Reynolds plant employs more

by Helen Hanson
staff reporter

Reynolds Metals Company's aluminum reduction plant bordering Sundial Road at Troutdale is among the top 20 employers in the Portland metropolitan area. Its 130,000-ton capacity is tops for the two aluminum plants now located in Oregon.

Despite the economic woes that have beset the country, the Reynolds plant at Troutdale still has all five of its production lines going and is employing more than 900 persons. Its payroll is near $13 million annually.

Besides a large payroll, the Troutdale reduction plant in 1974 paid out almost $22 million in purchases, freight, state and local taxes and purchase of electricity.

When this plant was closed down in late 1971 because of a supply-demand imbalance in the aluminum market, the closure had a definite effect on the Gresham area economy. However, the plant was closed for only 10 months.

By Aug. 1, 1972, the demand for aluminum was such that a plant restart announcement was made. And a month later, the switch was turned at the rectifier station to energize the first potline of the restart.

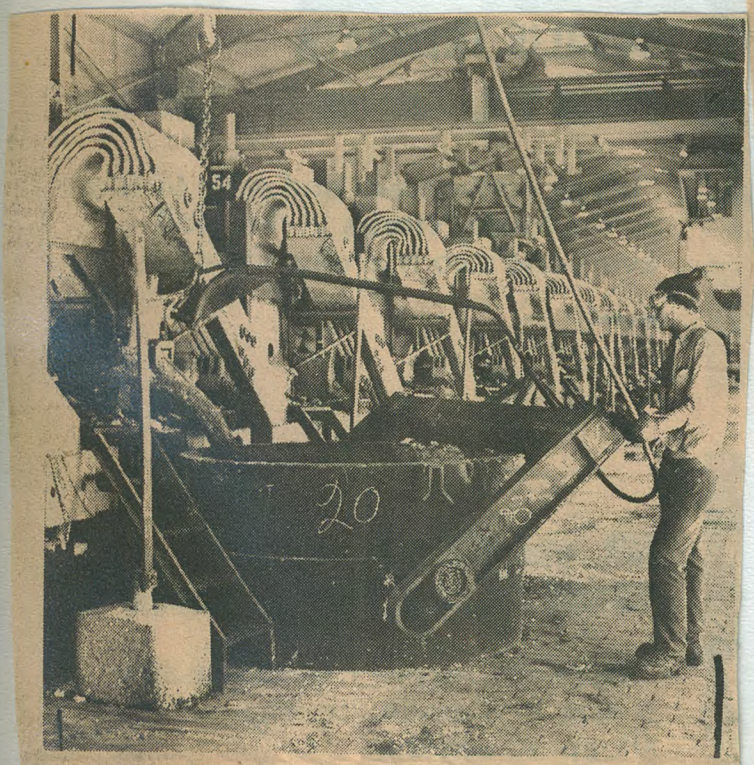
At the time of the Troutdale restart, Harry Helton, then plant managed and now Northwest operations manager, made a prophetic statement, "I'm particularly enthused about starting up. There is no question that Troutdale can be the top plant in Reynolds Metals Company. It will take a lot of effort by all of us and working together . . .We should all look forward to the day when our plant is at 100 per cent capacity and in a competitive enough position to insure that other plants are shut down instead of this one."

Despite the severe energy crisis of 1973, the Troutdale plant had all of its five potlines going by early 1974, set a new production record and a new high in employment. According to Reynolds officials, it is one of the most efficient plants in the company's aluminum reduction division. Also, it is the only reduction plant in the company to receive the top safety award from the National Safety Council.

The plant was presented the Award of Honor by the Safety Council for its 1973 safety program through which employes posted a 0.71 disabling accident rate per million manhours worked while the national average for industries was 10.21 per million manhours worked.

The plant has a long history of service to East Multnomah County and the Gresham-Fairview-Troutdale area. It was built by the U.S. government early in World War II and operated by Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA).

In 1941, Reynolds had built its own aluminum reduction plant farther down the Columbia



"TAPPING" IS an important part of any aluminum production operation. At Reynolds Troutdale plant molten metal is drawn, or "tapped", from the production cells and then cast into solid form.

than 900 persons

River at Longview, Wash. That plant was built in a record-shattering 5 months and 18 days, and the first aluminum from it was poured Sept. 12, 1941.

Richard S. Reynolds, company founder, was awarded the President's Certificate of Merit by President Harry S. Truman for "outstanding services in aid of the war effort."

When hostilities ceased, Reynolds leased the Troutdale plant in 1946. In 1949, the plant was purchased as part of a package of six war surplus plants.

One of the first projects Reynolds undertook at the Troutdale facility was the installation of environmental controls. The plant had none when Reynolds took it over.

Since that time, the controls have been modernized and the plant now is being readied for new environmental control devices to help it meet aluminum plant emission standards laid down by the State of Oregon.

It has become a more efficient operation with the passing of the years. In 1950, for example, it took 12.5 kilowatt hours of electricity to produce a pound of aluminum at Troutdale. Today, that amount has been reduced to 7.5 kilowatt hours per pound.

"We have been able to do this through an extremely cost-conscious and competitive attitude," C.D. Alexander, the plant manager, said.

He points out that while the basic process of making aluminum at Troutdale remains the same, technology has been refined and improved.

"There's still a lot of art as well as science in aluminum production and that is one reason an aluminum plant is an interesting place to work and visit," the Troutdale plant manager added.

At the Reynolds Troutdale plant, aluminum oxide (alumina) is used in a complicated electrolytic process in the pots to form molten aluminum. From there the metal is transported to gas-fired holding furnaces until it is ready to cast into both small bars, weighing as little as 50 pounds, and huge ones of as much as 36,000 pounds.

