

# PGE constructs switching station

8-25-75

Portland General Electric Co. might measure progress in East County by the ever-increasing electrical needs of the area.

Evidence of growth (of the community and PGE) is seen in the new construction taking place south of the Gresham Service Center on Burnside Street and 223rd Avenue.

"We secured the property so we could locate a switching station there," said T.W. Lowry, division manager of the Gresham center. "Fence construction and grading and leveling in preparation for the station are underway now. In the latter part of the year the steel work construction will begin.

"We intend to do landscaping as soon as the weather becomes advantageous for planting," he added.

Lowry said the switching station will connect the Lents, Boring and Ruby substations and provide greater reliability for the system in the Gresham service area.

"We're tying the three together so a load can be transferred from one circuit to another," Lowry explained. "These substations are tied in with our generating plants, so the service area will have alternate sources of generation as well as transmission in the case of storm damage or other types of outages," he said.

Service will be improved in the entire Gresham area including Troutdale, Orient, Sandy, and the Mt. Hood area, according to Lowry.

Lowry added that the poleyard at the Gresham service center is cramped for space and will soon move south across the railroad tracks to the new substation site.

"Sometime in the early 1980's the present Hogan substation will move over to the new location and the vacated land will be reused for our own needs."

This move, along with other projects, should fulfill anticipated electrical needs for the area until the year 2000, said Lowry.

PGE has secured all permits from the city for the anticipated work, Lowry said.

Because there is a residential, commercial and industrial mix in the area, the electric company will be conscious of noise levels. Lowry said PGE will not put anything on the property that will generate excessive noise.





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OUTLOOK 2 MAR. 1928



# **In 1903, electricity came to Gresham. And PGE was there.**

In 1903, some small communities east of Portland needed electricity to run an interurban railway. A little utility company built a substation to power the rail line. And a vital link that's still visible today was formed. The utility eventually became PGE. And those small eastern communities developed into a bustling city to be known as Gresham.

This year, the city of Gresham is 75 years old. And PGE has been there all the way. Providing power the

people of Gresham need... from the introduction of city streetlighting in 1906 to the state-of-the-art electric generating plants of today.

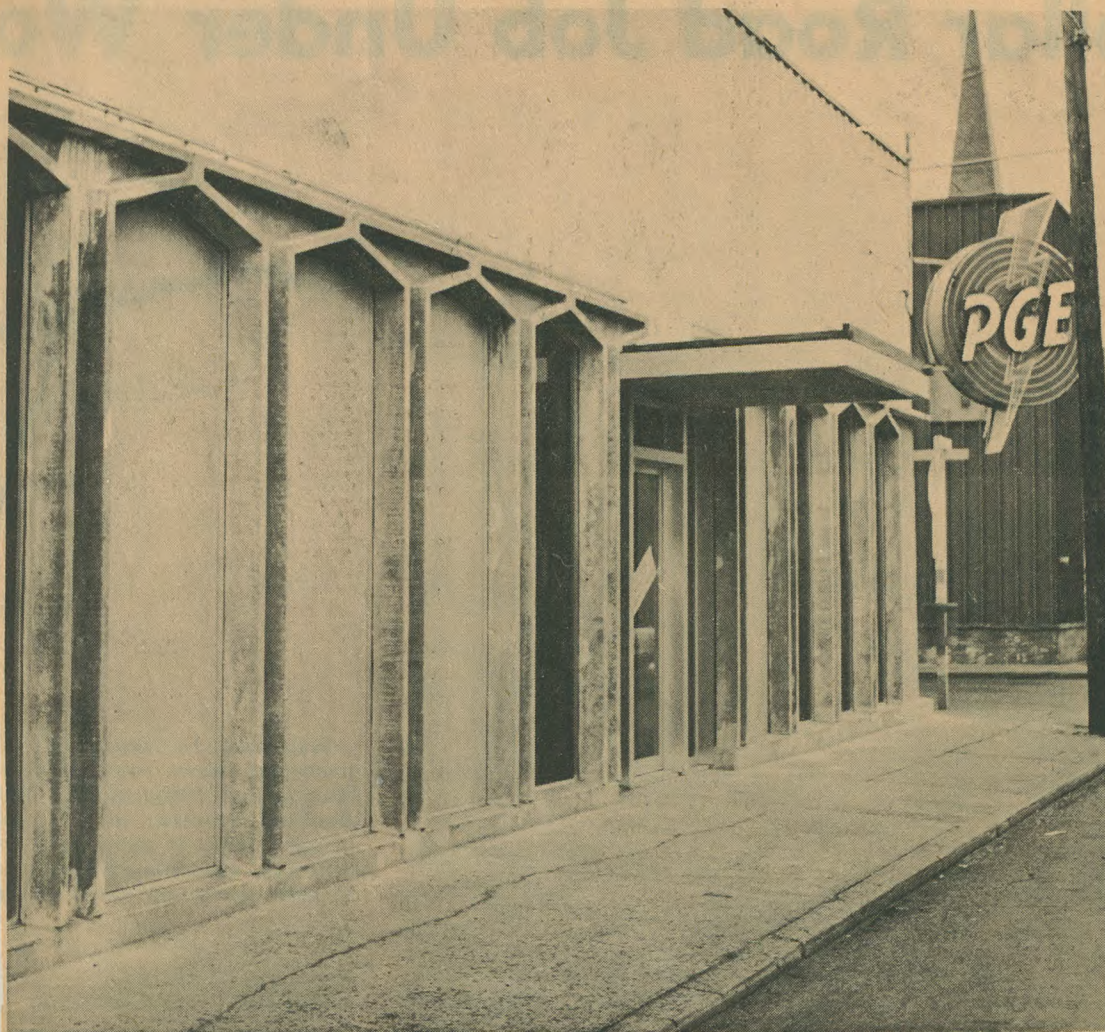
All the people at PGE wish the City of Gresham and its residents a very happy 75th birthday. Please remember... just as it's been since 1903, we'll be here when you need us... at the flip of a switch.



