three contracted test wells to a 4,500 foot level.

After reaching the magnesium salt strata, water will be forced into the wells and pumped out bringing the salts in solution. If the project is successful as anticipated, it is said that at least 50 wells will be drilled. United States engineers are already at work there preparing plans for erection of a reduction mill and for a reservoir for impounding necessary water.

(Continued On Last Page)

It is said that output of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, is proving disappointing in that the supply of magnesium salts has not developed to the extent anticipated, and the government is seeking other sources of the metal.

L. H. Mack, head of the drilling company, said today that his company was moving its headquarters from Texas to Albuquerque, where offices have been opened in the First National Bank building, with E. T. Barker of Albuquerque in charge.

Mack said that he plans to remain in New Mexico. He expects to be a bidder on any new deep wells planned by the town of Gallup, and later to undertake wild-cat drilling in western New Mexico, where he believes there are good prospects for oil development.

Las Vegas Review Journal May 26, 1942

If you want to see just how seriously motorists in these parts take the rubber shortage, and the president's exhortation to maintain a top speed limit of 40 miles an hour, set sail along any highway any day or night, adjust your own speed to that figure and watch the cars speed by. For every one that keeps his distance behind you, there'll be 10 that go right on by. Which is the reason we must have laws and penalties for violation thereof.

Incidentally, there's going to be quite a battle over nation-wide rationing of gasoline. Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming sounded the initial tocsin last week when he said: "From my point of view it's absurd. The economy of this country is geared to the road." O'Mahoney speaks as a westerner who understands the problems of the west. Being deprived of the use of his automobile in these wide open spaces will be a lot more serious to the residents here, than going without in the east which is honey-combed with other means of transportation.

O'Mahoney is a staunch supporter of the administration in most fields. He is also a battler for what he thinks is right. (Witness the supreme court fight.) If he makes an issue, it's quite likely there will be no gasoline rationing in the west, for it is NOT predicated on a shortage of oil, oil products or transportation, but is part of a drive to save tires NOT for war purposes, but for the owner of the vehicle they're on.

Many Engineers Meet in Reno

Basic Magnesium Work Discussed

Sunday, in Reno, technicians, engineers and officials of Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, and engineers representing the Office of Production Management and Defense Plant Corporation, conferred upon mine development of Basic Magnesium's properties at Gabbs and as to mining and milling practices which will be followed there. There were present the following:

H. P. Eells, jr., president of Basic Magnesium.

H. C. Mann, general manager at Las Vegas.

B. S. Hardie, chemist at Gabbs.

Wm. Bates, flotation expert from Colorado school of mines, Golden, Colo.

H. S. Woodward, flotation expert at Gabbs.

Geo. B. Thatcher, one of attorneys for Basic Magnesium.

R. J. Cole, manager at Gabbs mine and plant.

J. W. Lowman.

C. W. Schwab, chief engineer at Gabbs.

G. W. Nielson, mill superintendent at Gabbs.

Clyde Collins, mine superintendent at Gabbs.

Ira B. Joralemon, geologist and representative of OPM.

Roy A. Hardy, mining engineer.

Robert Phelan, mining engineer.

Prof. A. J. Weing, of the Colorado school of mines, specialist in metallurgy and milling practice.

W. W. Patnoe, engineer.

E. A. Julian, mining engineer representing Defense Plant Corporation.

H. C. Lee, chief geologist for Basic Magnesium.

BMI Employees To Buy War Bonds

Large Employer To Join Program

First large Nevada employer to seek qualifications as an issuing agent for United States war savings bond is Basic Magnesium, Inc., operator of the large magnesium plant being built at Las Vegas and in Gabbs valley. Through Howard P. Eells, jr., president, the company has asked R. L. Douglass, administrator of the war savings bond program in Nevada, to supply information and assist in setting up the program.

In his message to the state administrator, Eells said he felt qualification of Basic Magnesium as an issuing agent for bonds would assist the government's war financing program and facilitate the delivery of bonds to employs of BMI who make the purchases.

STATE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION GETS \$91,400 PREMIUM

CARSON, May 16.—A check for \$91,400 in advance premiums for industrial insurance for construction workers at Basic Magnesium in Clark county was received this week by the Nevada industrial commission.

The premium, one of the largest ever received by the commission, is only the forerunner of numerous large payments expected to be made within the next few months for workers engaged in defense projects.

Workers at Luning are also expected to be included, as are the many workers to be employed building the huge army bombing base in Lemmon valley.

Hanford, Cal. Journal
 Cir. 1,933
 MAY 15, 1942

Magnesium Company Scouts Death Valley

Washington, May 15.—(UP)—Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes today authorized a magnesium company to extract salt from Death Valley during the next six months, waiving the traditional ban on commercial exploitation of any national park.

But the company—Basic Magnesium, Inc.—must find a new source after the six-month period, and it must operate through the Defense Plant Corporation, Ickes ruled.

RENO, NEV. GAZETTE
 Cir. 1,931
 MAY 14, 1942

State Industrial Commission Gets \$91,400 Premium

CARSON, May 14.—A check for \$91,400 in advance premiums for industrial insurance for construction workers at Basic Magnesium in Clark county was received this week by the Nevada industrial commission.

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Workers at Luning are also expected to be included, as are the many workers to be employed building the huge army bombing base in Lemmon valley.

HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. CITIZEN-NEWS
 MAY 23, 1942

War Industry to Use Salt of Death Valley

LAS VEGAS, Nev., May 23. (AP)—Salt deposits from the remote desolation of Death Valley will be diverted into war industry channels.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., announced today it had contracted for the salt, of which 175,000 tons a year will be needed for conversion into chlorine gas to process magnesium. The big plant is expected to start production in a few days.

BMI Workers Hold Bond Rally

At a rally attended by 2,000 magnesium plant employes, held in front of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., administration building yesterday afternoon, a big drive was launched for the purchase of defense bonds and savings stamps. The Las Vegas air force gunnery school band played for the rally, and the sound equipment of the Union Oil company broadcast the program to the crowd.

Carl Hyde, director of industrial relations, presided at the meeting. Howard Mann, project manager for B. M. I. spoke to the assemblage of administration, executive, and engineering personnel of B. M. I. McNeil Construction company, Engineers, Ltd., Fritz Zeibarth company, J. M. Montgomery company, Anderson Brothers Supply company, H. J. Ferguson company, Ltd., and other contracting agencies.

Wally Warren of Reno, who is in charge of the sale of defense bonds in Nevada, was the principal speaker, pointing out the advantages of savings through defense bonds and assisting the federal government in the war effort.

Among those who spoke at the rally were: George W. Burpee of the Cloverdale Coal Pitts company; Ralph Adams, superintendent engineer for Defense Plants Corporation; Lawrence McNeil, president of the McNeil Construction company; Harrop Ceramic; and J. E. Heidgen, secretary-treasurer of BMI, representing Howard Eells, president of BMI.

Pascadero (Ida) Tribune
 May 12, 1942

Former Governor C. A. Bottolfsen in his Arco Advertiser comments pertinently on recent criticism of congress. "People like to kick a man when he's down," he says. "There's more guffawing nowadays over the mistakes of our senators and representatives than we have ever heard before. Few people have a kind word for them offhally. No one denies the fact that congress has made a lot of mistakes. But it is being blamed for many conditions beyond its control. The members abdicated some years ago and made the president a supreme ruler. He has more power over a hundred and thirty million American citizens than any president in all history. After bestowing on him this power, congressmen became merely rubber stamps. We don't recall of their having refused the president a single request, unless it was rejection of his method to revitalize the supreme court. A pretty good example of abrogated power is current. The huge appropriation bills being passed these days contain a few bugs. One bill in particular called for the expenditure of \$1,000,000,000 for the expansion of the Union Pacific railroad, has submitted to officials of his company, for relay to Washington, a preliminary report on the occurrence of magnesium ore in southeastern Idaho and other factors that are favorable for the location of a great magnesium plant in this section. Dolomite, from which magnesium is obtained, is present in both Bannock and Butte counties. There are not only large reserves of high grade dolomite, but it is also readily accessible and can be cheaply quarried. Presence of the ore has been recognized several years. Factors tending to aid recovery of magnesium in Idaho are listed as a combination of readily available quartzite, coal and adequate electric power. Either the electrolytic or the thermal reduction process could be used. Estimates of the probable cost vary, but it is pointed out that cost of the Las Vegas, Nev., plant of Basic Magnesium Co. is \$40,000,000 and that of the Spokane plant of Electrometallurgical Co. \$20,000,000. A chance to spend a few more millions.

WINNEBAGO STATE
 MAY 15, 1942

INSURANCE CHECK

A check for \$91,400 in advance premiums for industrial insurance for construction workers at Basic Magnesium in Clark county was received this week by the Nevada industrial commission. The premium, one of the largest ever received by the commission, is only the forerunner of numerous large payments expected to be made within the next few months for workers engaged in defense projects.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
 SUN
 MAY 15, 1942

Magnesium Company To Exploit Death Valley

Washington, May 15.—(UP)—Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes today authorized a magnesium company to extract salt from Death Valley, Calif., during the next six months, waiving the traditional ban on commercial exploitation of any national park. The company, Basic Magnesium, Inc., must find a new source after the six-month period, and it must operate through the Defense Plant Corporation, Secretary Ickes ruled.

OBSERVATIONS

By CHARLES P. SQUIRES

STRANGE WESTERN NAMES

A tourist from the east, writing home, gave some interesting comments on things he observed. He spoke particularly of the pronunciations and meanings of some of the unusual names of places he had visited.

"Why, do you know that in California I passed through a place on the coast the name of which was spelled 'La Jolla' and it was pronounced 'Ventura'! And on our trip to Nevada we went through a place with a Spanish name spelled 'Las Vegas,' which means in English 'No Vacancy.' I saw the signs in all the hotels and auto courts there."

Such is the romance of Spain in this Far West!

FEEDING THE WORKERS

Ten years ago, the Anderson mess hall at Boulder City, which had a seating capacity of one thousand, was about the biggest thing of its kind we ever expected to see in this part of the country. We all thought it a privilege to be invited to eat there, both because of the great size and the novelty of the place, but also because the food was limitless as to amount and just about the best interior decoration anybody could ask for.

Now, at the great camp near Basic Magnesium, we see another Anderson mess hall, greater than the one we used to visit at Boulder City, where there is now a seating capacity for 1285 men, but which is to be increased immediately to accommodate 2000 at one sitting.

I have not yet been privileged to eat at this great gastronomic paradise, but I am told that the food is of the same limitless quantity and toothsome quality as we knew at Boulder City. The immaculate kitchen with its various departments, including a great bakery, will still be a source of amazement to women visitors, if any are permitted.

Company Requests Power to Dispose Of Savings Bonds

Basic Magnesium, Inc., the company which is constructing the huge magnesium refining plant near Las Vegas, has applied to the war savings bond program for permission to act as an issuing agent for war savings bonds. R. L. Douglass, administrator of the program for Nevada said yesterday.

The company is the first large employing concern in the state to seek qualification to issue war bonds. Howard P. Eells, Jr., president

of the company, has written to Douglass asking for information and assistance in setting up the program for the company.



A. C. M. Given New War Task

To Operate Magnesium Properties in Nevada

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27—(AP)—The Anaconda Copper Mining Company will undertake to manage a magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., the largest plant of its kind in America and probably in the world.

The plant, which has been producing magnesium since Aug. 31, is expected to be completed by next April 15. When completed, it will have a capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium yearly and will cost more than \$100,000,000.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., is constructing the plant, which is owned by the Defense Plant Corporation.

The Anaconda company, it was announced yesterday, has paid \$75,000 for 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc. Other stock in the concern is owned by British interests.

In connection with the purchase, Defense Plant Corporation bought ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., for \$450,000.

Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones, who made the announcement of the transactions, reported that Basic Magnesium would operate the plant for the Defense Plant Corporation.

Cornelius F. Kelley, chairman of Anaconda's board, declared in New York that his company would participate in the enterprise "at the invitation of the government and of English and American interests in Basic Magnesium."

"Our function is that of management," Kelley said, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all interested parties to aid in the war effort."

"Members of Anaconda's staff have been on the ground for some time, have studied the program and will take charge of the operation of the project."

RENO, NEV. GAZETTE
NOVEMBER 11, 1942

Contract Prices Under OPA Control

Regulations Told By Officials Here

Extending from the simple repair of a leak in a roof to the construction of a huge project such as Basic Magnesium, Inc., maximum prices on construction of all types, expect prime contracts with government agencies, have been placed under control of the office of price administration, according to an announcement today by Dr. Ernest L. Inwood, state price officer.

The control is provided for in OPA maximum price regulation No. 251 which covers all construction and maintenance services and sales in which contractors, builders, installers and erectors furnish building or industrial equipment or materials together with the labor or services required.

For all such contracts exceeding \$500 in amount whether on a cost-plus or lump-sum basis, the seller is required to file with the state OPA within ten days after entering into the contract, a complete description of the job and all estimates of materials, labor and other costs together with the contract price. No less than ten days before the anticipated final settlement under the lump sum contract a further report shall be submitted to the Nevada state office of OPA setting forth the actual costs for each of the estimates previously submitted.

The regulation went into effect November 5.

CITIZEN
Columbus, Ohio

Mauderings Of Ye Society Editor

By BETTY CUNNINGHAM

Several Columbus friends of Janet Scott have been beseeching her to write them something of her new life in Las Vegas, Nev., where she works for Basic Magnesium.

Janet stalled them off, then replied, "See the Saturday Evening Post for the week of Oct. 31. It tells all."

According to the picture the Post paints, our former localite must feel that she has been transplanted to the middle of a Hollywood horse opera or possibly a refilming of "Grapes of Wrath."

Las Vegas in 1929 B. D. (before Boulder Dam) counted 2500 noses when the census taker came round. When the dam proved to be one of the world's wonders and tourists flocked from all over the country to view it, the little desert village doubled its population. Then came the Basic Magnesium plant and it has more than doubled again.

L. V. squats in the sand, is ringed around by rugged mountains and canopied by sky in a strong hue of blue. In summer the temperature soars to 115 degrees. Add lots of dust, whipped by stiff winds. In winter it's just about as heavenly a climate as one could dream up.

When Basic Magnesium moved in, enough comfortable homes to house a thousand employees were built. And then the good work stopped. The FHA came in several times, surveyed the housing problem. But nothing happened.

Today people call trailers, tents, abandoned mine shafts and even automobiles, "home, sweet home." The Post found one family of seven, two adults and five youngsters under 12, renting an army tent at the figure of 10 dollars weekly. No light. No water.

Wherever Janet hangs her hat,

she must occasionally long for the cozy apartment here which she shared with Annie Lockett (now with the Red Cross in Washington, and subsequently the one in which she lived with Frances Coup.

But Columbus couldn't furnish comparable entertainment. Las Vegas has 13 public gambling houses within the town limits, 13 just outside. Slot machines are everywhere . . . grocery stores, drug stores, movies. It didn't take long for Los Angeles capital to discover the delightful winter climate and note how much more accessible Las Vegas was to their city than Reno.

Consequently in came Big Business to build sumptuous resort hotels and swank night clubs comparable to the finest in the country . . . a breathtaking contrast to the majority of the people who live in what the Post describes as "picturesquely squalid discomfort."

Janet went to the "light metal capital of America" from Baltimore. She had been associated with the magazine, Chemical Abstracts, on the editorial staff at Ohio State University prior to that.

Another pair of Columbusites who have become Las Vegas are: Mr. and Mrs. Harley C. Lee, who lived here at 2586 Nell-av.

As to what will happen to Las Vegas and Basic Magnesium after we've won the war few will hazard a guess. "That," concludes the Post, "is the 64 dollar question."

DAILY METAL TRADE

The Newspaper of the Metal Industries."

Penton Bldg., 1213 W. 3rd St.

Cleveland, Ohio

OCT 31 1942

Copper

NEW YORK, Oct. 30.—Of the so-called "Big Three" copper producers, the first to enter the light metal field is Anaconda, which has bought the controlling interest in Basic Magnesium Inc., Las Vegas, Nev.

Last minute decisions on high policy again delayed the monthly allocations of copper but still the allocations came out reasonably promptly.

Consumers of secondary copper-base alloy ingots appear to be receiving authorization to receive considerably less than they asked for.

Manufacturers with frozen, idle or excessive stocks of certain alloy ingots can easily have these exchanged for ingot they can use. One such transaction was cleared through Washington in four days.

The holder of the ingot should notify his supplier who will in turn contact the WPB Copper Branch in Washington and arrange to exchange the material on a copper content basis.

Even if the copper is in an unusable alloy, holders find the WPB charges them with having this copper in stock. This stock is taken into consideration when new allocations are made. So it is to the best interest of holders to immediately get rid of this unusable stock.

215,214 pounds of copper have been requisitioned under the property requisitioning act of Oct. 16, 1941, President Roosevelt informed congress Thursday.

The President's report said existence of the authority to requisition expedited the voluntary sale of much material of all kinds so that actual requisitioning has been necessary in only a few cases.

Additional United States experts will be sent to Latin America and other places to help increase production of critical materials.

NOV. 7, 1942
GREAT FALLS MONT. JOURNAL

A. C. M. Takes Management Of Basic Magnesium Plant

WASHINGTON—The acquisition by Anaconda Copper Mining Co. of the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells Jr. and associates of Cleveland in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for a purchase price of \$75,000, was announced by Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones.

In connection with the purchase Jones announced, Defense Plant Corp., bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000. He said these ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

The announcement said Basic Magnesium was operating and would complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev. owned by DFC Jones said that the first unit of the plant produced magnesium Aug. 31, that additional units had been brought into production since and that it was estimated the entire plant would be completed by April 15, 1943.

Stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that bought by Anaconda Copper Mining Co., is owned by British interests represented in this country by Maj. C. J. P. Ball, who furnished technical information and designed the plant.

Jones' announcement said Basic Magnesium would operate the plant for the Defense Plant Corp., receiving one-half cent a pound on magnesium produced, which he said would approximate 2 per cent of sales.

At New York Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda's board, said participation of his company in the enterprise "has been undertaken at the invitation of the government and of the English and American interests in basic magnesium."

"Our function is that of management," Kelly said, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all the interested parties to aid in the war effort."

LOVELOCK, NEV. REVIEW-MINER
1,010
NOVEMBER 5, 1942

Howard Eells, Jr., is lauded by Charles P. Squires, veteran publisher of the Las Vegas Age, for the part he played in developing the Basic Magnesium project. Mr. Eells is retiring from the management following the sale of his interests to the Anaconda Copper Mining Co.

The Cleveland enterprise is credited with the following: Acquired, tested and consolidated the brucite deposits in Gabbs Valley, making a major enterprise possible. Aroused interest of government in producing magnesium metal. Went to England and interested Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., a great British corporation, and Major C. N. P. Ball, creator and head of that enterprise. Guided British officials to Las Vegas despite opposition from Canada and Los Angeles, who sought the industry to be located there. Chose location of Basic Magnesium townsite.

As a result of Mr. Eell's work, the government is spending millions of dollars on the undertaking and the English are using their processes in producing the lightweight metal that will revolutionize airplane construction and play an important part in postwar industry. The plant will make the Las Vegas area an important American center.

RIVERSIDE, CALIF. PRESS
CH. 7, 683
OCTOBER 27, 1942

Sale of Basic Magnesium, Inc., Brings Long Explanation by Secretary Jones

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced last night that Anaconda Copper Mining Company had acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators and builders of what is scheduled to be the world's largest magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev.

Jones said that Anaconda had purchased 52 1/2 per cent stock interest in BMI from Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, for \$75,000. The text of Jones' announcement:

"Anaconda Copper Mining Company has acquired by purchase the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for \$75,000. In connection with the purchase, Defense Plant Corporation bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for a consideration of \$450,000. These ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000."

"Basic Magnesium, Inc., is operating and will complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which is owned by Defense Plant Corporation. The

first unit of the plant produced magnesium on August 31, 1942. Additional units have been brought in since that time, and it is estimated the entire plant will be completed by April 15, 1943.

"This is the largest magnesium plant in this country, and probably in the world. It will have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium, and when completed will cost in excess of \$100,000,000. It covers four square miles of desert land in Nevada, and this site was selected because of its immediate proximity to the government-owned Boulder dam power project from which it takes power."

"When in full operation the plant will use annually in excess of 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which is equal to the amount of electricity used annually in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined."

"Approximately 12,000 men are employed in construction and in operations at this time. When construction is completed, the plant in full operation will employ approximately 5000 people. It has been necessary to provide temporary

housing and living quarters for the large construction force. In addition to barracks, trailer camps, etc., more than 1000 two and three bedroom houses, a hospital, a school, a theater and store buildings have been constructed near the plant site which is approximately 12 miles from Las Vegas and an equal distance from Boulder dam.

"Water to supply the plant and the workers is pumped 18 miles through a 40-inch main from Lake Meade, which was created by Boulder dam. The daily requirements of water are approximately 37,000,000 gallons."

"The magnesium is produced from magnesite, of which an abundant quantity is accessible."

"The stock of Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that purchased by Anaconda Copper Mining Company, is owned by British interests represented in this country by Maj. C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium, Inc., will operate the plant for account of Defense Plant Corporation, receiving one-half cent a pound on the magnesium produced, which will approximate two per cent of sales."

S. F. CAL. WALL STREET JOURNAL
1,037
NOVEMBER 12, 1942

Basic Refractories, Inc.

CLEVELAND—Through its sale on Oct. 27, last, of stock of Basic Magnesium, Inc., an aggregate consideration of \$525,000 was received by Basic Refractories, Inc., according to a report covering the transaction and filed with the SEC.

According to the report, Basic Refractories sold the stock to Basic Magnesium, the issuing corporation, for \$525,000, payable \$75,000 in cash and the remainder through conveyance by Basic Magnesium to Basic Refractories of title to certain mining claims in Nevada, which claims coincidentally were sold by Basic Refractories to Defense Plant Corp. for \$450,000 cash. The transaction involved all the stock of Basic Magnesium owned by Basic Refractories.

POST

Washington, D. C.

OCT 31 1942

Anaconda Head Made President of Basic Magnesium

Las Vegas, Nev., Oct. 30 (AP)—J. R. Hobbins, president of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., of whose stock Anaconda recently purchased 52 per cent, a BMI statement said today.

Anaconda agreed to assume the management of the Government's big magnesium plants, built by Basic, at Las Vegas and Gabbs, Nev.

Under the reorganization, Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operation, and Charles J. P. Ball, chairman of Magnesium Elektron, become vice presidents of BMI, with Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda, and Edward J. Barnsley, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries of New York, as directors.

Basic Magnesium, now in production, will, when fully completed, produce in one year 30 times the quantity of metal produced in the entire world six years ago. Magnesium has been found ideal for many war uses to replace aluminum and other critical materials.

LAS VEGAS, NEV. REVIEW-JOURNAL
5,128
OCTOBER 28, 1942

U. S. BROUGHT ON ANACONDA COPPER CONTROL OF BMI

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (AP)—Purchase of the controlling stock interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company was made at the request of the United States government and private American and British interests connected with the enterprise, Cornelius F. Kelly, Anaconda's board chairman, said yesterday.

Anaconda Copper has obtained the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest in the magnesium company formerly held by Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates of Cleveland, for a price of \$75,000.

Major Chas. J. P. Ball, vice president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., announced late this afternoon in a wire to company employees, that effective as of today, F. O. Case had been appointed general manager of Nevada operations with H. G. Satterthwaite, as assistant.

Both Case and Satterthwaite have been at the plant for some time, getting acquainted with the operations, but Case could not be reached this afternoon to ascertain what changes, if any, were contemplated in the rest of the personnel.

Howard Mann, project manager under the old order at B. M. I., was reported at Gabbs today on business for the company.

The Defense Plant Corporation meanwhile has bought the company's ore lands near Gabbs, Nevada, for \$450,000.

"The participation of Anaconda in this great enterprise has been undertaken at the invitation of the government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium," Kelly stated.

"Our function is that of management without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken only for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all interested parties to aid in the war effort."

J. R. Hobbins, Anaconda president, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium; Frederick Laist, vice-president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operations, has been named vice-president, and both, in addition to Kelly, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium.

OBSERVATIONS

By CHARLES P. SQUIRES

SOME RAILROAD

Last week I commented on some of the things I recently saw at the plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., which to me seemed so striking and unusual as to deserve special mention.

One thing, among many others, particularly impressed me—the railroad facilities provided by the Union Pacific Railroad through its Boulder City branch line.



When it was built prior to the dam construction, that railroad to Boulder City seemed some big job with its eighteen or twenty miles of tracks. We celebrated the driving of its silver spike at the junction with the main Union Pacific line seven miles south of Vegas as the real beginning of construction for the great Boulder Dam Canyon project. Some three thousand of us (nearly all there were here then) gathered at the junction while Senators Pittman and Oddie, Congressman Arentz and others made speeches and Secretary of the Interior Wilbur drove the silver spike.

Yet when Basic Magnesium, Inc., started its railroad construction at its proposed plant we paid no attention to it. In fact, most of us did not know when construction of the railroad was started.

So I was not a little surprised to learn on my visit to the plant recently, that railroad construction inside the plant boundaries is now forty-one miles of standard gauge tracks, considerably longer than the Union Pacific Boulder City line.

Of course, part of that mileage is temporary and needed only while construction is under way. But the permanent railroad mileage necessary to keep the big plant in operation will be eighteen miles.

SOME TUNNEL

Another thing which impressed the immensity of the project at Basic Magnesium on me was the tunnel construction.

One hardly would think of a tunnel as any important part of the plant construction. However, for the purpose of carrying the electric distribution lines to the various units of the plant, a tunnel varying in interior dimensions from 20 by 20 feet down to 12 by 12 feet in size and over a mile long, is a feature of the work which, by itself, would attract much attention as a big enterprise, but which is swallowed up as a mere detail by the greatness of Basic Magnesium, Inc.

THE PEAT MYSTERY

It had long been a puzzle to me as to what place peat from the peat beds of British Columbia could find in the production of magnesium metal.

I saw the peat storage area, acres of it apparently, covered with thousands of bales of material resembling barnyard-manure. So I timidly asked one of the experts in the chart room what the peat is for.

"It is very simple," he replied. "When the pellets of magnesium material are produced by the preparation plant, they are mixed with a mass of the peat moss. Then when the mass is placed in the furnace and exposed to the fierce heat, the peat moss burns out instantly, exposing the magnesium pellets to the blast all at the same time. The magnesium must be heated with exact uniformity."

Huge Nevada Magnesium Plant Nears Production

8,000 men are now employed on \$72,000,000 war plant at Las Vegas, Nev., where Uncle Sam will produce material needed for armed forces—Production in several units is expected to start by late spring.

THUNDEROUS echoes of distant battles are rolling over the Nevada desert 12 miles east of Las Vegas where 8,000 workmen are rushing to clamorous completion several units of Defense Plant Corp.'s new \$72,000,000 magnesium plant.

It's one of Uncle Sam's most desperately important war projects for, when it is completed, 112,000,000 pounds of the light metal critically necessary to the manufacture of airplanes and other implements of war will pour from it annually. It will be the largest producer of magnesium metal in the world, grinding out six and a half tons per hour.

In response to the President's plea for "speed and more speed" in every line of industry, contractors at work on the plant are several weeks ahead of their original construction schedule. As a result, several units of the sprawling project are expected to be in operation by late spring.

The cash outlay for the plant is supplied by Defense Plant Corp., a government agency, with Basic Magnesium, Inc., a Cleveland concern, furnishing all plans, specifications, the process to be used and the raw materials. When the project is completed, Basic Magnesium will operate the huge industry. Actual construction is in the hands of the McNeil Construction Co., of Los Angeles.

Four and one-half million dollars will be spent on housing projects for the workers and \$3,000,000 will go for access roads throughout the areas

in which the raw materials are derived. This latter expenditure will be in addition to the \$72,000,000 and the roads thus constructed will lead to the industry from the sections where the raw materials are mined.

The base for the magnesium is magnesite. This is being recovered at Gabbs, Nev., 338 miles north of Las Vegas. It will be transported from the mines to the plant being erected at Gabbs and there transformed into magnesium oxide. The Gabbs plant will cost approximately \$3,500,000, and after the oxide is recovered there, it will be transported to the Las Vegas plant where it will be processed into the finished metal.

Largest Deposit in America

The deposit at Gabbs has been reported by engineers to be the largest in America and sufficient to keep the plant operating for 100 years, on a basis of the blocked out ores. In addition, the engineers say, there is a huge unexplored area which will provide the raw material in almost inexhaustible quantities.

Out in the desert wastes, where the main plant is located, there was no water, no accommodations and practically little else but sand and sagebrush when construction work was started. However, 15 miles away, to the east, lies huge Boulder dam with its tremendous supply of electrical energy. To the north is the magnesite and at Avawatz, in California, at the lower end of Death Valley, lies a

huge supply of salt, necessary for the operation to turn the raw material into the critical light metal. So all agencies connected with the plant are hard at work funneling the materials to the site of the major industry in the war effort. When these jobs are done, then the allied war effort will be boosted by the production of the vital magnesium.

Fritz Ziebarth, Long Beach contractor, is installing the electrical transmission lines and distributing system at the plant. Engineers, Ltd., of Los Angeles, is installing the water lines, pumping plant and appurtenant works. Montgomery Bros., of Los Angeles, are the engineers and designers for the water and power lines. Southwest Engineering Co. is the engineer for the chlorinating plant and McDonald Engineering Corp., of Los Angeles, is constructing the plant at Gabbs.

First Contract Completed

The first major contract on the job—the laying of the pipe for the water line from Lake Mead, behind Boulder dam, to the plant—was completed late in March. Today water, which formerly was hauled to the site in Union Pacific tank cars, is flowing into the 30,000,000 gallon reservoir at the plant.

There is more than 90,000 feet of heavy pipe in this job, ranging from one-quarter to nine-sixteenths of an inch in thickness and 40 inches in diameter. The pipe on the line weighs 14,500,000 pounds.

To get the water from the lake to the plant it was necessary to install six booster pumps, with six pumps at the intake to bring the water into the pipe from the lake. Because of the fluctuation of the lake level, it will be necessary to construct a cantilever type intake on what once was an island in the lake, but now has been joined to the mainland by a causeway. The cantilever structure extends 200 feet out over the lake, and from the end of this structure deep well pumps will be suspended to extend 190 feet into the water so that the system will operate no matter what the elevation of the lake.

At the present stage of construction there are 8000 workmen employed at the plant and this number will be increased steadily until, at the

(Continued on page 32)

peak of the job there will be between 10,000 and 12,000 workmen on the project. The peak is expected sometime this summer.

The housing situation, as in all defense industry areas, has been critical. It is being smoothed out to a great degree now both by the Basic Magnesium and the businessmen of Las Vegas, Boulder City and the smaller communities close to the plant.

One-thousand demountable houses are being erected at the plant site and are expected to be completed sometime early this spring. They are being built by the McNeil Construction Co., without any additional fee, and are being rushed as rapidly as possible.

At the present time the magnesium company is maintaining a tent and dormitory "city" near the plant site while thousands of workers are residing in Las Vegas, Boulder City, Whitney and Midway. Trailer camps have sprung up all over the desert and building booms have been experienced in all of the populated areas around the plant.

Construction Rushed

Some idea of the speed with which construction is being rushed can be drawn by the fact that the administration building at the plant, which housed both the Basic and the McNeil Construction office forces, was burned to the ground early in March. Through the cooperation of all agencies on the job, the office building, comprising a structure with a floor space of 56,000 square feet, was rebuilt, re-equipped and ready for occupancy 142 hours after the site was released by the fire underwriters.

The blaze occurred on a Friday night and by the following Monday morning temporary office buildings were ready for occupancy and the entire office staff went to work as usual. There was but one-half day lost by the office force and not a single minute by the field crews. This construction job, according to engineers, constitutes a world's record.

Another speed mark was set when a complete telephone switchboard was flown to Las Vegas by special plane

to replace the one which was lost in the fire. It arrived in Las Vegas on Saturday morning, installation started Sunday morning and by early Monday morning was in operation.

The plant itself, when completed, is expected to be the world's largest structure. The main building units will extend 5280 feet from the north wall of the north building to the south wall of the south building and will average 70 feet in height. The average width of the structure will be 490 feet.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., designers and operators of the completed plant, is a Cleveland concern. It is associated with Basic Electron, Ltd., an English company which supplied the process to be used in the manufacture of the magnesium.

Howard P. Eells, Jr., is president of the corporation with Howard Mann as project manager in charge of all operations. D. W. Stewart is vice-

president; G. Heidgen, secretary and treasurer; Paul Leavengood, assistant secretary and Tom Harris, assistant treasurer.

The plant will be the largest consumer, with one exception, of electrical energy in the United States. When in full operation it will require approximately the same amount as was used in the city of Los Angeles during the fiscal year of 1938-'39.

It will use more than 165,000 tons of salt per year and more than 150,000 tons of magnesium oxide, besides huge quantities of coal, coke, peat moss and other ingredients gathered from Nevada, Utah, southern California and as far away as British Columbia.

Construction work has been so rapid that at the present time the contractors are using approximately 130 carloads of freight per day, switched over a railroad system of approximately 15 miles within the confines of the plant itself.

The plant is rapidly taking shape and by late spring will be turning out the metal with which the United Nations will step up the war against the Axis powers.

DENVER MINING RECORD MACHINERY JOURNAL

"For over 50 years the leading mining news of the nation. Published every Saturday."

1623 Champa St., Denver, Colorado

MINING JOURNAL PHOENIX ARIZ. 5/30/42

NEVADA

Las Vegas Age
May 15, 1942

FEEDING THE WORKERS

Ten years ago, the Anderson mess hall at Boulder City, which had a seating capacity of one thousand, was about the biggest thing of its kind we ever expected to see in this part of the country. We all thought it a privilege to be invited to eat there, both because of the great size and the novelty of the place, but also because the food was limitless as to amount and just about the best interior decoration anybody could ask for.

Now, at the great camp near Basic Magnesium, we see another Anderson mess hall, greater than the one we used to visit at Boulder City, where there is now a seating capacity for 1285 men, but which is to be increased immediately to accommodate 2000 at one sitting.

I have not yet been privileged to eat at this great gastronomic paradise, but I am told that the food is of the same limitless quantity and toothsome quality as we knew at Boulder City. The immaculate kitchen with its various departments, including a great bakery, will still be a source of amazement to women visitors, if any are permitted.

BASIC MAGNESIUM GETS B. C. CHARTER

Vancouver, B. C. — It is announced in Victoria that Basic Magnesium Inc., a Cleveland, Ohio, company, has been granted an extra provincial charter in British Columbia. The company, first incorporated in Nevada in 1936, has as its objects the mining, quarrying and production of brucite, magnesite, limestone and ores of all kinds. The incorporation is for \$100,000.

The company recently was financed for \$65,000,000 by the U. S. government for the erection of a new magnesium plant at Las Vegas. It is understood the company proposes contracting in British Columbia for raw materials necessary in producing magnesium.

The Basic Magnesium, Inc., is stripping two of its quarries in Gabbs Valley north of Luning, Nevada, preparatory to starting actual mining as soon as the first of the four units of the calcining plant near Luning is completed. The primary crushing plant, with reinforced concrete bins, is nearing completion and the crusher is on the ground ready for installation. When the company reaches full production, 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium will be produced annually. Roads are being completed between the quarries and the calcining plant. The product calcined will be sent to the company's plant at Las Vegas, initial units of which are being completed and are expected to be in production soon. H. C. Mann of Las Vegas is project manager for the company, which maintains headquarters at 845 Hanna Building, Cleveland, Ohio. The company was recently granted an extra provincial charter in British Columbia and proposes contracting in that province for raw materials necessary for producing magnesium.

MAY 13 1942 DENVER, COLO. POST 526

ENGINEER TO ADDRESS INSTITUTE MEETING

L. M. Stauffer, district engineer for the Denver office of the General Electric company, will be the principal speaker at the last regular meeting of the season of the Denver section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, to be held Friday at 7:45 p. m. at the Olin hotel. Mr. Stauffer will speak on "The Engineering Features of the Basic Magnesium Plant at Las Vegas, Nev." Officers for the ensuing year will be elected.

New Magnesium Plant Producing

Great Nevada Project Is \$100,000,000 City In Desert Midst

By RICHARD STROBEL
 LAS VEGAS, Nev., Nov. 21.—(P)—Little did the men who built Boulder Dam realize that their masterpiece of engineering skill was paving the way for an even greater project—the world's largest magnesium plant.

Located in a blistering Southern Nevada desert, where a year ago there was no water, no power, and only a few houses, this gigantic plant, Basic Magnesium, Inc., already is producing the precious metal and an equally vital chemical, liquid chlorine.

Without the energy generated by Boulder Dam, 15 miles distant, and the water it impounds, the magnesium plant could not exist. But just as important are Nevada's vast deposits of magnesium ore, close at hand.

A chemist with apparatus a yard square can make magnesium, but producing it in quantities required for global war is something else. Basic Magnesium, while only one of numerous such plants, as the largest of them all represents a new triumph of American ingenuity and inventiveness.

It cost more than \$100,000,000, required 50,000 tons of structural steel, and has the largest single electrical installation in the history of American industrial construction.

It employs nearly three times Boulder Dam's maximum working force, housing it in a new model village of 1000 demountable homes. A camp accommodating 6000 single men, trailer camps, motor courts, and hotels and homes in Las Vegas, 15 miles away.

GIGANTIC PLANT

Children attend a new 12-grade school. The sick are treated in a new concrete hospital. A restaurant, large enough to set 2200 persons, serves 25,000 meals a day.

It was necessary to bring power and water over the mountains to the plant site. Bleak hills were straddled to carry the electricity generated at Boulder Dam. A huge pipeline brought water from Lake Mead to two huge new reservoirs. A 26-mile railroad and 50 miles of temporary dirt road were built.

You get some idea of the tremendous size of Basic Magnesium, Inc., when you consider that this plant soon will produce 30 times as much magnesium as did the entire world six years ago.

Magnesium, although eighth in abundance among the elements, does not exist in a free state. It was discovered away back in 1808, and first separated into the pure metal just before the turn of the century. But as recently as the 1920's, work with the metal scarcely had passed the laboratory stage. Now that it can be produced in quantity, its value to our war effort is incalculable.

Magnesium is used for tracer bul-

\$100,000,000 MAGNESIUM PLANT MUSHROOMS ON DESERT



LAS VEGAS, NEV., REVIEW-JOURNAL
 5/28
 OCTOBER 28, 1942

BMI President Relates History Of Development at Big Plant Here

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Oct. 28 (Special)—Referring to the announcement that Anaconda Copper Mining company has acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., Howard W. Eells, Jr., president of BMI, issued a statement yesterday giving the background of the development of the largest magnesium plant in the world, at Las Vegas, Nevada, and the reasons for the sale by his company.

Eells stated, "Basic Refractories, Incorporated, for the past 25 years has been engaged in the production of dolomitic refractories. In 1936 this company commenced the development and production of magnesia refractories and, in seeking sources for raw material, obtained a leasehold interest in an extensive deposit of brucite in Nevada.