HUGE BLOCKS of aluminum, or "ingots", go into many useful products from the Troutdale reduction plant of Reynolds Metals Company. Construction, recreational, marine, household foil are just a few of the applications that come from ingot like this.

These bars, called ingots, are transported to customers and other Reynolds plants where they are fabricated into many useful aluminum products.

Engineers and technicians at the plant constantly are evaluating their processes and refining them. For instance, the plant is now saving more types of energy than just electricity. By coating its carbon anodes, the positive terminal in the electrolytic process, with molten aluminum, the anodes burn slower, last longer and sharply reduce the number of anodes to be cured in gas-fired pits.

Another facet of the Troutdale plant is community involvement. There are city councilmen, Scoutmasters, Little League coaches and women's organization leaders among the personnel. Reynolds people are active in civic and community affairs in the area.

Each year the company awards a $6,000 college scholarship to a graduating senior at Reynolds High School.

Reynolds Metals pioneered recycling of aluminum when the company opened a pilot reclamation center in Los Angeles in 1968. By this summer, Reynolds was operating 40 permanent recycling centers and planning to expand its recycling activities across the nation.

The recycling center at the Troutdale plant is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All-aluminum beverage cans, TV dinner trays, aluminum foil, aluminum pie pans and other clean household aluminum is accepted and paid for at 15 cents per pound.

Since spring Reynolds has been offering recyclers the choice of taking their cash or a check in the amount due made out the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Funds raised through the MDA-Reynolds recycling program will be announced on the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon.

OUTLOOK 3 AUG. 2002

Plant will not reopen

Officials confirm permanent closure of Reynolds Metal

BY JILL FOREMAN
of The Gresham Outlook staff

TROUTDALE — Confirming what community leaders have long suspected, Alcoa Inc. in Pittsburgh announced Wednesday, July 31, that Reynolds Metal in Troutdale will never reopen.

The plant in Troutdale was "temporarily curtailed" in June 2000, affecting about 525 hourly and salaried employees at the facility.

Two years ago, Alcoa CEO Alain Belda said, "For the Troutdale smelter to be competitive, extensive upgrades to its 1940s technology and large capital expenditures are needed ..."

Clearly deciding the upgrades would be too expensive, Alcoa is calling the closure "part of its long-term, low-cost production strategy within the context of a weak economy."

Alcoa will also cut short production at a plant in Badin, N.C., and permanently close its Rockdale, Texas, facility. The assets at both Troutdale and Rockdale will be dismantled.

TURN TO PLANT,
Page 2A

OUTLOOK 3 AUG. 2002

Plant: Technology park backers eye Reynolds site

CONTINUED FROM *Page 1A*

"It was a large employer for the last half of the century, from the war years on," said Troutdale City Manager Erik Kvarsten. "The plant, with its history, is part of the fabric of Troutdale and the east county community. Certainly, with the number of jobs it affected, it's sad."

Reynolds Metal Company produced raw aluminum materials at the 80-acre site beginning in 1946. In 1991, its operations were scaled back to casting ingots. Aluminum production was back up to speed from 1998 until June 2000.

In the meantime, while one era ends, another may loom on the horizon.

Gresham developer Hiroshi Morihara has visions of building an Oregon Science and Technology Park that would be a hi-tech educational and industrial hub on the east side.

"We've known this for some time," Morihara said Friday of Alcoa's intention to close the site. "We've been working with their real estate division, forming a partnership with them."

Will Alcoa sell the site?

"We still don't know," Morihara said. "They'd like to get the maximum return for the owner. They want to be choosy who they sell to and be a good corporate citizen. That's why they like the Oregon Science and Technology Park, but that doesn't mean they won't sell it to other people because of economics."

Morihara and members of the Oregon Science and Technology Park Board working toward the high-tech park say that the 350 acres of developable land at the Reynolds site is ideal for the park. It is the largest underdeveloped site in the region with accessibility and infrastructure. Utilities are in place, and it has an on-site airport and easy access to Portland International Airport and Interstate 5.

Morihara estimates it will take the rest of the year before a decision is reached on the land.

"Alcoa is working very closely with Gresham, Troutdale and the Port of Portland," said Dr. Diane Vines, president of the Oregon Science and Technology Park Board. "We're trying very hard to influence them."

The City of Troutdale supports the Oregon Science and Technology Park concept, Kvarsten said. The site is located outside Troutdale city limits, but within its Urban Growth Boundary.

Rumors R

Is there a real possibility that Reynolds Metals may be planning to close its Troutdale plant?

You hear all sorts of rumors. And some of the rumors are pretty specific, such as, the Troutdale plant is going to shut down on July 1 or Aug. 1.

But the man who should know, Troutdale Plant Manager William E. Campbell, says this talk really is nothing more than "just rumors."

"I'm sure Reynolds has no immediate intention of closing down its Troutdale plant."

Follow Decision

The latest batch of rumors cropped up several weeks ago in the wake of a court decision in which Mr. and Mrs. Julius Lampert of Troutdale were awarded $10,017 damages for fluoride burns to their gladioli crops.

Campbell issued a statement pointing out that "only the Oregon plant is plagued with costly legal proceedings resulting from claims for alleged damage."

He concluded:

"It is unfortunate that these continuous, costly lawsuits hamper the operation of the company's plant at Troutda by putting it at a disadvantag in competition with other cor pany aluminum reductio plants."

Moving Out

A Portland newspaper e panded the statement aft talking to Campbell to say "W have been giving seriou thought to moving out of Or gon."

Since then, the rumors hav been flying thick and fast.

Any decision as to closing th plant obviously would have be made at higher echelons.

But Campbell doesn't seem feel this is likely.