Neighbors serving neighbors.



OUTLOOK - 2-20-64



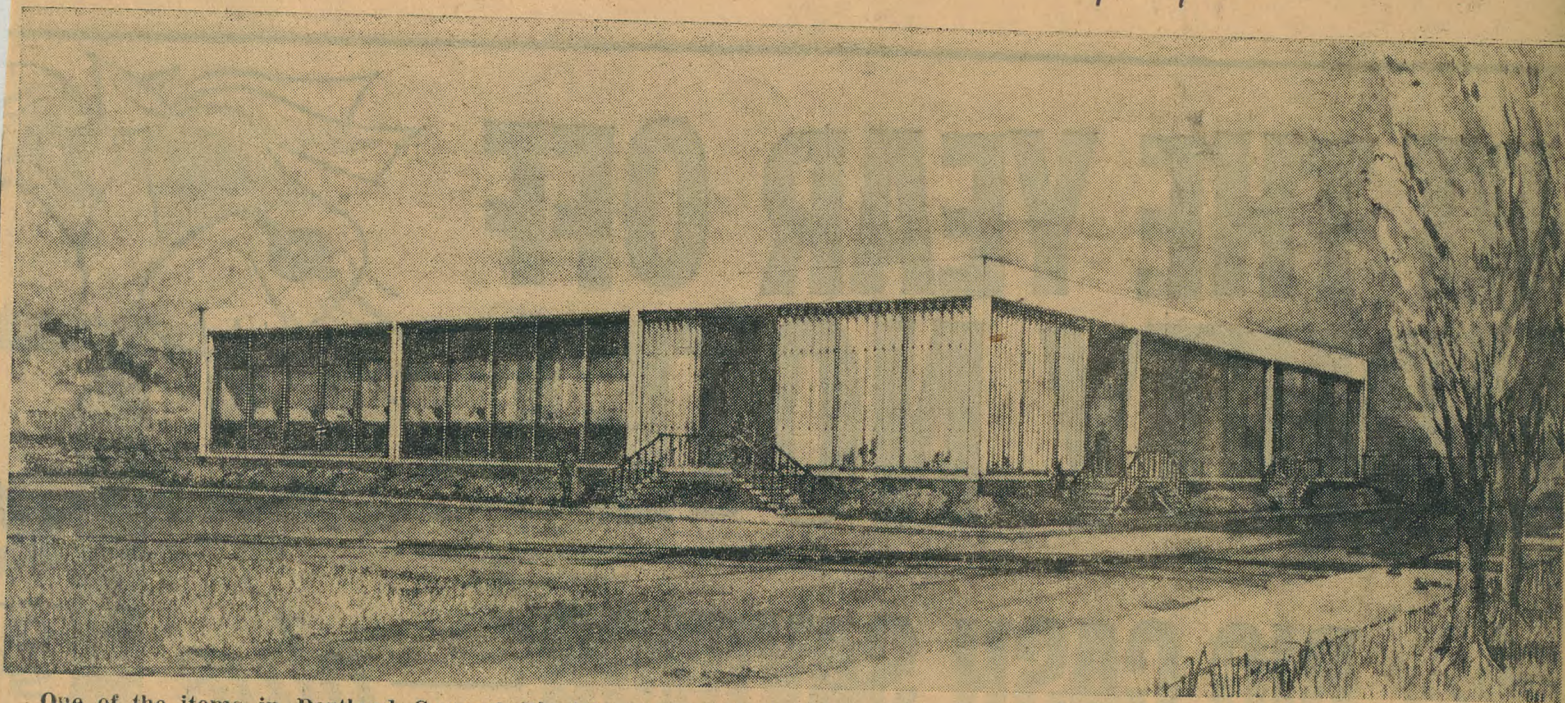
This is exterior of PGE office building in Gresham, with the cathedral-type front windows giving a handsome look to its remod-