"Later it discovered and acquired a number of adjacent mining claims containing deposits of magnesite. Early in the year 1941 when this country was engaged in the defense program, it became apparent that the manufacture of airplanes and other materials would require metallic magnesium and the alloys thereof greatly in excess of existing capacity to produce metal on this continent.

"The mining claims of Basic Refractories, Incorporated, were held by a wholly owned subsidiary then known as Basic Ores, Incorporated. By arrangement with representatives of a company that had built plants producing magnesium in Great Britain, the name Basic Ores, Incorporated, was changed to Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, and shares of the corporation were issued to the British interests in exchange for plans, engineering experience and technical knowledge.

"The proportion of shares retained by the Refractories company was 52 1/2%. Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, thus possessed of the raw material and the experience necessary to produce metal entered into a contract with Defense Plant Corporation which required that it provide the designs to supervise the erection of facilities for the production of magnesium in the vicinity of Boulder dam and manage these after their completion. The original proposals calling for a plant of moderate size

were expanded by governmental agencies into the requirements for the construction and operation of the largest magnesium undertaking in the world at a cost in excess of \$100,000,000. "At the time when the contract with Defense Plant Corporation was signed on August 13, 1941, the project was no more than a plan in the minds of a few men who were without the benefits either of an organization through which to develop and execute it or of engineering drawings upon which to build it. "Within a period of one year and 15 days from that date, the successful production of metallic magnesium was commenced and the early completion of the undertaking assured. To the accomplishment of this end around a starting group of three executives and a technical staff of four men there had been assembled and coordinated within a period of months the service of a force which at the peak of the endeavor reached 13,000 persons. These results, especially because of their relation to our preparation for war, are a matter of satisfaction to the Refractories company which conceived and initiated the project and has directed its management up to this time. "Notwithstanding such progress, it became apparent early that this immense undertaking and hence the war effort would benefit immeasurably from the backing of a corporation with resources comparable to its size. Accordingly Basic Refractories, Incorporated, sought, though it failed, to enlist such an organization. The fact that the interest of the Anaconda Copper Mining company was developed by governmental authorities made no less welcome the prospect of its active participation in the magnesium company management.

"By reason of resulting negotiations, the position heretofore occupied by Basic Refractories, Incorporated, in Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, will be taken by the Anaconda Copper Mining company, which has purchased the entire stock interest of Basic Refractories, Incorporated. "The consideration received by the Refractories company has provided fair compensation for the value of its mining claims and for the efforts that it has made in connection with the project," Eells concluded.



Some of the thousand homes (upper left) that have mushroomed on the waterless southern Nevada desert, 15 miles from Los Vegas, to care for a portion of the workers at the war-fostered \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc. (upper right); a section of the plant's interior, showing the world's largest chlorine plant; (lower) Arlene Foster poses with a "cheese" of magnesium and war objects requiring the metal.—Wideworld photo.

OCT 28 1942

Anaconda Buys Majority Interest In Basic Magnesium

Property Will Be Managed And Operated For The Defense Plant Corp.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones yesterday announced that the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. had acquired a 52 1/2% stock interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., from Howard P. Eells, Jr. and associates in Cleveland, O. Mr. Jones' announcement said the purchase price was \$75,000.

According to Mr. Jones, Basic Magnesium will conduct operations for the Defense Plant Corporation for a consideration of 1/2c per pound on the magnesium produced. This, he said, would approximate 2% of sales.

Cornelius F. Kelley, chairman of Anaconda, in commenting on Mr. Jones' announcement said that participation of his company in the enterprise "has been undertaken at the invitation of the Government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium."

(Continued on next page)

For Nitriding and Heat Treating
Aircraft Engine Cylinders
 and Other Aircraft Engine Parts

For Bright Annealing
Tubing, Wire, Strip, Bars
 Both Ferrous and Non-Ferrous

WALL STREET JOURNAL

New York City

OCT 27 1942

Company Notes—

Anaconda Copper—Secretary of Commerce Jones announced that the company has purchased the 52.5% stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for \$75,000.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

New York City

OCT 27 1942

Anaconda Copper Buys Stock Interest In Basic Magnesium

WASHINGTON—Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has purchased the 52 1/2% stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and Associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc. for \$75,000. In connection with the purchase, Defense Plant Corp. bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nevada, for \$450,000. Secretary Jones announced these transactions.

The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that purchased by Anaconda Copper Mining Co., is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium, Inc., will operate the plant for account of Defense Plant Corp., receiving one-half cent a pound on the magnesium produced, which will approximate 2% of sales.

Senators had criticized Secretary Jones for

the old Basic Magnesium set-up.

Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda's board in New York City, said participation of his company in the enterprise "has been undertaken at the invitation of the Government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium."

"Our function is that of management," Mr. Kelly said, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all the interested parties to aid in the war effort."

"J. R. Hobbs, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium, Frederick Liast, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operations, has been elected vice president and they, with myself, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium."

"Members of Anaconda's staff have been on the ground for some time, have studied the program and will take charge of the operation of the project."

NEWS BUREAU Boston, Mass.

OCT 28 1942

Anaconda Acquires Magnesium Stock

Acquisition by Anaconda Copper Mining Co., of the 52 1/2% stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for a purchase price of \$75,000, was announced by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones. In connection with the purchase, Mr. Jones announced, the Defense Plant Corp. bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000. He said these ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

Mt. Vernon (W.Va.) Daily Herald

October 27, 1942

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—(AP)—Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced last night that Anaconda Copper Mining Co. had acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators and owners of what is scheduled to be the world's largest magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev.

OBSERVATIONS

By CHARLES P. SQUIRES

THE BIG PLANT

I visited the site of Basic Magnesium, Inc., a couple of times while it was in its preliminary stages and thought I had a very real and definite picture of what it would be when completed.

I described it once as a great enterprise which, if laid down in Los Angeles with one end at the city hall, would reach to Adams street in a constant succession of plants and buildings.

That was a fairly accurate general idea. But it does not in any way describe the gigantic nature of the project, the massiveness of its construction, the complexity of its processes, the multiplicity of its necessary elements, nor the seeming perfect efficiency with which it is growing day by day rapidly toward completion.

Going to the plant, I had in mind writing a rather concise and complete description of the thing, so that readers would absorb some clear idea of just what is going on out there in the desert wastes beyond Jericho.

I had not been there since before the destructive fire which, in a few moments swept the frame administration building, destroying charts, plans, blueprints and records, all of which have since been replaced.

However, the amazing thing to me is that there was no perceptible slowing down of the construction work. Today is the 174th day since the work was started and one of the most interesting industrial cities in the country is operating there on many different features of the work.

SOME COPPER

For example, there is a large building filled with rather complicated machinery, in which the bus bars and electrical appliances for the chlorination plants are made. I was amazed to see many piles of copper bars which were being fashioned into the things necessary for the transmission and control of the vast amount of electricity the plant will use.

I found that for each of the ten great buildings which will contain the chlorination plants, three hundred tons of copper bars are required in the electrical installation. That is three thousand tons of beautifully rolled pure copper bars in all. Those bars are being fashioned into the many shapes and sizes in special machines procured for the purpose, many expert workers in copper being employed.

Three thousand tons of pure copper! One can't grasp it.

GRINDING THE BRICKS

I had heard the "brick grinding" plant at Basic Magnesium mentioned casually, as if it were just a little shop with a few men sorting and stacking fire bricks and, perhaps, chipping off a little roughness here and there. What I saw: Processes the complexity of which I never dreamed, the accuracy of which seems almost incredible.

The bricks in question are not simple little fire bricks. They are of a white substance, not alone refractory as to heat, but highly resistant to gasses, acids and the disruptive effects of electricity. And they come in all sizes and every conceivable shape to fit the various peculiar curves and depressions of the chlorination furnaces they are to line.

CARSON CITY, NEV., APPEAL
P. 650
MAY 1, 1942

Colorado River Commission Meets

Fixes Bond Amount For Boulder Power

The Colorado river commission held a short meeting at the capitol and fixed the amount of performance bond that will be required in the Basic Magnesium, Inc. contract for power from Boulder dam. The amount of the bond was wired to the national capitol for inclusion in the contract, but was not made public.

The meeting was attended by Gov. E. P. Carville, Al Catton of Reno, Charles F. DeArmond of Las Vegas, Attorney-General Gray Mashburn, Deputy Attorney-General Alan Bible and State Engineer A. M. Smith.

In the grinding shop are grinding machines operated by expert workmen whose duty it is to shape each peculiarly shaped brick to fit its particular place in the interior lining of the furnace.

These must be ground to within one sixty-fourth of an inch tolerance so that when the entire 30 tons of bricks required to line each of the furnaces is placed in its own particular position, the fit is as near exact as human care and ingenuity can make it.

Yes, there are 30 tons of these bricks to each chlorinator furnace; eight furnaces to each building and ten buildings in all to house the chlorination furnaces.

Yet that is only a portion of the bricks so ground and fitted. There are almost innumerable cells, tunnels and auxiliaries for handling the magnesium in process of production.

Wocatello (Idaho) Tribune
May 4, 1942

Giant Plant May Rise In East Idaho

BOISE (AP) — Arguments for establishing a multi-million dollar magnesium plant in southeastern Idaho will be presented high government officials soon, it was learned here.

Presence of dolomite in large amounts in Bannock and Butte counties was emphasized in a preliminary report by Edward F. Fitz-

hugh, Jr., of Boise, mining engineer for the Union Pacific. Dolomite is a ore from which magnesium is obtained. Possibilities of developing the deposits will be called to attention of government officials.

Existence of dolomite in Idaho has been recognized for many years, the geologist pointed out, but the combination of readily available quartzite, coal and adequate electric power for processing is said to be unusually favorable in the southeastern Idaho area. The reserves of high grade dolomite are not only large, he said, but readily accessible and can be cheaply quarried.

"Although determination of the

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

We'll be missing Luther Kent, come Hellorado time. He's been an institution in his distinctive mountaineer outfit, ever since the big celebration first was staged. A world war veteran, Kent came back with a life-time memento of service in the fierce fighting at Chatteau-Thierry — a badly scarred leg. I never think of him, but I remember the night he sat in a local theatre, watching action pictures of the fighting, and suddenly spotted himself, big as life, battling his way through the thick of the conflict.

A life-long railroader, Kent was an institution in the Las Vegas of yesterday—one of those lovable ordinary individuals who's everybody's friend, and who has his ups and downs even as you and I. Only recently he hit the come-back trail in a big way, and was doing quite nicely when, out of nowhere, the Grim Reaper popped up to summon him hence.

Why his call had to come when he was doing so nicely—is one of those mysteries we'll never know the answer to until we ourselves are finally beckoned. He had given all he could to his country, and the war was an ever-present reality with him. If he had his choice, he, like the rest of the veterans of World War I would have been back on the firing line once more, carrying the fight to the enemy for the flag he loved.

I'll bet he'll be there, when the Hellorado Parade starts its trek down Fremont Street, a couple of weeks hence—decked out in the coonskin outfit he brought from the hills of his native, Arkansas, but he'll be up in front with the celebrities, where he belongs, typifying the spirit of the occasion which he, in life, did so much to create.

Payroll at Basic Magnesium is now nearly \$100,000 PER DAY, about two and a half MILLION dollars a month. There are something in excess of 8,000 workers on the job, will be nearly 8,000 regularly employed when the plant is completed and in full production.

Following his recent visit here, Lieutenant-General William S. Knudsen, who personally inspected the plant for the war department, announced that the preparation plant is 60 per cent finished; the settling basin 60 per cent complete, and the first reduction unit 40 per cent complete. Production, he states, will begin in August of this year.

General Knudsen did NOT say anything at all about refining the magnesium here, or producing the alloy which will be used in construction of airplanes etc. Standing alone, magnesium has a limited use—for tracers, star shells etc. Refined and fabricated, it can be double for aluminum in any of the latter's fields.

These processes can be part of the plant here, or can be built elsewhere. They were originally scheduled for this area. Since the squabble started a few weeks ago, all hands have been strangely silent on this point, even to the war department's production chief. They'll employ several thousand more men than the 5,000 it will take to operate the magnesium plant itself.

Will Las Vegas become the Pittsburgh of the light metal industry as B.M.I. officials predicted when they first chose this area as the location for their plant? We have optimistically expected it would. Recent silence on this point may or may not have an ominous significance. Nobody seems to know.

I jumped the gun, yesterday, when I wrote the happy ending for the home-seeking B.M.I. employee. It seems that all three prospects reneged, for various reasons, and that the man's wife and two youngsters are here, WITHOUT a place to stay. What happens now, I haven't the least idea. But it's a tragic situation.

The fact that there will probably be 500 more demountable houses added to the 1,000 now under construction at the plant, doesn't help families like this—they can't wait that long for a place to live.

LOS ANGELES CALL TIMES
P. 219
MAY 1, 1942

Metal Plant Starts in June

LUNING (Nev.) April 26. (Exclusive)—Limited production of magnesium by Basic Magnesium, Inc., is scheduled to commence by June 15, according to Howard P. Ellis Jr., president of the corporation.

The first units of the concentrating plant near Luning will be in readiness by that time and a section of the Las Vegas refinery prepared for treatment of magnesium carbonate and oxide. This product will be trucked

from the Luning concentrator to the Las Vegas refinery for conversion into virtually pure magnesium, a vital war metal.

Mining of vast magnesite deposits in the Mammoth district, about 35 miles northerly from Luning, is expected to commence by April 15. Overburden has been stripped from massive ore bodies by bulldozers and approximately 900,000,000 tons of magnesite ore is estimated to be exposed in properties owned by Basic Magnesium.

type of processing to be used is a matter for further engineering study and analysis," Fitzhugh said, "either the electrolytic or thermal reduction process could be used. Estimates of the probable cost of a plant would necessarily be based on the process used and the size of the plant."

The Las Vegas plant of the Basic Magnesium Co. involves expenditure of more than \$60,000,000 and the Spokane plant of the Electrometallurgical company is to cost about \$20,000,000.

Synthetic Rubber and Magnesium

Recent revelations in Washington reveal a most interesting parallel between the synthetic rubber situation and magnesium production. They were much the same in the beginning, but there's a vast difference now because we'll be producing magnesium in a few weeks, and we'll still be a long way from production of synthetic rubber.

The seriousness of the tire problem cannot be overstated. Not only must there be conservation of tires, but unless there's a decision made soon as to whether the synthetic rubber program is to be advanced rapidly or retarded by indecision, not only our civilian transportation system will be tied up, but the army and air corps themselves are likely to be materially affected.

The United States is definitely up against a deadline in the use of existing rubber not only in its stockpile but in its reclaimed supply. All sources of rubber in this country and Central and South America are being canvassed, but it is clear that synthetic rubber production must be soon put into full operation or a serious situation will confront our whole economic system.

We have heard a lot about what this country can produce in the synthetic field—have listened to various processes described, and envisioned with their sponsors, immediate production and alleviation of the rubber situation. But the stark fact is that relatively little progress has been made on the actual construction of synthetic rubber plants, despite the signing of contracts some time ago.

Informed sources state that the program has been bogged down due to disputes between processes. The argument goes on, in government circles, between buna and butyl. The former has been tested and, though expensive, nevertheless can be effective. The latter is experimental and very little is known about it.

The problem is NOT which is going to prove the better process, but which one can be put into operation promptly so that America can get new rubber within the next 12 or 14 months. Controversies as to which process might have been in an advanced stage today if this or that had been done will not overcome the biggest handicap of all, which is time.

Not much good can come from rehashing what has happened in 1940 and 1941. The mistakes made by the administration in failing to be realistic about the possible fall of the Dutch East Indies cannot be repaired by assessing the blame now in any quarter.

There is good reason to believe, however, that the mistakes being made right now, are almost as vital to the future of our rubber supply as were the faulty decisions of 1940 and 1941.

Official Washington, gravely concerned about the rubber problem, has NOT made up its mind which process to sponsor. There have been glowing promises by the scientists as to what they can do several months hence, but there has been no action. There have been many arguments as to which process is cheapest. But none has been chosen.

The time has come to insist that a start be made in the manufacture of synthetic rubber by the process which offers the best prospect for the greatest volume in the shortest possible time. Other processes should be subsidized too to expand that volume, but it's always wise in times of emergency to play a certainty, regardless of cost.

This is just what was done in the case of vital magnesium. There was one commercial process actually in production for ten years in England. By usage it had proven entirely practical and had been furnishing metal for British airplanes, incendiary bombs and other war needs.

A company was organized in which was incorporated the process and raw materials. The war department and Defense Plants Corporation authorized construction of a plant at Las Vegas, ten times the size of the British plant, and work was started almost immediately.

There was no delay here, and as a result by mid-August, THIS plant will start pouring out magnesium to aid in alleviating the nation's raw material shortage. The process is proven and there's no doubt whatever as to ultimate success. The problem was to get the plant built and in operation in time.

This process is NOT the cheapest, theoretically, but it is cheapest practically because it's the only one that's proven. In the laboratory, the process being tried out at Permanente is cheapest, but in practice, it has yet to be proven feasible. It was the subject of much experiment in Germany before the war, and has been tried out here at Permanente.

Had Defense Plants had the same trouble making up its mind on magnesium as other governmental officials are having with synthetic rubber, we'd still be arguing about processes, instead of contemplating actual production three months hence.

And, strangest thing of all, Defense Plants is actually being severely criticized for not waiting (months or years) until all details were settled before authorizing start of construction of the Las Vegas magnesium plant, and this is just the policy that's responsible for the rubber shortage and lack of any indication it will be any better a year hence.

If the American production machine bogs down because of lack of rubber, the record of letters exchanged between all the different agencies of government involved won't save the situation in the least. And the fact (if it be a fact) that those agencies are still searching for the cheapest process, and seeking to be sure all patents are in their hands, and that everything is in order down to the last detail, won't provide war machines with the rubber that's absolutely necessary to their operation and which SHOULD be made available, regardless of cost.

We WILL have magnesium, however, because some government officials had the courage to cut the red tape, plunge on through all barriers, and get construction under way within a couple of months after the need became apparent. We need somebody to do THAT for rubber, and do it IMMEDIATELY. Delay gets more and more serious with each passing day.

Magnesium Plant Will Employ 5,000

Anaconda Magnesium

Young (36) Senator Berkeley Lloyd Bunker of Nevada is a serious Mormon ex-Bishop who looks like Tyrone Power and is more often seen than heard on the floor of the Senate. Since he took the late silver Senator Key Pittman's place two years ago, he has made the headlines on only one subject: Nevada's huge Government-financed magnesium plant, world's largest (rated capacity: 112,000,000 lb. a year, 3 1/2 times U.S. output last year), which went into production last month.

First time Senator Bunker jumped into the news with magnesium (TIME, April 30) he had a scandal story that sizzled even long-untouchable Jesse Jones; he charged that Basic Magnesium Inc., which had contracted to build and run the plant for the Government's Defense Plants Corp., had bargained so well with Bunker Jones that it stood to make a 4,280% profit on its investment. Jesse harrumphed about "statements unworthy of a U.S.

* The U.S. owns roughly 100,000 tons of silver, but more than half of it is coins or backing for silver certificates.

Senator . . . false and misleading," and the public forgot. In any case, the ex-orbitancy of the fees Jesse allowed Basic Magnesium Inc. depended largely on whether you figured it as a percentage of what the new operation was costing the Government (then estimated at \$70,000,000) or on Bunker's estimate of B.M.'s own original investment (\$50,000).

But last week Berkeley Bunker came up with some news that really put B.M. into the big time. He said he had heard "reliably" that huge Anaconda Copper Co. was buying B.M. "lock, stock and barrel" for \$75,000,000, that its former owners were getting \$1,000,000 from Defense Plants Corp. on the deal, although the Government's bill for building the plant would now run over \$100,000,000 rather than \$70,000,000. Even so, said Senator Bunker darkly, "the Government can consider itself lucky to get out of this thing."

As the week wore on Berkeley Bunker's big news was surrounded with hunkers of silence: B.M.'s President Howard P. Eells, Jr. said no one could talk but Anaconda; Anaconda said it had nothing to say; Jesse Jones did not even say that much. But if Senator Bunker's information was right (and at week's end no one had yet denied it) it was important: for the first time one of the great old-line metal producers was getting into light metal production in a big way.

Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced last night that Anaconda Copper Mining Company had acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium, Inc. operators and builders of what is scheduled to be the world's largest magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev.

Jones said that Anaconda had purchased 52 1/2 per cent stock purchase, interest in BMI from Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, for \$75,000.

In connection with the purchase, Defense Plant Corporation bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for a consideration of \$450,000. These ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000. "Basic Magnesium, Inc. is operating and will complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which is owned by Defense Plant Corporation. The first unit of the plant produced magnesium on Aug. 31, 1942. Additional units have been brought in since that time, and it is estimated the entire plant will be completed by April 15, 1943.

This is the largest magnesium plant in this country, and probably in the world. It will have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium, and when completed will cost in excess of \$100,000,000. It covers four square miles of desert land in Nevada, and this site was selected because of its immediate proximity to the government owned Boulder dam power project from which it takes power.

When in full operation the plant will use annually in excess of 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which is equal to the amount of electricity used usually in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined. "Approximately 12,000 men are employed in construction

and in operations at this time. When construction is completed, the plant in full operation will employ approximately 5,000 people. It has been necessary to provide temporary housing and living quarters for the large construction force. In addition to barracks, trailer camps, etc., more than 1,000 two and three bedroom houses, a hospital, a school, a theater and store buildings have been constructed near the plant site which is approximately 12 miles from Las Vegas and an equal distance from Boulder dam.

"Water to supply the plant and the workers is pumped 18 miles through a 40-inch main from Lake Mead, which was created by Boulder dam. The daily requirements of water are approximately 37,000,000 gallons. "The magnesium is produced from magnesite, of which an abundant quantity is accessible. "The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc. in addition to that purchased by Anaconda Copper Mining Company, is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium, Inc., will operate the plant for account of Defense Plant Corporation, receiving one-half cent a pound on the magnesium produced, which will approximate 2 per cent of sales."

ates, of Cleveland, for \$75,000. The text of Jones' announcement: DPC Buys Ore

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JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

"America's Leading Business Newspaper"
New York City

BASIC MAGNESIUM INTEREST IS SOLD

Anaconda Gets 52 1/2 P. C. of Stock—Defense Plant Corp. Buys Lands

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (AP).—The acquisition by Anaconda Copper Mining Co. of the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., & Associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for a purchase price of \$75,000, was announced today by Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones.

In connection with the purchase, Mr. Jones announced, Defense Plant Corporation bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000. He said these ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

Will Complete Plant

The announcement said that Basic Magnesium was operating and would complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., owned by the DPC. Mr. Jones said that the first unit of the plant produced magnesium on August 31, that additional units had been brought into production since, and that it was estimated the entire plant would be completed by April 15, 1943.

The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that bought by Anaconda Copper Mining Co., is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished technical information and designed the plant.

Magnesium Price Set

Mr. Jones' announcement said Basic Magnesium would operate the plant for the Defense Plant Corporation, receiving 1/2 a pound on magnesium produced, which he said would approximate 2 per cent of sales.

At New York Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda's board, said participation of his company in the enterprise "has been undertaken at the invitation of the Government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium."

"Our function is that of management," Kelly said, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all the interested parties to aid in the war effort."

Directors Selected

"J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium; Frederick Llast, vice president of Anaconda, in charge of metallurgical opera-

tions, has been elected vice president and they, with myself, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium.

"Members of Anaconda's staff have been on the ground for some time, have studied the program and will take charge of the operation of the project."

Jones said the Nevada plant was the largest in this country and probably in the world. He explained it would have a capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium yearly and would cost more than \$100,000,000 when completed. It covers four square miles of desert in Nevada and he said the site was selected because of its proximity to the Government-owned Boulder Dam power development.

He said that when in full operation the plant would use more than 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, or equal to the amount used in Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined.

About 12,000 men are now employed in the construction and operation of the plant and when it is completed approximately 5,000 will be employed.

Anaconda Company Acquires Control of Basic Magnesium

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Jones' announcement said Basic Magnesium would operate the plant for the Defense Plant Corp., receiving one-half cent a pound on magnesium produced, which he said would approximate 2 percent of sales.

At New York Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda's board, said participation of his company in the enterprise "has been undertaken at the invitation of the government and of the English and American interests in basic magnesium."

"Our function is that of management," Kelly said, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken for that purpose of doing what we can at the request of all the interested parties to aid in the war effort."

"J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium; Frederick Llast, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operations, has been elected vice president and they, with myself, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium."

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WASHINGTON, D. C. POST
OCTOBER 27, 1942

Anaconda Copper Acquires Eells Magnesium Stock

Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has acquired for \$75,000 the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates of Cleveland, Ohio, in Basic Magnesium, Inc. Jesse H. Jones, Secretary of Commerce, announced last night.

At the same time, Mr. Jones revealed that Defense Plant Corporation, which owns the plants, bought ore lands of basic magnesium, near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000. Mr. Jones said that the lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that bought by Anaconda, is owned by British interests represented in the United States by Maj. C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium will operate the plant for account of Defense Plant Corporation, receiving 1/2 per cent a pound on the magnesium produced, which will be about 2 per cent of sales.

The first unit of the plant produced magnesium last August. Additional units have been brought in since that time, and it is estimated the entire plant will be completed by April 15, 1943.

TAMOPAH, NOV. TIMES-BONANZA
OCTOBER 27, 1942

Anaconda Purchase of BMI Announced by Jesse Jones

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 (UP).—Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones, administrator of the federal loan agency, today announced that the Anaconda Copper Mining company has acquired the stock and control of Basic Magnesium, Inc.

Jones said that the copper mining company, one of the nation's largest mining enterprises, has purchase 52 1/2 per cent of the stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc. for \$75,000. The ore lands (Gabbs Valley in Nye county, Nevada) were purchased by the defense plant corporation from BMI for \$450,000, Jones said.

Although Jones' announcement had been expected for some time, the federal official did not give many details regarding the transaction. It was known, however, that the deal has been under consideration by the copper company for the past month.

Anaconda has operated in Mon-

tana for nearly a half century, having large holdings in Butte and Anaconda. The Rio Tinto in Elko county, Nevada, and International Smelting and Refining company operations in Pioche, Nevada, are also part of the Anaconda holdings.

Control of the company has been held for years by the Standard Oil group, and it has widespread interests throughout the United States.

It is believed that ownership of the plants will remain in the government, and Anaconda will merely carry out the contract held by BMI with the collaboration of the English interests represented in the minority holdings.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., did not own the property. It had a contract for construction and operation of the plant as the agent thereof, but the government retained ownership both of the plants and the magnesium produced.

S.F. CAL., ORGANIZED LABOR
NOVEMBER 7, 1942

BUILDING AND METAL TRADES PACT SIGNED BY BASIC MAGNESIUM FIRM

Las Vegas, Nev.—Out in the desert, one of the hugest contracting jobs in the nation—the \$100,000,000 plant of the Basic Magnesium Corporation—is now beginning to take form. It is a 100 per cent AFL union job.

Agreements with the corporation, covering the 10,000 construction workers now on the site and the additional thousands who will be employed in the production of magnesium, have just been signed by the Building Trades and Metal Trades Departments of the American Federation of Labor.

These agreements are described by AFL officials as the finest existing anywhere in the country.

Magnesium, a metal lighter than aluminum, is vitally needed in airplane manufacture. One unit of the plant is already in production and nine others are being rushed to completion.

BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NEV. SCOUT
NOVEMBER 12, 1942

BMI DEALS

Documents filed with the county recorder of Nye county at Tonopah were said by the Times to reveal additional details in connection with the transfer by the Basic Magnesium Inc., and its affiliate, Basic Refractories Inc., to the Anaconda Copper Mining company of the magnesite and brucite deposits at Gabbs Valley. According to the report, two transactions were made involving Basic Magnesium, Inc., and Basic Refractories, Inc. Both were listed in the deeds on record as headed by Howard P. Eells, Jr., with J. E. Hoidgen as secretary. Both men signed the purchase contracts for the two firms. BMI sold approximately 80 lode and placer claims, eight millsites and water rights, machinery and other equipment. Basic Refractories sold 45 lode claims and certain surface grounds, it was revealed. The deal involving Basic Refractories was apparently the sale which netted the largest amount of money since \$495 in federal stamps were attached to the recorder's copy of the transaction. The BMI contract had only 55 cents in federal stamps attached.

COMES *The* LIGHTWEIGHT METAL DAWN

Peace Sure to Bring
Boomin Magnesium
Now So Important for
Airplanes, and Metal
That Is Tied Closely to
Cleveland

The following article, dealing with a most important product useful not only for war purposes but also in the peace that must follow, was submitted to the office of censorship in Washington and approved by that office. Because the Plain Dealer does not desire to give aid or comfort to the enemy by disclosing any information that might be useful to them, the locations of the various plants referred to are not given except in a general way.

SUNDAY EDITOR.

By Lawrence J. Hawkins

NEW TOOLS to create a material civilization beyond our pre-war imaginings are springing out of the colossal waste and destruction of the war.

One of these is the gravity-defying metal, magnesium—lighter than aluminum, strong as steel, and easier to machine than either. This important element in the world-to-come after this war is won, is tied close to Cleveland scientifically, industrially and financially.

Work on the basic electrolytic process most commonly used to isolate magnesium was started at Case School of Applied Science.

One of the largest fabricating plants in America is here, and near Painesville, the government is building a \$16,000,000 plant to produce magnesium ingots.

Cleveland's H. P. Eells is president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., which owns huge magnesite ore deposits in Nevada and will operate another of the larger magnesium plants in America.

The supply of this tough, champion lightweight metal is as limitless as the ocean, from which much of our present supply is obtained.

from magnesium salts. Dow Chemical Co. is extracting it from sea water in Texas and producing more from 200 tons a day in Michigan. The Echemon Magnesium Corp. plant near Painesville, expected to start operations in 1942, will produce the metal from Ohio dolomite. Basic Magnesium, Inc., expects to start production in July.

Powdered magnesium is the stuff which put the flash in photographers' old style flashlight powder, and it is the stuff which makes pretty Fourth of July fireworks (which we may not have this year).

In its powdered form magnesium burns with dazzling brilliance, but in the form of solid metal it can't be ignited with a blow torch.

Because it is the lightest of all abundant metals it is one of the most important war priorities in President Roosevelt's "blueprint of victory" which calls for 60,000 planes this year, 125,000 next year. If you made three identical castings of steel, aluminum and magnesium, their weights would compare as follows:

Steel	100 pounds
Aluminum	34 pounds
Magnesium	23 pounds

The advantage of magnesium is plain. Suppose 3,000 pounds of aluminum in a bombing plane (a modest figure) is replaced by magnesium. The saving of 1,000 pounds dead weight would permit an addition of two more 500-pound bombs, and the additional bombs might well be the very ones that would sink an enemy ship. Or the saving would permit larger gasoline tanks for a longer cruising range.

If magnesium is such a superb metal, and if it is so abundant on the earth, why hasn't it been developed long before this? The answer is that magnesium has such a

love for other elements that it is never found in a pure state in nature but always in chemical combination with something else. Vast quantities of electric power are required to divorce it from its affinities.

No matter what the cost is now, it will be cheap if it helps win the war. How many millions the government and private investors are pouring into magnesium developments scattered over the country hasn't been published, but the sum possibly exceeds \$300,000,000. Seven big government-backed companies are in the field.

Magnesium production in the United States began during the first World War, but all was produced then and in all the peacetime years since is only a smidgeon compared to what we are getting ready to produce now. In 1918 our total production was only 234,000 pounds. In 1940 it was 12,500,000, and last year, according to War Production Board figures, it was 33,000,000 pounds. This is less than the Diamond plant will produce next year.

When the war is finally won—let's all knock on wood—this huge war-born industry will remain to contribute to a material civilization worthy of an H. G. Wells dream. For one thing, it will help bring on the plane-in-every-yard era, now a real possibility with all the huge plane factories, the technical discoveries and the skilled workmen developed by the war.

The obvious use for magnesium is in airplanes, but it has many other uses as well. Machines require less power and are subject to less vibration if the moving parts are made of the lightweight metal. The weight of the knife frame on a bread cutting machine—to get away from the war as far as possible—was reduced from 44 to 13 pounds and the efficiency increased many times. This is only one of the many examples of possible uses in reciprocating machine parts.

When the weight of portable tools, such as heavy pneumatic drills, is reduced with magnesium metal, workmen turn out faster, better jobs and are less tired at the end of the day.

An experimental bus built of magnesium eliminated 9,000 pounds dead weight. Think what that might mean in quicker starts, lower fuel consumption.

But for the duration of the war almost all of our huge output will go into war planes. Motor castings, instrument housings, pilot seats, structural sections and landing wheels are all made in Cleveland plants. Wheels are one of the most important aircraft uses of magnesium because the light weight facilitates retracting the landing gear.

Science has known about magnesium for more than a century, but for years it was nothing more than a laboratory curiosity. First commercial production was Germany's I. G. Farbenindustrie, which recovered it from waste brine.

During the first World War magnesium in powder form was in great demand for starshells, signal flares and tracer bullets. The metal was not important then. And when the war shut off imports from Germany the price climbed to \$5 a pound—a great incentive to American industry.

Dr. W. R. Veazey, who at that time was head of the department of chemistry at Case School of Ap-

plied Science, started experiments to recover magnesium from the brine pumped up by the Dow Chemical Co. in Michigan. He developed an electrolytic process to liberate the pure element from magnesium chloride. Dr. Veazey is now an executive of the Dow Co.

A model plant was built and operated for several months, where a great many research men contributed to the eventual perfection of the process. When things went smoothly, as much as 10 or 12 pounds of metal a day was made in this experimental plant.

A commercial plant was built in 1916 and production began at the rate of about a ton a day, which was sufficient for allied needs at that time. By the end of 1917 five companies were producing magnesium. The end of the war destroyed the market and only two remained, Dow and the American Magnesium Corp., a subsidiary of the Aluminum Co. of America. The latter made ingot magnesium at Niagara Falls, but became exclusively a fabricating plant when it moved to Cleveland about 1928. It now buys its ingot from Dow.

Both companies after the war began exploring the possibilities of magnesium alloys. An alloy of 4 to 10 per cent. of aluminum with magnesium is stronger than either metal alone. Tendency of the new light metal to corrode was overcome by surface protection.

Next to lightness, the greatest virtue of magnesium is the ease and speed with which it can be machined. Operations which might take an hour on steel take only 10 minutes on magnesium. American Magnesium has made studies which show that only one-sixth the horsepower is required to mill, plane or drill magnesium. It is required on steel. The economies in machining intricate products, such as the matrix frame of a typewriter, offset to a large extent the higher first cost of the metal. Magnesium is now 22½ cents a pound as compared to 15 cents for aluminum, and the price is certain to be further reduced by the vast production in prospect.

The "missionary" development work done by Dow and American since the last war is a godsend now. Dow is teaching its process to other companies, and the experience of American Magnesium has removed much of the manufacturing fear of fire and explosions which once existed.

The metal is not dangerous if proper precautions are taken. Polishing and grinding operations are carried on in chambers open on one side and fitted with a suction system which draws off all dust as it is created. Shavings are never allowed to accumulate. Workmen are warned to keep tools sharp, because dull tools might create enough friction to ignite fine shavings.

All this knowledge has been gained without the incentive of war or a governmental mandate. This peaceful development here in America and in Germany followed the same upward curve until the late 1930s when German production took a sharp upward turn. The British discovered why when they shot down a couple of Messerschmitts. Germany was using magnesium to build warplanes. Incidentally, that is the same period the German buna rubbers (syn-

thetic) were launched on Hitler-inspired super production.

America is learning through war what she can do when she has to. Two or three years of war will bring about a development we would not have achieved in less than 30 or 40 years of normal times.

Magnesium may well be the most significant industrial advance in the post-war world, and Cleveland-operated Basic Magnesium, Inc., will be one of the two largest producers. The company is jointly owned by Basic Refractories, Inc., of which Cleveland's H. P. Eells is also president, and by Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., of Great Britain. Basic Refractories got 55 per cent. of the stock in return for transfer of its magnesite deposits in Nevada. This is one of the richest in the country.

Elektron, Ltd., received 45 per cent. of the stock in return for its processes, obtained from the patent pool with the German Farbenindustrie.

On 420 acres of dry, sagebrush spotted land, the government is completing a \$70,000,000 plant, which Basic has the option of buying from the government when the war is over. Meanwhile Basic will operate the plant on a commission which will give it an income of about \$340,000 annually.

Eells and his company have been under senate fire in regard to some clauses of their war contract. It is not the purpose of this article to report the details of that dispute—which is not ended at this writing—but to stress the importance of magnesium in the war and the peace to come and to indicate the important role that Cleveland plays in its development.

Fallon, Nev. Eagle
April 18, 1942

IS NEVADA MAGNESIUM INDUSTRY IN DANGER?

THAT THERE may be something a lot bigger than appears on the surface back of the uproar about Basic Magnesium is hinted in recent rumors to the effect that the Nevada skirmish is part of a titanic struggle for control of the light metals industry.

According to these rumors, the aluminum trust has its eyes on Grand Coulee where power is generated almost on top of the magnesite deposits, and where development of magnesite metal would be inexpensive by comparison to the cost of producing the mineral at Gabbs Valley and transporting it to Las Vegas for processing.

From persons in Washington close enough to the top to know something about the situation, have come the prediction that the Nevada producing quarries and the great processing plant at Las Vegas may be lost to the state if the aluminum trust has its way.

Accusations against Basic Magnesium by Senator Bunker of Nevada, have focused attention on that corporation which, if the senator is upheld in his contentions, has a lush thing in its contracts with the government—which Jessie Jones of the R. F. C. hotly denies.

While the senate committee is investigating the Bunker charges, perhaps it had better go a step further and look into the whole light metal setup, far enough to determine who is to dominate magnesium production and processing in this period of national peril.

The public is clamoring for a cleanup of any rottenness that may exist in war industries, and if Senator Bunker has uncovered some dirt, that's to his credit, whether it helps him get himself elected to the post he now holds by appointment or not. If there's bigger game than Basic Magnesium, Inc., in the offing, however, Thurman Arnold and the Truman committee had better go gunning for it and not waste all their ammunition on the smaller fry.

On the other hand, there may not be anything radically amiss anywhere as far as magnesium is concerned, and if that is the case the public mind will be eased considerably if the truth is dug out quickly and given to the people, who are uneasy enough about war production as it is, without having this, too, to worry about.

meeting passing day.
section of the American Institute of Electro.

'The Big Job' Explains Magnesium Plant Methods

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—With the beginning of production of magnesium metals at the huge Clark County plant, the weekly mimeographed publication of Basic Magnesium Inc., titled "The Big Job" gave some interesting facts concerning the transport of the calcined magnesite from the source of the raw material to the electrolytic cells from which is poured the vital lightweight war metal. The company's news report says:

The whole storage system at BMI closely tied in with the preparation units and all linked together by a smooth flowing system of conveyancing, is just another of those marvels that send visitors away talking to themselves.