Campbell does concede, hov ever, that the Troutdale plant at a competitive disadvantag with other Reynolds operation

And suits which have bee filed against the Troutdale o eration aren't the only reaso

Campbell reports, for in stance, that the Reynolds pla at Longview is running 100 pe cent of capacity . . . compare to 62½ per cent for Troutdale.

Three Reasons

The reasons? Campbell say these are (a) lower productio costs (b) lower taxes and (c no lawsuits.

2-22-62

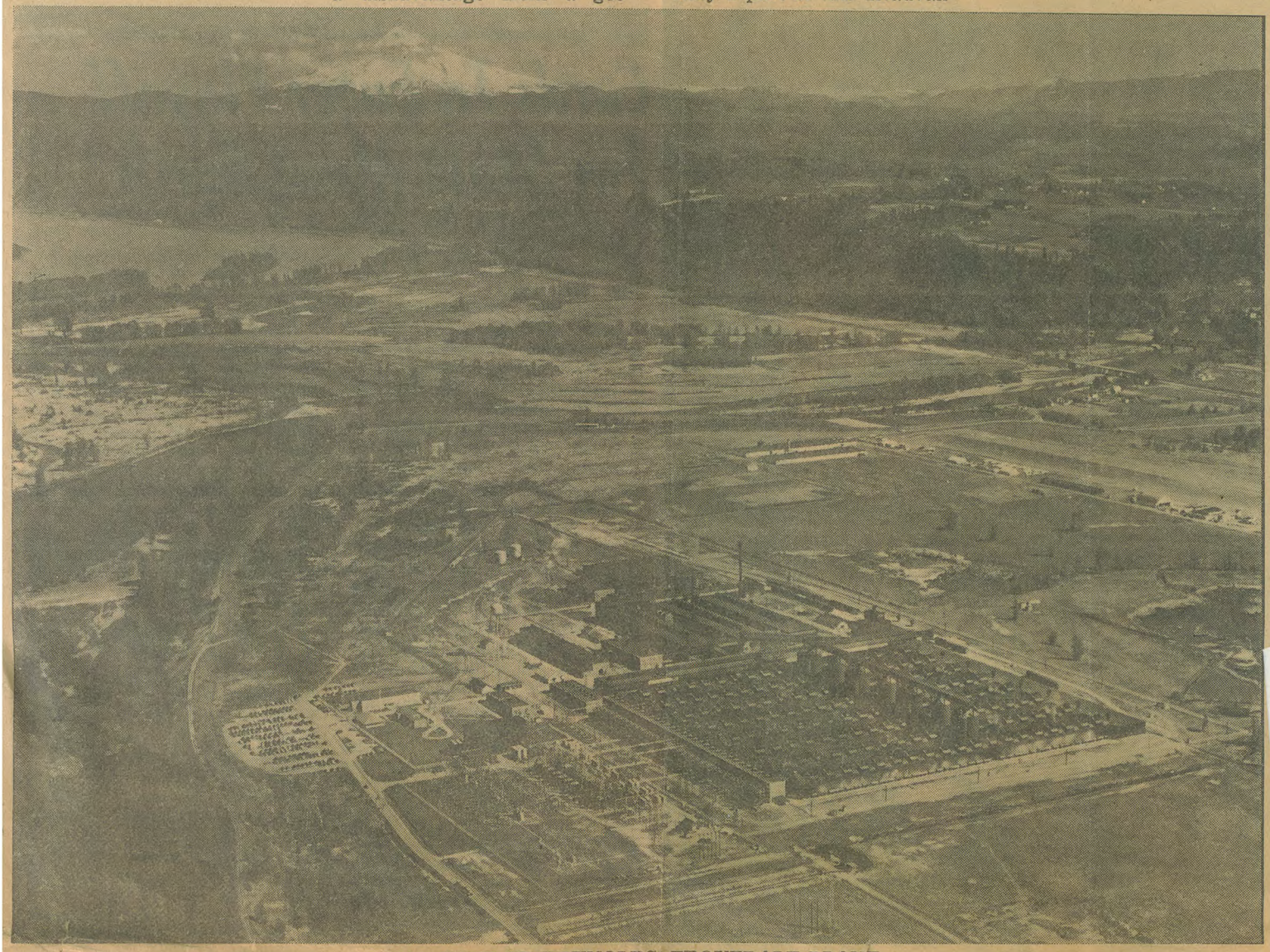
eynolds May Shut Do

The Troutdale plant, while it is constantly being improved, isn't as modern as some other Reynolds operations. This cuts into productivity.

West Coast plants also are at a disadvantage from a geographic standpoint. They're farther from raw materials, farther from markets.

Only a part of this disadvantage is offset by lower power rates in the Pacific Northwest.

Campbell is quick to point



AERIAL VIEW OF REYNOLDS' TROUTDALE PLANT

2-22-62

wn Denied

out, however, that the lower productivity at Troutdale isn't due to the ability of the personnel.

"The people here are just as capable as any we have anywhere."

The fact remains that nationwide, Reynolds added about 39,000 tons of capacity in January; there is a slight upsurge in aluminum demand right now.

But not at 'bit of that was added here.

Last to Benefit

"As long as Troutdale continues to be one of the most costly plants to operate, we'll be one of the first to cut back and one of the last to benefit from any increases in production," Campbell said.

The Troutdale plant dropped last year from 75 per cent of capacity to 62½ per cent and had fallen from 100 per cent to 75 per cent a year earlier.

Just last week, Campbell took cognizance of the rumors about closing the plant. He passed word through his supervisory personnel that while Troutdale's competitive position wasn't favorable, the rumors were "just rumors."

He told the Outlook, "This whole thing has been blown out of proportion."

Reynolds employs 618 people against a peak of between 750 and 800. Campbell said he expects the work force to remain constant about where it is now.