eled face. Remodeling is also being done on the interior of the building.

(Outlook photo)



1-4-62



One of the items in Portland General Electric company's multi-million dollar 1962 construction budget is this \$400,000 service center to be constructed at the Gresham pole yard on East Burnside Extension. Bids are expected to go out in February, with construction to begin in early spring. Operating

personnel presently housed in the downtown Gresham office will occupy the new quarters in the fall of 1962. The building will be situated on a 12-acre site which includes Hogan substation and the Gresham pole yard. The building will be completely air conditioned, probably by heat pumps.



OUTLOOK JAN. 9, 1964

1/9/64



The new Gresham Service Center, PGE's newest and finest building, opened April 20, 1963. Located on the Burnside Extension, the building reflects the interest of PGE's Gresham personnel in bettering its community. Division Manager Jack Murton supervised construction of the building block by block and nail by nail. We, of PGE, feel that this building shows our confidence in the future of the Greater East County area.



# *a community profile of*

## **GRESHAM AREA**

*prepared as a community service by*  
**PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY**

Area Development & Research Department  
621 S.W. Alder Street, Portland, Oregon 97205



### **LOCATION**

Gresham is located 14 miles east of downtown Portland. The city developed to serve rich farms in the area, and it became an early suburb of Portland because of its location along the line of an interurban electric railway. The land between Gresham and Portland is rapidly growing with residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

### **POPULATION**

The 1970 U. S. Census population of the Portland Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, in which Gresham is located, is 1,009,129. The Gresham population is 10,030 and that of Multnomah County, in which it is located, is 556,667. Other cities in the vicinity of Gresham are Fairview — 1,045; Wood Village — 1,533; and Troutdale — 575.\*

### **LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT**

The 1970 annual average labor force for the Portland SMSA was 466,100; nonagricultural employment was 427,700, of which 85,700 were employed in well-diversified manufacturing; and agricultural employment averaged 1,800.

In Multnomah County alone, manufacturing employment averaged 50,100 in 1970. There is no major concentration of employment in any one manufacturing industry. The largest employers are in order: food and kindred products, transportation equipment, non-electrical machinery, lumber and wood products, fabricated metals, primary metals, and printing and publishing.

The largest manufacturing employers in Gresham are: United Flav-R-Pac (food processing); Columbia Brick Works; Olympic Manufacturing Co. (veneer); Buttercup Bakery; Outlook Publishing Company; and Scenic Fruit Company (berry processing). At nearby Troutdale are located Reynolds Metals Co. (Aluminum reduction) and Jansen Machine and Boat Works. Open Road Industries (campers) is in Wood Village. Other large plants located in unincor-

porated areas near Gresham include Cascade Corporation (hydraulic cylinders). Radiation International, Inc. (airframe structures and electronics), Boyd Coffee Co., and Norwest Publishing Company.

### **AGRICULTURE**

At the time of the 1964 U. S. Census of Agriculture, in Multnomah County there were 478 commercial farms, averaging 87.7 acres per farm. The value of farm products sold in 1970 was \$18.7 million. Principal products included: specialty horticultural crops, vegetables, berries, and dairy products.

### **MINERALS**

The main commercial minerals in Multnomah County are stone and sand and gravel. Known deposits of other minerals include ferruginous bauxite and red-firing clays.

### **CLIMATE**

Mean daily maximum temperature in July is 78.6°F; mean daily minimum in January is 33.0°F. Typically there are 9 days a year with temperature 90°F. or above and 45 days with 32°F. or under. Precipitation averages 37.2 inches a year, with 7.5 inches of snow. (These data are for the Portland airport weather station, 8 miles northwest of Gresham.)

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Rail: Freight service is provided by the Union Pacific Railroad and Portland Traction Company (owned jointly by Union Pacific and Southern Pacific).