Raw materials in this process are largely fine powders, difficult to handle and often moved with great loss. That will not be true here. Take magnesium oxide for example. It's fine as flour when ready to ship. Specially designed airtight trawlers, with air pressure intake on top and outlet valves at the bottom, will haul this material either to the plant or to cars.

Here at the plant, facilities are provided for unloading either from trailers or from cars. In unloading a trailer a stocking will be attached to the bottom valves and the oxide pulled by suction through air lines direct to the big silos. These air lines will be motivated by a 60 hp. motor.

Unloading Big Job Unloading cars is something else and here is where housewives around these embattled parts give a gasp. It is done with vacuum cleaners.

Great big vacuum cleaners, four of them, each operated by a 40 hp. motor. Each one of these giant house cleaners (or powder unloaders) can suck up 30 tons an hour.

A car arrives from the mine. In go a couple of the "house cleaners. The boys don't even have to push or steer them. There's a little motor on each wheel. Touch one button and she turns right; touch the other and she turns left.

With only one finger effort by

SEN. NEV. GAZETTE OCT. 23, 1942

Basic Magnesium Manager Named

468 Reorganization Said Completed

General management of Basic Magnesium, Inc., operations in Nevada has been given by F. O. Case, with H. G. Satterthwaite as his assistant, according to an announcement from Las Vegas today.

Re-organization of BMI, controlling interest of which is now held by Anaconda Copper Mining Company, has been completed.

J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been named president of BMI, and vice presidents are Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operation, and Maj. Charles J. P. Ball, chairman of Magnesium Elektron, Ltd. Named as directors of BMI are Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda, and Edward J. Barnsley, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries of New York.

Anaconda purchased 52 1/2 per cent of the stock of BMI from Howard Eells and associates for an announced price of \$75,000. At the same time, it was announced that the Defense Plant Corporation, which is building the \$70,000,000 magnesium plant near Las Vegas, had paid \$450,000 for the magnesium ore deposits in Gabbs valley.

Minority stock in BMI is held by Magnesium Elektron, a British concern which owns the rights to the production method now in use.

the operator, she can be made to spin on a dime. Well, in they go. The motors start. Into the main air line, with a capacity of 60 tons an hour, flows the magnesium oxide, headed for the site.

Two of these big vacuum cleaners can empty a whole car and move its load into storage in less than an hour. Nix, ladies. You can't borrow these cleaners after a sandstorm! You'd lose your rugs and furniture.

ODDEN UTAH STANDARD-EXAMINER OCTOBER 30, 1942

COPPER MINE SOLD

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Oct. 30 (AP)—The Anaconda Copper Mining Company has purchased 82 1/2 per cent of the stock of the new \$70,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., and will assume its management, a B. M. I. statement disclosed today. J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of B. M. I.

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE New York, N. Y. OCT 27 1942

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JOURNAL-AMERICAN New York, N. Y. OCT 27 1942

Anaconda Gets Magnesium Co.

Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has taken over management of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at the invitation of the U. S. Government and of the English and American interests involved, Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of the board of Anaconda, stated today.

Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced from Washington that Anaconda had acquired 52 1/2 per cent of the stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium for \$75,000. Defense Plant Corp. bought the ore lands of Magnesium near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000.

Mr. Kelly revealed that J. R. Hobbins, Anaconda president, was elected president of Basic Magnesium, and that Frederick Laist, Anaconda vice-president in charge of metallurgical operations, was named vice-president. They, with Mr. Kelly, will serve on the board of Basic Magnesium.

SACRAMENTO CAL. UNION OROGRAPHY OCT 23 1942

Anaconda Buys Ore Deposits

TONOPAH—Details of the transfer of magnesite and brucite deposits in Gabbs valley by Basic Magnesium, Inc., and its affiliate, Basic Refractories, Inc., to Anaconda Copper Mining Company, were disclosed by filing of papers with the county recorder here.

Two transactions were made involving Basic Magnesium and Basic Refractories, both of which were listed in the deeds of record as headed by Howard P. Eells, Jr., with J. E. Heidgen as secretary. Both signed purchase contracts for the two firms.

Basic Magnesium sold about 80 lode and placer claims, eight millsites and water rights, machinery and equipment. Basic Refractories sold 45 lode claims and certain surface grounds.

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"He said that when in full operation the plant would use more than 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, or equal to the amount used in Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined."

About 12,000 men are now employed in the construction and operation of the plant and when it is completed approximately 5,000 will be employed.

BMI Bulletin Tells of New Organization

Following the recent and cautious announcement by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones about the recent sale of BMI to Anaconda, the BMI publicity office in Las Vegas today sends out the following information under the heading of "bulletin." It says:

GOVERNMENT INVITATION

"At the invitation of the United States government and of the English and American shareholders of Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, the Anaconda Copper Mining Company has agreed to participate in BMI and to assume the management of the United States government's plants at Las Vegas and Gabbs, by and through BMI, the present operating company.

"Magnesium Elektron Limited, of Manchester, England, will continue its collaboration in the management as heretofore.

"Participation in BMI has been assured by the purchase by Anaconda of 52 1/2 percent share holding in BMI owned by Basic Refractories, Incorporated of Cleveland, Ohio.

"The board of BMI has been reconstituted as follows:

J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of BMI.

OFFICIALS NAMED

Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operation; Charles J. P. Ball, chairman of Magnesium Elektron Limited.

Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda; Edward J. Barnsley, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries of New York.

General management of BMI operations in Nevada has been entrusted to F. O. Case with H. G. Satterthwaite as his assistant.

SANTA BAULA, CALIF. CHRONICLE OCTOBER 28, 1942

Las Vegas Plant Magnesium, Inc., to Operate the Same

WASHINGTON (AP) — A spokesman for the Reconstruction Finance Corp., said today the purchase of controlling stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., by the Anaconda Copper Mining Co., will not cause any contractual changes in the operation of the huge magnesium works for the government.

He said the plant near Las Vegas, Nev., is owned by defense plant corporation, a subsidiary of the RFC. Basic Magnesium operates the project for the government. The fact that the controlling stock of Basic Magnesium, Inc. has been sold does not change the contractual relationships between the operating company and DPC.

The contract provides for BMI to receive a fee of one-half cent a pound for the Magnesium produced.

There was considerable speculation, however, as to what might happen after the war. It has been suggested that perhaps DPC then will dispose of the property. In that event, Anaconda as the new owner of Basic Magnesium, Inc., might be in a favorable position to buy the works and go into the magnesium business for itself.

ANACONDA CO. TO OPERATE NEVADA PLANT

Magnesium Property Will Be Worked To Aid War Effort.

Washington, Oct. 27. — (AP) — The acquisition by Anaconda Copper mining company of the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for a purchase price of \$75,000, was announced today by commerce Secretary Jesse Jones.

In connection with the purchase, Jones announced, Defense Plant Corporation bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000. He said these ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

The announcement said that Basic Magnesium was operating and would complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., owned by the DPC. Jones said that the first unit of the plant produced magnesium on Aug. 31, that additional units had been brought into production since, and that it was estimated the entire plant would be completed by April 15, 1943.

DESIGNED PLANT

The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that bought by Anaconda Copper Mining Company, is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished technical information and designed the plant.

Jones' announcement said Basic Magnesium would operate the plant for the Defense Plant Corporation, receiving one-half a cent a pound on magnesium produced, which he said would approximate 2 per cent of sales.

At New York Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda's board said participation of his company in the enterprise "has been undertaken at the invitation of the government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium."

"Our function is that of management," Kelly said, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all the interested parties to aid in the war effort. ARE DIRECTORS.

"J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium. Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operations, has been elected vice president and they, with myself, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium.

"Members of Anaconda's staff have been on the ground for some time, have studied the program and will take charge of the operation of the project."

Jones said the Nevada plant was the largest in this country and probably in the world. He explained it would have a capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium yearly and would cost more than \$100,000,000 when completed. It covers four square miles of desert in Nevada and he said the site was selected because of its proximity to the government-owned Boulder dam power development.

He said that when in full operation the plant would use more than 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, or equal to the amount used in Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined.

ANACONDA SAID TO HAVE TAKEN B. M. I. PROJECTS

Reports From East Remain To Be Confirmed

New York and Washington reports of the transfer of properties and activities of the Basic Magnesium Inc. to the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. still lack verification as to details or the consideration of a reputed \$75,000,000 involved in the transaction. Heads of BMI and Anaconda officials so far have declined to make any definite statement.

The Washington report stated that Anaconda would at once assume possession of the magnesite mines and oxide plant at Gabbs Valley and that operations at the magnesium metal plant near Boulder dam would continue under direction of the British engineers who provided the process of metal recovery.

Basic Magnesium Inc. is operating the project under an agreement with the Defense Plants Corporation, subsidiary of the RFC, which has provided upwards of \$75,000,000 for construction and which owns the plants and has contracts for delivery of calcined magnesite.

Basic Magnesium, a subsidiary of Basic Refractories Inc., is owned around 51 per cent by Howard P. Eells Jr. and associates of Cincinnati and 49 per cent by Magnesium Elektron Ltd. of Manchester, England, which supplies the process that was acquired from Germans and has been used in England for some years.

From news Cleveland 10/27/42

Eells' Nevada Holdings Sold To Anaconda

fin bank home

Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has purchased 52 1/2 per cent of the stock of Basic Magnesium, Inc., stock interest held by Howard P. Eells Jr., and associates of Cleveland, Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones said in Washington today.

The purchase price, Jones said, was \$75,000.

The commerce secretary also reported that Defense Plant Corp. has bought Nevada ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., for \$450,000. These lands and ore deposits, he said, have been appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

Will Cost \$100,000,000

"Basic Magnesium, Inc., is operating and will complete the construction of the magnesium plant, which is owned by Defense Plant," Jones said. It is expected to be completed by next April 15 at a cost to exceed \$100,000,000.

Located at Las Vegas, Nev., the plant, Jones said, "is the largest magnesium operation in the country, and probably in the world. It will have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium.

Britons Own Stock

"The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc. other than that purchased by Anaconda Copper Mining Co., is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium will receive 1/2 cent a pound for the magnesium produced, which will approximate 2 per cent of sales."

Eells, in commenting on the purchase by Anaconda, said today it was apparent that Basic Magnesium's immense undertaking and, hence, the war effort would benefit measurably from the backing of a corporation with resources comparable to its size.

Basic Magnesium Deal by Anaconda Made on U.S. Plea

Copper Firm President Heads Light Metal Works; New Plant Vast

New York, Oct. 27.—UP—Purchase of the controlling stock interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., by Anaconda Copper Mining Co. was made at the request of the United States government and private American and British interests connected with the enterprise, Cornelius F. Kelly, Anaconda's board chairman, said today.

Anaconda Copper, Secretary of Commerce Jones confirmed yesterday, has obtained the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest in the Magnesium company formerly held by Howard P. Eells Jr. and associates, of Cleveland, for \$75,000. The Defense Plant Corp., meanwhile, has bought the company's ore lands near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000.

"Our function is that of management without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over," Mr. Kelly stated, "and is undertaken only for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all interested parties to aid in the war effort."

Hobbins Named President

J. R. Hobbins, Anaconda president, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium; Frederick Laist, vice-president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operations, has been named vice-president, and both, in addition to Mr. Kelly, have been elected directors.

Basic Magnesium is operating and will complete construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which is owned by DPC. The first unit of the plant produced magnesium on Aug. 31, 1942. Additional units have been brought in since that time, and it is estimated the entire plant will be completed by April 15, 1943.

The plant will be the largest magnesium unit in this country, and probably in the world. It will have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium, and will cost in excess of \$100,000,000. It covers four square miles of desert land. Its site was selected because of its immediate proximity to the government-owned Boulder Dam project, from which it takes power.

Current Use to Equal 4 States'

When in full operation the plant will use annually in excess of 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which is equal to the amount used annually in Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined.

Approximately 12,000 men are now employed in construction and in operation. When construction is completed, the plant will employ approximately 5,000 people.

"The stock in Basic Magnesium, in addition to that purchased by Anaconda, is owned by British interests represented in this country by Maj. C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium will operate the plant for DPC, receiving 1/2 cent a pound on the magnesium produced, which will approximate 2 per cent of sales."

LAS VEGAS, NEV.—ACE OCTOBER 23, 1942

BMI and Boulder Dam Compared As To Extent of Labor

A comparison between Basic Magnesium and the construction of Boulder dam shows that the former Six Companies had, at their peak, a payroll of 5250 employees and a mess hall seating 1300 at the big dam construction, while Basic Magnesium, on Aug. 1 of this year, had 13,618 employees with a mess hall seating capacity of 2500 employees.

The Basic Magnesium plant, he said, contains electrical equipment valued at \$12,500,000 with a production based at 56,000 tons of metallic magnesium a year, or 153.4 tons each day.

**DENVER MINING RECORD
MACHINERY JOURNAL**

"For over 50 years the leading mining journal of the nation. Published every Saturday."
1823 Champa St., Denver, Colorado.

**DISCOVER NEW MINE
TO MAKE GREAT PROFIT**

THE sensational profits that are possible thru the development of a mining property are well proven by the discovery, location and development of the great body of magnesium that is the basis of the immense magnesium project in Nevada. This magnesium ore body was found on the public domain where anyone could have located it. For years it was open to location but evidently not even the government suspected its potential value.

The government needing this magnesium is expending \$63,000,000 to speed the production of the metal. Basic Magnesium Inc. owns the great ore body and will of course make a handsome profit on its relatively small investment. That is the history of the mining industry. The prospector spends a few dollars for grub and equipment and opens a mine that may be worth many millions of dollars. A committee of the U. S. Senate says Basic Magnesium Inc. is guilty of flagrant war profiteering. This may be true and should have full investigation. Basic Magnesium secured something that never before had a value and demonstrated that it has a potential value of many millions. The government needs the metal from this great ore body and has contracted to finance its development and equipment. The SEC was not on the job to stop this work so the Basic Co. is going ahead notwithstanding the charges of war time profiteering and exorbitant salaries. When a prospect becomes a mine and thousands of per cent profit are possible in war time production, economy of money is sometimes a secondary consideration, but economy of time and man power are vital.

Out in Nevada the Las Vegas Journal sizes up the charges against Basic Magnesium in the following comment: Suppose a prospector located a group of claims in a gold district, put down a shaft, ran a couple of tunnels, and determined, after considerable work, that he had approximately 100,000 tons of ore which would run \$20 a ton. Suppose he had expended, all told, in cash and labor, \$2500 in developing the property. Suppose also, a mining company wanted to buy the property, what would be its value?

Certainly no one in the mining west would suggest the figure of \$2500. Certainly there would be no one to argue that because he had spent in actual cash, but \$2500 in developing the mine, that's all it was worth.

And yet in figuring the profit Basic Magnesium Inc. is supposed to make from operation of the Las Vegas plant, the Truman senatorial committee used as a basis, the amount of money the company had expended in testing and developing its magnesite claims near Luning, Nev.

When it was charged that Basic would realize a profit in excess of 4000%, that percentage was figured on the estimated \$50,000 the company had actually expended in development work.

The mining industry of the west certainly would be in for a rather dismal future if the government or capital in general were to adopt the formula laid down by the Truman committee for placing a value on mining properties, limiting the amount to the cash outlay for work done, and ignoring entirely the value of the ore contained therein.

**We'll Go to Town, Knudsen's
War Production Prediction**

468
**Expects Peak
to Be Hit by
End of Year**

"Without trying to brag—I think we'll go to town!"

That is Lieutenant General William S. Knudsen's own nutshell summation of America's greatest productive effort to build the guns, planes and tanks to beat the Axis.

The three-star general, director of production for the War Department and one of the world's production geniuses, gave this confident assurance yesterday as he arrived here on the last leg of a nationwide swing to "get a picture of the war effort."

Brisk of step and ramrod straight, General Knudsen, clad in uniform of his rank, came here by auto from San Diego under police escort after foregoing a scheduled trip by Army transport.

WOLFE IN PARTY

With him was Brigadier General Kenneth B. Wolfe, chief of the production engineering section of the Materiel Command, and W. M. Collins, Knudsen's executive assistant.

While a group of aircraft manufacturing company presidents waited to entertain Knudsen at luncheon in Santa Monica's Del Mar Club, the production head, soft-spoken, smiling and alert, genially met newspaper men.

"The program is rolling," he said. "We are, of course, not anywhere near the demands made on us, but I have no doubt we'll get on top of it. I'm quite sure we'll hit the peak by the end of the year—although the demand may increase in that time."

"No job has ever been undertaken of this size. You have thousands of manufacturers undertaking work that heretofore was foreign to them."

SIZES UP EFFORT

"Can you just go through a plant and tell how production is going?" he was asked.

Chuckling, he responded: "I size up the effort and then go through the plant records and compare them with Army records. I'm no superman, but I get a pretty good idea."

There is no "serious" labor shortage yet, he declared, adding, however:

"There are spotted shortages in very highly skilled lines—such as toolmakers, telescope makers and such."

"You know," he remarked, "last Sunday I was up at Nevada looking over the magnesium situation. They've got 6800 men there from all over. It shows we have manpower to draw from."

He was asked what suggestions he could make to "pep up" the public.

"I don't think we need to be pepped up," replied Knudsen.

SINGLE OBJECTIVE

"All we have to remember is that we have one war—right in front of us—one objective, and one Commander in Chief."

We haven't exceeded Axis production of war material yet—but, he said, "it won't be long—and eventually we'll do more."

Knudsen said he hasn't seen any of the "loafing" in plants



LIEUT. GEN. WILLIAM KNUDSEN (center), director of production for the War Department, shown with Colonel Charles E. Branshaw (left), and Brigadier General Kenneth B. Wolfe, after General Knudsen's arrival here yesterday on tour. —Los Angeles Examiner photo.

Here on Last
Leg of U. S.
Tour

inspected by him that Admiral Emory Land, 163d House naval affairs committee, Monday is going on in shipyards.

"Aircraft production has responded quite handsomely," said General Knudsen. "It's quite remarkable to see what has been done in the year and a half since I was last here."

There isn't "enough shortage of labor yet," he said, to worry about the 40-hour week, but said modification would come soon enough if it later developed that it was necessary.

New production techniques are

being developed daily, because, in times of crisis, he pointed out, "American ingenuity comes to the surface."

The Lieutenant General was the luncheon guest of Donald Douglas, president of the Douglas Aircraft Company; J. L. Kindelberger, president of North American Aviation; Robert E. Gross, president of Lockheed Aircraft; Richard Miller, president of Vultee, and John K. Northrop, president, and LaMotte Cohu, chairman of the board, of Northrop.

Afterward, escorted by Colonel

Charles E. Branshaw, Western district supervisor, Army Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur R. Baird, ordnance department, and Lieutenant Colonel Ralph O. Cragin, Los Angeles ordnance region adjutant, he left on his tour of inspection of aircraft, ordnance and other war plants in this area.

The first part of his itinerary was the Douglas Company's at Santa Monica.

Knudsen will finish his survey Friday and leave for Oakland.

LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL
APRIL 17, 1942

**12,304 Men in Clark County are
Registered in 3 Drafts Revealed**

With the signing of 5,846 men in the fourth selective service registration Sunday and Monday, a total of 12,304 men has been listed in Clark county in the four draft calls, it was announced today by the local selective service office. Part of these are men working in Clark county but gave permanent addresses at other communities, and their cards will be forwarded to their own draft boards.

The registration of the men between the ages of 45 and 65 early this week was the largest held so far in Clark county. Other registration figures showed: First draft, October 16, 1940, for men between 21 and 35 years—2936; second draft, July 1, 1941, for men who had reached 21 after the first draft—138; third draft, February 16, for men reaching 21 after the second draft and for those be-

tween the ages of 35 and 44—3384; and fourth draft—5846. Las Vegas had more than one-half of the registration with a total of 3203, while the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant ranked second in the county with 1031.

Registration in other communities was as follows: Westside, 213; North Las Vegas, 190; Overton, 59; Logandale, 88; Bunkerville, 17; Mesquite, 33; Good Springs, 40 (estimated); Blue Diamond, 16; Searchlight, 43; Nelson, 48; Boulder City, 503; Whitney, 145; and Midway, 217.

On the basis of the registration of 12,304 men in Clark county between the ages of 21 and 65, and counting two and one-half persons per family, it can be estimated that the present population of the county is about 30,230 persons.

**Pre-Helldorado Dance Is Set For
Saturday Night; Big Time Assured**

The spirit of Helldorado will be reborn in Las Vegas Saturday night, May 2, when the annual pre-Helldorado dance is presented at the big dancehall in the Helldorado grounds, according to members of the Elks lodge who annually present the wild western show in Las Vegas.

event the biggest ever, and for those who have lived through the first seven, this means plenty of whoopee such as the newcomers never have seen.

Starting Saturday night, with the dance, Las Vegas will don her western clothes, and from now until the end of May the community will re-live the days of the last frontier. The Elks are especially interested in having the newcomers join with the older residents of the community in the celebration, and the pre-Helldorado dance this year will be more or less of a get together affair at which the recent arrivals will be initiated into the mysteries of a western town at play.

Elaborate preparations for the dance have been made by the committee in charge and with the Basic Magnesium band on the platform to deal out the rhythm for the dance, a large evening is in store for the patrons.

The big dancehall, a replica of one of the buildings at Tonopah during the boom days, has been cleaned out and decked out in its western trappings, and is all ready to receive the monster throng which is expected to attend.

The Helldorado bar will be in operation and patrons will see old-time bartenders operating behind the rough-hewn "mahogany" in the same manner as they piled their trade in the Klondike.

The dance will start at 9 o'clock and will operate until the last straggling couple has decided they've had enough and the Elks warn that if anyone doesn't desire to wear themselves out, they had best reserve themselves a seat in the balcony.

While Helldorado costumes are desired, and the Elks request everyone possible don their western clothes, they are not entirely necessary. Admittance can be obtained by paying the entrance fee, whether the customer is dressed in blue jeans or a tuxedo.

However, the Elks will take no responsibility for losses incurred by the wearer of the formal dress.

It is hoped that the old-time dances will be revived again this year and efforts are being made to obtain the services of dancing groups from Las Vegas and Boulder City to present the dances which were in vogue when the west was young.

An invitation to every resident in this area has been issued by the Elks and it is probable that the largest throng ever to attend a Helldorado dance in this area will be present for the festivities.

Las Vegas Review Journal
April 17, 1942

FROM WHERE

This business of news censorship is a bit confusing. Lieutenant General William Knudsen spent Sunday and part of Monday in Las Vegas, familiarizing himself with the progress of construction at the magnesium plant. Naturally he was sought out by newspaper representatives for an interview and comments on the war effort. He requested no publicity be given his visit here, that it was one of those "military secrets" newspapers are supposed to forget.

His wish was observed and no mention was made of his presence here. Day after his departure, however, the Los Angeles newspapers spread him all over the front page, printed quoted interviews INCLUDING the statement he had been in Las Vegas looking over magnesium production.

Result: Local newspaper readers ask, and rightfully, WHY the story wasn't printed here—if the papers were sound asleep—if they didn't know the general was here and if not WHY not—it's their business to know such things. So—it's a bit difficult to know what to do in circumstances like that when officials themselves change their minds overnight.

Another result of censorship is that it leaves the door wide open for rumors being blown up into sensational stories for the purpose of selling papers and apparently scoring "beats" on other services and papers, or manufacturing the stories out of whole cloth. The fact that there will be NO confirmation or denial from Washington allows them to get away with anything they choose to spring.

There have been several such stories put out by one particular

meeting passing day.
section of the American Institute of elected.

ANACONDA ANNOUNCES ASSUMPTION OF BASIC MAGNESIUM, INC. CONTROL

J. H. Robbins, President of Anaconda, Now President of Basic Magnesium; Maj C. J. P. Ball and Frederick Laist, Vice-Presidents

Following the official announcement by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones that Anaconda Copper Mining Company had consummated its purchase of control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., Maj. C. J. P. Ball, chairman of Magnesium Electron, Ltd., released the following statement in this city yesterday; to all member of the staff of Basic Magnesium, Inc.:

At the invitation of the U. S. government and of the English and American shareholders of Basic Magnesium Incorporated, the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has agreed to participate in BMI, and to assume the management of the U. S. government's plants at Las Vegas and Gabbs, by and through BMI, the present operating company. Magnesium Electron Limited of Manchester, England, will continue its collaboration in the management as heretofore.

Participation in BMI has been assured by the purchase by Anaconda of the 52 1/2 per cent shareholding in BMI owned by Basic Refractories, Incorporated of Cleveland, Ohio.

The Board of BMI has been reconstituted as follows:

J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of BMI; Frederick Laist, vice-president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operation, vice-president of BMI; Charles J. P. Ball, chairman of Magnesium Electron Limited, vice-president of BMI; Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda, and Edward J. Barnsley, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries (New York), directors of BMI.

General management of BMI operations in Nevada has been entrusted to Mr. F. O. Case, with Mr. H. G. Satterthwaite, as his assistant.

These appointments are effective from today, and your Board confidently anticipates that you will accord them your loyal and devoted support.

C. J. P. Ball, Vice-President.

The following statement was telephoned from New York by Anaconda:

At New York Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda Copper Mining Company said, "Participation of his company in the enterprise has been undertaken at the invitation of the government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium."

"Our function is that of management," Kelly said, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over and is undertaken for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all the interested parties to aid in the war effort."

NEW YORK, N. Y. TIMES
OCTOBER 27, 1942

JONES TELLS OF DEAL FOR BASIC MAGNESIUM

Anaconda Takes 52 1/2% Stock Interest of Eells Group

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (AP)—The acquisition by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company of the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells Jr. and associates of Cleveland in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for a purchase price of \$75,000, was announced today by Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce.

In connection with the purchase, Mr. Jones announced, Defense Plant Corporation bought the ore

"J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium; Frederick Laist, vice-president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operation, has been elected vice-president and with myself have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium."

The transaction whereby the change of control was effected consists of two parts:

First, the purchase by Anaconda Copper Mining Company of the 52 1/2 percent stock interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., held by Howard Eells, Jr., and his associates, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Second, the purchase by the United States Government through the Defense Plant Corporation, of the ore deposits and lands in Gabbs Valley for the sum of \$450,000, from Basic Magnesium, Inc.

The Secretary of Commerce made the following statement in connection with the transaction:

"Basic Magnesium, Inc., is operating and will complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, which is owned by Defense Plant Corporation. The first unit of the plant produced magnesium on August 31, 1942. Additional units have been brought in since that time, and it is estimated the entire plant will be completed by April 15, 1943."

"This is the largest magnesium plant in this country, and probably in the world. It will have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium, and when completed will cost in excess of \$100,000,000. It covers four square miles of desert land in Nevada, and this site was selected because of its immediate proximity to the government owned Boulder dam power project from which it takes power."

"When in full operation the plant will use annually in excess of 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which is equal to the amount of electricity used annually in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined."

"Approximately 12,000 men are employed in construction and in operations at this time. When construction is completed, the plant in full operation will employ approximately 5,000 people. It has been necessary to provide temporary housing and living quarters for the large construction force. In addition to barracks, trailer camps, etc., more than 1,000 two and three bedroom houses, a hospital, a school, a theatre and store buildings have been constructed near the plant site which is approximately 12 miles from Las Vegas and an equal distance from Boulder dam."

"Water to supply the plant and the workers is pumped 18 miles through a 40-inch main from Lake Mead, which was created by Boulder dam. The daily requirements of water are approximately 37,000,000 gallons."

"The magnesium is produced from magnesite, of which an abundant quantity is accessible. The stock in Basic Magnesium Inc., in addition to that purchased by Anaconda Copper Mining company, is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium, Inc., will operate the plant for account of Defense Plant Corporation, receiving one-half cent a pound on the magnesium produced, which will approximate 2 per cent of sales."

NEW YORK, N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE OCTOBER 27, 1942

Anaconda Copper Co. Acquires 52 1/2% of Basic Magnesium Stock

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The huge \$100,000,000 plant of the Basic Magnesium Corporation, now going up in the desert near Las Vegas, Nev., will carry the union label.

AFL unions have signed agreements with the corporation covering the 10,000 construction workers now on the job and the thousands who will be employed in the production of magnesium, a metal lighter than aluminum vitally needed in airplane manufacture.

Deposit in Southern Nevada May Supplant Peat Imports

It is found that peat from a deposit in southern Nye county is suitable for use in the Clark county plant of the Basic Magnesium Inc., mining men foresee the establishment of a new industrial enterprise of importance in that region, says the Nevada State Journal.

In the huge magnesium plant nearing completion between Boulder dam and Las Vegas, moss-peat, known also as peat-moss, is used in large volume and thus far the supply is said to have come from distant points, most of it from Canada. There has been no indication that the material found at Ash Meadows is of the type required in the magnesium process.

Peat is described by Dana, foremost authority on minerals, as "a woody material, altered part way toward coal" and formed chiefly by the settling of beds of moss in swamp lands. The Minerals Yearbook points out that there is a great difference in the kinds of peat, both in character and value, for specific uses, the best coming from Canada.

Before the war, imports ranging from 60,000 to 84,000 short tons annually and with price range from \$15 to \$23 per ton, came from Germany, Sweden, Russia, and Canada.

This country is estimated to have peat reserves of nearly 14 billion tons in 20 of the states.

In connection with the new development, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reports that a group of southern Nevada business men, mostly from Las Vegas, has taken over the only massive deposit of peat known to exist in this part of the country and is working out plans to produce the material commercially on a large scale.

The deposit, said to cover an area of approximately 2500 acres, is situated at Ash Meadows, near the southern tip of Nye county, five miles from the California line and some eight miles northwest of the gold camp of Johnnie.

Around 1917 clay deposits in the district were located for their potash content and in the following two years clay was mined and shipped by the Standard Oil company, presumably for use in sealing oilwell casings.

According to the paper's report, for many years past it has been known that an immense tonnage of peat has been formed there, and production on a small scale has been under way periodically. Those who have acquired the property now plan to operate it on a scale commensurate with its industrial importance, it was said.

Ash Meadows lies about 90 miles from Las Vegas, and only a few miles from the highway leading into Death valley. Exhaustive tests, it is stated on good authority, have proved that the product is substantially above the average in quality. Dealers in Los Angeles in the material have reported that a market exists for the output of the Nevada fields.

Peat is one of the best fertilizing materials known, especially for semi-arid regions, largely because of a rare quality of holding moisture longer than any other known product used for the purpose.

Operating plans call for the installation of a substantial plant of machinery for preparing the output for market. Headquarters for the operation concern are expected to be established in Las Vegas.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 27, 1942

TERRE HAUTE ADVOCATE
" " IND.
10/30/42

BIG WAR PLANT TO CARRY LABEL

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Anaconda Buys Magnesium Plant Control

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The announcement said that Basic Magnesium was operating and would complete construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., owned by the D. P. C. Jones said that the first unit of the plant produced magnesium August 31, that additional units had been brought into production since and that it was estimated the entire plant would be completed by April 15, 1943.

The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that bought by Anaconda Copper Mining company, is owned by British interests, represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished technical information and designed the plant.

Jones' announcement said Basic Magnesium would operate the plant for the Defense Plant Corporation, receiving one-half a cent a pound on magnesium produced, which he said would approximate 2 per cent of sales.

At New York Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda's board, said participation of his company in the enterprise "has been undertaken at the invitation of the government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium."

"Our function is that of management," Kelly said, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all the interested parties to aid in the war effort."

J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium; Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda, in charge of metallurgical operations, has been elected vice president, and they, with myself, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium.

"Members of Anaconda's staff have been on the ground for some time, have studied the program and will take charge of the operation of the project."

Jones said the Nevada plant was the largest in this country and probably in the world. He explained it would have a capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium yearly and would cost more than \$100,000,000 when completed. It covers four square miles of desert in Nevada, and he said the site was selected because of its proximity to the government-owned Boulder dam power development.

He said that when in full operation the plant would use more than 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, or equal to the amount used in Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined.

About 12,000 men are now employed in the construction and operation of the plant and when it is completed about 5000 will be employed.

NOV. 4, 1942 ALLIANCE, NEB. HERALD

POSTING THE DAY'S RECEIPTS

VICTORY

1,000,000
975,000
950,000
925,000
900,000
875,000
850,000
825,000
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750,000
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175,000
150,000
125,000
100,000
75,000
50,000
25,000



McNEIL CONSTRUCTION Co
"DEFENSE BOND DRIVE"

Miss Barbara Murphy, popular and attractive secretary at the McNeil Construction company, is posting the day's sales of war bonds at the plant at Las Vegas, Nev. Miss Murphy and her sister, Ellen Ann, have been employed at the plant since early in the year. Colored pictures of the big basic magnesium plant under construction were printed in last week's issue of the Saturday Evening Post. The two girls have taken welding courses and have helped on the construction of the large steel structures at Las Vegas.

WESTERN ADVERTISING
NOV. 1942

Plant Number One

From one of the country's newest and far-and-away one of its most important production plants—Basic Magnesium, Inc., of Las Vegas, Nevada, came to WESTERN ADVERTISING last month several copies of *The Big Job*, employees' house publication; from Volume I, Number One (issued June 28) through Number Fifteen (October 1) are gleaned interesting and amazing highlights. Among them:

That Basic Magnesium's is the largest magnesium oxide producing plant in the world, with facilities—which were thrown into gear on June 28—for turning out 150,000 tons of magnesium oxide a year.

That the plant site in Gabbs Valley is a mile and three-quarters long, three-quarters of a mile wide, would stretch in downtown Los Angeles from the City Hall to Venice Blvd.

That to make bombs and bullets: "take some salt, some coal, some peat moss, some magnesium oxide, and some chlorine. Mix them, make some pellets, treat these in a Chlorinator and you get some magnesium chlorides, give this brew a shot of high amperage 'juice' and presto!—you've got metallic magnesium."

That in building the plant, 13,618 men were on the payroll as against 5,250 who worked on nearby Boulder Dam at the height of the production drive on that structure.

That in mid-August the first cauldron of Basic Magnesium's chlorine output was shipped East.

And in the October 8 issue of *Domestic Commerce*, the U. S. government supplied a few more facts concerning the company's operation: its capacity is three and a half times the entire 1941 output of magnesium oxide in the U. S., it is only one—but the largest—of five new magnesium plants to enter production this year (Dow Chemical's in Texas, Ford's in Michigan, Kaiser's Permanente, and New England Lime's are the others).

U. S. Pays Cost Of Magnesite Plant School

Congress Provides For Tuition of Workers' Children

By Harry J. Brown
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, April 9—It's going to be pretty soft for the men in the plant of Basic Magnesite, Inc., at Boulder City; congress has just voted several hundred thousand dollars to pay the tuition of children of all workers in that plant, as well as children of men employed in the erection of the plant. Congress voted \$45 per semester per pupil, up to a total of \$750,000, which will go to the Boulder City school district and come out of Boulder dam power revenues.

A good deal of uncertainty surrounds some of the things Basic Magnesite has done up to now, but in the case of this school money, responsibility traces direct to Representative Scrugham of Nevada, who secured an amendment to the interior department bill authorizing this payment of \$45 per semester for every pupil in Boulder City or thereabouts "who is dependent on any employee . . . of Defense Plant corporation or a defense plant operated by or for the account of said corporation."

Only Instance

The language was intended, so its author explained, to provide schooling for the children of all workers in the plant being built by and to be operated by Basic Magnesite, Inc. To date this is the only instance in which Uncle Sam has undertaken to pay the tuition of school children whose parents are working in a privately owned or privately operated war industry.

For several years Boulder dam power revenues have been used to pay tuition at Boulder City for the children of employees of the reclamation bureau, on the theory that Boulder City is a government-owned town; the real estate is not taxable, and congress, in a generous mood, agreed to pay for the schooling of the children of government employes. But Mr. Scrugham has gone a step further, and extended the same privilege to the children of workers in Basic Magnesite's plant, a plant, that to date, has made a record for high salaries paid its officials and employes.

Only Part of Story

This, by the way, is only part of the story. When Boulder dam construction was at its height the reclamation bureau built 101 housing units at Boulder City for the use of its own employes. It now finds itself confronted with a situation which makes it necessary to build 74 new housing units at Boulder City, because officials of Basic Magnesite, Inc., have moved in on Boulder City, have offered much higher rents than reclamation employes were paying or could afford to pay, and have taken over many of the homes built and intended for employes of the reclamation service.

The reclamation employes have been turned out to shift for themselves, many of them now living in tents. So the reclamation service has asked for \$400,000 to build 74 new housing units to take care of its own people.

DPC Delays Magnesite Drilling Test

Funds Held Up For Mines Bureau Work

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 10—Drilling on magnesite deposits near Thompsons, Utah, is still being held up by the bureau of mines because the defense plant corporation has failed to remit \$150,000 to finance the operations.

Fifteen days ago the director of the bureau of mines was notified by the D.P.C. that \$150,000 was being made available for tests to determine the nature and quantity of the magnesite brine. The bureau is unable to proceed until the funds are received from the D.P.C.

Meanwhile, proposals for expanding pig iron production in Utah have been advanced by the office of Senator Abe Murdock.

The question has been discussed before, and was revived when Utah representatives in Washington heard rumors that the D.P.C. was contemplating financing a pig iron plant at San Bernardino, Cal.

Lean to Contracts

Definite agreement as to the type of drilling to be done at Thompsons has not been reached by officials of the bureau of mines. The bureau expects to have this work done by contract.

If the drilling is done by private contractors, representatives of the geological survey and bureau of mines will be sent to Thompsons to keep records and report on the wells.

The defense plant corporation has been insisting that the holes should be lined as the drilling proceeds, as is done in the case of oil wells. This, coupled with statements made by various interested parties, indicates a belief that there is oil as well as magnesite brine in the area.

While the Utah Magnesite company was first to direct attention to the Thompsons brines, other interests have been surveying adjoining lands, some of which are state-owned and some of which are part of the public domain. They hope to obtain contracts for furnishing magnesite brine or magnesite chloride to the government.

Push Iron Plant

Possibilities of locating the pig iron plant in Utah instead of San Bernardino were advanced because plans for the California plant call for the use of Utah coking coal and California iron ore.

H. J. Plumhof, member of the Utah commission of publicity and industrial development, reported that the cost of shipping iron ore and coal or coke to the San Bernardino plant would be \$7.69 per ton of pig iron produced.

If Utah iron ore and Utah coal were used at a pig iron plant at Payson or Springville, the transportation cost of raw materials would be only \$4.70 per ton of pig iron produced.

On this basis, Senator Murdock's office requested that the possibilities of expansion in Utah be investigated before any decision is reached as to the location of the new plant.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.-JOURNAL

APR 6 1942

Officer Claims Firm Is O. K.

Milwaukeean Officer of Company Controlling '4,000%' Subsidiary

Daniel P. Eells, Milwaukee industrialist, is chairman of the board of Basic Refractories, Inc., of which Basic Magnesite, Inc. accused last week by a senate subcommittee of profiteering, is a subsidiary, it was learned Monday.

Eells is vice-president of the Bucyrus-Erie Co. of South Milwaukee and lives at 1653 N. Prospect av. His brother, Howard Eells, wealthy Cleveland (Ohio) industrialist, is president of both Basic Refractories, Inc., and Basic Magnesite, Inc.