Big Payroll

The annual payroll is about $4,500,000 and Campbell said Reynolds spends another $9,700,000 per year in Oregon for commodities, services, etc.

Locally, for instance, Reynolds uses the banking services of Gresham branch of First National. Gresham Transfer handles a great proportion of their motor shipments. The Troutdale post office gets the plant business.

Reynolds has owned the property outright since 1949 when it was obtained from the federal government. The plant was built during World War II and originally operated by Alcoa.

The company has, Campbell said, spent $10,000,000 on air quality controls in the Northwest since 1946, and these "are the most effective in operation at any aluminum reduction plant in the world."

end to the flower industry.

Rancher Paul Martin, who then owned the land that is now the Sandy River Delta in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, conducted a protracted law suit against Reynolds claiming fluoride emissions killed his cattle. Gradually, the plant tamed its emissions. Ultimately, the company bought Martin's ranch, and to prove a point, ran cattle on it until the property was sold to the U.S. Forest Service for scenic-area use.

Still an issue is a contaminated area around a company lake near the plant that was named a Superfund site by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1994.

Into antiquity

As the facility aged and the aluminum market fluctuated during energy crises, the plant began to waver, sometimes shutting down potlines, sometimes closing completely. Its impact on the community was never more evident than when it shut down.

In 1986, *The Gresham Outlook* interviewed three generations of the same family, John, Robert and Lonnie Walker, who had spent their lives working at Reynolds Metals.

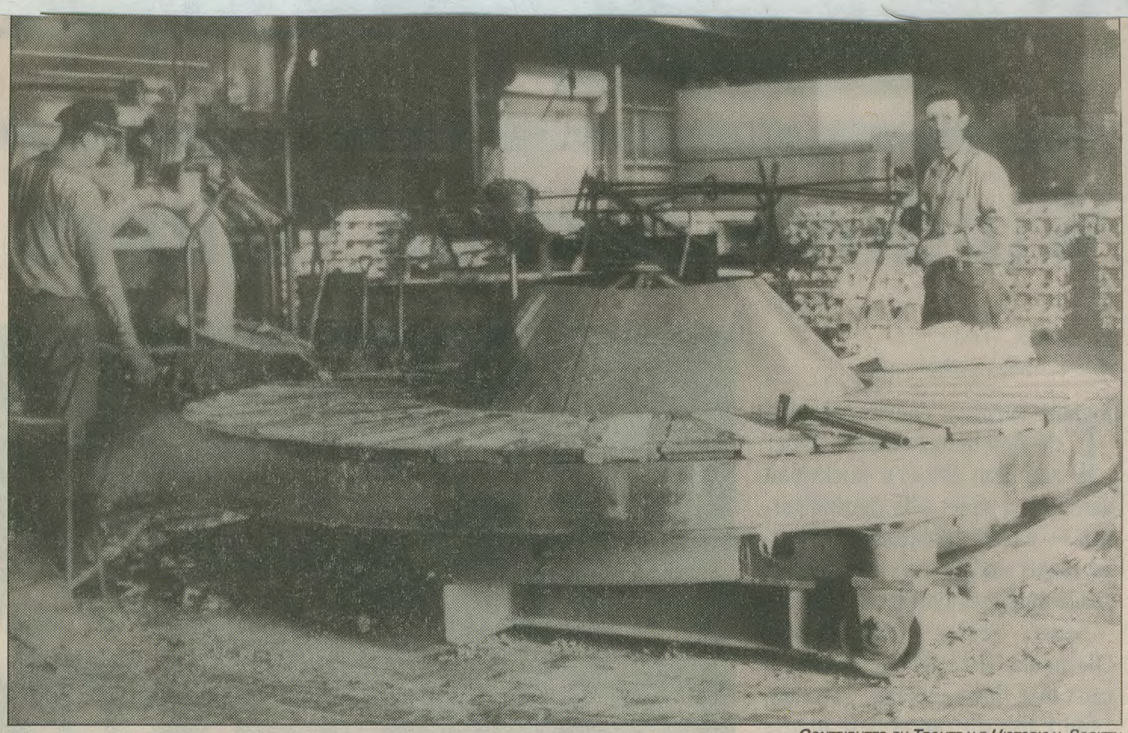
John Walker was an unemployed construction worker who came east with 50 other men from Missouri to work for the plant when it was launched by ALCOA. His son, Robert, joined in 1950, working at $1.44 an hour. By 1975, the third generation, Lonnie, was working in the plant for $5 an hour. Robert Walker saw the wildcat strikes of the 1950s. Lonnie Walker would see the shutdowns as other, more modern plants were built closer to the raw materials.

Troutdale's plant became an antique, closing down and starting back up for the last 20 years of its life. "Like a yo-yo," said Al Dunn, when he retired in 1984.

Dunn was one of the last originals from 1946 when Reynolds bought the plant. He started as a 16-year-old potman trainee and retired as a crane operator. The plant then was running at only 40 percent of its capacity, but still counted a $19 million annual payroll to 430 employees and paid $430,000 in local taxes.

When the news was announced last week that ALCOA would permanently close the plant, it was no surprise.

Plans are being made to bring new life to the site. and Troutdale supports an effort by Hiroshi Morihara, high-tech and biotech consultant, to turn the 350-acre site into an Oregon Science and Technology Park.