Truck: One regular route truck carrier and R.E.A. Express serve Gresham.

Air: Gresham is 15 road miles from Portland International Airport, served by 9 airlines, and 4 miles from the major general aviation airport at Troutdale.

Bus and Taxi: Gresham is served by Pacific Trailways and Tri-Met (inter-urban). There is one local taxi company.

Highway: Gresham is located on U. S. Highway

26. The section running from Portland through Gresham to the Mt. Hood recreation area is known as the Mt. Hood Highway.

### **UTILITIES**

Electric: Low cost, dependable electric power is provided by Portland General Electric Company. The rates are uniform throughout the system.

Gas: Northwest Natural Gas Company is the supplier. Its rates are uniform throughout the system.

Telephone: Service is through General Telephone Northwest. Direct dialing without toll charges is provided to Portland.

Water: Municipal system, distributing Bull Run water purchased from the City of Portland. Coming from mountain snow melt, it is very pure, soft water.

Rate schedules and technical information available on request.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Gresham has a council-manager form of city government. There is a mayor and 6 councilmen. There is a city planning commission and land use zoning.

Multnomah County operates under a Home Rule Charter. There are 5 commissioners. The heads of the administrative departments are appointed by the commission. There is a county planning commission and county-wide land use zoning. The Columbia Region Association of Governments is the regional planning body.

### **LOCAL TAXES**

The principal local tax is an ad valorem property tax. The assessment ratio is 100 percent of true cash value for all classes of property. Property tax rates vary depending on the location. For the 1970-71 tax year, the average tax rate for property in Multnomah County is 2.97 percent. Gresham has city business licenses for regulation purposes for certain industries, but at nominal rates.



## PLANT LOCATION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO YOU

Portland General Electric Company, an investor-owned electric utility, distributes electric energy to about 41 percent of Oregon's two million people. The PGE service area is a compact 3,300 square miles, in the northern end of the Willamette Valley.

PGE's service area includes most of two metropolitan areas: Portland, a major seaport with 1,000,000 people, and Salem, with just under 200,000. The service area is central to the concentration of population and industry of the Pacific Northwest. It includes the fastest growing portions of Oregon and contains half of the State's manufacturing plants.

The Area Development and Research Department is prepared to supply specific information on industrial location factors relating to the PGE service area. The Department maintains a file of available plant sites and buildings and would be pleased to show you communities and locations.

### for additional information contact

Area Development & Research Dept.  
Portland General Electric Company  
621 S.W. Alder Street  
Portland, Oregon 97205  
Telephone 503/228-7181

Member,  
American Industrial Development Council

Associate Member,  
Society of Industrial Realtors

Member,  
Plant Location Assistance Nationwide Network



### EDUCATION

There are 6 public grade schools and 3 high schools in Gresham. Mt. Hood Community College, a 2-year coeducational institution, offers a combination of general and specific programs of study for students of varying abilities and occupational objectives. In addition, the colleges and universities in Portland are within commuting distance of Gresham.

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND RECREATION

There are 21 churches representing 17 denominations in Gresham's environs, 14 of them within the city. Gresham has a theater, a bowling alley, tennis courts, a skating rink and a new 18-hole golf course. It is located among four recreational areas: Mt. Hood, the Columbia

Gorge, and the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers. In addition, Gresham is less than two hours' drive from the ocean beaches. The features of a large metropolitan city are only 14 miles away in Portland. A greyhound racing track, with parimutuel wagering, is located at Fairview.

### PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Gresham has one general hospital and other large general hospitals of the Portland area are nearby. The Gresham Police Department has 18 employees. The city fire department consists of 5 regular and 44 volunteer firemen; it has 6 pieces of equipment. The fire classification rating is 6. Sanitary sewer service is provided to a 40 square mile area with a 3.5 million gallon per day capacity. The plant capacity will be doubled in 1971.

### MEDIA

The *Gresham Outlook* is a weekly newspaper. In addition the 2 major Portland dailies circulate in Gresham. KRDR is Gresham's own radio station and the community is within the reception area for 5 Portland TV stations and its many radio stations.

### INDUSTRIAL SITES AND FINANCING

The Rockwood Industrial District, 3 miles northwest of Gresham, is owned by the Union Pacific Railroad. It has immediate access to Interstate 80N and the main line of the railroad abuts the northern boundary of the District. The Gresham Chamber of Commerce (telephone 503/665-5097) is located at 260 N.E. Roberts, Gresham, Oregon 97030.

10-1-2000

OREGON - GRESHAM

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A COMMUNITY PROFILE OF

**GRESHAM AREA**

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