Another brother, Samuel, is vice-president of Basic Refractories, Inc.

The attack on Basic Magnesite, Inc., was made in the senate by Senator Bunker (Dem., Nev.), who charged that the corporation "stands to make a profit of 4,280%, or \$2,140,000, in one year on an admitted investment of not more than \$50,000." The corporation, whose offices are at Cleveland, is building a \$63,000,000 magnesite refining plant at Las Vegas, Nev., with funds supplied by the Defense Plant Corp., according to Bunker.

Received No Income

Daniel Eells said here Monday that he received no income from Basic Magnesite, Inc., and that he had no connection with the company so far as management was concerned. He explained that Basic Magnesite, Inc., was not a wholly owned subsidiary of the parent firm and that a "lot of English capital" is invested in the subsidiary.

Asked for a statement about his income from Basic Refractories, Inc., Eells said that he would make no disclosures.

He said he had been chairman of the board of the corporation for "some years."

Eells said that Howard Eells was in Washington and would make a statement Monday or Tuesday in reply to the charges in the senate.

No Cause for Apology

Daniel Eells said: "There is nothing that Basic Magnesite should apologize for. The facts will all come out in due time. The firm will be entirely cleared of the charges."

Eells said that he was in possession of "all the facts" relating to Basic Magnesite but that he preferred not to make a detailed statement at this time because his brother would do that.

The Basic Magnesite Co. of Las Vegas Nevada holding an unsecured loan of 70 million dollars from the government is alleged to have made a profit of 4,280 per cent. on its contract with the government, or a total of \$2,140,000 in one year.

STANLEY (WIS.) REPUBLICAN
FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1942

LAS VEGAS, NEW REVIEW-JOURNAL
CH. 5, 128
APRIL 14, 1942

Rules Issued on Buying Recaps

New regulations regarding purchase of recapped tires by defense workers were announced today by Irwin Crandall, local director of the civilian defense office.

Those eligible for certificates permitting them to buy tires may obtain applications at the Basic Magnesite, Inc., plant or from subcontractors at the plant. Approval of superiors of the workmen, as to the necessity for the tire purchases, must be given on the applications.

The applications can be left at the BMI office and will be sent from there to the local rationing board. It is not necessary for defense workers at the magnesite plant to appear personally before the board, Crandall stated.

APR. 7, 1942
SEMINOLE, OK. PRODUCER

MAGNESIUM MAN

APR. 9, 1942
ORFUS CHRISTI, TEX. CALLER

Magnesite Man

Genius of Basic Magnesite, Inc., setup which the Truman committee will probe in Washington, and the man who will be in the spotlight, is Howard P. Eells, Jr., of Cleveland. He is connected with several of Cleveland's oldest and richest families. Graduated from Williams in 1915. Served in Ohio National Guard on Mexican border and in France with Rainbow Division. Rose from second lieutenant to captain of field artillery. Saw action at Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Argonne. Joined Basic Dolomite Co., of Tiffin, Ohio, in 1919. This firm became Basic Refractories, Inc., in 1941. Eells is now president. A brother, Samuel Eells, is vice-president. Dan P. Eells of Milwaukee is chairman of the board.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY, IOWA STATE
APRIL 18, 1942

BIG MAGNESIUM PLANT TO TURN OVER NEXT MAY

Basic Magnesite, Inc., expects to have the first unit of its 2000-ton mill near Las Vegas, Nevada, completed and in operation by May of this year, according to the Las Vegas Review.

7,000 WORKING

About 7,000 workmen are engaged at present in construction and installation work and when completed the plant will require more than 4,000 employes. It is stated that the ore mined from the company's property north of Luning and treated in the calcining plant there will be brought to the mill at Las Vegas by rail. Plans originally called for trucking the ore from mine to mill but in an effort to save rubber, it is believed that the necessary railroad connections will be made with existing roads, it was stated.

MORE ABOUT BASIC MAGNESIUM

Since the beginning of attacks on Basic Magnesite, Inc., the atmosphere, at first a little hazy because of various and nebulous charges against "America's No. 1 Defense Project," has been gradually but surely clearing.

As an example of the conclusions arrived at by men capable of closely and impartially analyzing a complicated situation we call attention to an editorial in The Los Angeles Times of Saturday, April 11, headed "BASIC MAGNESIUM AND SENATOR BUNKER."

"If the statements of Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones, who heads the government lending agencies, are accurate—and few will doubt Jones' word—Senator Bunker of Nevada stands convicted of being an irresponsible blabbermouth who should have the last syllable of his name elided.

"Cloaked in Senatorial immunity, Senator Bunker made sensational charges on the floor of Congress about the Basic Magnesite, Inc., plant near Las Vegas and Boulder City, asserting that under the setup the company stood to make 4280 per cent profit on a \$50,000 investment. Bunker intimated that "high government officials" had been corrupt, though without naming them.

"Since Jones is the government official responsible, this part of the charge reflected on him.

"Jones declares in answer that the company's investment is not a mere \$50,000, but many millions; that the construction fees will aggregate less than 2 per cent of the cost of the plant; that royalty for ores will not exceed ¼ cent per pound for the magnesite produced, and that the fee for operation will not exceed ½ cent per pound, or approximately 2 per cent.

"Bunker's charge that a British company, which he said is concerned in the patent rights, is in reality controlled by German interests, appears absurd on its face. The British government is distinctly not permitting anything of that sort; any German interest in British corporations has long since been taken over.

"The Constitution provides that for what members of Congress say upon the floor of either house they shall not be questioned in any other place." This generally useful and salutary provision seems to have been gravely abused by Senator Bunker. The Senate can and should call him to account."

ARSON AND FALSIFICATION

In the first outburst of bitter criticism by Senator Bunker against Basic Magnesite, Inc., strong intimations were made that the fire which destroyed the administration building at the plant was "conveniently timed" by its officials for the purpose of covering falsifications of their records.

Later, following the so-called investigation by the Truman Committee, which was in no sense an investigation but a convenient means of making public unsubstantiated charges against the company and its officials, it was strongly intimated that Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones and his assistants in the Defense Plant Corporation were guilty of frauds against the government of the United States.

Coming at this time when America is engaged in war and is struggling to prepare herself for that supreme "War for Survival" which looms like a thunder cloud ahead of us, all

those charges assume an overwhelming importance. Yet the committee and Senator Bunker, in session here, studiously avoided any comment or investigation of the arson or falsification of records charge.

Now, after Jesse Jones has vigorously refuted the charges against him and his department, that angle of the "investigation" appears to have been dropped.

If the charges of arson and falsification of records, the most serious of all the charges against Basic Magnesite, Inc., are true, the perpetrators should be promptly placed behind prison bars and tried for their crimes.

If the charges against Jesse Jones are true, he should be promptly removed from the important positions in the federal government he has filled for nearly ten years past.

If the charges are untrue, but made for the purpose of inflaming the public mind and creating a political issue, that comes dangerously close to being an effort to sabotage America's No. 1 defense project.

NOV 5 1942

Basic Magnesium, Inc.

Secretary of Commerce Jones revealed on Oct. 26 that Anaconda had bought 52 1/2 percent of the stock of the operating division of Basic Magnesium, Inc., for \$75,000. After making it clear that Anaconda's function in the government-financed magnesium enterprise is that of management, Chairman Kelley announced that J. R. Hobbins, president

of Anaconda, has been named president of Basic Magnesium, and Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operations, vice president, and they, with Mr. Kelley, have been elected directors. The Defense Plant Corp. has purchased Basic Magnesium's ore (magnetite) land near Gibbs, Nev., for \$450,000.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
October 27, 1942

IN LOUISIANA (UPI Third Army Headquarters yesterday announced the death of Pvt. John C. French, 30 of Lebanon, Ind. He was drowned yesterday in Whiskey Chitto Creek at Sugarloaf.

Buy Magnesium Firm

WASHINGTON (UPI) Sec. of Commerce Jesse H. Jones announced last night that Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has purchased controlling interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators of the giant Las Vegas (Nev.) magnesium plant from Howard P. Eells, Jr. and associates of Cleveland.

SUN
New York, N. Y.
OCT 27 1942

Takes Over Management.

The Anaconda Copper Mining Company will take over management of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at the invitation of the Government and of American and English interests involved.

SANTA CRUZ, CALIF.
SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL-NEWS
OCTOBER 26, 1942

ANACONDA BUYS A BIG MAGNESIUM PLANT

Washington, Oct. 27.—Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced last night that Anaconda Copper Mining Co. had acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators and builders of what is scheduled to be the world's largest magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada.

EL PASO, TEXAS
OCTOBER 27, 1942

Anaconda Buys Stock Control Of Huge Basic Magnesium Plant

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 (UPI)—Jesse Jones today announced that Anaconda Copper Mining Company has acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium Inc., operators and builders of what is scheduled to be the world's largest magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jones said the company had purchased 52 1/2 per cent of the stock interest in BMI from Howard P. Eells Jr. and his associates of Cleveland, Ohio.

enlistment. * * * When Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nevada gets under way it will use more electric current per day than the entire Los Angeles area now uses each week. * * * Members of El Rodeo Riding club plan to give a horse show for the benefit of the men at Santa Ana Air Base, at an early day. * * * The lady checking groceries at the Safeway store is Mrs. Mamie Daniels. Took a course in Los Angeles and is getting along fine. * * * John C. Tuffree gathered up and brought to the salvage depot at the City hall about 1,000 pounds of materials. Included was a big heavy chain which he included with the hope that it can be used to encircle the neck of Adolf Hitler. * * *

BOSTON NEWS BUREAU

Only daily financial newspaper published in New England.
Boston, Mass.
OCT 28 1942

Anaconda Acquires Magnesium Stock

Acquisition by Anaconda Copper Mining Co. of the 52 1/2 percent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for a purchase price of \$75,000, was announced by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones. In connection with the purchase, Mr. Jones announced, the Defense Plant Corp. bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gibbs, Nev., for \$450,000. He said these ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

HENO, NEVADA
LABOR NEWS
Oct. 30, 1942

ANACONDA COPPER COMPANY TAKES CHARGE OF BASIC

At the invitation of the United States government and the English and American shareholders of Basic Magnesium, Inc., the Anaconda Copper Mining Company has agreed to participate in BMI, and to assume the management of the U. S. government's plants at Las Vegas and Gibbs, by and through BMI, the present operating company. Magnesium Elektron Limited of Manchester, England, will continue its collaboration in the management as heretofore.

Participation in BMI has been assured by the purchase by Anaconda of the 52 1/2 per cent shareholding in BMI owned by Basic Refractories, Inc., of Cleveland, Ohio.

The board of BMI has been reconstituted as follows: J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of BMI; Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda, in charge of metallurgical operation; Charles J. Ball, chairman of Magnesium Elektron Limited; Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda, and Edward J. Barnsley, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, New York.

General management of BMI operations in Nevada has been entrusted to Mr. F. O. Case, with Mr. H. G. Satterthwaite as his assistant.

These appointments are effective from today, and the board confidently anticipates that loyal and devoted support will be accorded them.

Anaconda Said Requested to Purchase BMI

The purchase of the controlling stock interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc. by the Anaconda Copper Mining company was made at the request of the government, private American and British interests, Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of the board of directors of Anaconda, told the United Press in New York today.

The copper company purchased the majority of stock—52 1/2 per cent—from Basic Magnesium, Inc., headed by Howard P. Eells, Jr., of Cleveland, Ohio, for \$75,000. At the same time BMI and its subsidiary, Basic Refractories, sold its ore deposits in Gabbs Valley, Nye county, to the Defense Plants corporation for \$450,000. The minority stock in the magnesium company is held by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball.

J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium. Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda, is the new vice president while Kelly is a member of the board of directors.

Meanwhile additional details of the transaction involving the sale of the Gabbs Valley ore deposits were revealed in records on file in the office of Mrs. Margaret Barnes, Nye county recorder-auditor.

Two transactions were made involving Basic Magnesium, Inc., and Basic Refractories. Both were listed on the deeds on record as headed by Howard P. Eells, Jr. with J. E. Heldgen as secretary. Both men signed the purchase contracts for the two firms. BMI sold approximately 80 lode and placer claims, 8 millites and water rights, machinery and other equipment. Basic Refractories sold 45 lode claims and certain surface grounds, it was revealed.

The deal involving Basic Refractories was apparently the sale which netted the largest amount of money since \$495 in federal stamps were attached to the recorder's copy of the transaction. The BMI contract had only 55 cents in federal stamps attached.

OCT. 27, 1942
OMAHA, NEBR. EVE. WORLD

Magnesium Group Sells Stock, Lands

Washington, D. C., Oct. 26 (UPI)—The acquisition by Anaconda Copper Mining company of the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, jr., and associates of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for a purchase price of 75 thousand dollars, was announced today by Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones.

In connection with the purchase, Jones announced, Defense Plant corporation bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for 450 thousand dollars.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.
OUTLOOK, Oct. 27, 1942

Anaconda Co. Buys Basic Magnesium

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Secretary of Commerce Jesse H. Jones announced last night that Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has purchased controlling interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators of the giant Las Vegas, Nev., magnesium plant, from Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates of Cleveland.

Jesse Jones Gives Details Of Purchase of Magnesium Property by Anaconda Firm

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27. (UPI)—Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced last night that Anaconda Copper Mining Co. had acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators and builders of what is scheduled to be the world's largest magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev.

Jones said that Anaconda had purchased 52 1/2 per cent stock interest in BMI from Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, for \$75,000. The text of Jones' announcement:

"Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has acquired by purchase the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for \$75,000. In connection with the purchase, Defense Plant Corporation bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for a consideration of \$450,000. These ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

To Complete Plant

"Basic Magnesium, Inc. is operating and will complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, which is owned by Defense Plant Corp. The first unit of the plant produced magnesium on Aug. 31, 1942. Additional units have been brought in since that time, and it is estimated the entire plant will be completed by April 15, 1943.

"This is the largest magnesium plant in this country, and probably in the world. It will have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium, and when completed will cost in excess of \$100,000,000. It covers four square miles of desert land

PHOENIX, ARIZ., COURIER
Oct. 27, 1942

ANACONDA NEW BMI OPERATOR

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Oct. 30.—(UPI)—The Anaconda Copper Mining Company has purchased 52 1/2 per cent of the stock of the new \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., and will assume its management, a BMI statement disclosed today.

J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of BMI.

"At the invitation of the United States government," the statement declared, "and of the English and American shareholders of Basic Magnesium, Inc., the Anaconda Copper Mining Company has agreed to participate in BMI, and to assume the management of the United States government's plants at Las Vegas and Gibbs, by and through BMI, the present operating company. Magnesium Elektron Limited of Manchester, England, will continue its collaboration in the management as heretofore.

"Participation in BMI has been assured by the purchase by Anaconda of the 52 1/2 per cent shareholding in BMI owned by Basic Refractories, Inc., of Cleveland, Ohio."

Under the reorganization, Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operation, and Charles J. P. Ball, chairman of Magnesium Elektron, become vice presidents of BMI, with Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda, and Edward J. Barnsley, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries of New York as directors.

Basic Magnesium, now in production, will, when fully completed, produce in one year 30 times the quantity of metal produced in the entire world six years ago. Magnesium has been found ideal for many war uses to replace aluminum and other critical materials.

in Nevada, and this site was selected because of its immediate proximity to the government-owned Boulder Dam power project from which it takes power.

"When in full operation the plant will use annually in excess of 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which is equal to the amount of electricity used annually in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined.

12,000 Employed

"Approximately 12,000 men are employed in construction and in operations at this time. When construction is completed, the plant in full operation will employ approximately 5,000 people. It has been necessary to provide temporary housing and living quarters for the large construction force. In addition to barracks, trailer camps, etc., more than 1,000 two and three-bedroom houses, a hospital, a school, a theater and store buildings have been constructed near the plant site, which is approximately 12 miles from Las Vegas and an equal distance from Boulder Dam.

"Water to supply the plant and the workers is pumped 18 miles through a 40-inch main from Lake Meads, which was created by Boulder Dam. The daily requirements of water are approximately 37,000,000 gallons.

"The magnesium is produced from magnesite, of which an abundant quantity is accessible.

"The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that purchased by Anaconda Copper Mining Company, is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium, Inc., will operate the plant for account of Defense Plant Corp., receiving one-half cent a pound on the magnesium produced, which will approximate 2 per cent of sales."

CARSON CITY, NEV., APPEAL
OCTOBER 28, 1942

Explains Purchase Of Basic Magnesium

Requested by the U. S. Government

NEW YORK, Oct. 28.—(UPI)—Purchase of the controlling stock interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., by the Anaconda Copper Co. was made at the request of the government, also private American and British interests, Chairman Cornelius F. Kelly of the Anaconda board of directors announced today.

BIG LAS VEGAS PLANT'S STOCK TRANSFERRED

Anaconda Copper Co. Gains Basic Magnesium's Control, Jesse Jones Reveals

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—The acquisition by Anaconda Copper Mining Co. of the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr. and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for a purchase price of \$75,000, was announced today by Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones.

In connection with the purchase, Jones announced, Defense Plant Corp. bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000. He said these ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

TO COMPLETE PLANT

The announcement said that Basic Magnesium was operating and would complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., owned by the D.P.C. Jones said that the first unit of the plant produced magnesium on Aug. 31, that additional units had been brought into production since, and that it was estimated the entire plant would be completed by April 15, 1943.

The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that bought by Anaconda Copper Mining Co., is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished technical information and designed the plant.

Jones' announcement said Basic Magnesium would operate the plant for Defense Plant Corp., receiving one-half cent a pound on magnesium produced, which he said would approximate 2 per cent of sales.

INVITATION GIVEN

At New York Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda's board said participation of his company in the enterprise "has been undertaken at the invitation of the government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium."

"Our function is that of management," Kelly said, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all the interested parties to aid in the war effort.

"J. F. Hobbins, president of Anaconda has been elected president of Basic Magnesium. Frederick Laist, vice-president of Anaconda, in charge of metallurgical operations, has been elected vice-president and they, with myself, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium."

"Members of Anaconda's staff have been on the ground for some time, have studied the program and will take charge of the operation of the project."

1011
HERALD TRIBUNE
New York City

OCT 27 1942

Anaconda Copper Co. Acquires 52 1/2% of Basic Magnesium Stock

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (AP)—Acquisition by Anaconda Copper Mining Co. of the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for a purchase price of \$75,000, was announced today by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones.

In connection with the purchase, Mr. Jones announced, the Defense Plant Corp. bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000. He said these ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

The announcement said that Basic Magnesium was operating and would complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., owned by the Defense Plant

Basic Magnesium Deal by Anaconda Made on U.S. Plea

Copper Firm President Heads Light Metal Works; New Plant Vast

New York, Oct. 27.—(UP)—Purchase of the controlling stock interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., by Anaconda Copper Mining Co. was made at the request of the United States government and private American and British interests connected with the enterprise, Cornelius F. Kelly, Anaconda's board chairman, said today.

Anaconda Copper, Secretary of Commerce Jones confirmed yesterday, has obtained the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest in the Magnesium company formerly held by Howard P. Eells Jr. and associates, of Cleveland, for \$75,000. The Defense Plant Corp., meanwhile, has bought the company's ore lands near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000.

"Our function is that of management without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over," Mr. Kelly stated, "and is undertaken only for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all interested parties to aid in the war effort."

Hobbins Named President.

J. R. Hobbins, Anaconda president, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium; Frederick Laist, vice-president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operations, has been named vice-president, and both, in addition to Mr. Kelly, have been elected directors.

Basic Magnesium is operating and will complete construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which is owned by D.P.C. The first unit of the plant produced magnesium on Aug. 31, 1942. Additional units have been brought in since that time, and it is estimated the entire plant will be completed by April 15, 1943.

The plant will be the largest magnesium unit in this country, and probably in the world. It will have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium, and will cost in excess of \$100,000,000. It covers four square miles of desert land. Its site was selected because of its immediate proximity to the government-owned Boulder Dam project, from which it takes power.

Current Use to Equal 4 States'

When in full operation the plant will use annually in excess of 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which is equal to the amount used annually in Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined.

Approximately 12,000 men are now employed in construction and in operation. When construction is completed, the plant will employ approximately 5,000 people.

"The stock in Basic Magnesium, in addition to that purchased by Anaconda, is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium will operate the plant for D.P.C., receiving 1/2 cent a pound on the magnesium produced, which will approximate 2 per cent of sales."

Stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that bought by Anaconda Copper Mining Co., is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who provided technical information and designed the plant. Mr. Jones' announcement said Basic Magnesium would operate the plant for the Defense Plant Corp., receiving one-half cent a pound on magnesium produced, which he said would approximate 2 per cent of sales.

YUMA, ARIZ., SUN & SENTINEL
Cl. 4220, Friday, Cl. 1,235
MARCH 17, 1942

Work Proceeds On Magnesium Plant At Las Vegas, Nev.

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—The war department said today that construction of a magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., has proceeded without delay in spite of a fire March 6 which destroyed the administration building.

The announcement was based on a report from Basic Magnesium, Inc., which is constructing the plant for the government. The report said evidence indicated that the fire was not caused by sabotage.

LAS VEGAS, NEV., JOURNAL
Cl. 3,129
MARCH 19, 1942

Speed Shown at Magnesium Plant

The speed with which McNeil Construction Company and Basic Magnesium restored normal operations following the fire, was demonstrated today with the receipt by a Las Vegas firm of a check for merchandise delivered to the former company on March 4 and March 6, the day of the fire.

The invoices were presented on March 9, cleared through the accounting departments of both McNeil and Basic by the 11th and paid by the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco on behalf of the U. S. Treasury on the 16th, the checks arriving this morning.

This indicates just how efficiently the two companies worked to the end that there should be no delay whatever in the regular operation of business, and it seems to me it is a splendid tribute to both concerns," the head of the local establishment said in commenting on the transaction.

PIOCHE, NEV. RECORD
Cl. 607
MARCH 17, 1942

State Officials Visit in Pioche

Secretary of State Malcolm McEachin and State Treasurer Dan W. Franks were Pioche visitors Wednesday for a few hours on business. They visited with Mr. Frank's sister, Mrs. J. W. Christian, and friends in this area.

The officials spent several days in southern Nevada on business.

McEachin, who is also state motor vehicle commissioner, conferred yesterday in Whitney, Nevada with officials of the Basic Magnesium plant regarding licenses, and Franks, after accompanying McEachin on a tour of the plant, spent some time discussing disposition of the Boulder Dam revenue funds with Clark County Treasurer William B. Mundy.

CARSON CITY, NEV., JOURNAL
Cl. 121
MARCH 22, 1942

Basic Magnesium Will Buy Nevada Vehicle Licenses

Bringing to a successful conclusion a series of negotiations held between Secretary of State Malcolm McEachin, ex-officio motor vehicle administrator, and officials of Basic Magnesium, Inc., and the attorney-general's office, the company will purchase Nevada license plates for their vehicles, it was learned today.

McEachin returned last night from Las Vegas where he conferred with H. B. Levensgood, Basic official, who asserted that his company was happy to cooperate by immediately registering all vehicles in Nevada.

Previously the question arose as to whether Basic Magnesium would purchase Nevada plates in view of the fact that the company was financed by the Defense Plant Corporation, a federal agency. Nevada officials held that the vehicles operated by the company were owned by the company and not by the Defense Plant Corporation, consequently not being exempt from registration under Nevada law.

With the registration of all Basic vehicles, several thousand dollars will be received by the state and Clark county.

RENO, NEV., GAZETTE
Cl. 1234
MARCH 21, 1942

Basic Magnesium To Buy Licenses

Nevada Plates For All Trucks

CARSON, March 21. (Special)—Malcolm McEachin, secretary of state, said today on his return from Las Vegas that Nevada would gain several thousand dollars as the result of conferences he held with officials of the Basic Magnesium company when the magnesium plant authorities had agreed to purchase Nevada license plates for all trucks used on the job.

McEachin said that prior to the conference the magnesium officials contended that as the plant was financed by the defense plant corporation state licenses would not be necessary for the equipment. However, after conferring with the secretary of state and representatives of the attorney general's office, the decision to purchase Nevada plates was reached.

"All BMI officers offered their complete cooperation in the matter and it will result in materially increased revenue for Nevada as the amount of equipment being used on the job is enormous," McEachin said.

WINNEMUCA, NEV., JOURNAL
Cl. 1234
MARCH 25, 1942

Magnesium Plant At Las Vegas To Turn Over in May

Basic Magnesium, Inc., expects to have the first unit of its 2,000-ton mill near Las Vegas, Nev., completed and in operation by May of this year.

7,000 WORKING
About 7,000 workmen are engaged at present in construction and installation work and when completed the plant will require more than 4,000 employees. It is stated that the ore mined from the company's property north of Luning and treated in the calcining plant there will be brought to the mill at Las Vegas by rail. Plans originally called for trucking the ore from mine to mill but in an effort to save rubber, it is believed that the necessary railroad connections will be made with existing roads and the ore will be shipped.

LAS VEGAS, NEV. JOURNAL
Cl. 1,234
MARCH 27, 1942

BASIC MAGNESIUM'S BIG JOB

Basic Magnesium, Inc., headed by Howard Eells, Jr., is engaged in doing a titanic work under pressure by the government of the United States.

The idea that a great work, so suddenly conceived in the press of war activities, can be brought smoothly and peacefully, without some waste of money and effort, to completion, is an absurdity. Such an accomplishment in this war or any other war ever waged, is an impossibility.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., has taken to itself the best talent the world affords for construction and operation of the greatest plant of its kind ever conceived — designated as America's No. 1 defense project.

It seems to The Age that the people of Las Vegas should give all support and encouragement to those trying to carry on this great enterprise. Petty criticisms and a snarling attitude aid neither the enterprise itself, the war preparedness of America, nor the interests of Las Vegas.

There must inevitably be some waste in construction under pressure of any great enterprise, but to condemn the whole vast organization and its heads without reason is neither wise economy nor good patriotism.

Incidentally, the loudly heralded investigation by the Truman committee of the Senate seems to have entirely ignored most of the charges so studiously circulated among the people of the state of Nevada.

We believe that Basic Magnesium, Inc., McNeil Construction Company and all connected with the management of this enterprise, are upstanding men of business integrity. Until proven otherwise, they are entitled to the support, encouragement and loyalty of the people of Las Vegas.

RENO, NEV., GAZETTE
Cl. 1,234
MARCH 28, 1942

Supply of Miners Getting Scarce

468
With a large number of miners throughout the state entering the war, and many more engaging in war industries, mining operators say that they are being retarded in their work by a scarcity of manpower.

Basic Magnesium, building plants near Las Vegas and Luning, is combing the country for men engaged in the mining industry, it is said, and apparently its demands in this respect are still far from being satisfied.

It's fine for the miners, but not so good for the operators.

BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NEV., SCOUT
Cl. 1,234
APRIL 2, 1942

Mining Operators Say Scarcity of Workers Is Noted

468
With a large number of miners throughout the state entering the war, and many more engaging in war industries, mining operators say that they are being retarded in their work by a scarcity of manpower.

Basic Magnesium, building plants near Las Vegas and Luning, is combing the country for men engaged in the mining industry, it is said, and apparently its demands in this respect are still far from being satisfied.

COLORADO, MINING & IND. NEWS
Cl. 1,234
APRIL 2, 1942

MAGNESIUM PLANT OPERATING IN MAY

Basic Magnesium, Inc., expects to have the first unit of its 2,000-ton mill near Las Vegas, Nevada, completed and in operation by May of this year, according to the Vegas Review.

About 7,000 workmen are engaged at present in construction and installation work and when completed the plant will require more than 4,000 employees. It is stated that the ore mined from the company's property north of Luning and treated in the calcining plant there will be brought to the mill at Las Vegas by rail. Plans originally called for trucking the ore from mine to mill but in an effort to save rubber, it is believed that the necessary railroad connections will be made with existing roads, it was stated.

S. F. CALIF., MINING & IND. NEWS
Cl. 1,234
APRIL 15, 1942

Las Vegas Review Journal
April 20, 1942

Diesel Engine is At Work at BMI

4/20
A new Diesel engine, costing \$58,000, which will be used to handle all freight inside the plant, arrived at Basic Magnesium Thursday and was placed in service today, according to an announcement by officials.

The engine, known to railroaders as 6440, will be able to handle between 80 and 100 cars per day and was manufactured by the Baldwin Locomotive Works at Eddystone, Pennsylvania. It weighs 139,000 pounds and is a 660 horsepower monster.

The locomotive left Pennsylvania on April 3 and arrived in Las Vegas on April 16, coming here on its own wheels and under its own power.

It is 70 feet long, has a fuel capacity of 600 gallons and carries its own engineer and oiler. A crew of five or six switchmen will be assigned to the locomotive. It will have its own private roundhouse, officials said.

Sale of Basic Magnesium, Inc., Brings Long Explanation by Secretary Jones

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced Monday night that Anaconda Copper Mining Company had acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators and builders of what is scheduled to be the world's largest magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev.

Jones said that Anaconda had purchased 52 1/2 per cent stock interest in BMI from Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, for \$75,000. The text of Jones' announcement:

"Anaconda Copper Mining company has acquired by purchase the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for \$75,000. In connection with the purchase, Defense Plant corporation bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for a consideration of \$450,000. These ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

"Basic Magnesium, Inc., is operating and will complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which is owned by Defense Plant corporation. The

first unit of the plant produced magnesium on August 31, 1942. Additional units have been brought in since that time, and it is estimated the entire plant will be completed by April 15, 1943.

"This is the largest magnesium plant in this country, and probably in the world. It will have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium, and when completed will cost in excess of \$100,000,000. It covers four square miles of desert land in Nevada, and this site was selected because of its immediate proximity to the government-owned Boulder dam power project from which it takes power.

"When in full operation the plant will use annually in excess of 1,600,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which is equal to the amount of electricity used annually in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined.

"Approximately 12,000 men are employed in construction and in operations at this time. When construction is completed, the plant in full operation will employ approximately 6,000 people. It has been necessary to provide temporary

housing and living quarters for the large construction force. In addition to barracks, trailer camps, etc., more than 1000 two and three bedroom houses, a hospital, a school, a theater and store buildings have been constructed near the plant site which is approximately 12 miles from Las Vegas and an equal distance from Boulder dam.

"Water to supply the plant and the workers is pumped 18 miles through a 40-inch main from Lake Meade, which was created by Boulder dam. The daily requirements of water are approximately 37,000,000 gallons.

"The magnesium is produced from magnesite, of which an abundant quantity is accessible.

"The stock of Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that purchased by Anaconda Copper Mining company, is owned by British interests represented in this country by Maj. C.J.P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant. Basic Magnesium, Inc., will operate the plant for account of Defense Plant corporation, receiving one-half cent a pound on the magnesium produced, which will approximate two per cent of sales.

CASE POINTS TO WAR IMPORTANCE OF BMI PRODUCTS

"One year ago Monday the Japanese made a big mistake. They struck Pearl Harbor while agents from Tokyo were mouthing professions of friendship. By this act of historic deceit Tokyo expected to blast our fleet to impotency and stun us as a people," F. O. Case, general manager of Basic Magnesium, Inc., said today in a statement on the anniversary of the start of World War II.

"Instead she roused the navy to vengeful wrath which has spelled destruction to Japanese ships every time we meet them in the Pacific.

"Instead of stunning us as a people, she impelled us to unity and stirred us with determination never to quit this business of war until the last vestige of Japanese power has been wiped from the face of the earth.

"Here in the desert of Nevada men and machines are completing one of Uncle Sam's answers to Tokyo. Here is rising the world's largest plant for production of magnesium so critically needed by our air force.

"Our part of the national job is to finish this plant and bring it into steady and uninterrupted production. This we are determined to do in the shortest possible time. Steadily and constantly new units are moving into production at Basic.

"This means that more and more magnesium is flowing into

fabrication plants for the manufacture of incendiary bombs which will set fire to Tokyo. Every ounce of the light white metal out of Nevada brings us closer to the day when American forces will surge to final victory.

"Every man and woman on the basic project in every act that he or she performs is really making magnesium, is really forging a new fire power which will deal destruction to the enemy, and is writing a potent part of the American answer to the crime of a year ago today.

"In flaming accent—the only kind that Hitler and Hirohito can understand—we are saying it with magnesium.

"Let the meaning of this day renew our faith in the American way of life and give rebirth to our determination to preserve it by work and sacrifice with courage and in pride," Case concluded.

CHICAGO ILL. TRIBUNE
Ch. 1,076,252; Sun, 1,122,502
OCTOBER 29, 1942

L V Review Journal
Dec 4 1942

ANACONDA BUYS CONTROL OF BIG MAGNESIUM FIRM

Acquisition by Anaconda Copper Mining company of the 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for a purchase price of \$75,000, was announced by Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones. The rest is owned by British interests.

In connection with the purchase, Jones announced, Defense Plant corporation bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000. He said the lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

The announcement said that Basic Magnesium was operating and would complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., owned by the DPC.

BOSTON, MASS. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR. Cir. 117,476
NOVEMBER 2, 1942



J. R. Hobbins

Elected President of Basic Magnesium, Inc., Mr. Hobbins is President of the Anaconda Copper Mining Co., Anaconda recently purchased 52 per cent of Basic Magnesium stock.

World's Biggest Refractory Brick Job Establishes Some New Records

The Big Job, news letter published by Basic Magnesium, Inc., in a recent issue gave the following few highlights on the really big things being accomplished at the plant:

The biggest refractory brick job in the world is establishing some new records in the field these days. And they are records that are typical of what other crews are doing, too. When the various crews tackled the No. 1 Metals building, they tied into a job the like of which none of them ever saw before. Plumbers, roofers, brick-layers, carpenters, painters found themselves faced with work never previously encountered. So No. 1 was in a large sense, a kind of a training job.

The boys didn't even know what the various installations were for, nor how they worked. Things are moving a lot faster now. And the figures on brick-laying labor costs in chlorinators, electrolytic cells, and wash-towers tell the story.

Bricklaying labor on No. 1 cost \$296,610. The same work in No. 2 cost \$250,643 or \$45,976 less. Costs on No. 4 are going to be still lower when the final figures are in. There will be a saving of about \$12,000 on the cells, and nearly \$7,000 on the chlorinator wash-towers.

All this means less outlay for Uncle Sam, and what is more important, more speed in getting the job completed and magnesium flowing out to our armed forces.

That precision bricklaying in the metals units is about half completed, and moving faster every day. Chlorinators in four units are all finished and cells finished in three and a half.

Keeping pace, of course, are the plumbing, painting, electrical

underground jobs performed by installation, and some of those roofers.

From WALL ST. JOURNAL
New York, N. Y.

Basic Refractories Receives \$525,000 in Stock Disposal

From THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Cleveland Buys
CLEVELAND—Through its sale on October 27, last, of stock of Basic Magnesium, Inc., \$525,000 was received, by Basic Refractories, Inc., according to a report covering the transaction, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

According to the report, Basic Refractories sold the stock to Basic Magnesium, the issuing corporation, for \$525,000, payable \$75,000 in cash and the balance through conveyance by Basic Magnesium to Basic Refractories of title to certain mining claims in Nevada, which claims coincidentally were sold by Basic Refractories to Defense Plant Corp. for \$450,000 cash. The transaction involved all the stock of Basic Magnesium owned by Basic Refractories.

Basic Magnesium is building and will operate a magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, which is owned by Defense Plant Corp.

NOV. 5, 1942
LIMA, MONT. LEDGER

BASIC MAGNESIUM PURCHASE

The Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has acquired by purchase the 52 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells (sq) Jr. and associates of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc. for \$75,000 Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announces.

In connection with the purchase Defense Plant Corp. brought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000. These ore lands and deposits have been appraised at more than \$1,500,000 Mr. Jones said.

Basic Magnesium is operating and will complete the construction of the emagnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which is owned by Defense Plant Corp. The first unit of the plant produced magnesium on August 31, 1942. Additional units have been brought in since that time.

This is the argest magnesium plant in the country, Mr. Jones said, and probably in the world. It will have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium, and when completed will cost in excess of \$100,000,000.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
UTAH MINERAL SURVEY
NOVEMBER 6, 1942

Magnesium Plant Will Employ 5,000

Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced last night that Anaconda Copper Mining Company had acquired stock control of Basic Magnesium, Inc., operators and builders of what is scheduled to be the world's largest magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev.

Jones said that Anaconda had purchased 52 1/2 per cent stock interest in BMI from Howard P. Eells Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, for \$75,000. The text of Jones' announcement:

"Anaconda Copper Mining Company has acquired by purchase 52 1/2 per cent stock interest of Howard P. Eells Jr., and associates, of Cleveland, in Basic Magnesium, Inc., for \$75,000. In connection with the purchase, Defense Plant Corporation bought the ore lands of Basic Magnesium, Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for a consideration of \$450,000. These ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

"Basic Magnesium, Inc., is operating and will complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which is owned by Defense Plant Corporation. The first unit of the plant produced magnesium on Aug. 31, 1942. Additional units have been brought in since that time, and it is estimated the entire plant will be completed by April 15, 1943.

"This is the largest magnesium plant in this country, and probably in the world. It will have an annual capacity of 112,000,000 pounds of metallic magnesium, and when completed will cost in excess of \$100,000,000. It covers four square miles of desert land in Nevada, and this site was selected because of its immediate proximity to the government owned Boulder dam power project from which it takes power.

It covers four square miles of desert land in Nevada, and this site was selected because of its immediate proximity to the government owned Boulder Dam power project from which it takes power.

When in full operation the plant will use annually in excess of 1,600,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which is equal to the amount of electricity used annually in Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined.

Big Electric Use

"When in full operation the plant will use annually in excess of 1,600,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which is equal to the amount of electricity used usually in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined.

"Approximately 12,000 men are employed in construction

and in operations at this time. When construction is complete the plant in full operation will employ approximately 5,000 people. It has been necessary to provide temporary housing at living quarters for the large construction force. In addition to barracks, trailer camps, and more than 1,000 two and three bedroom houses, a hospital, school, a theater and store buildings have been constructed near the plant site which is approximately 12 miles from Las Vegas and an equal distance from Boulder dam.

"Water to supply the plant and the workers is pumped 18 miles through a 40-inch main from Lake Mead, which was created by Boulder dam. The daily requirements of water are approximately 37,000,000 gallons.

"The magnesium is produced from magnesite, of which abundant quantity is accessible.

"The stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc., in addition to that purchased by Anaconda Copper Mining Company, is owned by British interests represented in this country by Major C. J. P. Ball, who furnished the technical information and designed the plant for account of Defense Plant Corporation, receiving one-half cent a pound on magnesium produced, which is approximately 2 per cent of sale price.

L V Review Journal
Dec 8 1942

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

A friend writes in from Basic to suggest a discussion of "some things that puzzle new folks out here," and I hasten to oblige to the best of my ability.

"About this ceiling price business," says my correspondent, "some of us thought those prices posted as ceilings meant something—that the purpose of them was to keep prices from soaring when things became scarce.