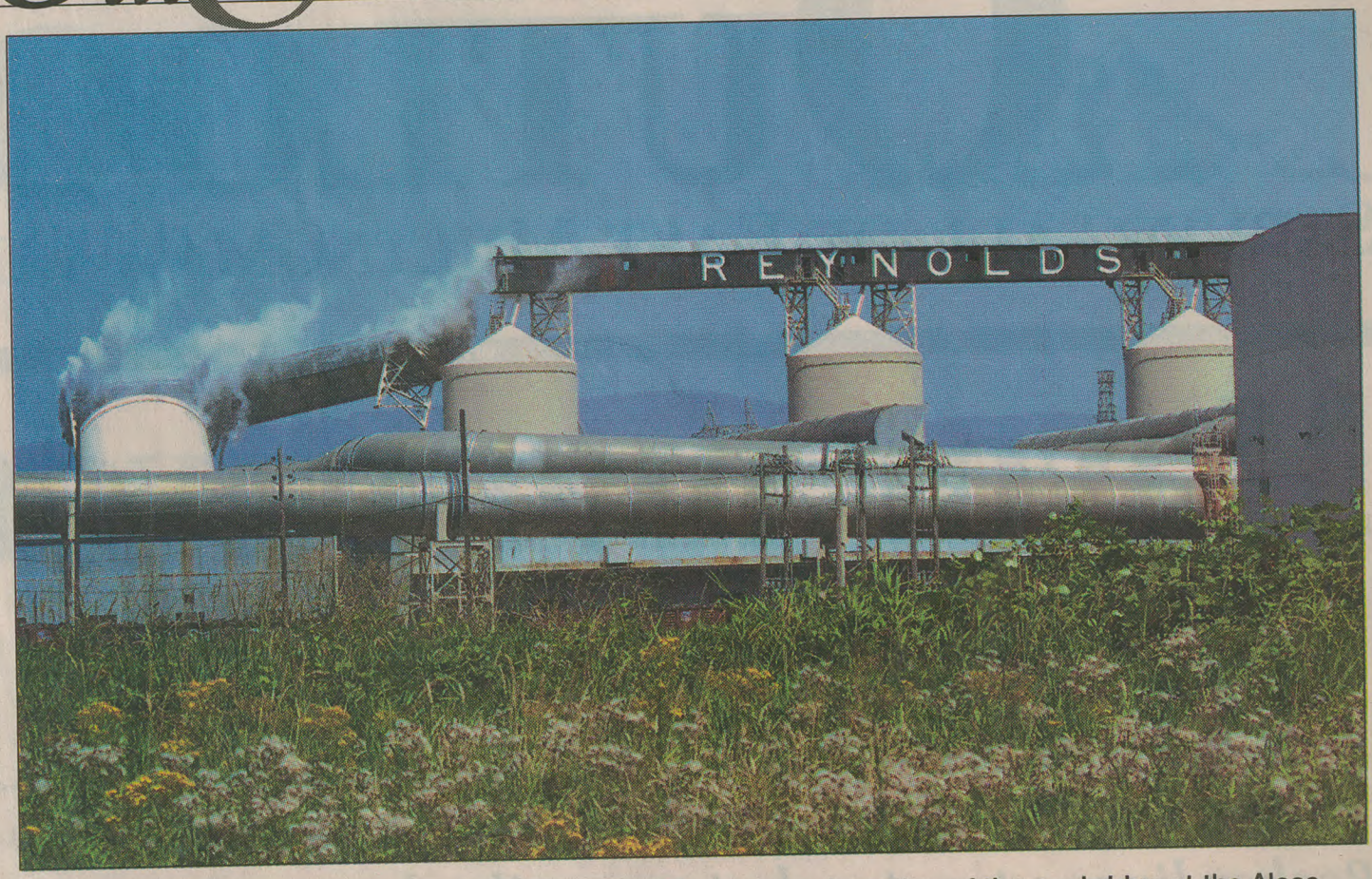
CONTRIBUTED BY TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Workers make small aluminum ingots or "pigs" on the pigging machine at Reynolds Metals plant in Troutdale in the 1940s.

OUTLOOK 18JUL.04

Out & About

PHOTOS BY FLINT CARLTON - THE GRESHAM OUTLOOK



Above: A section of the ore bridge at the Alcoa former Reynolds Metals Company plant crashes to the ground after being pulled down by steel cable at midday Tuesday, July 27. The bridge was used to transport alumina ore to the storage tanks for reduction into aluminum metal. The plant continues to be dismantled for redevelopment.

Left: The Reynolds Metals plant just before the demolition. The demolition and clean-up of the Superfund site will continue for the next two years.

Tauscher Goes To Iran; Reynolds Promotes Hail

4-7-10-69

Reynolds plant manager, William E. Campbell, recently announced the promotion of Joe Hail to Potroom Superintendent. Mr. Hail will replace Joe Tauscher who has accepted the position of plant manager at a new Reynolds plant to be built in Arak, Iran.

Tauscher has been with Reynolds Metals Company since 1952. He holds a B. S. Degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Washington and prior to joining Reynolds was a control metallurgist with Northwest Lead Company in Seattle. He served as an Air Force pilot in World War II.

Beginning as a Process Engineer in various Troutdale production departments, Tauscher was promoted to Assistant Superintendent in 1960 and then to Superintendent in January, 1962.

He is married to the former Faye Ingham -- both are from Elma, Wash. -- and they have five children and five grandchildren. Two married daughters, Karen Cayton and Gayle Frace live in Gresham and Valerie, 18, Barry 12 and Bret 10 are still at home.

JOE TAUSCHER

JOE HAIL

An active member of the community, Tauscher belongs to the Portland and Gresham Chamber of Commerce and is a member of its board of directors. He is an active member of the advisory board of the League of Woman Voters and belongs to the Gresham Elks Lodge.

A registered professional engineer, his professional activities include ASM, AIME, PEO and NSPE.

New Potroom Superintendent Joe Hail has been with Reynolds since 1954. Graduating in 1952 from Duke University with a B. S. Degree in Electrical Engineering, he then served in the U.S. Navy.