"We also thought that when they were posted, that was tops—that was most that could be charged.

"However, we are evidently much mistaken—many of us have discussed in detail how much we must be mistaken—after the meat shortage of the last few days.

"The ceiling on smoked ham in no store in Vegas is posted as 90c a pound, and yet a slice of less than a pound of mediocre ham—precious it is true, because scarce—but the price of said ham was 89c.

"Also, lamb chops, 4 for \$1.00—that surely was above ceiling posted, and on and on.

"By the way, said ham was posted as being a ceiling of 49c in one store that charged 89c for not quite a pound. We no doubt do not understand the thing—but won't you use your column to explain it some day?"

The story is this—straight off the griddle in the local OPA office. Price ceilings were supposed to be posted on July 1. Prices were supposed to be the maximum charged during March. Violations should be reported to the local OPA office, phone 2224, and an inspector will be dispatched immediately to check and bring the violator into line.

You'll find the OPA very cooperative and easy to deal with. But you'll find also they're as busy as everybody else and need your cooperation in reporting violations. They tell me that periodic inspections show that most concerns are playing the game 100 per cent. But there are a few exceptions, as there always are.

Day by day violations must be reported by individual customers if there's to be any action against the violator. You will be conferring a favor on OPA if you will make such reports, and helping to keep prices where they should be. So—do your stuff.

Second point mentioned is as follows:

"Of course, if you could be a magician and figure out how we out here are going to be in town when the meat is to be sold—on our one trip a week—that would be something too. But we do not expect the impossible."

Maybe that isn't impossible either. Anyway, let's have a look. There are two interpretations on the phrase "one trip a week." It could mean that under gas rationing, only one trip is possible, and it could mean that the family schedule permits of but one trip in per week.

I am advised that the state office of OPA has ruled that all residents of Basic townsite and vicinity are entitled to "B" ration books on the basis of necessity for driving to Las Vegas for family purchases. That means 470 miles per month, which would allow a trip to town every other day, and leave 170 miles for other necessary travel. OPA regards regular trips in as NECESSARY, to those residing in that area.

If, for reasons of your own you can't come in more than once a week, that's something else again. How to hit here when there's meat for sale, is a question for a seventh son of a seventh daughter. For, believe it or not, most of the markets here haven't the least idea what they'll have to sell until it arrives at the store.

Last Saturday, one of the larger concerns which usually gets beef and veal to take care of the week-end trade, received exactly one beef and one veal—about 30 minutes supply. They're as much concerned about it as you are, and yet, what to do.

Knowing our Vegas food dealers, may I say that the majority ARE interested in serving you to the best of their ability and will be glad to have any comments or complaints. There's a mad-dening job, right now, trying to keep food enough on the shelves to keep their customers supplied. And the meat situation is almost beyond understanding.

Some way ought to be worked out so you at Basic can get your share of the meat without sleeping on the sidewalk in front of the store. Maybe some of our market managers will see this and figure out something. I sure hope so.

Anyway, come again, Basic readers. I'm at your service.

RECORD, CALIF. THE TIMES
ADVOCATE (Weekly), Cir. 1,686
NOVEMBER 20, 1942

Visitors Bring Pure Las Vegas Magnesium

Mrs. Henry W. Sherman and son, Daryl, arrived Wednesday by plane from Las Vegas to Los Angeles, and thence to San Marcos in company with her sister, Mrs. C. J. Middleton and two daughters, from Monrovia. They are here over the week-end with their father, John McPherson, of San Marcos. Mrs. Sherman brought a specimen of pure magnesium from the Basic Magnesium Plant at Las Vegas for display in the Times-Advocate window.

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF. SUN
Cir. 13,576; Sun, Cir. 14,108
NOVEMBER 19, 1942

Biggest Magnesium Plant Located in U. S. A.

The new magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, is the largest in the world with a capacity 3 1/2 times the total U. S. output in 1941, according to a statement of the Office of War Information of the WPB. The Basic Magnesium plant, as it is called, is the latest of five huge magnesium plants that have lately entered production. All were financed and are owned by the government.

Completion of the program will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries in the production of magnesium, a place formerly held by Germany, and will help us to produce more airplanes, incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

plant here

BOMBER BRINGS P.B.X. BOARD

First of the new buildings to be started and completed was the new B.M.I. telephone office, which arose like magic and received its finishing touches in time Sunday noon to receive the new switchboard.

A one hundred-key P. B. X. board was brought out from Chicago on an army bomber, arriving here Sunday just as the building was ready. Installation was made during the afternoon and the operators were ready for duty Monday morning.

ENQUIRER
Cincinnati, Ohio

APR 4 1942

Head Of Firm Is Silent On Lease Profit Charge

Reno, Nev., April 3—(AP)—Howard P. Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., Cleveland, declined comment today on a Senate subcommittee report which charged a lease agreement between the Defense Plant Corporation and BMI "one of the most flagrant attempts at war profiteering."

The agreement involved magnesite ore to be leased to the government for processing into a strategic light metal, magnesium, at a \$63,000,000 plant at Las Vegas, Nevada.

Eells intimated a complete and thorough investigation of BMI's dealings with the Defense Plant Corporation would be made and until all testimony has been taken, there is nothing to say.

"I'll let the people I'm working for do the talking," he said during a stop here on the way from the BMI's Nevada properties to Cleveland.

The Cleveland industrialist expressed complete satisfaction with progress made both at Las Vegas and at the magnesite deposits in Nye County where a concentration plant is nearing completion.

"We expect to be in limited production by June 15," he said.

The first units of the concentration plant will be in readiness by that time and the initial unit of the refining plant at Las Vegas will be ready to handle the magnesium oxide and carbonates to be shipped from the plant at the magnesite deposits."

State Officials Amazed at Growth

Expressing amazement at the growth and development of Las Vegas and Boulder City during the past few months, Secretary of State Malcolm McEachin and state Treasurer Dan Franks are pending a few days in southern Nevada on business.

McEachin, who is also state motor vehicle commissioner, conferred yesterday with officials at the magnesium plant regarding licenses, and Franks, after accompanying McEachin on a tour of the plant, spent some time discussing disposition of the Boulder Dam revenue funds with County Treasurer William B. Mundy.

After spending today visiting friends in this area, they left for the capital.

COLDEN
JANUARY 2, 1942

Nevada Is Rated Pittsburg Of West

By BOB BENNYHOFF
United Press Correspondent

(Editor's Note: This is the third and last of a series of articles upon the major role Nevada is playing in the answer to the vital demand for magnesium, a metal OPM officials have declared will play a large part in the winning of this war for this nation.)

As engineers learn more of the vast deposits of the "light metals" Nevada holds, it is becoming increasingly important that the state will soon be the nation's leading producer of magnesium and manganese.

The industry already is under way at Las Vegas and Boulder dam. Speaking of the state's future in production of the lighter metals, desperately needed today for defense production, Howard P. Eells Jr., president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., has declared southern Nevada will shortly become "the Pittsburg of the West."

In the Pittsburg of the east, coal, coke, iron and steel play the role of leader in defense metal production today.

But new research and utilization of engineering studies have shown that magnesium and manganese soon will play an equally important role. Magnesium, lighter and fully as tenable as aluminum, has been found ideal for airplane construction.

Magnesium is also an essential for explosives and incendiary bombs. Manganese is in great demand today to make tough armor plate, with which the nation's battleships and tanks are covered.

With vast deposits of magnesite and brucite, and in sufficient purity to warrant commercial production, Nevada already has two production centers under development.

Boulder dam's tremendous power-producing facilities have led to the construction of a \$63,000,000 magnesium plant near Las Vegas. Shipments of magnesite and brucite from immense deposits near Luning is well under way. About 400 tons daily are shipped to the new magnesium producer at Los Altos, California, known as Permanente.

Domestic production of magnesium in the United States until to-

day has been confined to recovery from sea water. The Freeport, Texas, plant of Dow Chemical company, produced the first 1000-pound ingot of the light metal January 1, 1939.

Since that time Dow has rushed an expansion program. A plant utilizing deep brine wells at Midland, Michigan, has been placed in operation.

Until the Permanente plant at Los Altos began producing early this year, Dow was the sole domestic producer of magnesium. In 1939, the company produced 6,700,000 pounds. Production was doubled in 1940, reaching 12,521,726. This year, Dow will produce nearly 30,000,000 pounds.

The Permanente plant expects to be producing 25,000,000 pounds by the end of 1942. Production of the plant now under construction has been estimated at greatly above present output of both Dow and Permanente, but for defense purposes cannot be revealed.

Approximately 5000 men are expected to be employed in the Basic Magnesium plant near Las Vegas. A thousand more will be employed at the calcining plant now being erected at the Luning deposit.

A new process, taken from English concerns now rushing magnesium production, will be used in the Las Vegas producer. The Dow process takes magnesium from water. The new plants use water to float the magnesium so it can be separated from the ore.

Nevada production must help to meet an estimated need of magnesium by the end of 1942 of 400,000,000 pounds, set by OPM officials.

The new process, which should be the major factor in enabling the nation to reach that figure, has been improved upon by bureau of mines workers. Various phases are still studied by mineralogists and chemists, seeking to simplify and iron out problems.

First step in Nevada production will be subjecting brucite and magnesite at the Luning deposit to a flotation process. A plant for this step is now under construction at Luning. Calcining leaves a fairly pure magnesium carbonate.

A calcining process then drives off the carbonate in the form of carbon dioxide, leaving the magnesium oxide, which must be 97-98 per cent pure for the new process.

These two steps are taken to reduce shipping weight and thus reduce costs and to increase its purity, so that no time will be lost once the ore reaches the plants.

At the Basic Magnesium plant, an electro-thermal process will be used. The process is now used at the Permanente plant. The magnesium oxide is chlorinated by heating with carbon and chlorins. The resultant magnesium chloride is then subjected to electrolysis.

The U. S. bureau of mines has perfected a process whereby a fine spray of oil is used to shock-cool the metallic vapor produced in the process. Previously, the Hansgirg process—using heated hydrogen gas to cool the highly explosive metallic magnesium, had been used with fairly satisfactory results.

Austin Tex Statesman
3-26-42

Contract Is Let For Electrical Work At Magnesium Plant

Contract for the installation of all electrical work at the magnesium plant in Austin has been awarded to the firm of Fischback and Moore of Texas, Inc., under a sub-contract by the Austin company, general contractor on the plant. C. N. Avery, vice-president of the electrical concern, announced here Thursday.

The local contract will approximate about \$1,000,000 and work is expected to start early next week, Mr. Avery said. The project includes electrical installations also at the Carlsbad refining plant in New Mexico, Mr. Avery said. Robert E. Moore, vice-president of Fischback and Moore, Inc., is scheduled to come here Saturday to discuss beginning of the work.

Mr. Avery announced Fischback and Moore of Texas also hold the contract for electrical installations at the North American aviation plant at Grand Prairie, valued at approximately \$1,800,000, and on the bomber plant at Fort Worth costing \$1,500,000.

WALL STREET JOURNAL
Pacific Coast Edition

415 Bush St., San Francisco, Calif.

FEB 24 1942

California

California Electric Power Showing Big Defense Gain

RIVERSIDE—California Electric Power Co., serving a territory approximately the size of Ohio, is performing an important role in the war economy of the nation. Included in this territory are basic industries including tungsten mining, cement manufacture, soda ash, potash, borax, iron castings, clay products, and citrus by-products. In addition it serves the rich citrus area in Riverside and San Bernardino counties and the fertile agricultural regions of the lower Colorado River Basin, including Coachella, Imperial, Palo Verde and Yuma valleys.

Among the large industries served are the United States Vanadium Co. at Bishop, ranked as the principal producer of tungsten in the United States; the Pacific Coast Borax Co. near Kramer, the world's largest producer of borax; the West End Chemical Co. at Searles Lake, large producer of soda ash and borax; and the Southwestern Portland Cement Co. at Victorville, operating one of the principal cement plants in the Southwest.

In addition lines are connected with many military posts including Camp Haan, March Field, Muroc bombing field, and other smaller units.

Included in the construction budget for 1942, which amounts to approximately \$1,500,000, is \$800,000 for additional transmission lines including a line from Millers, Nev., to serve the Basic Magnesium Corp. Remainder of the budget, with the exception of \$110,000 for improvement to existing hydro-electric equipment, will be devoted to routine facility additions.

Ability of the company to handle any excess demands likely to be made for war work is apparent by the fact that its peak load in 1941 was 68,700 kilowatts and the best estimate for 1942 is placed at 75,000 kilowatts.

Against this is power available from all sources of 170,210 kw.

Principal power source is the company's own hydro-electric set-up which represents 85.7% of the total. It has eight hydro plants. Five, with capacity of 25,275 kw, are on Bishop Creek. One plant on Rush Creek has an output of 10,600 kw.; one on Mill Creek 3,000 kw.; the Poole plant 10,600 kw., a total of 48,875 kw. In San Bernardino it has an 8,000 kw. steam plant and at Blythe a 125 kw. oil-electric plant. This is a total of 57,010 kw. from plants owned and operated.

In addition 40,000 kw. are obtained from Boulder Dam, 7,500 kw. are reserved for the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, and 1,250 kw. from two plants owned by the San Geronimo Electric Corp. but leased and operated by the California Electric. This gives the company a firm output of 106,990 kw.

However, in the event of necessity, the company has interconnections with the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, San Diego Gas & Electric Co., Southern California Edison Co. and the government, through which it can obtain up to 63,250 kw., or a total availability of 170,210 kw.

The number and class of consumers as of December 31, 1940 and 1941 were:

Class of service:	Number of active accounts	
	1941	1940
Total residential	23,298	28,235
Rural sales (agricultural)	1,463	1,455
Total commercial	5,778	5,827
Industrial power	351	329
Public street and highway lighting	50	50
Other sales to public authorities	11	11
Sales to other electric utilities	11	11
Total	36,945	35,913
Per cent increase	2.9%	

While the number of industrial plants served by California Electric shows only a slight increase for the year, this is no indication of the extent to which its power is utilized in the war effort.

In addition to the big companies engaged in the production of minerals, all aiding in the war effort, many other plants which until recently were making peace time goods now have been converted. It is estimated by the management of California Electric Power Co. that fully one-half of its industrial load may rightly be considered as used in the production of war materials.

Because of its dependence upon its hydro plants for generation, rainfall in its area is watched closely. This year precipitation has been above normal and the company will enter the dry season with full reservoirs.

LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL

March 17, 1942

LOS ANGELES CALIF. TIMES
Cir. 219,890, Sun. Cir. 407,879
MARCH 3, 1942



MARCH
OF
FINANCE
By
Wesley Smith

LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL
APRIL 22, 1942

Diesel Engine is At Work at BMI

A new Diesel engine, costing \$58,000, which will be used to handle all freight inside the plant, arrived at Basic Magnesium Thursday and was placed in service today, according to an announcement by officials.

The engine, known to railroaders as 0440, will be able to handle between 80 and 100 cars per day and was manufactured by the Baldwin Locomotive Works at Eddystone, Pennsylvania. It weighs 189,000 pounds and is a 660 horsepower monster.

The locomotive left Pennsylvania on April 3 and arrived in Las Vegas on April 16, coming here on its own wheels and under its own power. The engine is 14 feet long, has a fuel tank 8 feet long and carries 11 gallons and carries 11 JEM 10 gallons.

New Magnesium Plant Producing

Great Nevada Project Is \$100,000,000 City In Desert Midst

By RICHARD STROBEL

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Nov. 21.—(AP)—Little did the men who built Boulder Dam realize that their masterpiece of engineering skill was paving the way for an even greater project—the world's largest magnesium plant.

Located in a blistering Southern Nevada desert, where a year ago there was no water, no power, and only a few houses, this gigantic plant, Basic Magnesium, Inc., already is producing the precious metal and an equally vital chemical, liquid chlorine.

Without the energy generated by Boulder Dam, 15 miles distant, and the water it impounds, the magnesium plant could not exist. But just as important are Nevada's vast deposits of magnesium ore, close at hand.

A chemist with apparatus a yard square can make magnesium, but producing it in quantities required for global war is something else. Basic Magnesium, while only one of numerous such plants, as the largest of them all represents a new triumph of American ingenuity and inventiveness.

It cost more than \$100,000,000, required 50,000 tons of structural steel, and has the largest single electrical installation in the history of American industrial construction.

It employs nearly three times Boulder Dam's maximum working force, housing it in a new model village of 1000 demountable homes. A camp accommodating 6000 single men, trailer camps, motor courts, and hotels and homes in Las Vegas, 15 miles away.

GIGANTIC PLANT

Children attend a new 12-grade school. The sick are treated in a new concrete hospital. A restaurant, large enough to seat 2200 persons, serves 25,000 meals a day.

It was necessary to bring power and water over the mountains to the plant site. Bleak hills were straddled to carry the electricity generated at Boulder Dam. A huge pipeline brought water from Lake Mead to two huge new reservoirs. A 26-mile railroad and 50 miles of temporary dirt road were built.

You get some idea of the tremendous size of Basic Magnesium, Inc., when you consider that this plant soon will produce 30 times as much magnesium as did the entire world six years ago.

Magnesium, although eighth in abundance among the elements, does not exist in a free state. It was discovered away back in 1808, and first separated into the pure metal just before the turn of the century. But as recently as the 1920's, work with the metal scarcely had passed the laboratory stage. Now that it can be produced in quantity, its value to our war effort is incalculable.

Magnesium is used for tracer bul-

lets, flares and incendiary bombs. Because it is so extremely light—lighter than aluminum—it is used in alloys wherever possible, in airplanes, engines, wings, fuselages, mountings, gas tanks, panels, flooring, wheels, ventilating ducts, dust covers, to name a few. It has become the miracle metal of the war.

PROCESS SIMPLE

There is no mystery about producing magnesium. In simple terms, it is the transformation of an oxide into a chloride, and the passage of an electric current through the chloride. Magnesium and chlorine are the result.

The magnesium oxide is mined and concentrated in a Nevada desert valley and shipped to the Basic plant, where it is ground, mixed with coal, peat moss, salt and a few other substances, and molded into pellets the size of walnuts or small bricks.

These are placed in kilns and dehydrated, then melted in a large cylindrical furnace into which a stream of pure chlorine gas is injected.

The result is a molten mass of magnesium chloride which is tapped off and placed in electrolytic cells resembling large tiled bathtubs. A strong electrical current is passed through the mass, this causing the molten magnesium to separate from the chlorine and come to the surface where it is ladled off by hand.

Ordinarily copper would be used to carry the powerful electrical current through the molten magnesium chloride, but because there is an acute copper shortage (copper makes the best shell casings and we're making a lot of shell casings) it was necessary to find a substitute.

It turned out to be silver—1,600,000 pounds of it—in planks fabricated in Baltimore. At 71 cents an ounce, that's better than \$18,000,000 worth.

In peacetime, use of silver for such a purpose wouldn't make sense. In an all-out war when it frees copper for shells it does make sense, particularly when such non-consumptive use does not impair the value of the sterling.

Thus silver comes out of the vaults, back to the state where it was mined, to help the battle for freedom.

\$100,000,000 MAGNESIUM PLANT MUSHROOMS ON DESERT



Some of the thousand homes (upper left) that have mushroomed on the waterless southern Nevada desert, 15 miles from Los Vegas, to care for a portion of the workers at the war-fostered \$100,000,000 plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc. (upper right); a section of the plant's interior, showing the world's largest chlorine plant; (lower) Arlene Foster poses with a "cheese" of magnesium and war objects requiring the metal.—Wideworld photo.

November 21, 1942

THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Magnesium Plant Built In The Desert To Equal World Output Of 6 Years Ago

BY RICHARD STROBEL

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NOV 21 1942
HELENA, MONT. RECORD

SATTERTHWAITE IS SUPERINTENDENT, MAGNESIUM PLANT

Great Falls, Nov. 21.—(AP)—H. G. Satterthwaite, since last January superintendent of the zinc plant at the Anaconda Copper Mining company's reduction works here, has been named general superintendent of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nev., A.C.M. company officials announced.

Satterthwaite already is at his new post. Basic Magnesium, Inc., a government-sponsored concern, recently was taken over by the Anaconda company and the Great Falls man was named superintendent by J. R. Hobbins of New York, president of A.C.M. and Basic Magnesium, Inc.

The new superintendent has been employed by the Anaconda company for 26 years. He joined the concern at Anaconda in 1916. For most of the 26 years he has been stationed at the reduction works here.

Ernest C. Van Blarcom, assistant superintendent, was named to succeed Satterthwaite at the zinc plant here.

L V Review Journal
December 11, 1942

Magnesium Plant Holidays Is Fixed

A three day Christmas holiday will be observed at the magnesium plant, it was revealed today by F. O. Case, general manager, who reported that the war production board had given approval for the lay-off.

All activity at the plant will be shut down from Thursday night, December 24, and resumed Monday morning, December 28, Case announced. Some essential operations will be carried on, as will office work which is considered essential, but for the most part, all employees will have a holiday.

Operations at Gabbs, both in the mine and the mill, as well as in the office, will be curtailed also, Case said.

NOV 21 1942
HELENA, MONT. RECORD

Great Falls Man to Be Plant Manager Of Basic Magnesium

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KEY MAGNESIUM PLANTS TO BE FINISHED SOON

Construction Work Is Speeded; Ore Trucks Set

Many months ahead of schedule, Nevada's two \$66,000,000 magnesium plants at Las Vegas and Gabbs Valley, near Luning, this summer will begin initial production of the magnesium so vital to the country's war effort.

Within two months, trucks will begin hauling concentrates from the ore reduction plant at Luning to Las Vegas, where the nation's largest magnesium reduction plant is being built, according to information from Gabbs.

The first of 10 huge units in the Las Vegas reduction plant will be in operation before the first of July, reports from Las Vegas say.

The first unit of the concentrator at Gabbs is now nearly completed, about eight months ahead of schedule, and it is expected to begin treating 500 tons of ore daily.

Ground breaking for the two huge plants took place last October, and since that time big crews of laborers have been working steadily in constructing plants. The one in Gabbs Valley will cost \$3,000,000 when completed, and \$63,000,000 has been appropriated for the Las Vegas plant.

5,000 At Work

Officials have estimated that about 5,000 persons are now employed actively in the construction and operation of the two plants at Las Vegas and Gabbs. More than 4,000 are working at the Las Vegas plant, and more than 600 are employed at Gabbs. The February payroll at the Las Vegas plant will be more than \$1,000,000, officials have estimated.

The great influx of population into the Las Vegas area is apparent, officials said, in that the total number of employees at the plant and their dependents is at the present time about 9,000. It is estimated the total number of workers and dependents will reach 15,000 by April, and 21,000 by September.

Company officials said that between 9,000 and 10,000 employees and dependents will remain permanently in the area after the plant is completed.

Build New Homes

To take care of the acute housing shortage at Las Vegas, about 3,000 homes will be built at the magnesium plant, 2,000 in Las Vegas, and 500 in Boulder City.

Work at Las Vegas is proceeding on a 24-hour basis, with about 2,000 men working the day shift, 400 on the afternoon shift, and 600 on the night shift.

Actual construction work on the Basic Magnesium, Inc., property at Gabbs did not get underway until January, but progress has been rapid. Already an office building, two large dormitories, a tent city of 150 units nearing completion, dining room seating 340, warehouse and other buildings are nearing completion. A hospital and additional dormitory are being built.

Workers are building roads and pouring concrete for foundations. Reinforcing steel, hundreds of tons of it, is already on the premises for the construction work.

More men could be used in the construction work, but they will not be called in until proper housing conditions are available. N. B. Thompson, in charge of the work for the MacDonald Engineering Company, has said.

A trailer town supplements the tent city. Water is piped to shower bath houses, each of which has six units. Sewer lines are being installed.

FACILITY PLANS FACING CHANGES

Power Branch Representative on Coast to Examine War Output Situation

TRINITY DAM REVIVED

By H. C. HENDER

Work is now in progress on the Pacific Coast under direction of the War Production Board which is likely to result in an enforced wartime pooling of California power resources, both public and private.

Similar arrangements already have been made for New England, the southern area and the Arkansas-Texas-Louisiana area.

In contrast with these previous power pooling systems, however, the Coast undertaking is not now prompted by threatened shortage so much as by needs for diversions in delivery and conservation of all electrical generating equipment.

It is entirely possible that a part at least of the generating facility programs which have been advanced for the next three years may have to go out the window. In their place will come federally allocated installations based upon known power conditions and war production needs.

Power Branch Official on Coast

It appears likely that the present studies and plan will be confined to California and its hinterland and will not now extend to the Pacific Northwest where federal power production is dominant, but even there, prospect exists that changes may be made in schedules for new Columbia River installations if power capacity tends to outrun needs as calculated by the War Production Board.

At the moment, V. M. Marquis of the WPB power branch is in California conducting a survey, aided by Bureau of Reclamation engineers and state regulatory authorities, to determine as nearly as possible what will be needed. No statement has been made either by Mr. Marquis or others of the party, but the activity is receiving intensive attention in power quarters.

How far the plan may go in affecting projects is indicated in understanding that at least one large private generator installation projected in one California defense area has received a thumbs down for the time being at least.

Las Vegas Plant Needs

The basic question is understood to be how far interchange based on present facilities can go in solving power problems, holding to a minimum of new installations consonant with war industry demands.

One of the reasons for the WPB power pool study in California and its hinterland area is reported to be the establishment of a major magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., which will make heavy demands upon Boulder Dam power. There are other considerations, however.

It is indicated that while any pooling system devised may not go into effect immediately, it is possible that it will govern California operations definitely in the long run.

In the meantime, projects for new power have been carried to further surveys. Latest is the revived proposal to dam Trinity River in the northern part of California, and divert at least part of its flow through a tunnel into Central California.

CREWS IN FIELD AS USUAL ON SATURDAY

No time was lost in construction of permanent buildings by the fire that destroyed the temporary office building, according to Gid Smallwood, superintendent of construction. All crews worked as usual in the field, installation of machinery and equipment continuing at the usual pace.

A new vault for the temporary accounting department quarters was started Saturday morning by Eddie Cleeton and his masonry department almost before the embers of the old building had cooled. The brick and steel was in place, and the stone tile of the exterior completed and ready for use Monday morning.

War Work in High, Asserts Hayes

War production is in high gear throughout the nation, and lampooning of the effort by "experts" is unwarranted and uncalled for, F. Albert Hayes, National Association of Purchasing Agents president and recent War Production Board appointee, said here yesterday.

Such critics have no real knowledge of the facts nor access to the facts, Hayes said, as he boarded a Western Air Line plane to inspect the \$100,000,000 magnesium plant project at Las Vegas, Nev.

There is need, he stressed, for constructive criticism and planning, especially concerning re-employment of ten million men dislocated by collapse of industries nonessential to war production.

He is here to visit Purchasing Associations and to inspect Coast defense industries.

—Defend Angeles—Ray & Buncher

Magnesium Plant Office Rebuilt

LAS VEGAS (Nev.) March 14. (U.P.)—A new temporary office unit of the Basic Magnesium Co. was completed and ready for occupancy today, a week after fire destroyed the administration building.

The McNeil Construction Co. said it was a new construction record. The newly completed unit is fully equipped with business machines and is believed the largest temporary office structure in the country.

Fire razed the original structure Friday, March 6.

New Offices Built in Week

Former Building Razed by Flames

With construction crews at work day and night, a temporary building to house the administration offices of Basic Magnesium, Inc., has been completed in one week.

The administration building, located near Las Vegas, was destroyed by fire on the night of March 6. Today officials of the company announced that a new building had been completed, fully equipped and occupied.

The new structure is equivalent in size to an eight-story building, and occupies ground space of 50 by 150 feet. One necessary piece of equipment, a complete switch board was shipped by air from the east this week, and installed in the building.

Federal and county officials who investigated the fire last week said it was incendiary in origin.

Magnesium Firm Replaces Office

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It is reported that Basic Magnesium, Inc., expects to have the first unit of its 2,000-ton mill near Las Vegas, Nevada, completed and in operation by May of this year. About 7,000 are engaged at present in construction and installation work and when completed, the plant will require some 4,000 employees. It is stated that the ore mined from the company's property north of Luning and treated in the calcining plant now under construction there, will be brought to the mill at Las Vegas by rail. Plans originally called for trucking the ore from mine to mill, but in an effort to save rubber, it is believed that the necessary railroad connections will be made with existing roads and the ore will be shipped. Company headquarters are at 845 Hanna Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

Self-Appointed Critics on War Effort Attacked

War Production Board Member Says Nation's Output in High Gear



ON TOUR—F. Albert Hayes, who condemns self-appointed critics on war effort.

There is entirely too much criticism of the war production program by persons who have no knowledge of the subject or access to the facts.

This was the observation of F. Albert Hayes, president of the National Association of Purchasing Agents and recent appointee to the War Production Board, as he flew by Western Air Lines yesterday to inspect the \$100,000,000 magnesium plant project at Las Vegas, Nev.

Hitting at self-appointed authorities who claim to know all about the current trend of our war effort, Hayes said that actually production everywhere in the nation is in high gear and that the lampooning by "experts" is both unwarranted and uncalled for.

Here from Washington to visit purchasing associations of the Pacific Coast and inspect defense industries, Hayes said there is need for constructive criticism and planning, especially in the field of re-employment for 10,000,000 men dislocated by collapse of industries nonessential to the war effort.

He also said many shortages are unnecessary, brought on solely by hoarding upon the part of panicky individuals.

Magnesium Plant Work Unhampered

WASHINGTON, March 16. (U.P.)—The war department said today that construction of a magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., has proceeded without delay in spite of a fire March 6 which destroyed the administration building.

The announcement was based on a report from Basic Magnesium Inc., which is constructing the plant for the government. The report said evidence indicated that the fire was not caused by sabotage.

Most of the destruction, according to the report, was confined to incomplete engineering drawings and notes. All essential drawings were saved.

Temporary quarters were available for the entire time during March 6. The building was completed less than a week after the fire.

Las Vegas, Nevada,
December 9, 1942.

To the Editor,
Las Vegas Review-Journal.
Dear Sir:

I am taking the liberty to write you and ask your reaction to the following: On December 8th, 1942, at the Basic Plant, there was issued a bulletin stating that the entire project would be shut down from Thursday evening, December 24th until Monday morning, December 28th. A COMPLETE SHUTDOWN OF THREE WHOLE DAYS!

This was an official bulletin with the name of Project Manager F. O. Case attached.

A holiday is, of course, a day we would all welcome under other conditions than those which exist at the present time, but with the 16 per cent lost man hours average for this plant, and the urgency for the production of this VITAL METAL, one can only wonder (after reading your daily column "From Where I Sit") will the axis call a THREE DAY LAY-OFF OVER XMAS?

Almost anyone who has worked at the plant for a year or more would like to have a holiday, including myself, but I for one don't think I could enjoy myself if I asked myself this one question:

"Am I making an all out effort by lying around three whole days?"

What do you think?

A BASIC WORKER.

P. S. And then there's the chance for some sneak to get in some dirty work while the plant is shut down.

"The Big Job" Tells Of Silver & Copper

Old Paul Revere would have been pleased to the depths of his patriotic soul had he been present week. He would have been present at the end of another historic ride, started by a company bearing his name and executed, as was his famous horseback gallop, to win an American war.

Three cars reached BMI. They contained 141.8 tons of solid silver bus bars—sped here to replace copper sorely needed for shell cases and other war uses. The shipment would have pleased old Paul particularly because it was sent here from the Revere Copper and Brass Company of Baltimore.

This second Revere ride stirred the patriotic fervor of Nevada's history students. They recalled that silver from Nevada's fabulous Comstock Lode just about financed the war between the States. And now Nevada's silver comes home to help win another war. And by one of those strange quirks it arrived to replace copper just a short time after management of BMI had been taken over by representatives of that giant of the copper industry—Anaconda. Paul Revere, the Comstock lode, silver, copper, Anaconda, magnesium! If that isn't a combination of stimulating circumstances, try to think up a better one.

COST-PLUS JOBS

The supposition exists in the minds of many local people that the government construction projects at Hawthorne for the U. S. navy and the Gabbs valley jobs primarily for the Defense Plant Corporation are all being performed on vicious cost-plus contracts which place a premium on extravagance and inefficiency.

As a matter of fact such is not the case.

Nor is the immense magnesium reduction plant at Las Vegas a cost-plus job.

With possible minor exceptions all these contracts are let on a fee basis. The less material the contractor is obliged to buy, and the quicker he can finish up, the more money he can make.

Experience with these contractors by many concerns in Reno, Fallon and elsewhere who have been dealing with them clearly indicates those on the job have been trying against growing difficulties, to economize.

In the frenzy of haste there is bound to be waste. There are times when a higher bid for materials may be accepted because of earlier delivery which economizes on the more expensive labor costs.

There are times when certain skilled workers, limited by the unions to performing specialized tasks, have laid around waiting for tardy delivery of materials. It is less costly to pay their high wage scales than to reassemble such crews from points outside the state and pay them travel time and travel costs for making return trips.

There is apparent waste of materials on the ground. Lumber and steel scrap, for instance, is more costly to cut up and fit into place than to use new material.

We can vouch for the words of one qualified mechanic who came into Fallon to declare that he had been fired because he had been

working too fast.

Careful inquiry concerning this case, on the job, and from fellow workmen, revealed the fact that this workman had been hearing stories of cost-plus projects, had approached his work with the attitude he was expected to kill time, and was actually dismissed because of his slow pace.

Unreasonably high wages are being paid. Many Fallon workmen are getting the benefit. The great majority, from here at least, are trying as nearly as possible to earn their pay. So have many from other states. Several have sons fighting at the front.

This condition is neither the direct fault of the contractors nor of the conscientious laborers. The blame goes back to Washington where politicians have been meddling organized labor leaders to the point where the racketeers have come near taking over the country.

Contractors have been pressed to hurry their jobs along, and they have been obliged, in order to make speed in the emergency, to bid against each other long after the supply of highly skilled workmen has been exhausted. It is an absurd condition but one which under the circumstances could hardly have been averted.

The situation is not what it should be. It is one that would not be tolerated in normal times or by a businesslike, non-political administration.

But we cannot share with many others the reproach that has been placed unjustly against many patriotic and capable workers on these various government jobs and their employers and supervisors to whom welfare of country means more than profits.

—Fallon Standard.

TRAILER CAMP IS SCENE OF MERRY CHRISTMAS PARTY

About 1000 persons attended the outdoor Christmas party in the Basic Trailer camp Wednesday night and it was truly a bright spot in the desert. There were large fires around the playground, and lights from the trees and the large flood lights about the stage brightened the scene. One huge tree and four smaller ones were decorated with strings of popcorn, cranberries and tinsel figures made by children of the camp. A Snyder and Boy Scouts brought the trees from Mt. Charleston.

Bob Lee led the crowd in singing "Jingle Bells" and interspersed it with messages from Santa as to when he would arrive. The children were enthusiastic about the party. The Girl Scouts of the camp sang several Christmas carols and recordings were made of these to send the USO.

Ten live turkeys were awarded to Bert Dunham, George Stebbins, K. E. Reed, Bill Sharver, D. Bartley, J. Hillberg, L. T. Ferguson, J. Bloughton, H. Gofford, and Alec Fenton.

All this time the children were anxiously awaiting the appearance of Santa, but Lee again read a message saying he was coming as fast as he could. In the meantime he introduced Snyder, manager of the Trailer Camp and one who had worked to make the party such a success, then Harold Kingsley of BMI recreation program. Kingsley presented F. O. Case, general manager of BMI, who complimented the people on their party, and L. Satterthwaite, general superintendent.

McNEIL WORKERS SET BOND GOAL AT TWO MILLION

McNeil Construction company employees have purchased almost a million and a half dollars worth of bonds by payroll deduction, it was announced today by company officials, and the goal now has been set to bring the total to two million dollars by purchase of bonds in cash.

It was pointed out that after the first of January that bond deductions will not be made from the payroll, because of the new victory tax which will be instituted. However, the sale of bonds at both of McNeil and Basic Magnesium, Inc., offices will continue, to enable employees to make their purchases.

In promotion of bond sales, a group of McNeil workers has organized a drama group, known as "Our Town Players," and plans to present a stage revue featuring life on the BMI project, and membership in the organization is still open, it was announced. A radio show is part of the drive. Those participating include: Michael Forbes, Don Erskine, Paul Kent, A. Von Coton, James Butters, Bernice Cowan, Kathleen Murphy, Vicki Blake, A. Goldberg, and Barbara Murphy.

BMI Mail Plans For Yule Told

Because of the absence of a postoffice at BMI, employees will be subject to delayed delivery of packages and mail during the Christmas holidays particularly, it was announced today by H. W. Gale, office manager.

"All packages will be picked up at Las Vegas as quickly as possible and delivered by the BMI mail room. No one will have to go to Las Vegas for any packages due them," Gale said, "and any packages unopened and sealed with a BMI mail room sticker can be taken off the plantsite without the usual package pass procedure."

MAGNESIUM PLANT HOLIDAY WILL NOT SLOW PRODUCTION

There will be no magnesium production lost through the Christmas vacation for this week, F. O. Case, general manager for Basic Magnesium, Inc., assured the public today.

"There seems to be a general misunderstanding as to the extent of this vacation," Case said. "It will not affect any operations essential to production which will go on as usual. Only those employees will be released for the three days who can be spared without retarding the flow of magnesium into the nation's war effort."

Illustrating the determination of B. M. I. to keep the plant on schedule, Case pointed out that unit number four will be brought into production on Thursday of this week—the day before Christmas.

"This is the earliest possible moment this unit will be released to us by the contractors, and it will be in production on Christmas day," the B. M. I. executive said, calling attention to the fact that in ordinary times the new unit wouldn't be brought in until after the holidays.

"The production of magnesium is a continuous process and couldn't be shut down if we wanted to," Case explained.

While no figures are available on the total production of the plant, Case said it was a sizeable amount and is all going into the manufacture of incendiary bombs for the war effort.

There are two units in production now, the third (number four) will be brought in on December 24 and the fourth about January 15, according to present schedule. There are ten units in the plant all told.

MacArthur Sends BMI Yule Message

General Douglas MacArthur, commander of the American troops in the Pacific southwest, has sent a dramatic Christmas message to the men and women of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant.

The famous general stated, "On this sacred day of Our Lord, we, the soldiers on the firing line, give thanks to you, soldiers on the production line, for the sinews of war that make our victory possible. We are dedicating this Christmas Day to the defeat of our enemies—yes, this Christmas Day, the day after and every day thereafter until we establish peace on earth, good will to men."

F. O. Case, general manager of BMI, announced the receipt of the telegram, stating, "It gives me much pleasure to acquaint all our employees with the telegram received from General MacArthur."

BASIC TRAILER PARK LEADS

A huge pile of old tires plus many pounds of miscellaneous scrap has put Basic Trailer Park in the lead for salvage honors in this district.

For many weeks, workers of the Basic Trailer Park have been methodically gathering scrap materials of all kinds. A scrap depot was established by manager Snyder and a good percentage of all the occupants of the trailer homes have assisted in the campaign.

R. H. Becker, chairman of the Basic Trailer Park salvage committee says, "The surface has hardly been scratched in spite of our good showing."