Hail began his Reynolds career in Richmond, Va., in the Central Industrial Engineering Department and on the staff of the Reduction Division Manager. He was transferred to the St. Lawrence Reduction plant in 1959 as general foreman.

In 1964, he was transferred back to Richmond as a staff Industrial Engineer. In October, 1965, Joe moved to Troutdale as Plant Industrial Engineer.

Joe and his wife, the former Carolyn Louise Freund, have two children, Joe, 9 and Paul,

11-1-62

Cut-Back Due At Reynolds

A reduction in the work force at Reynolds Metals was announced Monday by William Campbell, plant superintendent.

Campbell, speaking at a Gresham Chamber of Commerce luncheon, said 56 pots would be closed down Nov. 1, putting some 65-70 people out of work.

He attributed the cutback to a decline nationwide in the demand for aluminum.

Back To 62½ Per Cent

The Troutdale plant has been operating at 75 per cent of capacity for the past several months after some time at 62½ per cent. Campbell's announcement Monday signaled a return to the latter position.

In his talk to Chamber members, Campbell outlined the spectacular growth of the aluminum industry — both nationally and regionally—in the past two decades.

But he also listed four major problems facing the industry in the Pacific Northwest.

These were (1) higher freight rates (2) the distance from markets (3) the "high cost of government" in the Pacific Northwest and (4) the sometimes unfavorable business climate.

Damage Suits Hurt

Campbell stressed that the Troutdale plant is in a uniquely unfavorable situation because of the continuing round of damage suits filed against Reynolds.

The firm has been hit by a number of suits alleging damage to cattle and agricultural land because of the presence of fluroride fumes.

"All these things make the Troutdale plant much less competitive," Campbell said. "We're the first to be hit by any decline in production, and the last to re-start."

He presented figures indicating the 700 - man payroll at Reynolds contributes $5,000,000 annually to the East County economy. In addition, the company spends another $10,000,000 for supplies, power etc.

Reynolds Metals Plans Huge E

Plans are in the offing which soon may lead to a $15-20,000,-000 expansion program at Reynolds Metals' Troutdale plant.

The word "may" is emphasized because with the present international situation, no one knows exactly what will happen.

But this much is certain: Reynolds has applied to Bonneville Power Administration for an additional 300,000 kilowatts of firm power and 40,000 to 50,000 kilowatts of interruptible power. This additional allocation would service Reynolds facilities at Troutdale and Longview, Wash.

The expansion program at Troutdale and Longview, if it materializes, will be a $100 million project. Bonneville alone would have to spend $6.5 million for the addtional facilities necessary.

Preliminary planning for the Troutdale addition already is under way. If the go-ahead is given, construction will start in June, 1967. The extra facilities, an additional potline would go into production i January, 1969.

Indications are that 100 em ployees would be added t the 700 already employed a Troutdale.

All of the above, of course

Vol. 55 TWENTY-TWO PAGES GRESHAM, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1965 Single copy 10c No. 17

Reynolds Plant Plans Bigger Casting Capacity

Additions that will more than double the casting capacity of the Troutdale reduction plant of Reynolds Metals Co. are in the engineering phase, with work to be completed in 1966, says W. E. Campbell, plant manager.

To be installed are a new cast house, two holding furnaces and ingot casting facilities. No cost figure was announced.

V. G. Kneeskern, vice president and general manager, announced from Los Angeles that starting time on the construction is undetermined.

The 30,000 square foot cast house will contain two 90,000 pound holding furnaces. The vertical D. C. casting unit is intended primarily for casting sheet ingot. The unit, designed by Reynolds engineers, will give the Troutdale plant the northwest's most modern piece of casting equipment.

Campbell said that on completion of the installation of the new equipment, about half of the plant's production could be cast as sheet ingot, while the remainder would continue to be cast as alloyed and unalloyed ingot for shipment to extrusion plants and [illegible] heretofore.

"The new equipment," Campbell said, "will eliminate one complete operating step in producing sheet at our sheet plants. It also will improve the quality of the metal we produce at the Troutdale plant."

xpansion Program

2-3-6

s dependent upon business conditions which, in turn, means the international situation. The Troutdale plant already has felt considerable impact from the Viet-Namese conflict.

Even for a firm the size of Reynolds, financing, must be arranged well in advance of actual work. A Reynolds spokesman emphasized that the application to Bonneville merely meant that plant expansion was being considered.

A million - dollar plus addition to the Troutdale plant currently is being completed. It will enable the plant to cast ingots directly for rolling mills.

The Troutdale plant is operating at 100 per cent of capacity, reflecting a growth rate in the aluminum industry of double the national economy.

Expansion Plan Told By Reynolds

5-29-69

Reynolds Metal in Troutdale will add another potline and increase its production capacity by 28 percent.

Completion is scheduled for the end of 1970. How many more employes this will add is indefinite at this time, a company spokesman said.

Last week the company took its expansion proposal to the Oregon Sanitary Authority, as required under law, and was given tentative approval.

The sanitary authority staff is to meet with company officials to go over requirement and to report back at the next meeting of the authority in June.

Reynolds spokesmen say modification of existing facilities will prevent any increase in air pollution.

Vol. 56 TWENTY TWO PAGES GRESHAM, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1966

Reynolds Announces Expansion Of Troutdale, Longview Plants

Reynolds Metals Company has announced the additional primary capacity scheduled in its previously reported $325 million four-year expansion program will be installed at its two Northwest aluminium reduction plants, including the plant at Troutdale.

V. G. Kneeskern, vice president of reduction and alumina operations, said most of the work during the current calendar year will be on design and site preparation, with heavy potline construction scheduled to begin early next year.