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
MORNING STAR, Dec. 24, 1942

Use Silver in Place of Copper

Because copper is not available for the purpose, \$3,000,000 worth of silver has been shipped to the \$140,000,000 basic magnesium plant near Las Vegas, Nev. to be used in making electrical conductors. This was disclosed today by Louis M. Dreves, acting manager of the War Production Board in Los Angeles, who has just returned from the plant.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
TIMES, Dec. 25, 1942

Silver Sent to New Magnesium Plant

Three million dollars worth of silver has been shipped to the \$140,000,000 basic magnesium plant, near Las Vegas, Nev., for use in making "bus bars"—electrical conductors—because copper was not available for the purpose.

Louis M. Dreves, acting manager of the War Production Board in Los Angeles, made this disclosure yesterday upon his return from an inspection of the plant.

Facts About Jobs At Basic Magnesium

BMI Puts Out Information of Interest to Prospective Employees of Company

Basic Magnesium, Inc., has issued a little circular to its employees and those seeking employment which is worth reading. We print it in full herewith:

Before you sign up with Basic Magnesium, Inc., we want you to get the whole picture straight. Then after you come to work, there will be no chance for misunderstanding.

A job with Basic, like jobs everywhere, has good points and bad points. Here they are, without frills:

Bad Points

1. Houses for families are almost impossible to get. They will not be available for several months. After that a large number of privately built dwellings will be available at \$50 a month rent with option to buy under FHA terms. These will be in Las Vegas, 12 miles from the plant. A few number of houses will be available at the plantsite in a few months at lower rental. Meanwhile, quarters for men in dormitories and in tents are now available. Dormitory facilities are rather crowded now, and you may have to take a tent until more of the construction workers finish up.

2. Las Vegas is in the desert. The climate is temperate in winter but in summer it's as hot as it is in North Africa. And the wind blows up dust storms.

3. There aren't any soft snaps at Basic. Most of it is tough, hard work. Some of it is unpleasant because of heat, dirt, and exposure to chemical fumes. But it is dangerous only if workmen are careless. It is he-man, war work. It isn't for panty-waists. Don't come if you can't take it.

Good Points

1. Rates for men's quarters in the dormitories and tents are low. Dormitories, \$3.15 a week; tents, \$1.75 a week. Meals are 50 cents each for all you can eat.

2. The Air Force needs magnesium, for incendiary bombs, tracer bullets, flares, plane parts. Magnesium is the No. 1 strategic metal of World War II. The person who wears a BMI badge is as important to the war effort as the man who wears the uniform.

3. The industry is new. Its future after the war seems bright. That means lasting employment after the war is over.

4. The chances for promotion are excellent. The plant is just being finished and is moving into production. As new units start operations, those who have learned their work and have done it well will be given chances for better jobs at higher pay. Promotions will be on merit and merit alone.

And remember this: WE CAN'T WIN THE WAR FROM AN ARM CHAIR.

MacArthur Sends BMI Yule Message

General Douglas MacArthur, commander of the American troops in the Pacific southwest, has sent a dramatic Christmas message to the men and women of the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant.

The famous general stated, "On this sacred day of Our Lord, we, the soldiers on the firing line, give thanks to you, soldiers on the production line, for the sinews of war that make our victory possible. We are dedicating this Christmas Day to the defeat of our enemies—yes, this Christmas Day, the day after and every day thereafter until we establish peace on earth, good will to men."

F. O. Case, general manager of BMI, announced the receipt of the telegram, stating, "It gives me much pleasure to acquaint all our employees with the telegram received from General MacArthur."

Anaconda Wire and Cable Company Is Indicted on Eight Counts Today

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (UP)—The Anaconda Wire and Cable company and five of its officers today were indicted by a federal grand jury in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on eight counts charging conspiracy to defraud the government on war contracts amounting to approximately \$6,000,000, the department of justice announced.

The department said the indictment is the biggest war fraud case of the present conflict.

"This is one of the most reprehensible cases of defrauding the government and endangering the lives of American soldiers and sailors ever to come to the attention of the department of justice," Attorney General Francis Biddle said.

"I can conceive of nothing more vicious or treacherous than to deliberately supply our forces with defective war material. And I am informed that only the alertness of government inspectors and the promptness with which the war frauds unit and the FBI investigated complaints in this case has prevented enormous quantities of defective wire and cable from being transported to our troops overseas."

Biddle promised that the case would be pushed to a speedy conclusion.

Count 1 of the indictment charges the defendants with conspiracy to defraud the government by circumventing test and inspection requirements.

The other counts charge the defendants with conspiracy to defraud the government by presenting false claims to the finance office of the army's signal corps at Philadelphia.

Anaconda, according to the indictment, secretly installed a circuit breaker or "button box" on insulation resistant test equipment and thus was able to pass by inspectors highly inferior wire.

Tom C. Clark, chief of the department's war frauds unit, said the Anaconda wire actually was in combat use. He said, however, that he had no record of it being used by U. S. troops in the field. The signal corps ordered several weeks ago that Anaconda wire from this particular plant be used only for maneuvers.

The Anaconda Wire and Cable company is a partially-owned subsidiary of Anaconda Copper, but is a separate entity of its own and has separate officers and directors, officials said.

Steel, Concrete Work At 468 Calcining Plant Speeded

FALLON, Nev., March 1. (Special)—Steel and concrete work on the \$3,000,000 calcining plant for Basic Magnesium, Inc., will soon be progressing at top speed with the view of having the first of four units in operation in seven weeks, according to N. B. Thomsen, project manager for the Macdonald Engineering Company.

Until a definite plan for transportation has been decided upon, the calcined magnesite will be moved by truck to the reduction plant now under construction near Las Vegas. Roasting will reduce weight of the ore to approximately half that as it comes from the mines.

Crushing is a preliminary operation. Concrete is already going in for the dumps which will receive the ore from trucks as it comes down off the mountain side. Ore will be sorted and stockpiled along a route from crushers to calcining plants, concrete for which is being poured as steel and forms are placed.

Numerous structures, buildings and roads have appeared on the company property at the edge of Gabbs valley 33 miles northeast of Luning during six weeks since construction got under way by the Macdonald company which, with its subcontractors, has five hundred men on the payroll, bringing to a total of more than six hundred in the area.

The nearby Sierra Magnesite Company is employing fifty men mining magnesite in open pits and is now opening another quarry to double its present output. Properties of Basic Refractories, Inc., adjoining those of Basic Magnesium, Inc., are continuing to yield brucite. This company has been shipping for several years and employs approximately fifty men.

Construction on Basic Magnesium, Inc., ground was not speeded up until near the middle of January. Now an office building, two large dormitories, a ten city of 150 units is nearing completion, dining room, seating 340, shops, warehouses and numerous other structures are in use. A hospital is going up near the office building. An additional dormitory is under construction.

Thomsen is handling a closely coordinated organization of engineers, superintendents, office managers and foremen for the Macdonald company whose working schedules fit together with little evidence of confusion. At regular pre-meeting meetings of some fifteen key men much of the planning is done. Skilled and unskilled labor and part of the office staff are furnished through the employment office at Fallon, which is the agency for clearing help.

The tent city down on the flat below the mill site is supplemented with a trailer camp nearby. Water is piped to shower bath houses. Each tent accommodates four men and each is furnished with good beds and bedding and an oil heating stove. Nye county deputy sheriffs are on the job to prevent fires and to look after employees.

A gravel plant is turning out concrete aggregates near the tent city. Water supply for the dwellings on the flat and the buildings and mill above is from a string of wells along the flat. This is of good quality, hot as it comes from the ground. Tanks above the mill site store water at present hauled by tank wagons. As soon as more important work is completed this water will be piped from the wells. A sewer line from office, dormitories and other buildings up the slope is under construction.

All structures other than the tent dwellings are of the more permanent type and solidly built. Interiors are of select plywood, painted and varnished. Office buildings and fixtures are of standard make and quality. This structure, 142 by 38 feet with two 30x24 foot

wings, attractively finished inside, contains two general offices, two conference rooms and twelve private offices. It is used by Macdonald company and also the smaller staff of Basic Magnesium, Inc. It will be turned over entirely to the mining company after the construction company has completed its project.

The two 24-room dormitories for use of the staff are finished inside in the same manner as the office building. Large wash rooms connect the units. Each room accommodates two beds and other furnishings.

The well-lighted dining hall connects with a kitchen which has refrigerator rooms adjoining. Here all workers, including the staff, foremen, crews of the subcontractors assemble at meal time.

The dining room is operated by the Pland-Evans catering firm. Superintendents, staff members and workers are all served and seated alike. For this, and for sleeping quarters, the workers pay \$1.40 a day.

At the rear of the dining room is a large recreation hall as yet unfinished. A small commissary, however, is operating.

All these buildings are being provided with forced-air heating systems which can be used for cooling in summer. Butane is the fuel, this being brought from California in tank trucks and converted on the grounds into gas near the above-ground storage tank. Underground tanks for diesel oil and gasoline are at the same site.

As with the office building, these structures will be used later by the mining company. The tent city, however, will probably later be vacated. Permanent homes will be provided under a building project to be started after the calcining plant has been completed. Just where this is has not been decided. It may be three or four miles northeast of the plant.

This will be a town of a few thousand population, Thomsen said. "It will be away from the plant so those living there will not be near the dust and noise of mining and milling operations." The project manager indicated that a complete community would be built including dwellings largely for men with families, church, schoolhouses and other needed structures for a modern town, although details are as yet not known. Nor, it was also indicated, does the operating company have in mind a temporary set up. Permanence of the town as well as of the buildings at the plant will be called for in plans.

The construction company employs a physician, but, up to last week, he had been called on one accident only. That was a sprained ankle. He will be quartered at the small but modern hospital now being built, where nurses will also be engaged.

Near the office building are four tent-houses for guards under employ of the federal government. Entrance to the plant site and to orebodies is now in common with that of the Sierra Magnesite Company quarries. None is permitted to proceed up the canyon without arranging with the guards below. Visitors are required to state their business and indicate those whom they wish to interview.

Later this will be changed. Permission to enter will be handled from the office by telephone from guards at the gate. The new entrance will be near the Basic Refractories, Inc., camp, and over a new road to be completed after other more important work is out of the way.

"The ore is up there," Thomsen said, indicating an entire mountain side. It surrounds the ground now being worked by the Sierra company. It is said to be the largest known deposit of magnesite ore on the continent. Over these mountains diamond drilling has been in progress, off and on, for several years, during the past

4,000 Workers Are Employed at Big Magnesium Plant

(Special)
 LAS VEGAS—The total number of workmen and dependents of employes with the Basic Magnesium, Inc., including those employed for the McNeil Construction company erecting the magnesium plant, is now approximately 9,000, officials estimated today.

4,000 ACTUALLY WORKING
 The February payroll will be more than \$1,000,000. There are about 4,000 persons actually employed on the project at present, of which more than 3,000 are in construction work with the majority in Las Vegas. Officials predict that in April, employes and dependents will total about 15,000 and at the peak in September the total will be more than 21,000. The peak monthly payroll is estimated in excess of \$2,000,000 with about 9,000 workers on the payroll.

This article was clipped from
 DENVER MINING RECORD
 MACHINERY JOURNAL

"For over 50 years the leading mining and
 of the nation. Published every Saturday
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BASIC MAGNESIUM BUILDS BIG PLANT

Fallon, Nev. — Steel and concrete work on the \$3,000,000 calcining plant for Basic Magnesium Inc. will soon be progressing at top speed with the view of having the first of four units in operation in seven weeks, according to N. B. Thomsen, project manager for the Macdonald Engineering Co.

year or more, quite intensively, by predecessors of Basic Refractories, Inc. When this exploration work was nearing completion, Basic Magnesium, Inc., took over, leaving Basic Refractories, Inc., continuing to mine and ship brucite.

These magnesium mines have power from diesel units, but by April 19 power lines, now under construction, are expected to reach this area, said Thomsen.

One telephone line from Luning is serving the three companies. This is overworked, rush calls often being difficult.

The project manager expressed satisfaction with the rate at which materials are reaching the camp. Being a war industry, it has top priority. But he was more pleased, he said, with the rate at which work is progressing. "We have a fine bunch of boys here," he added.

The program is eight months ahead of the schedules outlined before war was declared. Soon after the declaration, delayed plans were rushed, and orders were received to provide for the flow of ore from mines through crushers and roasting plant with all possible speed. With all this seeming activity, there is little evidence of confusion.

Telephone Board Flown to Vegas

468
**Magnesium Office
 To Be Rebuilt**

LAS VEGAS, Nev., March 10. (Special)—With the aid of a full-sized telephone switchboard brought from Chicago by chartered air liner, construction was pushed today to replace the administration building of the Basic Magnesium Plant, Inc., destroyed by fire last Friday night.

With its seats removed to make room for the 4,300-pound switchboard, the United Airlines plane left Chicago Saturday night and arrived here Sunday morning. An hour later it was in operation, serving 450 plant phones.

Damage estimated at several hundred thousand dollars was caused by destruction of the administration building, part of a \$63,000,000 project being financed by the defense plant corporation. Officers of the magnesium plant and the McNeil Construction company, the contractor, said they suspected sabotage.

Switchboard Taken To Plant by Plane

(By Associated Press)
 LAS VEGAS, Nev., March 9.—With the aid of a full-sized telephone switchboard brought from Chicago by chartered air liner, construction was pushed today on a new structure to replace the administration building of the Basic Magnesium Plant, Inc., destroyed by fire last Friday night.

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LAS VEGAS, NEV. REVIEW-JOURNAL
 MARCH 12, 1942

Basic Is Moving Into New Offices

468
 The last of Basic Magnesium offices were moving into the new building this afternoon, and by tomorrow morning it was expected every department would be functioning normally as though there had been no fire at the plant a week ago.

True to the time schedule set by McNeil Construction Company, the vast new structure, largest temporary office building in the United States, will be completed late this afternoon just 146 hours from the time insurance adjusters released the site.

Engineers familiar with big construction in this country declared McNeil had set a new record in speedy completion of the structure which is the equivalent of an ordinary city office building of eight stories, 50 by 150 feet.

The telephone system disrupted by the blaze and subsequent scattering of offices, is nearing normal operation today and with all offices back in regular quarters tomorrow is expected to be operating as usual.

WINNEMICCA, OREGON STATE
 FEBRUARY 27, 1942

4,000 Workers Are Employed at Big Magnesium Plant

(Star Special)
 LAS VEGAS—The total number of workmen and dependents of employes with the Basic Magnesium, Inc., including those employed for the McNeil Construction company erecting the magnesium plant, is now approximately 9,000, officials estimated today.

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 The February payroll will be more than \$1,000,000. There are about 4,000 persons actually employed on the project at present, of which more than 3,000 are in construction work with the majority in Las Vegas. Officials predict that in April, employes and dependents will total about 15,000 and at the peak in September the total will be more than 21,000. The peak monthly payroll is estimated in excess of \$2,000,000 with about 9,000 workers on the payroll.

Many Employed At Basic Plant

468
**9000 Workers and
 Dependents Listed**

LAS VEGAS, Feb. 26. (Special)
 The total employes and dependents of employes with the Basic Magnesium, Inc., including those working for the McNeil Construction company erecting the magnesium refining plant, is now approximately nine thousand, officials estimated today, while the total February payroll will be more than one million dollars.

There are about four thousand persons actually employed on the project at present, of which more than three thousand are in construction work, with the majority residing in Las Vegas. Officials predict that in April, employes and dependents will total about fifteen thousand and at the peak in September, the total will be more than 21,000. The peak monthly payroll is estimated in excess of two million dollars, with about nine thousand workers on the payroll.

Refinery work is expected to start at the end of the year, at which time the total of employes and dependents will probably drop to about fourteen thousand, and when the plant is completed, between nine and ten thousand employes and dependents will be permanently located in Clark county, with about five thousand on the permanent payroll.

In addition to those at the magnesium refining plant, between four and five hundred men are now employed at the magnesite mine at Gabbs and this number will be materially increased within the next few months.

Final housing plans call for about three thousand to be located at the magnesium town site two thousand at Las Vegas and five hundred at Boulder City.

At the present time, about two thousand men are employed during the day shift between 7:30 o'clock in the morning and four o'clock in the afternoon, with six hundred employed on the afternoon shift and six hundred on the night shift.

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL
 March 13, 1942

POSTING THE DAY'S RECEIPTS

VICTORY



MENEIL CONSTRUCTION CO.
"DEFENSE BOND DRIVE"

Miss Barbara Murphy, popular and attractive secretary at the McNeil Construction company, is posting the day's sales of war bonds at the plant at Los Vegas, Nev. Miss Murphy and her sister, Ellen Ann, have been employed at the plant since early in the year. Colorful pictures of the big basic magnesium plant under construction were printed in last week's issue of the Saturday Evening Post. The two girls have taken welding courses and have helped on the construction of the large steel structures at Los Vegas.

DETROIT, MICH., FREE PRESS
CIT. 322,883, Sun. 301,788
NOVEMBER 22, 1942

Magnesium Plant Output to Top Record

By the Associated Press

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Nov. 21—(AP)—Little did the men who built Boulder Dam realize that their masterpiece of engineering skill was paving the way for an even greater project—the world's largest magnesium plant.

Located in a blistering Southern Nevada desert, where a year ago there was no water, no power, and only a few houses, this gigantic plant, Basic Magnesium, Inc., already is producing the precious metal and an equally vital chemical, liquid chlorine.

Without the energy generated by Boulder Dam, 15 miles distant, and the water it impounds, the magnesium plant could not exist. But just as important are Nevada's vast deposits of magnesium ore, close at hand.

Chemist with apparatus a yard square can make magnesium, but producing it in quantities required for global war is something else. Basic Magnesium, while only one of numerous such plants, as the largest of them all represents a new triumph of American ingenuity and inventiveness.

It cost more than \$100,000,000, required 50,000 tons of structural steel, and has the largest single electrical installation in the history of American Industrial Construction.

Desert Factory Yields Tons Of Magnesium

'Miracle' Plant Near Las Vegas Grinds War Goods

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Nov. 21 (AP)—Little did the men who built Boulder Dam realize that their masterpiece of engineering skill was paving the way for an even greater project—the world's largest magnesium plant.

Located in a blistering southern Nevada desert, where a year ago there was no water, no power, and only a few houses, this gigantic plant, Basic Magnesium, Inc., already is producing the precious metal and an equally vital chemical, liquid chlorine.

Without the energy generated by Boulder Dam, 15 miles distant, and the water it impounds, the magnesium plant could not exist. But just as important are Nevada's vast deposits of magnesium ore, close at hand.

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GREAT FALLS, Mont., Nov. 21 (UP)—H. G. Satterthwaite, superintendent of the Anaconda Copper Mining company's zinc reduction plant here since last January, has been appointed general superintendent of the vast Basic Magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., it was revealed here.

Satterthwaite's appointment, announced by R. B. Caples, manager of the Great Falls properties of the A. C. M. company, was made by J. R. Hobbins, president of the company. The Anaconda company recently acquired the controlling interest in Basic Magnesium at the request of the federal government.

S. F. CALIF. MINING & IND. NEWS
Cir. 2,584
NOVEMBER 15, 1942

Anaconda To Manage BMI In Nevada

At invitation of U. S. Government and of English and American shareholders of Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, the Anaconda Copper Mining Company has agreed to participate in BMI and to assume management of U. S. Government's plants at Las Vegas and Gabbs, Nevada, by and through BMI, the present operating company. Magnesium Elektron Limited of Manchester, England, will continue its collaboration in management as heretofore.

Participation in BMI has been assured by purchase by Anaconda of the 52½ per cent shareholding in BMI owned by Basic Refractories, Incorporated, of Cleveland, Ohio, headed by Howard P. Eells, Jr. Price for this stock interest was named as \$75,000. Defense Plant Corporation, meanwhile, has bought the company's ore lands near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000.

According to officials of Reconstruction Finance Corporation, purchase of controlling stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc. by Anaconda will not cause any contractual changes in operation of the magnesium works for the Government. Plant is owned by Defense Plant Corporation, a subsidiary of RFC, with Basic Magnesium constructing and operating the project for the Government. First unit of plant produced magnesium on August 31 and additional units have been brought into production since. Entire plant is expected to be completed by April 15, 1943. Contract provides for BMI to receive a fee of one-half cent a pound for the magnesium produced, which is said to approximate 2 per cent of sales.

According to announcement by C. J. P. Kelly, vice president of BMI and chairman of Magnesium Elektron Limited, the Board of BMI has been reconstructed as follows: J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of BMI. Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda in charge of Metallurgical Operation and Charles J. P. Ball, have been elected vice presidents. Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda, and Edward J. Barnesley, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries of New York, have been elected directors. General management of BMI operations in Nevada has been entrusted to F. O. Case, with H. G. Satterthwaite as his assistant.

Mined In Desert

The magnesium oxide is mined and concentrated in a Nevada desert valley and shipped to the basic plant, where it is ground, mixed with coal, peat moss, salt and a few other substances, and molded into pellets the size of walnuts or small bricks.

Protective Plans at Basic Magnesium

IS THERE AN AMERICAN SHANGRI LA? Jimmie Doolittle and his boys bombed Tokio—and the Japs still don't know they did it. A gang of parachute troops conceivably could land on this project and raise hell with the works before they could be rubbed out.

There ARE saboteurs in the West. The Army knows it. The Navy knows it. The FBI knows it. That's why such painstaking precautions are taken to inspect badges, passes, lunch-buckets and so forth. The first duty of Plant Protection is to PREVENT sabotage—not to catch saboteurs AFTER the job has been done, and you, maybe, have been killed.

There IS a chance that parachute troops could land on the project—that enemy planes could get this far, that saboteurs could get inside the plant. Official information has revealed that the Nazis have given saboteurs special training in methods of knock-out LIGHT METALS plants, and have been instructed to move against these plants as a first order of business. To meet such possibilities requires a guard force thoroughly trained and under rigid military discipline. That is why the Army has taken over this job of training. That's why the Guard Force has become an official auxiliary of the Army military police. That's why the Army detailed an officer and a sergeant to BMI to take over the work of guard training. And that's why—if plant protection regulations seem a little rigid to us—we ought to be glad and quit squawking. Remember—the ARMY KNOWS WHAT IT'S DOING—and the ARMY ISN'T FOOLING. Let's help—not hinder.—The Big Job—Basic Magnesium News Letter.

Without the energy generated by Boulder Dam, 15 miles distant, and the water it impounds, the magnesium plant could not exist. But just as important are Nevada's vast deposits of magnesium ore, close at hand.

A chemist with apparatus a yard square can make magnesium, but producing it in quantities required for global war is something else. Basic Magnesium, while only one of numerous such plants, as the largest of them all represents a new triumph of American ingenuity and inventiveness.

It cost more than \$100,000,000, required 50,000 tons of structural steel, and has the largest single electrical installation in the history of American industrial construction.

It employs nearly three times Boulder Dam's maximum working force, housing it in a new model village of 1000 demountable homes. A camp accommodating 6000 single men, trailer camps, motor courts, and hotels and homes in Las Vegas, 15 miles away.

School, Hospital
Children attend a new 12-grade school. The sick are treated in a new concrete hospital. A restaurant, large enough to seat 2,200 persons, serves 25,000 meals a day.

It was necessary to bring power and water over the mountains to the plant site. Bleak hills were straddled to carry the electricity generated at Boulder Dam. A huge pipeline brought water from Lake Mead to two huge new reservoirs. A 26-mile railroad and 50 miles of temporary dirt road were built.

You get some idea of the tremendous size of Basic Magnesium, Inc. when you consider that this plant soon will produce 30 times as much magnesium as did the entire world six years ago.

Magnesium, although eighth in abundance among the elements, does not exist in a free state. It was discovered away back in 1808, and first separated into the pure metal just before the turn of the century. But as recently as the 1920s, work with the metal scarcely had passed the laboratory stage. Now that it can be produced in quantity, its value to our war effort is incalculable.

Magnesium is used for tracer bullets, flares and incendiary bombs. Because it is so extremely lightweight—lighter than aluminum—it is used in alloys wherever possible, in airplanes, engines, wings, fuselages, mountings, gas tanks, panels, floors, wheels, ventilating ducts, dust covers, to name a few. It has become the miracle metal of the war.

There is no mystery about producing magnesium. In simple terms, it is the transformation of an oxide into a chloride, and the passage of an electric current through the chloride, Magnesium and chlorine are the result.

Mined In Desert
The magnesium oxide is mined and concentrated in a Nevada desert valley and shipped to the basic plant, where it is ground, mixed with coal, peat moss, salt and a few other substances, and molded into pellets the size of walnuts or small bricks.

Anaconda Company Acquires Control of Basic Magnesium

From PRESS
Atlantic City, N. J.

NOV 22 1942

Boulder Dam Makes Possible Big War Plant

By RICHARD STROBEL
LAS VEGAS, Nev. (P)—Little did the men who built Boulder Dam realize that their masterpiece of engineering skill was paving the way for an even greater project—the world's largest magnesium plant.

Located in a blistering Southern Nevada desert, where a year ago there was no water, no power, and only a few houses, this gigantic plant, Basic Magnesium, Inc., already is producing the precious metal and an equally vital chemical, liquid chlorine.

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The acquisition by Anaconda Copper Mining Co. of the 52½ percent stock interest of Howard P. Eells, Jr. and associates of Cleveland in Basic Magnesium, Inc. for a purchase price of \$75,000, was announced by Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones.

In connection with the purchase, Jones announced, Defense Plant Corp. bought ore lands of Basic Magnesium Inc., near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000. He said these ore lands and deposits were appraised at more than \$1,500,000.

The announcement said Basic Magnesium was operating and would complete the construction of the magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nev., owned by DPC. Jones said that the first unit of the plant produced magnesium Aug. 31, that additional units had been brought into production since and that it was estimated the entire plant would be completed by April 15, 1943.

Stock in Basic Magnesium, Inc. in addition to that bought by Anaconda Copper Mining Co., is owned by British interests represented in this country by Maj. C. J. P. Ball, who furnished technical information and designed the plant.

Jones' announcement said Basic Magnesium would operate the plant for the Defense Plant Corp., receiving one-half cent a pound on magnesium produced, which he said would approximate 2 percent of sales.

At New York Cornelius F. Kelly, chairman of Anaconda's board, said participation of his company in the enterprise "has been undertaken at the invitation of the government and of the English and American interests in basic magnesium."

"Our function is that of management," Kelly said, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken for that purpose of doing what we can at the request of all the interested parties to aid in the war effort."

"J. R. Hobbins, president of Anaconda, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium, Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operations, has been elected vice president and they, with myself, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium."

"Members of Anaconda's staff have been on the ground for some time, have studied the program and will take charge of the operation of the project."

TEMPE, ARIZ., NEWS
CIT. 459
NOVEMBER 12, 1942

MAGNESIUM DEAL

AIDS WAR EFFORT

New York, Nov. 12.—Purchase of the controlling stock interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., by the Anaconda Copper Mining company was made at the request of the United States government and private American and British interests connected with the enterprise, Cornelius F. Kelly, Anaconda's board chairman, said here.

Anaconda-copper has obtained the 52½ per cent stock interest in the magnesium company formerly held by Howard P. Eells, Jr., and associates of Cleveland, for a price of \$75,000. The Defense Plant corporation, meanwhile, has bought the company's ore lands near Gabbs, Nev., for \$450,000.

"The participation of Anaconda in this great enterprise has been undertaken at the invitation of the government and of the English and American interests in Basic Magnesium," Kelly stated.

"Our function is that of management without responsibility for anything that has occurred prior to our taking over, and is undertaken only for the purpose of doing what we can at the request of all interested parties to aid in the war effort."

J. R. Hobbins, Anaconda president, has been elected president of Basic Magnesium; Frederick Laist, vice president of Anaconda in charge of metallurgical operations, has been named vice president, and both, in addition to Kelly, have been elected directors of Basic Magnesium.

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

Did you know that McNeil Construction Company, now engaged in building the \$80,000,000 plant for Basic Magnesium, Inc., was launched as a little carpenter shop in Los Angeles and that from this humble beginning sprang the concern that's today constructing the greatest industrial plant of its kind in the world?

Successful contractors of this kind do not just happen. They represent long years of experience—solid building of organization and reputation. And this is the history of the McNeils.

We, in southern Nevada, know Lawrence G. McNeil as the directing head of the company. It was his father who started the modest carpenter shop more than fifty years ago, and carefully developed that operation into a sizeable construction concern. L. G. took over after the last war, and continued so successfully on the program laid down by his father that his company was chosen from among all the western contractors to build the magnesium plant.

Negotiated contracts, such as the one let on the local plant, were devised by the government to expedite the war program, and have for their underlying principle the choice of the best contractor to be found in the area for the particular job at hand, and then negotiating a contract. So, the selection of McNeil Construction Company was not accidental, but was a reward for successful operation over a long period of time.

The third generation is represented in the direction of the "big job" here. Bruce McNeil, son of L. G., and grandson of the founder of the company, is construction superintendent in charge of all operations. Like his father, he worked his way into the post, and is doing an exceptional job.

The history of the McNeil company is a typically American success story, based, as all worth-

while careers are, on HARD WORK. It's one of the most interesting I've ever looked in upon, and one day will be written in detail. There's more real romance in a story of this kind than most any an imaginative author might create.

Picture in your mind a stalwart, industrious young immigrant from Scotland in his modest carpenter shop in Los Angeles, then ride out the highway and see what goes on at Basic, where McNeils will soon have more than 7500 men at work, rushing to completion the plant that may play a major role in deciding the war. There you have the essential facts of this intriguing story. What went on between—the many successful operations, getting bigger and more extensive all the time, were all shaping this contracting firm for the Big Job.

A week from now, we'll all be getting used to war time (formerly daylight saving). Come Sunday night, when you retire, you'll set your clock ahead an hour, and get up sleepy. Probably take you a long time to get used to that hour, but it'll be okeh eventually.

You'll be getting up ahead of the sun for a while, but in another month, you'll still be sleeping through considerable daylight. You'll have longer evenings, and they'll come in handy this time of the year when yards, lawns and gardens are beginning to demand attention. But you won't like that earlier rising hour for a long time. There's compensation, of course, and it'll be forthcoming when (and if) the clocks are set back again.

Sunday night, you'll put away an hour and save it for a year or two. When you get it back, it'll be yours to do with as you please. Maybe you'll sleep it away—maybe you'll plan something definite for that particular extra hour. I did, last time. Although I can't remember the date, the details of that stolen hour some 25 years ago are still vividly with me.

Power System for BMI Completed

Construction work at the Basic Magnesium defense plant continues to roll along ahead of schedule and almost daily new building records are being set by the various contractors engaged in the jobs which go to make up this huge, vital project.

The latest concern to hang up a new mark is the Fritz Ziebarth company, of Long Beach, California, which on Sunday, cut in the north power line leading from Boulder dam to the plant. The contract called for completion of this line by June 10, and Ziebarth finished his work 25 days ahead of schedule. The vast water system for the plant, a major undertaking in itself, was completed some time ago right on the date called for by the contract.

Big Power Needs

The plant will use approximately as much electricity as the city of Los Angeles. Only Ford's River Rouge plant will exceed the amount of electricity required to carry on operations.

Some of the installations in the power line project for the magnesium plant are the largest in the history of electricity. The power line carries 230 KVA, which is equal to any line on the western slope. It is slightly more than 15 miles in length. There are three lines strung from the towers, each 1,005 inches in diameter. There is one static line and one ground line. Four towers have been erected in each mile of the line.

The total material in the line alone weighs 329 tons, of which 210 tons are copper and 119 tons are steel. The power system begins at the switchrack at Boulder dam and ends at the main control house at the Basic plant. There are 450 tons of

steel in the towers and footings.

The south line, which will be auxiliary equipment, is well under way, and work is progressing on a tunnel work in connection with the installation.

The total cost of the electrical service project for the plant is approximately \$5,000,000.

Ziebarth Contractor

The contract for the power set-up for the plant is held by the Fritz Ziebarth company, of which C. F. Weaver is superintendent of construction. Vern Kruse is office manager and purchasing agent, Bert Springall is assistant superintendent, and Dick Ziebarth is line superintendent.

Sun
Chicago, Ill.
5/16/42

Magnesium Company To Exploit Death Valley

Washington, May 15.—(UP)—Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes today authorized a magnesium company to extract salt from Death Valley, Calif., during the next six months, waiving the traditional ban on commercial exploitation of any national park. The company, Basic Magnesium, Inc., must find a new source after the six-month period, and it must operate through the Defense Plant Corporation, Secretary Ickes ruled.

Las Vegas Review Journal
February 17, 1942

BASIC AND McNEIL ADOPT PAYROLL ALLOTMENT PLAN FOR DEFENSE BONDS

The payroll allotment plan for systematized savings by employees for defense bonds from regular pay checks has been approved and accepted by Basic Magnesium, Inc., and the McNeil Construction company. It is expected to be put into effect within 10 days, as soon as necessary cards and information for handling the allotments are received here.

This announcement was made following a conference between officials of these two concerns employing the largest number of persons in southern Nevada and United States treasury officials at the magnesium plant yesterday.

The treasury sent Jonas S. Touchstone of Washington, D. C., consulting expert for the defense savings staff of the treasury, to meet with H. J. MacSherry of Reno, investigator in charge of the alcohol tax unit of the treasury department and department commander of the American Legion, and Wallie Warren of Reno, deputy state administrator of the defense savings plan.

They presented the plan to officials of Basic and McNeil yesterday, and the heads of personnel of both companies expressed willingness to introduce the plan, which will be voluntary on the part of each employe. Cards will be signed by the employes who wish to participate in the plan, and the amount they designate will be withheld from each pay check, until sufficient money for the purchase of a defense bond has accumulated. Then the bond will be bought by the company and turned over to the employe.

Touchstone said here yesterday that the nation as a whole is adopting the plan and it is hoped that in the next 60 days that every concern in the nation, employing people will have it in effect. At the present time about 25,000,000 persons are accumulating money each day with which to buy bonds.

"Since March of last year I have been in practically every state in the United States," Touchstone said. The wholehearted cooperation of the American people is evident everywhere. The state of Nevada is doing its share."

MacSherry said the American Legion and Auxiliary in Nevada are cooperating in the sale of defense bonds and comprise a large part of the voluntary organization for the sale of defense bonds in Nevada. They are helping in the educational program to promote the sale of bonds.

"Most of the 29 posts and their

Auxiliaries in the state already have bought bonds, and the others are planning for purchase of bonds," MacSherry said.

Warren praised the work of Mrs. L. E. Burr, local defense stamp and bond chairman, and stated that she has booths at every school in the town one day each week, thus encouraging the children of southern Nevada to save money for defense.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., WESTERN CITY
FEBRUARY, 1942

Peerless Pumps for New Magnesium Plant

PROVIDING the main source of water supply for the 63 million dollar Basic Magnesium reduction plant near Boulder City, Nevada, Peerless Pump Division of the Food Machinery Corporation reports the achievement of another important engineering step through the novel design of 6 high capacity deep-well turbine pumps for this new project.

Each of these pumps, mounted on steel piers extending 200 feet out into Lake Mead, is capable of delivering 3800 gallons of water per minute—or a combined potential capacity of 32 million gallons daily.

A new, but very powerful part of the nation's war effort, Basic Magnesium, Inc., plans to have the Boulder Dam reduction plant de-

liver 112 million pounds of vital metallic magnesium a year. The processed metal, stronger and lighter than aluminum, will be used in the manufacture of airplanes, ships and other weapons. The plan is to mine the ore at Gabbs and Mead, Nevada, and truck it about 200 miles to the reduction plant, which had to be located near Boulder Dam for several reasons. The plant needs 196 thousand kilowatts of cheap power and 9 million gallons of water daily.

According to Vernon Edler, vice president and general manager, the problem of raising the water from Lake Mead was given to the Peerless Pump Division engineers because of their success in designing pumping equipment, better suited to the problems of lifting large volumes of water.

At the Basic Magnesium Inc. plant, each of the 6 pumps is driven by a 400 h.p. vertical hollow shaft motor and is capable of delivering up to 3800 gallons per minute, operating under heads as high as 390 feet.

To anticipate and compensate for the maximum rise and fall of the lake, these Peerless Pumps are to be placed on steel piers which will extend 200 feet from shoreline into the lake.

The construction workers have no handieaps as far as utilities are concerned. Electrical transformers are installed and power is available for all work that may be under way or contemplated. Gas is ready, and water, the lack of which is the curse of the desert, is piped all around the area and is available for both construction

Magnesium Plant Operates by May

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 17 (UP)—A \$70,000,000 government financed magnesium metal plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, will be in operation by May, an official of Basic Magnesium, Inc., said here today.

"We plan to have the first of 10 units in operation by May and about 7000 men are engaged in construction at the present time," said S. A. Carraway, formerly of the U. S. war production board, as he arrived here to check on materials and supplies.

Carraway explained that the big plant will be manned eventually by about 4,000 men. He said the raw ore will be refined and "processed into the finished product."

LAS VEGAS, NEV. REVIEW JOURNAL
MARCH 3, 1942

HISTORY MADE AS BIG SWITCHBOARD SHIPPED TO BMI PLANT BY PLANE

Faced with a week's delay in restoration of full communications facilities at the all-important Basic Magnesium plant if ordinary methods of transportation were used, Southern Nevada Telephone company made history over the week end when it shipped a full-sized telephone switchboard weighing 4,300 pounds from Chicago to Las Vegas by special airplane.

When fire destroyed the administration building at Basic last Friday night, it destroyed also the entire central telephone system serving the far-flung plant. Within a few minutes after the fire was reported, the telephone company was at work and before daylight had a temporary switchboard installed and two others in the process of being ready to cut into service.

This was not sufficient to take care of the plant, however, and a whole new system was necessary. A check-up revealed that, although these items are extremely scarce due to war demands, there were two in the testing laboratory of the Kellogg Switchboard and Supply company, Chicago, scheduled for other destinations.

Priorities switched them to the local plant but the question of rapid transportation provided a new stumbling block. Freight was out of the question, express would take four days. Only alternative was a plane.

Weight of the two switchboards

was 4,300 pounds, approximately the capacity of a DC-3 Douglas transport plane, which meant chartering a special plane for the service.

With perfect cooperation between all parties, this was arranged Saturday afternoon, and at 9 o'clock that night the equipment was flying westward in a United Airlines plane.

It was necessary to remove all the seats and bolt the big crates in place for the trip. This was all accomplished in record time and as a result workmen were transferring the switchboards from plane to truck at the local airport shortly after the ship arrived here at 10 o'clock yesterday morning.

Meanwhile a crew of McNeil workers had been detailed to erect a new telephone exchange at the plant, starting Saturday night. At 7:30 yesterday morning, the structure was sufficiently well along to permit telephone crews to start preparing for the switchboards, and at 11 o'clock was completed and ready for work.

Installation of the switchboards to serve the more than 450 telephones at the plant, is expected to be completed this afternoon.