Completion of the new capacity will be in one-potline phases. One of the potlines will be installed at the Troutdale reduction plant. The other three will be installed at the Longview, Wash., reduction plant.

Each of the new lines will have a rated annual capacity of 40,000 tons. The additional 160,000 tons of rated capacity, planned for completion by 1970, will bring Reynolds total annual rated capacity for primary aluminum production to 975,000 tons.

Plans also call for construction of additional furnaces, casting units and auxiliary equipment at the plants, and for a new carbon plant with complete new mixing facilites, a new office building and new locker facilities at Longview.

Bechtel Corp. will be engineer-contractor for the projects at both plants, under the direction of Reynolds central engineering department.

The additional potline at Troutdale and the first additional line at Longview will be substantially complete by the latter part of 1968.

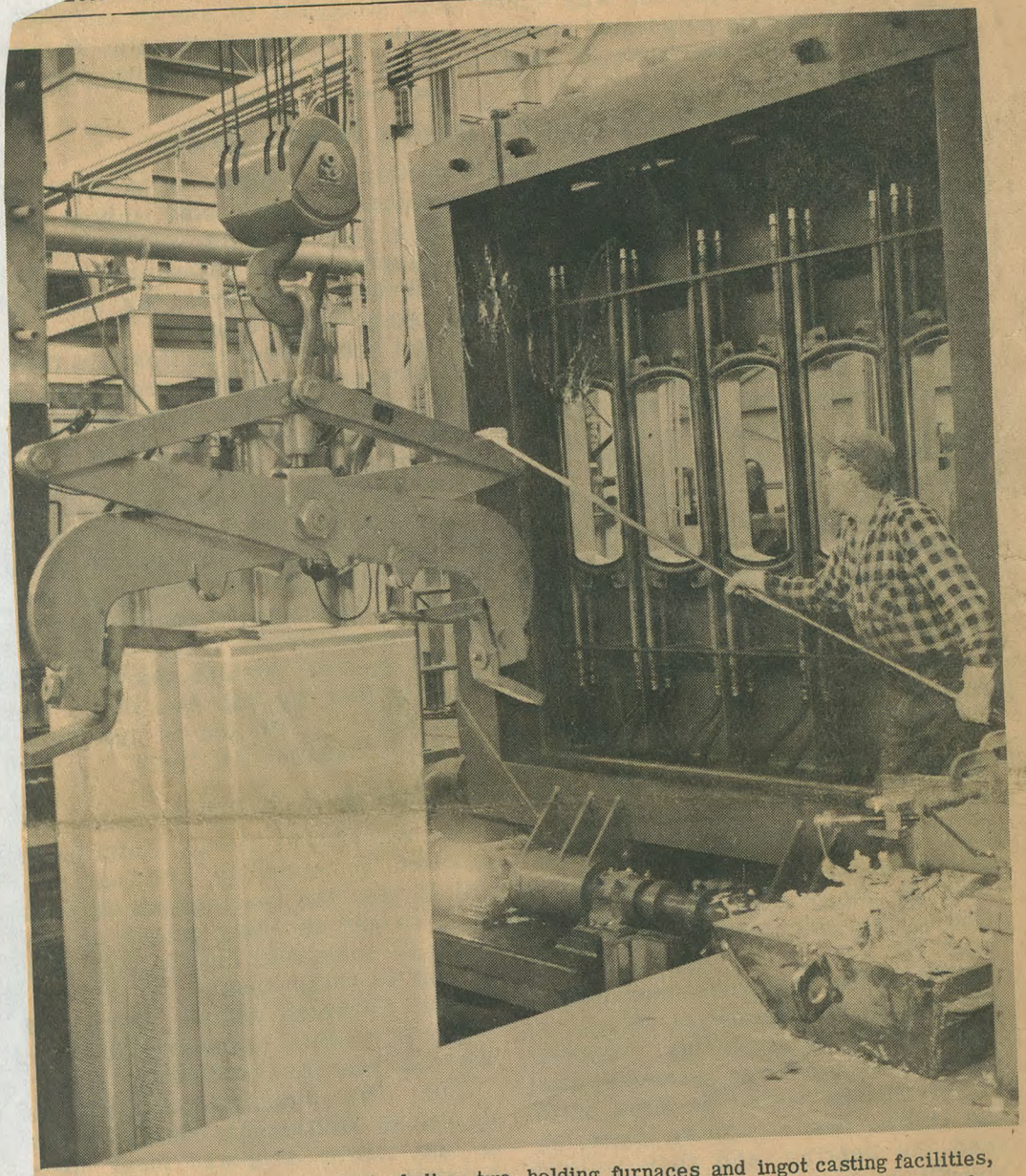
Addition of the new potlines under the $325 million four-year expansion program, which was announced in February, will bring Troutdale's rated capacity to 140,000 tons, and Longview's rated capacity to 190,000 tons. The expansion program also provides for related additions in alumina, mining, fabricating and other facilities.

Kneeskern said installation of the new potlines is timed to coincide with requirements of the normal growth pattern for the industry and the economy and that the plans may be accelerated or deferred as future conditions warrant.

He said that current demand for aluminum is absorbing the total output of the company's present primary facilities, and that the additional lines would provide for an average annual growth rate of approximately five per cent.

The Longview plant was built by Reynolds in 1941 several months before Pearl Harbor as the company's second reduction plant.

...SHAM, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1966 Single copy 10c No. 13



New casting equipment, including two holding furnaces and ingot casting facilities, has recently been put into operation at the Reynolds Metals Company plant at Troutdale. The 30,000 square foot cast house contains two 90,000 pound holding furnaces and will double the casting capacity of the plant. The vertical D. C. casting unit, shown here, designed by Reynolds engineers, is intended primarily for casting sheet ingot. It will also cast unalloyed ingot and extrusion billets. (Outlook Photo)

Reynolds Metal Expands Troutdale Plant Capacity

9-18-69

About 125 persons will be added to the payroll at Reynolds Metal, Troutdale, when the present expansion project is completed.