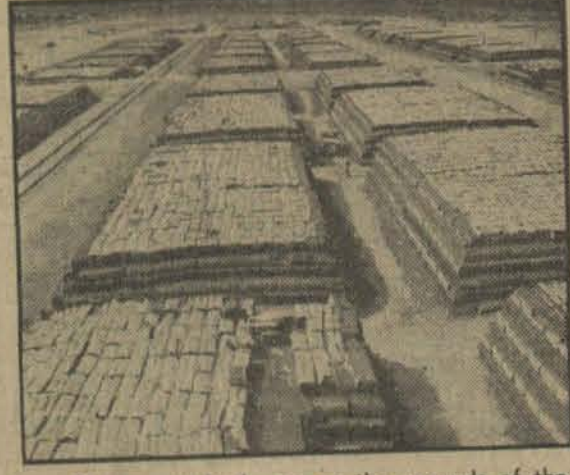
So far as is known this is the first instance where a complete telephone switchboard has ever been shipped by airplane, and the first time the American Railway Express company has ever reported this large a shipment so great a distance.

Built in Desert at Cost of \$100,000,000

Magnesium Plant to Produce 30 Times Former World Output



The nation's largest chlorine plant is located on the blistering Nevada desert 15 miles from Las Vegas. Both chlorine and the miracle metal of the war, magnesium, are produced here by Basic Magnesium, Inc., the world's largest plant of its kind.



These peat beds are on the grounds of the world's largest magnesium plant, Basic Magnesium, Inc., 15 miles from Las Vegas, Nev. Peat, one of the ingredients in the manufacture of the war-vital metal, is stored here until use. This peat comes from Canada.



Here's a general view of a portion of the 1000 homes erected on the desert for workers at the \$100,000,000 magnesium plant in southern Nevada.

By Richard Strobel
LAS VEGAS, NEV., NOV. 21.—Little did the men who built Boulder Dam realize that their masterpiece of engineering skill was paving the way for an even greater project—the world's largest magnesium plant.

Located in a blistering southern desert, where a year ago there was no water, no power, and only a few houses, this gigantic plant, Basic Magnesium, Inc., already is producing the precious metal and an equally vital chemical, liquid chlorine. Without the energy generated by Boulder Dam, 15 miles distant, and the water it impounds, the magnesium plant could not exist. But just as important are Nevada's vast deposits of magnesium ore, close at hand.

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CHILDREN attend a new 12-grade school. The sick are treated in a new concrete hospital. A restaurant, large enough to seat 2,200 persons, serves 25,000 meals a day.

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You get some idea of the tremendous size of Basic Magnesium, Inc., when you consider that this plant soon will produce 30 times as much magnesium as did the entire world six years ago.

trolytic cells resembling large tiled bathtubs. A strong electrical current is passed through the mass, this causing the molten magnesium to separate from the chlorine and come to the surface where it is ladled off by hand.

Ordinarily copper would be used to carry the powerful electrical current through the molten magnesium chloride, but be-

cause there is an acute copper shortage (copper makes the best shell casings and we're making a lot of shell casings) it was necessary to find a substitute.

IT TURNED out to be silver—1,600,000 pounds of it—in planks fabricated in Baltimore. At 71 cents an ounce, that's better than \$18,000,000 worth.

In peacetime, use of silver for such a purpose wouldn't make sense. In an all-out war when it frees copper for shells it does make sense, particularly when such non-consumptive use does not impair the value of the sterling.

Thus silver comes out of the vaults, back to the state where it was mined, to help the battle for freedom.

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF.
TELEGRAM, Cir. 3,292
NOVEMBER 15, 1942

DAILY NEWS DIGEST Big Desert Magnesium Plant

By RICHARD STROBEL
(Associated Press Writer)
LAS VEGAS, Nev.—Little did the men who built Boulder Dam realize that their masterpiece of engineering skill was paving the way for an even greater project—the world's largest magnesium plant.

Located in a blistering southern Nevada desert, where a year ago there was no water, no power, and only a few houses, this gigantic plant, Basic Magnesium, Inc., already is producing the precious metal and an equally vital chemical, liquid chlorine.

Without the energy generated by Boulder Dam, 15 miles distant, and the water it impounds, the magnesium plant could not exist. But just as important are Nevada's vast deposits of magnesium ore, close at hand.

A chemist with apparatus a yard square can make magnesium, but producing it in quantities required for global war is something else. Basic magnesium, while only one of numerous such plants, as the largest of them all represents a new triumph of American ingenuity and inventiveness.

LARGEST INSTALLATION
It cost more than \$100,000,000, required 50,000 tons of structural steel, and has the largest single electrical installation in the history of American industrial construction.

It employs nearly three times Boulder Dam's maximum working force, housing it in a new model village of 1,000 demountable homes, a camp accommodating 6,000 single men, trailer camps, motor courts, and hotels and homes in Las Vegas, 15 miles away.

Children attend a new 12-grade school. The sick are treated in a new concrete hospital. A restaurant, large enough to seat 2,200 persons, serves 25,000 meals a day.

It was necessary to bring power and water over the mountains to the plant site. Bleak hills were straddled to carry the electricity generated at Boulder Dam. A huge pipeline brought water from Lake Mead to two huge new reservoirs. A 26-mile railroad and 50 miles of temporary dirt road were built.

You get some idea of the tremendous size of Basic Magnesium, Inc., when you consider that this plant soon will produce 30 times as much magnesium as did the entire world six years ago.

INCALCULABLE VALUE
Magnesium, although eighth in abundance among the elements, does not exist in a free state. It was discovered away back in 1808, and first separated into the pure metal just be-

fore the turn of the century. But as recently as the 1920's, work with the metal scarcely had passed the laboratory stage. Now that it can be produced in quantity, its value to our war effort is incalculable.

Magnesium is used for tracer bullets, flares and incendiary bombs. Because it is so extremely light—lighter than aluminum—it is used in alloys wherever possible, in airplanes, engines, wings, fuselages, mountings, gas tanks, panels, flooring, wheels, ventilating ducts, dust covers, to name a few. It has become the miracle metal of the war.

There is no mystery about producing magnesium. In simple terms, it is the transformation of an oxide into a chloride, and the passage of an electric current through the chloride. Magnesium and chlorine are the result.

The magnesium oxide is mined and concentrated in a Nevada desert valley and shipped to the Basic plant, where it is ground, mixed with coal, peat moss, salt and a few other substances, and molded into pellets the size of walnuts or small bricks.

These are placed in kilns and dehydrated, then melted in a large cylindrical furnace into which a stream of pure chlorine gas is injected.

DEVELOP SUBSTITUTE
The result is a molten mass of magnesium chloride which is tapped off and placed in electrolytic cells resembling large tiled bathtubs.

A strong electrical current is passed through the mass, this causing the molten magnesium to separate from the chlorine and come to the surface where it is ladled off by hand.

Ordinarily copper would be used to carry the powerful electrical current through the molten magnesium chloride, but because there is an acute copper shortage (copper makes the best shell casings and we're making a lot of shell casings) it was necessary to find a substitute.

It turned out to be silver—1,600,000 pounds of it—in planks fabricated in Baltimore. At 71 cents an ounce, that's better than \$18,000,000 worth.

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From
STAR-LEDGER
Newark, N. J.
NOV 22 1942

Magnesium Plant Built On Desert

Output Slated to Equal That of Whole World Six Years Ago

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We Get Magnesium

Quick development of our own sources of magnesium, an essential war metal, surely will be recorded among the principal American war achievements. Covered by foreign patents and monopolized, magnesium production was a war bottleneck that had to be broken.

The main new home source lies in Nevada, near Boulder Dam. There, at a site that was waterless desert until a few months ago, now are railroads, power lines, water lines, a town having 6,000 homes, a restaurant serving 25,000 meals a day—and the huge Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant. The plant is in operation, producing both magnesium and the equally necessary war chemical, liquid chlorine. Lighter than aluminum, magnesium is heavily consumed in the aircraft industry. It is required in making tracer bullets, flares and incendiary bombs.

Hitches and criticisms notwithstanding, our American ways in this crisis get there. Financial "bugs," it was charged, were in the Government financing of Basic Magnesium. Our silly silver laws account for one of the costs.

Electric power is heavily consumed in the manufacturing process. Brought from Boulder Dam, the power normally would have been transmitted in copper wires. Because of the copper shortage, silvered wires were used. Half the \$18,000,000 spent for this silver would have been saved if it were not for the outrageous subsidy fixing the minimum price of home-mined silver at 71 cents an ounce.

NEWS BUREAU
Boston, Mass.
NOV 24 1942

Magnesium Miracle

Where a year ago there was no water, no power and only a few houses, today in a blistering southern Nevada desert is located the gigantic plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., already producing the precious metal and an equally vital chemical, liquid chlorine. It cost more than \$100,000,000, required 50,000 tons of structural steel and has the largest single electrical installation in the history of American industrial construction. The plant, however, could not exist without the energy generated by Boulder Dam, 15 miles distant, and the water it impounds. The plant will soon produce 30 times as much magnesium as did the entire world six years ago.

TONONAH, NEV., TIMES-BONANZA
NOVEMBER 27, 1942

Applications are commencing to be received in Carson for the position of safety inspector for the Nevada industrial commission at the Basic Magnesium plant, following the resignation of John F. Conlon, who has entered the service as a Lieutenant (junior grade) in the United States naval reserve.

The position paid Conlon \$300 a month plus an expense account of \$100.

Conlon was active in democratic party affairs and was regarded as Governor Carville's most trusted and able lieutenant. He performed his duties as safety inspector creditably and at the same time managed to keep the governor's southern Nevada political house in apple-pie order.

Magnesium, although eighth in abundance among the elements, does not exist in a free state. It was discovered away back in 1808, and first separated into the pure metal just before the turn of the century. But as recently as the 1920's, work with the metal scarcely had passed the laboratory stage. Now that it can be produced in quantity, its value to our war effort is incalculable.

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Demand for Magnesium Takes Jump As Result of Axis War Declaration

By BOB BENNYHOFF

RENO, Dec. 30 (UP) — (Editor's note: Now that the United States is engaged in total war against Japan and the axis powers, production of magnesium has become one of the most vital cog in the war machine. This is the second of three articles telling of Nevada's role in magnesium production.)

Possessing the largest deposits of magnesium ores known in the nation today, Nevada has moved swiftly forward with plans for production of the vital defense metal.

A \$63,000,000 plant is now under construction at Las Vegas. When completed early in 1942, the plant will become the largest producer of metallic magnesium in the nation. Huge reserves of magnesite and brucite at Luning and in the Overton district will be drawn upon by the new plant.

Las Vegas Operations

The Las Vegas plant is owned by Basic Magnesium, Inc. The McNeil Construction company of Las Vegas is building the new plant. H. P. Eells is president of the company, Charles E. Schwab is operating superintendent.

The brucite mining operations in the Luning area, where millions of tons of the ore have been discovered by mining engineers, for Basic Magnesium, Inc., have been taken over by Basic Refractories. Sierra Magnesite Company, operating a mile distant from Basic Refractories, is producing magnesite for the new processing plant at Los Altos California.

The California plant is called Permanente, and is under the control of Henry Kaiser and associates. Sierra Magnesite is already making heavy shipments of magnesium ore to the California plant. The ore, easily mined, is shoveled into ore cars and shipped without further processing.

Ore To Be Processed

The ore to be shipped to the new Las Vegas plant will be processed, officials say. A new calcining plant is now under construction at the Luning deposit.

Ore now shipped from Luning is shipped to Luning from the mountain of magnesite and brucite 29 miles northeast of the shipping point. Several cars are shipped daily. Smaller amounts are shipped to eastern mills, where brucite has been found to be a highly satisfactory lining for high refractory furnaces.

One of the problems facing development of the huge magnesite and brucite deposits near Luning is the improvement of the highway to the rail connection at Luning.

A dirt highway improved two years ago by the state highway department, Nye and Mineral counties and the WPA, proved sufficient for normal traffic, but the increased shipments of magnesium ore have made it unsuitable.

Transportation of Ore

The state highway department, reports State Highway Engineer Robert Allen, has included the road as a vital defense link in the recently signed defense highway bill giving Nevada \$3,000,000. Nearly \$960,000 of the Nevada funds will be spent to provide a modern highway between Luning and the magnesite-brucite deposits.

Another problem still to be solved is shipment of the ore from Luning to Las Vegas. Construction of a highway between the two routes, utilizing existing highways, has been suggested, as has been the construction of a 30-mile railroad between ore and plant.

(Next week's final story will describe the operations of present producing plants, and the part in ultimate domestic production Nevada plants will play.)

TRAFFIC CONTROL AT MAGNESIUM PLANT IS PLANNED

A plan to control traffic from branch roads in the area of the magnesium plant through stop and go signals will be inaugurated shortly but will be only a temporary measure it was announced today by J. M. Murphy, division state highway engineer.

Through traffic on the Las Vegas-Boulder City highway will continue to have the right-of-way, but the service routes leading on to the highway will be controlled by stop and go signals during the peak hours of shift changes when between 1800 and 2000 cars are on the road, Murphy said.

The signals will be furnished and installed by Basic Magnesium, Inc. as a safety measure at the request of the highway department.

DEFENSE PLANTS IN VEGAS AREA OKEH U. S. BOND PLAN

Basic Magnesium and McNeil Construction company, jointly employing more than 3,000 men at the moment, went 100 per cent today for the payroll allotment plan of purchasing defense bonds and stamps, and will put it into operation immediately. R. L. Douglass, state administrator for the Nevada defense savings staff, announced this morning.

Douglass, H. J. McSherry, and Henry Chretien conferred with the officials of both companies this morning, and were assured of complete cooperation by both companies.

Under this program, set up by the treasury department, each employee will be given a pledge card to fill out assigning a definite portion of his salary to the purchase of bonds and stamps. This amount will be deducted from the paychecks by the company in return for the corresponding amount in government securities which will be given the workers.

Douglass and McSherry are operating as a flying squad to visit all the larger employers in the state, and hope to get all signed up by January 10, the date set by the secretary of the treasury to have the program in operation.

All other employers have been requested to notify the state administrator immediately of the plan and the approximate number of employees on the payroll, and the allotment taken by each.

While here, Douglass took occasion to congratulate southern Nevada on "the splendid cooperation" his office has received to date, adding "it's the same kind of cooperation we always get from this end of the state in all worthy causes. Keep up the good work."

Douglass said the Basic Magnesium-McNeil would have 8,000 workers on the job within another 30 days, constituting the largest payroll in the state. At the present time, McNeil employs approximately 2,500 men and Basic 600, Douglass said.

MAGNESIUM PLANT EXPANSION SEEN IN WAR EMERGENCY

Expansion of the Las Vegas magnesium plant to a size half as big again as the original plans, was forecast today following President Roosevelt's message to congress in which he urged all industry to step up work to meet the huge needs of prosecuting the war.

While there was no official comment available regarding plans for expansion, the mere fact that Roosevelt said production of magnesium should be raised from 400,000,000 pounds annually to 550,000,000 pounds indicated that existing facilities and those now under construction would have to be raised to meet this schedule.

Basic Magnesium, Inc., was scheduled to produce 40 per cent of the metal in the United States and under this set-up 10 cells were designed to take care of the production. If the same basis is used when, as and if the expansion is made, it will mean that five more cells will be added to the plant.

If the expansion program is carried through by the government the employment figures probably would increase by 50 per cent and the working staff would be 6,000 instead of the original figure of 4,000. The payroll, in this situation, would be boosted from \$8,000,000 per year to \$12,000,000.

It was pointed out by observers that there is every possibility that the expansion will be made here, because the water, power, ore and salt all are available and it would be a simple matter to step up production under this set-up.

BMI Receives 150 Tires For Trucks

The local tire rationing board has been advised directly from Washington that 150 truck tires have been allotted to Basic Magnesium, Inc. and their subcontractors. This extra allotment will not affect the regular Clark county quota on truck tires, officials said.

This information was submitted to the board by J. M. Murphy, who stated that the only priority numbers which can be recognized on tire rationing will be those of the army and navy.

Basic Magnesium, Inc. and their subcontractors have been notified that tires must be purchased through the regular channel, that of application to the local tire rationing board.

The following certificates were issued:

Bush Brothers Truck line, common carrier, interstate food supplies; Ray Happy Smith, obsolete tire; James Huntsman, obsolete tire; Engineers, Ltd., Subcontractors Basic Magnesium, Inc., defense project, 12 truck tires, 13 truck tubes.

BASIC MAGNESIUM INC. CHIEFTAIN FETES LAS VEGAS CIVIC LEADERS

Civic leaders in this area gathered at El Rancho Vegas last evening as guests of Howard Eells Jr., president of Basic Magnesium Inc., to meet members of the board of directors and other distinguished guests, including Governor E. P. Carville, of Nevada.

The directors of the company present last evening were J. P. McWilliams, E. J. Barnsley and Richard Inglis, the latter acting as toastmaster during the evening.

Inglis, in opening the speech-making, said: "We are not the wise men from the east, we are strangers trying to fit ourselves into this marvelous country of yours. We have received a welcome far beyond our deserts. We like it here."

Governor Carville, who was the first speaker of the evening, said that he brought back good word from the meeting in Los Angeles, and the word was that the magnesium plant "need not worry about sufficient power."

He said he had seen the southern part of the state grow and felt that the future is secure.

"We, in Nevada, owe to Mr. Eells and his associates, a deep debt of gratitude."

Mayor Howell C. Garrison, Colonel H. H. Vickery, Judge George E. Marshall and Marion B. Earl also spoke.

Eells, in his talk, said the primary purpose of the magnesium plant was to serve the defense effort, and the job would be done as rapidly as possible.

"We hope our efforts will do credit to this state, for we have developed a great affection for this part of the country. I first came out here in 1938, and I never yet have failed to get a lift

out of the area every time I return.

"We are more than grateful for the welcome we have received from the people here. We hope to reciprocate by doing a job of which we all can be proud."

The meeting was closed by the entire group singing several western songs, and Inglis rendering a solo with an "Ohio" song.

Magnesium Plant Construction Begun

Large Footings For Structure Are Being Rushed

Administration
Building Is Completed
And Work Goes Ahead

By JOHN F. CAHLAN

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—Actual construction work on the Las Vegas \$63,000,000 magnesium plant has started.

Preliminary work, which has occupied the interim between the time that the contract was signed by the Basic Magnesium, Inc., and the time the plans and specifications were drawn, still is in progress, but the first work of the actual plant itself has started, and from now on will be carried on as rapidly as human ingenuity can prosecute it.

Huge Pit Dug

A visitor to the plant site will see several scores of men laboring in a pit, larger than anything since the Boulder dam days, preparing the ground for concrete which will form the footings for the actual plant building. They will marshal at the speed of construction work, for it was only a few short weeks ago, when the first stick of lumber was placed in the administration building.

The administration building is completed. Men and women, by the scores, are hard at work daily doing the office jobs which are necessary to keep the dirt flying, and the lumber going. Out of the desert will come the plant which is expected to make southern Nevada the metropolis area of the state.

Forms Prepared

Excavation on one of the sections which will form the foundation of the huge main building is completed. Down in its depths are laborers and concrete men preparing the forms which will receive the concrete which will make the base for the structure.

The forms for this work are pre-fabricated at the carpenter shop and sent to the pit for installation. As they are installed, the raw concrete is poured, and the workmen move on to the next form.

The steel work, which will provide the reinforcing for the base of the building, also is pre-fabricated—out in the open now, but to be housed in a separate building as soon as possible.

Speed is the essence of the construction work at the magnesium plant, and workmen are doing their jobs well under circumstances which, at the present, are not ideal. All that will be changed, as soon as possible, and with the speed shown now, when conditions are improved, the rapidity of construction undoubtedly will improve along with them.

To date, the Basic Magnesium, Inc., and McNeil Construction company office building is the only one entirely complete. Two warehouses, one for plumbing supplies and the other for electrical equipment, are on their way and nearing completion. A sheet metal warehouse is started and should be finished inside a week or 10 days. Other buildings are in various processes of construction—from the drawing board on up to actual buildings. They will go up in due time. Meantime, both the Basic Magnesium, Inc., and McNeil Construction company are going forward at a rapid pace. Future construction undoubtedly will amuse the residents of this area who, after all, are accustomed to speed in construction during the Boulder dam building era.

Work and Material Consumption Water No Problem

A tour of the office building will convince even the most skeptical that water is no problem on this big job, for in every hallway, and in most offices, drinking fountains are available and ready for use.

The Basic Magnesium and McNeil Construction also have taken all the precautions necessary for construction of the buildings already completed and those planned.

An efficient fire department has been organized, with Don Bremner, former resident of Las Vegas, as chief, and the department is ready for any emergency which might arise. Numerous trucks and plenty of equipment have been set aside for fire duty, and officials at the plant are certain that the organization is ready for anything which might face them.

Spur Under Way

The railroad spur from Royton, at the edge of the magnesium plant site, is under way and it is expected that the next few weeks will see the inter-plant railroad in operation.

It's quite a job, out there at the magnesium plant, but the organizations handling it are ready for it. A production date has been fixed for the plant, and from all indications now, that production date will be met.

NOV 22 1942

MAGNESIUM PLANT A GIANT OF DESERT

Rivals Boulder Dam, Which
Furnishes Power for Operation
in Southern Nevada

MODEL TOWN, 1,000 HOMES

Cost of \$100,000,000 Justified
by Output of Vast Supplies
of Vital War Metal

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Nov. 21 (AP)—Little did the men who built Boulder Dam realize that the product of their engineering skill was paving the way for another great project, the world's largest magnesium plant.

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Without the energy generated by Boulder Dam, fifteen miles distant, and the water it impounds, the magnesium plant could not exist. But just as important are Nevada's vast deposits of magnesium ore, close at hand.

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All the Comforts of Home

It employs nearly three times Boulder Dam's maximum working force, housing it in a new model village of 1,000 demountable homes. A camp accommodating 6,000 single men, trailer camps, motor courts, and hotels are in Las Vegas, fifteen miles away.

Children attend a new twelve-grade school. The sick are treated in a new concrete hospital. A restaurant, large enough to seat 2,200 persons, serves 25,000 meals a day. It was necessary to bring power and water over the mountains to the plant site. Bleak hills were straddled to carry the electricity generated at Boulder Dam. A huge pipeline brought water from Lake Mead to two huge new reservoirs. A twenty-six-mile railroad and fifty miles of temporary dirt road were built.

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placed in kilns and dehydrated, then melted in a large cylindrical furnace into which a stream of pure chlorine gas is injected.

The result is a molten mass of magnesium chloride which is tapped off and placed in electrolytic cells resembling large tiled bathtubs. A strong electrical current is passed through the mass, this causing the molten magnesium to separate from the chlorine and come to the surface, where it is ladled off by hand.

Ordinarily copper would be used to carry the powerful electrical current through the molten magnesium chloride, but because there is an acute copper shortage it was necessary to find a substitute. It turned out to be silver—1,600,000 pounds of it—in planks fabricated in Baltimore. At 71 cents an ounce, that's better than \$18,000,000 worth.

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DAM AIDS U.S. IN WAR EFFORT

Boulder Project Life Line
For Vital Magnesium
Plant.

Discovered in 1808.

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Magnesium! Power From Boulder Dam

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By RICHARD STROBEL

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26 Mile Railroad

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Magnesium is used for tracer bullets, flares and incendiary bombs. Because it is so extremely light—lighter than aluminum—it is used in alloys wherever possible, in airplanes, engines, wings, fuselages, mountings, gas tanks, panels, flooring, wheels, ventilating ducts, dust

El Centro, Cal., Desert Magazine
Cir. 648 NOVEMBER, 1942

reno, Nevada

Nevada produced magnesium will play an important part in the building of American airplanes, said Major C. P. J. Ball, vice-president of Basic Magnesium, Inc., of Las Vegas. The official addressed the Sacramento section of the American Chemical society meeting on the University of Nevada campus. He pointed out that the Germans use magnesium alloys extensively in manufacturing planes and that of all craft brought down over the British isles, not one part made of magnesium failed except through the force of the crash or when hit by bullets. He also called attention to two courses now being given at the university which will train engineers in fundamentals of magnesium and light metal industries. Previously Basic Magnesium sent its technicians to England for training. Major Ball is chairman of Magnesium Elektron, Ltd., of Manchester, England.

Magnesium Plant Said Number One Job in the Nation

Scrugham Is Lauded For Part Played in U. S. Program

Basic Magnesium's Las Vegas Valley plant was described as number one on the war program of the United States, next to naval construction, and Congressman James G. Scrugham was lauded for his part in bringing it into realization, when P. W. Rolleston of the British air commission and Howard Eells, Jr., president of Basic Magnesium Inc., addressed Legionnaires, visitors and guests at the public installation of officers of the new B. M. I. Legion post last night.

Rolleston, who is making a tour of the nation's defense projects, gave an interesting picture of the importance of the magnesium plant to the war effort of the entire United Nations group, declaring that every day that can be saved in bringing it into production means the shortening of the war by many days, and urging no effort be spared to rush it to completion.

Standing Frankness

Eells, speaking with rather startling frankness, held Scrugham up as one of the nation's "outstanding statesmen" and declared him to be the only one of the Nevada delegation who had "come through" with the cooperation promised magnesium plant officials in the beginning.

"You men realize the most important need of the moment is houses," Eells said. "Had our projected town been allowed to go through, it would have been done now and you would have had houses. Everybody should understand that we can't do the job unless our employes are properly housed."

"We have received no cooperation from the people of this area," Eells charged. "A few business men are afraid they won't be able to sell enough of their merchandise if this town goes through, and have joined together to block its construction."

"I say there's enough here for everybody. This is a big thing. This area will become the center of the light metal industry, as Pittsburgh is the center of the steel industry. Pittsburgh isn't a one street town. It has a business district much larger than Las Vegas is today."

All Area Affected

"This whole area will be built up. It will all be one great city. We've got to start thinking in those terms if we're going to get this job done."

In response to a question by one of the Legionnaires as to when they could expect to have houses ready so they could move their families into the area, Eells said: "Ask Senator Bunker. Wire him. Tell him how you feel. He's your representative. He's the one who's opposing our town."

"But we'll have a town, you can bet on that. Right now it's a camp, but we're going to have decent housing."

"Between here and the plant are two 'jumpy' settlements. They're a disgrace. They should be cleaned up at once. It's up to the county to do it, but if they

don't we will. We can if we have to. We're going to get decent homes for our employes, and if we don't get the cooperation of the community we'll fight it through."

"We're going to give our employes the best possible place to live in, the best place to bring up their children. It's the only way we can make this project live."

"Magnesium is two thirds the weight of aluminum. The last war introduced the age of light metals, this one has brought it to maturity. It has a tremendous future. In Germany, they use 75 pounds of magnesium in cars of the same type as the Ford in this country. Mr. Sloan, of General Motors, says they would use 80 pounds per car if they could be assured of an adequate supply. The English company which has been producing magnesium for ten years, was not built out of any war, but from peace-time consumption, mostly truck usage."

Job To Do

"We have a job to do. It can only be done by complete cooperation of everyone in the area. We haven't had it to date. We hope to have it in the future. We want to make this a permanent industry. If we are to do that we must have your cooperation."

"If you have any love for Nevada, and I know all Nevadans and adopted Nevadans have a great love for their state, you will make your representatives represent you. You will tell them this job must go forward, must be permanent—a fine thing you will be proud of."

"Our great need is houses. We must have them. We will have them. You must help get them, and I hope when you do, you won't forget to help those who have helped you."

Rolleston, who is one of the men the British government has sent to this country to work out cooperation between the two air corps, arrived in Las Vegas from Phoenix yesterday by plane to inspect the plant, and was the Legion's guest at last night's meeting.

He declared the war will be won with magnesium incendiary bombs.

Great Shortage

"There is a great shortage of magnesium for this purpose—in fact this is number one on the short list at the moment. This plant—the Basic Magnesium plant, is the one the allied nations are counting on to meet this situation. Every day saved in construction means untold lives and property saved and that much cut from the length of the war."

"Until Basic Magnesium plant gets into production there is not enough magnesium to win the war. We must wait until it furnishes the necessary material."

Rolleston said that British planes use from 500 to 2000 pounds of magnesium each and would use more if more were available, and reiterated the statement again that the high command of the allied war effort is looking toward the Basic Magnesium plant as one of the most vital units in winning the war.

DEC 25, 1941
KINGMAN ARIZ. MINER

56,000 Acres Of Land Allotted To Magnesium Plant

A block of vacant public land near Boulder dam has been withdrawn from entry to facilitate construction and operation of Basic Magnesium, Inc. in Nevada, Commissioner John C. Page, Bureau of Reclamation, advised Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today.

Approximately 56,000 acres were withdrawn. The withdrawals are located about eight miles northwest of Boulder City where the proposed magnesium plant will soon be producing tons of the light silvery metal so desirable in aircraft motor construction.

The war plant will reduce the magnesite by using large quantities of hydroelectric energy made available to it by the reclamation power plant at Boulder dam.

The withdrawn land is located in townships 20 south range 63 east, 21 south ranges 63 and 63 1/2 east, 22 south 62 and 63 east and 23 south 63 east.

EUREKA NEWS SERVICE
JANUARY 21, 1942

MAGNESIUM PLANT EXPANSION SEEN IN WAR EMERGENCY

Expansion of the Las Vegas magnesium plant to a size half as big again as the original plans, was forecast recently following President Roosevelt's message to Congress in which he urged all industry to step up work to meet the huge needs of prosecuting the war.

While there was no official comment available regarding plans for expansion, the mere fact that Roosevelt said production of magnesium would be raised from 400,000,000 pounds annually to 550,000,000 pounds indicated that existing facilities and those now under construction would have to be raised to meet this schedule.

Basic Magnesium Inc., was scheduled to produce 40 per cent of the metal in the United States and under this set-up 10 cells were designed to take care of the production. If the same basis is used when, as and if the expansion is made, it will mean that five more cells will be added to the plant.

If the expansion program is carried through by the government the employment figures probably would increase by 50 per cent and the working staff would be 6,000 instead of the original figure of 4,000. The payroll, in this situation, would be boosted from \$8,000,000 per year to \$12,000,000.

It was pointed out by observers that there is every possibility that the expansion will be made here, because the water, power, ore and salt all are available and it would be a simple matter to step up production under this set-up.

SALT LAKE CITY UTAH MINING
CONTRACT REVENUE
JANUARY 15, 1942

Basic Magnesium Luning Plant

Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, currently starting construction of the \$84 million refinery at Las Vegas, Nevada, will shortly begin construction of the first unit of its mill near Luning, Nevada, to treat raw material for the Las Vegas refinery. The first Luning mill unit will have an initial feed capacity of 2,000 tons per twenty-four hours, and will cost about \$3 million. Much of the mill equipment will be of special design as indicated by the recently placed order for four screw classifiers which will rank with the largest ever built, that is, 28'-6" long by 78" screw diameter. The designer and builder of these classifiers, the Western Machinery Company, has been commissioned to incorporate many special features in this equipment to meet the demands of the material to be treated and the defense load imposed on the plant.

CARSON CITY NEV. HERALD
FEBRUARY 22, 1942

Plant to Bring 19,000 to Clark County

Figures compiled in the office of the project manager for the Basic Magnesium, Inc., indicate that completion of the \$63,000,000 magnesium plant and auxiliary projects will bring around 19,000 residents to Clark county, including plant employes and their dependents, with a payroll of \$2,000,000 monthly by the middle of the current year.

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Las Vegas Review Journal
January 23, 1942

Lands Withdrawn for Magnesium Project

Approximately 56,000 acres of vacant public land in Nevada near Boulder Dam has been withdrawn from entry to facilitate construction and operation of the Basic Magnesium plant, it was announced in Washington today by John C. Page, reclamation bureau commissioner.

The lands are located about 12 miles from Las Vegas, where Basic Magnesium, Inc., is building a \$63,000,000 plant in this area.

B. M. I. LEGION
FEBRUARY 25, 1942

Production of War-Vital Metals Nearing Reality

By United Press

Production of war-vital magnesium and manganese is moving steadily closer to reality in the Las Vegas area, where thousands of workmen labor furiously on the war's first line of defense.

Weeks ahead of schedule, the first of 10 units of the Basic Magnesium Inc. plant will be in operation by May, a company official announced this week. Other units of the \$70,000,000 project will begin producing the light metal so greatly needed today within short intervals. 7,000 at Work

Nearly 7,000 men are at work building the huge plant. About 4,000 men will be employed when the full unit moves into all-out production. The magnesium will be refined and processed into the finished product. Vast mountains of magnesite and brecite will be utilized, all of them with easily transportable distance from the plant site and nearby Boulder dam.

Sen. Pat McCarran announced from Washington D. C., this week that an electrolytic plant for manganese production for the Las Vegas area is being studied by the war production board.

The bureau of mines recommended construction of the plant to Secretary of Interior Ickes, McCarran said. The war production board will announce final action later.

PLANT APPROVED

A leaching plant for manganese production at Las Vegas has already been approved and construction work started.

Manganese refining requires huge amounts of electricity, which is accessible at nearby Boulder Dam. The bureau of mines already operates a large pilot plant at Boulder Dam, where kilns in magnesium production are being ironed out by bureau experts.

The electrolytic plant discussed by Sen. McCarran is part of a domestic magnesium production program which would establish eight mills, three hydrometallurgical plants and one matte melting plant. Nevada, Arizona, Arkansas, Montana, New Mexico, and Utah would benefit. Expenditure of about \$5,000,000 is contemplated.

Big Magnesium Plant To Turn Out 30 Times World's 1936 Output

\$100,000,000 Spent on
Gigantic Project in
Nevada Desert

By the Associated Press.
LAS VEGAS, Nev., Nov. 25.—Little did the men who built Boulder Dam realize that their masterpiece of engineering skill was paving the way for an even greater project—the world's largest magnesium plant.

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Without the energy generated by Boulder Dam, 15 miles distant, and the water it impounds, the magnesium plant could not exist. But just as important are Nevada's vast deposits of magnesium ore, close at hand.

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Plant Cost \$100,000,000.
It cost more than \$100,000,000, required 50,000 tons of structural steel, and has the largest single electrical installation in the history of American industrial construction.

It employs nearly three times Boulder Dam's maximum working force, housing it in a new model village of 1,000 demountable homes. A camp accommodating 6,000 single men, trailer camps, motor courts and hotels and homes in Las Vegas, 15 miles away.

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You get some idea of the tremendous size of Basic Magnesium, Inc., when you consider that this plant soon will produce 30 times as much magnesium as did the entire world six years ago.

Miracle Metal of War.
Magnesium, although eighth in abundance among the elements, does not exist in a free state. It was discovered away back in 1808, and first separated into the pure metal just before the turn of the century. But as recently as the 1920s work with the metal scarcely had passed the laboratory stage. Now that it can be produced in quantities, its value to our war effort is incalculable.

Magnesium is used for tracer bullets, fuses and incendiary bombs. Because it is so extremely light—lighter than aluminum—it is used in alloys whenever possible, in airplanes, engines, wings, fuselages, mountings, gas tanks, panels, flooring, wheels, ventilating ducts, dust covers, to name a few. It has become the miracle metal of the war.

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It is the transformation of an oxide into a chloride and the passage of an electric current through the chloride. Magnesium and chloride are the result.

The magnesium oxide is mined and concentrated in a Nevada desert valley and shipped to the basic plant, where it is ground, mixed with coal, peat moss, salt and a few other substances and molded into pellets the size of walnuts or small bricks.

These are placed in kilns and dehydrated, then melted in a large cylindrical furnace into which a stream of pure chlorine gas is injected.

Silver Replaces Copper.
The result is a molten mass of magnesium chloride, which is tapped off and placed in electrolytic cells resembling large tiled bathtubs. A strong electrical current is passed through the mass, this causing the molten magnesium to separate from the chlorine and come to the surface, where it is ladled off by hand.

Ordinarily copper would be used to carry the powerful electrical current through the molten magnesium chloride, but because there is an acute copper shortage (copper makes the best shell casings and we're making a lot of shell casings) it was necessary to find a substitute.

It turned out to be silver—1,600,000 pounds of it—in planks fabricated in Baltimore. At 71 cents an ounce that's better than \$18,000,000 worth.

In peace time use of silver for such a purpose wouldn't make sense. In an all-out war, when it frees copper for shells, it does make sense, particularly when such non-consumptive use does not impair the value of the sterling.

Thus silver comes out of the vaults, back to the state where it was mined, to help the battle for freedom.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., STAR
CH. 130, 87c, Sun. 17c, 756
NOVEMBER 24, 1942

DAM AIDS U.S. IN WAR EFFORT

Boulder Project Life Line For Vital Magnesium Plant.

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Volume 143

It's Getting Tougher

AS THE WAR PRODUCTION PROGRAM moves into high gear and approaches its peak, we must expect to meet one crisis after another—in manpower and raw materials, in services and supplies, in dislocation of industry, and in personal inconvenience and sacrifice. That is the consequence of an all-out war. With each new crisis will come a tightening of government controls, and new decisions on the relative essentiality of jobs and materials. We shall complain and grumble about our lot, and yield grudgingly to constituted authority, but in the end we will play the game according to the rules. Right now the mining industry is having to adjust itself to unexpected problems in manpower and raw materials, and it may suffer considerable inconvenience. But it is not alone. Other industries are similarly affected. And until WPB can work out its new plan for flow of materials, all must be patient and have confidence in the grand strategy of Donald Nelson's organization. The essentiality of the mining industry has been fully appreciated in the past, and is not likely to be disregarded in the future.

Anaconda in Magnesium

ENTRY of Anaconda Copper Mining Company into the light-metal field, by purchase of a controlling interest in Basic Magnesium, Inc., is a welcome turn of events. For one reason, it dispels an atmosphere of uncertainty that surrounded this magnesium project, following Senatorial investigation and criticism. For another, it gives assurance of competent technical management that was evidently necessary to the success of the venture. It may also be considered a matter of business foresight and acumen for a leading copper producer to anticipate post-war competition of the light metals by engaging actively in the production of one of them. Of immediate interest, however, is the prospect of expediting the production of mag-

Discovered in 1808.

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NOVEMBER, 1942

Number 11

nesium for war use by Anaconda's experienced and competent personnel that is so highly regarded in the copper industry.

In announcing Anaconda's purchase of the 52½ percent interest of the Cleveland Associates in Basic Magnesium for \$75,000, Cornelius F. Kelley, chairman of Anaconda's board, emphasized several points. Participation in the magnesium enterprise was undertaken at the invitation of the Government and of English and American interests. Anaconda's function will be one of management, "without responsibility for anything that has occurred" in the past, and it will operate the Nevada properties on a fee basis for the Defense Plant Corporation, which has a large investment in the project. The arrangement augurs well for early increased production of magnesium.

A Half Century on the Mesabi

FIFTY YEARS AGO, in the fall of 1892, the first shipments of iron ore from the Mesabi, or "Giant," Range were made to the furnaces down the Lakes. This ore came from the initial discovery of the Merritt brothers—the famous "iron men"—who called it the Mountain Iron, a property which now, in a time of crisis, is to be reopened, according to report, as if to celebrate this fiftieth anniversary.

The stream of ore, which thus began its flow from the Mesabi's huge deposits, grew in volume in the succeeding years, though with fluctuations, in keeping with the demand for steel. Today it is of maximum proportions, previously unattained. This picture, so fascinating in the heroic scale of the elements that compose it, nevertheless conveys a warning that the ore reserves are being depleted rapidly.

Essentially, as expressed by some, the situation is that the reserves of Mesabi ores, normally regarded as commercial with or without ordinary beneficiation, are likely to last not more than thirty years at normal peace-time consumption rates.

RECORD
Philadelphia, Pa.

NOV 22 1942

Huge Magnesium Plant Built in Desert Waste

By RICHARD STROBEL

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Seattle (Wn) Star
November 25, 1942

15,000 More Signatures Needed on Initiative 12

Campaign Chairman Explains Utility Measure Would Furnish Cheap Power

Approximately 35,000 signatures to Initiative 12 was reported today by John L. King, general chairman of a campaign to bring the measure before the Washington legislature in January. To force legislative action, 50,000 signatures will be required.

The measure, King explained today, is considered necessary by his group because of "lack of cheap public power in many districts of the state."

"This, he said, "is hindering war production, a condition that can be remedied by legislative passage of Initiative 12, designed to permit public utility districts to co-operate with each other, and with City Light systems and the federal government."

According to King, who is publicity director of the state grange, Initiative 12 will supplement the present grange power bill and remove certain legal shackles from

cent of magnesium production—two vital light metals in the building of military aircraft.

"Absentee-owned private power companies," King declared, "have forfeited serious consideration as a constructive force by their failure to keep up with the growing power demands even of peace-time, to the point where they are now dependent upon public power for supplemental energy to meet their service obligations."

System Called Barrier.
"Inadequate private power systems in many parts of the state constitute a barrier between the communities in which they are located and the abundant supply of low-cost power from Grand Coulee, Bonneville, Seattle's Skagit and Tacoma's power projects. As the availability of power supply is a prime factor in the location of war industries, a number of these communities are precluded from participating fully in the war effort despite ample housing and other advantages."

While public utility districts have acquired smaller private power concerns thruout the state and now are operating them successfully, county limits have prevented them swinging deals to obtain properties of larger interests such as Puget Sound Power and Light, Washington Water Power and Pacific Power.

Two More Districts.
Enactment of Initiative 12 would allow two or more public utility districts to jointly acquire by negotiation or condemnation of private power systems, without sacrifice of district autonomy.

The 50,000 valid signatures must be obtained prior to Dec. 31.

Question has been raised as to why public power advocates seek passage of an initiative measure, rather than wait for the legislature to convene and cover the same ground thru a bill.

Somewhat "bitter experience" is prompting the present step, King offers in answer.

A bill, similar in content but less comprehensively drawn, was smothered by the senate rules committee of the last legislature, following house approval. Two important provisions of another power bill that passed were vetoed by the governor.

An initiative to the legislature must be accepted or rejected in toto. The solons cannot amend or change it, nor can the chief executive veto it. Should the legislature fail to pass the measure, it would go automatically to the people at the next election.

Important Provisions.
Among important provisions in Initiative 12 is one to the effect that when a city, district or joint commission condemns privately-owned utility properties the company must account for earnings between the date the verdict is rendered by the jury and date it is paid, and credit these earnings against the interest the law now allows the company to collect on the verdict. At present the company gets to keep the earnings and at the same time collect interest on the purchase, all of which costs the public hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to P. U. D. officials.

It was a provision like this that was vetoed by Governor Langlie after passage of a 1940 power bill heretofore mentioned.

No tax loss will be suffered by adoption of Initiative 12, it is said, because joint P. U. D. commissions will be required to pay taxes on their gross revenues at rates intended to yield as much as the property taxes now paid by private companies.

In backing Initiative 12, Henry C. Carstensen, state grange master, has called attention to the fact that 13 public utility districts now operating in the state—12 electric, and one water power—have reduced rates and increased employe wages, tho they often have extended service to the "skim milk" customers, as the private firms term users in isolated sections.



JOHN L. KING

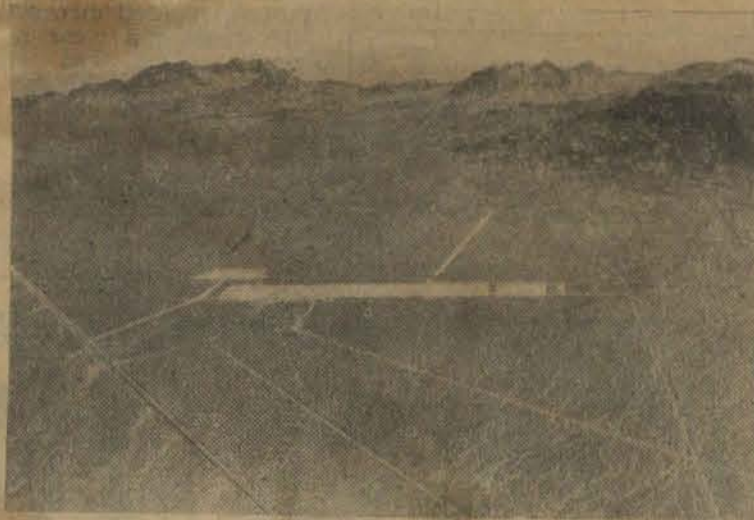
Washington's 29 county-wide P. U. D.'s. It will, he said, place the people of the state in position to handle public power problems to their best advantage.

Sponsored By Groups.
The measure was prepared under direction of the Washington State Utility Commissioners' association, comprising nearly all P. U. D. commissioners in the state. It is sponsored by the state grange, labor, the Democratic party, progressive Republicans and public ownership advocates.

It has won the hearty approval of Senator Homer T. Bone, veteran public power leader, and gears in with his Columbia Valley Authority bill now pending in congress.

Public power is now carrying the huge burden of war production in this area, King pointed out. By end of this year, public power systems will be making possible over 40 per cent of the nation's aluminum output and almost 20 per

PICTORIAL STUDY OF MAGNESIUM PLANT DEVELOPMENT

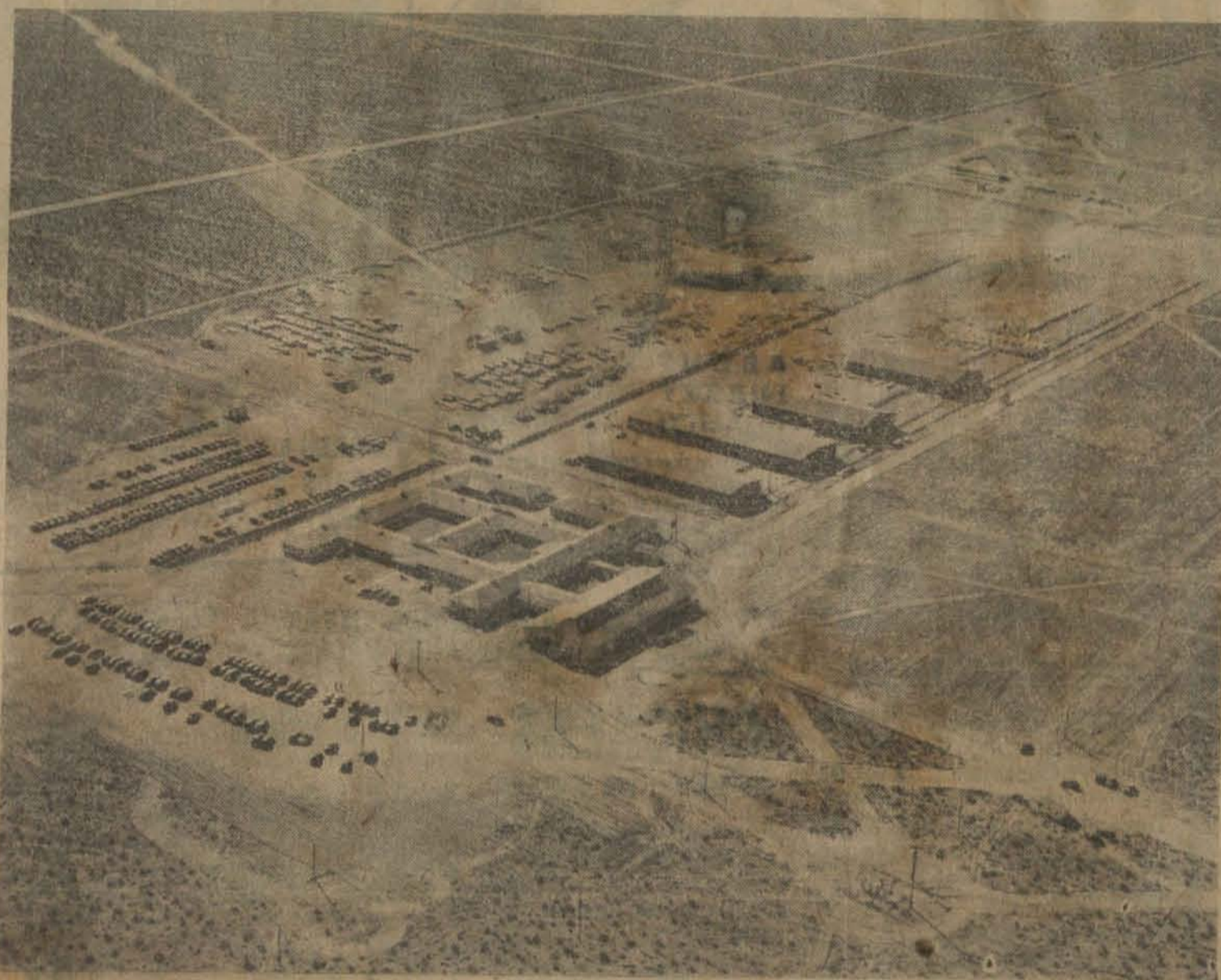


The above picture, taken September 16, shows the site of the Basic Magnesium plant before buildings were erected. Sagebrush has been cleared from the location in preparation for construction.

Located about twelve miles east of Las Vegas, the plant is situated on a gently-sloping hillside about a quarter of a mile from the Las Vegas-Boulder City highway. As shown in the photograph, the site contained only sagebrush and dry ground when work began. The place was chosen so that the plant could be near Boulder Dam, source of proposed power, and adjacent to a railroad.

These three aerial photograph pictures show the rapid development of the magnesium plant during the past three months. Taken approximately a month apart, the pictures record the transformation of arid wasteland to a gigantic industrial plant. The above picture, snapped October 29, shows the large building in various phases of construction. The rows of small objects surrounding the plant are cars of the workers.

The large photo on the right was taken November 10. It pictures in detail the giant horseshoe of administration buildings and the surrounding structures.



TWO BIG CONTRACTS ARE AWARDED BY BASIC MAGNESIUM

Two contracts, totaling nearly \$8,000,000 have been let by the Basic Magnesium Inc., a Nevada corporation, acting for and on behalf of Defense Plants corporation, it was revealed today by officials of the company.

The two contracts awarded to Engineers Ltd., and Fritz Ziebarth, both California firms, total \$7,946,567.71.

Engineers Ltd., was awarded a contract totaling \$3,341,559.12 for the construction of the intake plant and booster pumping station at Lake Mead, Nevada, and the construction of water pipe line from Lake Mead, to the plant-site midway between Boulder City and Las Vegas. Engineers Ltd. also will erect a power line to the pumping plants.

Fritz Ziebarth of Los Angeles, California, was awarded a contract totaling \$4,605,008.59 for the construction of a power line from the switch yard at Boulder dam, to the magnesium plant and the construction of switch yard and substation facilities at the site, in addition to the construction of permanent telephone lines from the Nevada Bell Telephone lines at Luning, Nevada, to the oxide plant of Basic Magnesium, Inc., at Gabbs, Nevada.

Las Vegas Review Journal
November 29, 1941

Las Vegas Review Journal
December 5, 1941

BIG TRUCK CONVOY LANDS AT BASIC PLANT ON FRIDAY

A two-mile truck convoy, consisting of McNeil Construction company motorized equipment, rumbled into the Basic Magnesium site yesterday afternoon, following a 12-hour trip from San Diego, California.

Seventy-seven trucks, ranging from one and a half ton vehicles to light pick-ups, constituted the motorized file. The convoy left San Diego, site of the Linda Vista defense housing project recently completed by the company, Thursday evening under escort of highway patrol officers.

The patrolmen led the rumbering line to Victorville, where the traffic became thinner, and the convoy continued on to Nevada.

Las Vegas Review Journal
December 23, 1941

Lands Withdrawn for Magnesium Project

Approximately 36,000 acres of vacant public land in Nevada near Boulder Dam has been withdrawn from entry to facilitate construction and operation of the Basic Magnesium plant, it was announced in Washington today by John C. Page, reclamation bureau commissioner.

The lands are located about 12 miles from Las Vegas, where Basic Magnesium, Inc., is building a \$63,000,000 plant in this area.

Las Vegas Review Journal
December 8, 1941

Basic Magnesium Increases Guard

Basic Magnesium officials report a heavy increase in the guard force protecting the plant 24 hours a day.

Those detailed to strategic points have been heavily armed, and prowlers are constantly on the move throughout the entire area, covering key points both inside and outside the fenced territory.

All records and data of importance to the design and construction of the plant are under constant surveillance, and plain clothes men have been detailed to patrol the plant, the offices, and grounds.

Conferences were under way at two o'clock this afternoon with executives of Basic Defense Plants and McNeil Construction company sitting in to devise ways and means of expediting progress on the plant itself, and it was expected that expansion of the work would be announced momentarily.

The housing situation, officials said, remained the serious bottleneck, but plans were already under way to provide temporary quarters for more than 1,500 men until the housing squabble is settled and permanent dwellings are available.

Details of this conference were not expected until late this afternoon or tomorrow.

MAGNESIUM IS PRODUCED IN VAST PLANT IN DESERT

Boulder Dam Paves Way for Largest Project of Its Kind in World at Noted Las Vegas, Nevada

By RICHARD STROBEL
LAS VEGAS, Nev., Nov. 21. (AP)—Little did the men who built Boulder dam realize that their masterpiece of engineering skill was paving the way for an even greater project—the world's largest magnesium plant.

Located in a blistering southern Nevada desert, where a year ago there was no water, no power, and only a few houses, this gigantic plant, Basic Magnesium, Inc., already is producing the precious metal and an equally vital chemical, liquid chlorine.

Vast Deposits
Without the energy generated by Boulder dam, 15 miles distant, and the water it impounds, the magnesium plant could not exist. But just as important are Nevada's vast deposits of magnesium ore, close at hand.

A chemist with apparatus a yard square can make magnesium, but producing it in quantities required for global war is something else. Basic magnesium, while only one of numerous such plants, as the largest of them all represents a new triumph of American ingenuity and inventiveness.

It cost more than \$100,000,000, required 50,000 tons of structural steel, and has the largest single electrical installation in the history of American industrial construction.

Model Village
It employs nearly three times Boulder dam's maximum working force, housing it in a new model village of 1,000 demountable homes. A camp accommodating 6,000 single men, trailer camps, motor courts, and hotels and homes in Las Vegas, 15 miles away.

Children attend a new 12-grade school. The sick are treated in a new concrete hospital. A restaurant, large enough to seat 2,200 persons, serves 25,000 meals a day.

It was necessary to bring power and water over the mountains to the plant site. Bleak hills were straddled to carry the electricity generated at Boulder dam. A huge pipeline brought water from Lake Mead to two huge new reservoirs. A 26-mile railroad and 50 miles of temporary dirt road were built.

Tremendous Size
You get some idea of the tremendous size of Basic Magnesium, Inc., when you consider that this plant soon will produce 30 times as much magnesium as did the entire world six years ago.

Magnesium, although eighth in abundance among the elements, does not exist in a free state. It was discovered away back in 1808, and first separated into the pure metal just before the turn of the century. But as recently as the 1920's, work with the metal scarcely had passed the laboratory stage. Now that it can be produced in quantity, its value to our war effort is incalculable.

Tracer Bullets
Magnesium is used for tracer bullets, flares and incendiary bombs. Because it is so extremely light—lighter than aluminum—it is used in alloys wherever possible, in airplanes, engines, wings, fuselages, mountings, gas tanks, panels, flooring, wheels, ventilating ducts, dust covers, to name a few. It has become the miracle metal of the war.

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Nevada Valley
The magnesium oxide is mined and concentrated in a Nevada desert valley and shipped to the basic plant, where it is ground, mixed with coal, peat moss, salt and a few other substances, and molded into pellets the size of walnuts or small bricks.

These are placed in kilns and dehydrated, then melted in a large cylindrical furnace into which a stream of pure chlorine gas is injected.

The result is a molten mass of magnesium chloride which is tapped off and placed in electrolytic cells resembling large tiled bathtubs. A strong electrical current is passed through the mass, this causing the molten magnesium to separate from the chlorine and come to the surface where it is ladled off by hand.

Copper Shortage
Ordinarily copper would be used to carry the powerful electrical current through the molten magnesium chloride, but because there is an acute copper shortage (copper makes the best shell casings and we're making a lot of shell casings)

BOULDER DAM GAVE KEY TO EVEN LARGER WAR PROJECT

By RICHARD STROBEL
(By Associated Press)

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It was necessary to find a substitute. It turned out to be silver—1,600,000 pounds of it—in planks fabricated in Baltimore. At 71 cents an ounce, that's better than \$18,000,000 worth.

In peacetime, use of silver for such a purpose wouldn't make sense. In an all-out war when it frees copper for shells it does make sense, particularly when such non-consumptive use does not impair the value of the sterling.

Thus silver comes out of the vaults, back to the state where it was mined, to help the battle for freedom.

Desert Joins War Effort

Huge Magnesium Plant Rises in Nevada

By RICHARD STROBEL

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The result is a molten mass of magnesium chloride, which is tapped off and placed in electrolytic cells resembling large tiled bathtubs. A strong electrical current is passed through the mass, causing the molten magnesium to separate from the chlorine and come to the surface, where it is ladled off by hand.

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NOV. 26, 1942
W. LOUIS, MO. GLOBE DEM

Magnesium Plant Built on Desert

Will Have Output 30 Times That of World 6 Years Ago

By RICHARD STROBEL
Associated Press Staff Writer

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Biggest Magnesium Plant Located in U. S. A.

The new magnesium plant at Las Vegas, Nevada, is the largest in the world with a capacity 3½ times the total U. S. output in 1941, according to a statement of the Office of War Information of the WPB. The Basic Magnesium plant, as it is called, is the latest of five huge magnesium plants that have lately entered production. All were financed and are owned by the government.

Completion of the program will place the United States far in the lead of all other countries in the production of magnesium, a place formerly held by Germany, and will help us to produce more airplanes, incendiary bombs, flares and tracer bullets.

MAGNESIUM IS MAIN PRODUCT OF NEW PLANT

Southern Nevada Firm Obtains Power From Boulder Dam

By RICHARD STROBEL

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Begin operation of the unit... UNIT IS ONE OF THE... 77

Payroll Will Be 8 Million a Year

Five Times Wages
Paid in All Nevada
Industrial Plants

Payroll at Basic Magnesium company's Clark county plant will be \$8,000,000 per year, exceeding by five times the wages paid in all Nevada industrial plants in the past. W. E. Stewart, project manager, told members of the Las Vegas Rotary club this noon in describing the magnitude of the operation.

The plant will provide permanent employment for 4,000 men as compared to a total of 1,012 employed in Nevada's 84 manufacturing plants in 1937, last year for which figures are available, Stewart said. These figures represent manufactured products only and exclude mines, agriculture, etc., he explained.

35 Million Output

Value of the annual magnesium output of the local plant will be \$35,000,000 as compared to a total production of the mineral products in Nevada of \$27,031,281 in 1938 and \$38,871,816 in 1937.

Clark county, between the years of 1859 and 1937 produced \$34,996,767 in minerals, approximately the same as the annual output of the vast magnesium plant now under construction.

"In the main," Stewart declared, "the wealth of Nevada has been exploited and syphoned off into other states. The wealth of the mines of Nevada contributed largely to the development of California, and the fortunes of most of the early citizens were founded on Nevada mineral wealth and expended outside the limits of the state."

"Today, the wheel of destiny has turned again, and Nevada mineral wealth which was an important factor in the Civil war, now becomes an important factor in the present national emergency."

Money Coming In

"But, in this instance, the wealth of the state is not being syphoned out of the state, but on the contrary, tens of millions of dollars of outside funds are coming to Nevada, not to exploit Nevada's resources, but to develop them with resultant investments in plant and equipment, payrolls (Continued on page three)

and a factor of stability seems assured."

Stewart stressed also the permanence of the plant, and the wide possibilities for attracting kindred industries to this area.

"We are part of Clark county and want to cooperate in all forward-looking movements," he said. "We need your cooperation to make this enterprise a success and feel certain it will be forthcoming."

Serugham Speaks

Stewart was followed on the program by Congressman James G. Serugham who congratulated the magnesium company official on progress made to date and predicted that manganese would soon take second place in the southern Nevada industrial development.

Harley A. Harmon, pioneer Clark county official, told of predicting a population for Las Vegas of 50,000 people in a moment of enthusiasm 25 years ago and said it began to look as if that dream was about to come true.

WORK AT LAS VEGAS MAGNESIUM PLANT GOES FORWARD



Above is shown an aerial view of the work now being done at the Basic Magnesium plant south of Las Vegas. In the center of the photograph is shown the buildings already completed at the plant, with the office building of the Basic Magnesium and McNeil Construction company the H shaped structure. To the left are seen two warehouses and the spots huddled around the buildings are automobiles. To the left and above is shown the clearing for the magnesium plant, which is going ahead rapidly. The light strip in the left foreground is a dike to protect the plant from floods, while the rectangular white line running from the left top of the picture and around the buildings is a fence. The road, leading to the Boulder highway can be seen leading from the group of buildings in the center. The dark strip across the right hand corner of the picture is the highway leading toward Las Vegas. The other white lines in the photo are roads.

Las Vegas Review Journal
November 20, 1941

MAGNESIUM PLANT WORKERS OBSERVE NOVEMBER 27 DATE

Workmen on the construction job at the Basic Magnesium plant will observe Thanksgiving on November 27, it was revealed today by officials of the Basic Magnesium Incorporated.

The McNeil Construction company, contractors for the construction work, will observe the Nevada Thanksgiving date in connection with its contract with union labor, and as McNeil is observing November 27, the Basic Magnesium will do likewise.

Nevada labor, according to labor officials here, observes Governor E. P. Carville's proclamation, which sets November 27 as the holiday.

The two army camps, at the gunnery school and at Camp Sibert, as well as federal offices in both Las Vegas and Boulder City, will observe the Roosevelt date, November 20.

from 125,000 to 225,000 kilowatt hours will supply adequate power for any enterprise which may care to settle here."

Starts Tour

The senator's inspection tour began in the chart room of the McNeil Construction company where every detail of the plant has been laid out on paper. He was shown what work has already been accomplished and what remains to be done. He then visited the general offices, the accounting, drafting and purchasing departments and was taken to the actual construction area.

Here he saw the shops, warehouses and tool rooms necessary to prefabricate and handle the construction materials prior to actual installation in the plant itself.

Then, on the plant site, he saw how, in progressive stages, the work of building the 10 great electrolysis units which extend down a 3900 foot parade ground, was going forward, each unit just a little further along than the one before.

Unit number one, he saw where footings were in and concrete pouring had started. In unit number two, he looked over the batter boards which have been put in place ready for the concrete; he saw the various stages of construction in units three, four, five and six and finally at number seven, saw a big power shovel take its first bite from the desert floor while a cavalcade of trucks waited to haul the dirt away.

In Mann's office then, McCarran went over a series of aerial photos which show graphically, progress of the work from the day ground was broken September 13 until last week.

Visits Offices

Last stage of the inspection was an office-to-office visit in that section of the administration building occupied by Basic Magnesium and an exchange of greetings with department heads and most of the approximately 500 workers employed there.

"In most great public projects," the senator stated as the tour ended, "boom towns are created which collapse when construction is completed. This one is different. Here we have a situation where a permanent labor load of 600 people is being created—more than the labor load required to create it. These 600 people along with the additional thousands which will be needed to service them, will be a permanent addition to southern Nevada prosperity. This greatest—and first—defense industry is forerunner of an even greater industrial development to come."

McCarran Visits Magnesium Plant Near Vegas Today

"Greatest Thing Ever
To Happen to State,"
Solon Declares

Nevada's Pat McCarran, in the best senatorial tradition, today beamed and shook hands with department heads and stenographers alike as he toured the new Basic Magnesium plant south of Las Vegas and pronounced it the greatest thing which has ever happened to the state.

"For the first time," the senator said, "we have something which is bringing wealth into Nevada instead of taking it out. Every ton of ore which is taken from a mine depletes our wealth. Every ton of concrete poured here adds to our prosperity."

Complete Survey

Senator McCarran, along with Howard C. Mann, general manager of the McNeil Construction Co., builders of the huge \$63,000,000 project, Gurnsey Frazer, Basic Magnesium's publicity chief, Eva Adams, the senator's secretary, and Ted Watterson, McNeil public relations man, went over every inch of the work for the first time since ground was broken.

"What impresses me most," he said as the party drove over the actual construction area where power shovels were scooping virgin desert to make way for buildings which will house the electrolysis units which form the nucleus of the enterprise, "is the lack of confusion which has attended the accomplishment of so much in such a short time. Everything moves smoothly and without lost motion. I feel sure that work will be completed much faster than we had even hoped."

Blames Washington

Speaking of lack of housing facilities which Mann told him had slowed the work somewhat, McCarran said that he believed the officials in Washington had not realized how urgent the Las Vegas housing problem is.

"They will when I get back, however," he added.

"A thing I think most people don't realize," he stated, "is that this is only a pilot plant. Its success has already attracted the interest of other industries to location and the day when many more will be lished here."

"Completion of the dam with its ultimate

6 Million Contract Is Signed With Los Angeles Firm

Details of Construction
Work Are Released
By Officials

Construction of the water and power lines, which will supply the huge magnesium plant with facilities, is expected to get under way in the immediate future, it was revealed here today.

Basic Magnesium Incorporated, a Nevada corporation acting for and in behalf of the Defense Plants Corporation, has entered into a contract with the J. M. Montgomery company, of Los Angeles, calling for the expenditure of approximately \$6,100,000 for construction of the water and power services and facilities.

Reveal Details

With the announcement of the signing of the contract, officials at the magnesium plant revealed details of the construction to be done to bring the facilities to the plant.

A pumping plant will be constructed on an island in Lake Mead with six pumps on the island and a cantilever type truss, with the base on the island being built.

The truss will carry pipes out into the lake and the pipes will be sent down deep into the water to insure against fluctuation in the level of the lake.

40 Inch Pipe

The pipeline itself will be 40 inches in diameter, 90,000 feet in length and from a quarter to nine sixteenths of an inch in thickness. There will be 14,305,000 pounds of steel in the pipeline, and it will deliver 30,000,000 gallons of water per day to the plant.

In addition to the six pumps on the island, including the standbys, there will be six booster pumps along the route of the pipeline, the officials said.

The water will be delivered into a large reservoir, 400 by 800 feet and 14½ feet deep. The reservoir will necessitate the excavation of approximately 175,000 cubic yards of dirt.

The power will be delivered to the plant at the rate of 230 KV and there will be two lines constructed to insure against any disruption in service. One of the lines will be 16.4 miles in length, while the other will be 23.6 miles in length. There will be service roads constructed along both lines, the officials said.

The Montgomery concern is composed of seven Los Angeles engineering firms all of which are reported to be outstanding in the electric and hydraulic industry on the Pacific slope.

We'll Wait Until the Evidence Is In

We hold no brief for the Anaconda Wire & Cable Company and its officials IF they are guilty of the offenses charged in a recent indictment by a Fort Wayne, Indiana, federal grand jury.

For the charges, as one commentator points out, "be-wilder human understanding."

Anaconda Wire & Cable manufactures cable for the communications—the lifelines—of our armed services and those of our allies. Their product is one of the most important being turned out for the war effort. Its failure on the battle-front in a critical situation would mean the difference between victory and defeat—could, quite conceivably, result in the annihilation of an entire army.

This is no ordinary situation. A few tanks can fail in the heat of battle without materially affecting the outcome. But a vital communications line? One of the most serious things that could happen.

Anaconda Wire and Cable, it is charged, invented "button boxes" to manipulate tests of the wire and cable manufactured for the armed forces. These boxes, the indictment alleges, were concealed under tables in the Anaconda plant at Marion, Indiana, and by means of them, unknown to government inspectors, wire being manufactured for the battle-front could be made to register on a galvanometer from two to ten times its actual resistance.

The cable actually failed on the hard-fought Russian battle front. Our own government relegated it to use for maneuvers instead of combat service, because of its inferior grade.

First reaction, in view of the enormity of the offense and the tragic possibilities affecting the entire war effort, is one of revulsion to all those indicted on the face of the charges as made.

For anyone guilty of any such offense is a traitor to the country and should be treated as such.

But—the indictment is not proof. It is a charge made which the government must prove to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt.

We have been pondering the case ever since the indictments were returned some time ago. In addition to being amazed at the charges, we were thunderstruck at the manner in which the attorney-general of the United States convicted the company and its officials before a jury had a chance to consider the case.

Under the Constitution of this republic, anyone accused of a crime is entitled to the presumption of innocence until the contrary is proven beyond a reasonable doubt. The Anaconda Wire & Cable Company as a corporation and its officials as individuals are entitled to that presumption.

All the attorney general has so far, is an indictment, obtained upon presentation of one side of the evidence, yet he sets out to misuse the influence of the government to prejudice the venire that will hear the case.

When the indictment was returned in Fort Wayne, Mr. Biddle issued a press release in Washington in which he said: "I can conceive of nothing more vicious or treacherous than deliberately supplying our armed forces with defective war materials."

There isn't an American living who won't agree with the attorney-general. But the defendants in this astounding case aren't guilty just because Mr. Biddle says they are. Reputable attorneys do NOT try their cases in the newspapers. They stick religiously to the principle of presenting the evidence and letting the court and jury render the decision.

It is difficult for us to believe that a reputable concern such as Anaconda Wire & Cable would stoop to any such practice. Whatever money was saved—whatever extra profit was made—certainly couldn't compensate for the complete wrecking of reputation certain to follow denouement. No American would do business with a firm convicted of such charges.

It is quite apparent to anyone who considers the case that the faulty construction of the wire would be discovered just as soon as it was put to use. Anaconda engineers know this—even the uninitiated would realize it, upon considering the matter.

It isn't a case where there was an even chance the defects would never come to light—they were certain to be exposed and in critical spots where the consequences could be most destructive.

Anyone with any sense at all, and men in charge of so large an industry certainly would have to be sensible persons, would realize also that when the discovery WAS made, they'd be branded as traitors and worse, and that their fellow-Americans would howl for their very lives.

Men of normal human intelligence and emotion can understand murder for revenge. They can understand treason motivated by perverted loyalty. They rightly support the penalty of death for those crimes, but may grant that the individuals who commit them are not necessarily monsters in private conscience.

Conspiracy, however, for the purpose of making money—to trick the government into buying defective equipment endangering the lives of American soldiers and sailors, would be in another category. It would be sub-human.

Considering all these things, we can't believe that any American concern would stoop to any such tactics and further that if even the slight extra profit were that attractive, they'd still be afraid in this instance of certain discovery.

So we're inclined to wait until the evidence is in and a jury of twelve patriotic Americans has rendered its decision. We have a hunch there's a lot more beneath the surface than the indictment reveals. It could, quite conceivably, be a case of sabotage. Certainly the possible results would be worth the effort.

BASIC MAGNESIUM

The other day, through the courtesy of Guernsey Frazor, I again had the pleasure of seeing



about everything there is to be seen at the great plant at Basic Magnesium. In so great an enterprise, especially a war project, there are many things which people do not know, some of which engender misunderstandings and criticisms. Much criticism still goes the rounds because of the vast increase in the cost of the project. At first a few of the Vegas people who were fortunate enough to be in on "the know" from the start remember, the project was limited to one unit which was to be located near the junction of the Boulder City branch of the Union Pacific with the main line, six miles south of Las Vegas.

As investigations by military officers, engineers and government officials developed, it was found desirable to increase the size of the project to several units and the site at the junction was found to be unsatisfactory. That resulted in selection of the present site near Boulder Highway and, of course, increased the estimated costs from perhaps twenty or twenty-five million dollars originally estimated.

Then another decision of the powers-that-be resulted in making the plans to provide for ten of the great units each containing eight of the great electric chlorination furnaces and eighty-eight of the electrical cells for reclaiming the metal—that was eighty of the furnaces and 880 of the cells.

The vast increase in the scope of the plant included, in addition to the production of crude magnesium metal, a refining plant, a plant from which hundreds of tons of liquidified chlorine gas are being shipped every month, a vast increase in the preliminary stocks of materials such as peat moss, salt and magnesite, and immense additions to the works at Gabbs Valley where the deposits of magnesite are located and where the ores are calcined and treated before being shipped to the Las Vegas plant.

It seems no wonder, therefore, that the cost estimates were increased from a few million dollars to something like sixty million and then to approximately double that amount. One thing we believe the public should keep in mind is that the entire project, except the original idea brought from England and the sketchy plans which were saved from the torpedoed ship in which they were being brought to America, has been created through the genius of American engineering talent supplemented by the knowledge of the technicians brought from England. It has been a project which had to be created step by step as the work progressed and even now, when hundreds of tons of magnesium metal and chlorine gas are being contributed to the war program, the plans are not yet complete and new developments are being introduced into construction of the plant as well as into the processes of production.

Mr. Francis O. Case, manager of the plant under the Anaconda Copper Company control, is using all available talent to correct the inevitable mistakes which hasty and incomplete planning in the early stages of the project brought about. He is confronted with many and complicated problems in his efforts to complete the plant and put it on a basis of operation which will compete in cost of production after the war with already established plants and processes. Those who have talked with him have faith that it can be done.

BASIC WATER SYSTEM

But few communities or plants in America are served by more complete water systems than is Basic Magnesium. However, the availability of practically unlimited water from Lake Mead was one of the controlling factors in locating the enterprise near Las Vegas, the other chief factor being electrical power from Boulder Dam.

Just above the plant perhaps a mile away toward Railroad Pass, are two large reservoirs into which water from Lake Mead is pumped through a 40-inch pipe line. Near the reservoirs is being built the water treatment plant.

Perhaps "40-inch pipe line" does not sound like much to most people. Once you have seen it at close quarters its greatness is better appreciated, because 40 inches is a yard and four inches (inside measurement) which is big enough so that after it was completed inspectors could go through it to examine the weldings and the inner coating which was applied to prevent corrosion.

But the full magnitude of this water project is not appreciated until you have seen the great battery of pumps at the "booster station" which forces the water from a level of between eleven and twelve hundred feet up the hill to the reservoirs, approximately two thousand feet in altitude.

The chief wonder to a novice, however, is the intake plant at the lake. Here, in a location where there is a sheer cliff extending far below the surface of the water, is the intake plant. Perhaps you may have visioned that as a barge with a piece of hose or pipe extending into the water.

The other day was my first view of the intake. The first impression is of a great steel bridge, which is really a cantilever 195 feet long extending for approximately one hundred feet over the water at a height of 200 feet (equal to the height of Golden Gate bridge above the water) from which are suspended four great electric pumps which hang something like fifty feet below the surface of lake Mead at low water.

This great cantilever, the pumping plants and the forty-inch pipe line extending through hills and valleys and desert plains for more than sixteen miles, is really an outstanding engineering achievement with which but very few of our people are familiar. It accounts for some of the millions which are being poured into America's No. One Defense Project of Basic Magnesium, Inc.

USO sponsors Christmas Parties At Trailer Park

When the USO undertook to make Christmas on the Desert a happy yule-tide season for the residents of the Basic Trailer Camp, one of the largest in the country, which houses workers of the Basic Magnesium plant, officials didn't leave a thing undone in their effort to give defense plant workers and their families, so far from home, and so far from the traditional family Christmas, the real spirit of the season.

Nearly 1000 persons attended the outdoor Christmas party, staged at the Basic Trailer Park playground area, under the direction of the USO, headed by Miss Margaret M. Bushard, Director, and her assistant, Mrs. Merle Miller. USO officials and volunteers worked in conjunction with N. R. Snyder, Camp Manager; Basic Magnesium, Inc., officials, and Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops of the Trailer Camp.

Huge community Christmas tree centered the area, and trees glowed atop each of the four buildings at the corners; cranberries and pop corn were strung by the Scout troops and other camp assistants, tinsel figures were made by children of the camp, and the gay lighting effects of the trees, the flood lights, and the strings of lights over-head all made the Park a really bright spot on the desert for the great festivity.

While nearly 500 boys and girls anxiously awaited the arrival of Santa Claus, other events of the evening were carried on, interrupted by messages to the eager tots from Santa, as to his expected arrival.

Mr. Bob Lee led the crowd in singing "Jingle Bells" and other timely carols; Girl Scouts of the camp sang several Christmas carols, and recordings were made of these, to be sent to the USO.

Ten live turkeys were raffled, following distribution of chances throughout the camp the previous week. Winners were: Bert Dunham, George Stebbins, K. E. Reed, Bill Shaver, D. Bartley, J. Hillberg, L. T. Ferguson, J. Bloughton, H. Gofford, and Alec Fenton. Following Lee's message to the children that Santa was hurrying "as fast as he could", N. R. Snyder was introduced, as was W. Harold Kingsley, of the B. M. I. Employees' Activities Department. Kingsley presented F. O. Case, general manager of BMI, who complimented the people on their party, and L. Satterwaite, general superintendent.

At last, Santa Claus made his appearance as a true take-off on the first real Christmas, when the Wise Men arrived aboard camels, rather than the universally accepted version of Santa aboard his sleigh, drawn by the reindeer, over snow-covered hill-tops. A very fat man was he, this jolly Santa, in his red velvet attire, his flowing white beard, and his shining black boots. The bells attached to his belt merrily tingled as he laughed, and talked, as he passed out large stockings of candy, nuts, and fruits to over 450 boys and girls, forming an almost un-ending line to pass in front of him. After talking with each of the children, he wished them a merry Christmas, with a promise to see them on Christmas eve, and the dear old Santa bade them all good-night.

Prizes were then awarded winners of the Trailer Park "Dress-Up" Contest, also sponsored by the USO, and judged the previous evening by a committee of judges from the USO-BMI Committee. Awards, consisting of defense stamps, went to Mrs. LeRoy Lightmizer in the decorative division; Mrs. Thomas Sparr in the timely division; Miss Patricia Diel in the ingenuity division; Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Smith in the window decoration section; and Mrs. Herbert Berman in the homey division. Honorable mention went to Mrs. Milton Holmes, Mrs. C. P. Peterson, Mrs. Jack Smith, Mrs. Elmer A. Burgess and Miss Joy Wellon.

Plans for the event had been underway for some time, and the Christmas Party and home decoration contest were but one part of the regular night-by-night recreation program sponsored by the Vegas USO, under Miss Bushard's direction. This was the first Christmas festivity of any kind for the Trailer Park, which is but a comparatively few months old and was an all-out effort to make Christmas, 1942, one that will be remembered.

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