The plant now employs about 800 people, according to W.E. Campbell, plant manager.

Work has begun on a new 30,000 ton-per-year potline in the reduction plant. The line, which is due to come on stream in early 1971, will raise the plant's production capacity to 130,000 tons of primary aluminum a year, Campbell said.

The new potline, consisting of 140 additional pots where primary aluminum is manufactured from alumina, will be located on the west side of the present reduction plant. It will add 80,000 square feet of available floor space to the existing 871,000 square feet under roof.

It was originally announced that the new line would have a 40,000-ton capacity, Mr. Campbell said, but the additional 10,000 tons will be produced on new lines at the company's Longview, Wash. plant. Reynolds annual capacity, now at 935,000 tons, will go to 945,000 next year and to 975,000 when the Troutdale expansion is completed.

Emerick Construction Company, Gresham, Ore., is the general contractor for the fifth potline. Fougt and Company, erection work and Hart Construction Company, Tacoma, is the piling contractor.

PEG1

Reynolds Plant Production Rises

7-26-62

Three of the four potlines at Reynolds Metals are back at full capacity.

Bill Campbell, manager of Reynolds' Troutdale plant, disclosed this week that production has risen to roughly 75 per cent having been down to 62 per cent for a year.

Campbell said that an improvement in market conditions has resulted in the production pickup. Although he declined to give exact figures, he said some additional employment has resulted.

The aluminum picture nationwide has improved in recent months and Campbell said that most other Reynolds' plants also had increased production.

Since early this year, Reynolds has started up 70 additional pots at Troutdale.

* Group of Reynolds employees who are celebrating 30 years of service this year.

4-5-62

Farm Sold To Reynolds Metal Firm

Reynolds Metals officials have "no immediate plans" to announce for the 486-acres the company purchased this week from Fairview Farms, according to a company spokesman.

In the same sale Maylower Farms purchased the dairy operation.

Mayflower made the purchase for a price in excess of $175,000. Its plans call for Fairview to continue operations under the same trade name and with no changes in personnel, Ed Wyss, Mayflower general manager announced.

The price Reynolds paid for the trace was not disclosed and no exact plans have been made as yet for the property.

Facilities To Keep Going

Wyss said that Mayflower is currently negotiating to lease the Fairview processing, packaging and distributing plants from Reynolds. These facilities will be kept in operation, he explained, adding that Charles E. Eckleman, who founded Fairview in 1933, will continue as general manager.

William E. Campbell, manager of the Reynolds plant at Troutdale, said that Eckleman's decision to sell to Mayflower enabled Reynolds to enlarge its present industrial tract at a fair price "in line with property values in the area."

No Personnel Changes

Wyss stressed that Fairview dairy products will continue to be distributed under the same trade name and that drivers will be unchanged. Absolutely no changes among Fairview's personnel of approximately 60 persons are contemplated, Wyss said.

William Christensen will stay as sales manager for Fairview.

The Fairview herd, totaling approximately 350 cows, was not included in the sale.

Wyss said, "what we have done, in effect, is to take over the responsibility for management of Fairview Farms. All other phases of the operation will be unchanged for the present, at least.

"The familiar Fairview slogan, 'You Can Whip Our Cream, But You Can't Beat Our Milk,' will be retained."

OUTLOOK 10 AUG. 2002

Reynolds Metals plant leaves rich history

Factory gave birth to Wood Village, Reynolds High

BY SHARON NESBIT
of The Gresham Outlook staff

In November 1941, bulldozers advanced into the green meadows of the old Sundial Ranch north of Troutdale and carved out a site for an aluminum plant.

Six months later, the Aluminum Company of America — ALCOA — produced the first of the lightweight metal desperately needed for World War II airplanes. By 1943, the plant was in full production.

Though it was known primarily as Reynolds Metals, ALCOA built the plant and operated it during the war. Ironically, ALCOA again owns it and announced July 31 that it will close and dismantle the 60-year-old plant.

The smelter did more than turn alumina powder into aluminum. Its sudden emergence from a Troutdale pasture built Wood Village and startled Gresham, Troutdale and Fairview out of the Depression doldrums. The plant gave birth to a school district and a high school and sent generations of its brightest graduates to college. Environmentally, it contributed to the death of a flower-growing industry in Corbett, spawned a major lawsuit involving a neighboring cattle rancher and created its own Superfund site. It once held a fabulous fortune in silver for the mundane purpose of conducting electricity. It was the center of a desperate battle against flood waters in 1948. And it was life for as many as three generations of workers who put on their steel-toed boots, packed their lunch boxes and went there five days a week.

In the end, the reason it was built — lots of electricity from Bonneville Dam — was the reason it was closed. In 1981, the greedy aluminum plant used more energy per day than the entire metropolitan area of Portland for all purposes — industrial, business and domestic. As the plant aged, the energy consumed became more critical than

In the beginning

The Depression-era construction of Bonneville Dam and its then plentiful supply of hydroelectric power brought the U.S. government to Troutdale prospecting for a spot for a wartime aluminum plant. East Multnomah County struck gold with the decision to build the plant near the confluence of the Sandy and Columbia rivers.

The reduction plant would need 500 workers. Later, nearly 1,000 were employed there. Two new housing facilities rose to shelter the newcomers — Fairview Homes, an apartment complex in what is now Wood Village and Wood Village itself, one of Oregon's first planned communities. The first Wood Village homes were occupied by the end of 1942 with the overflow having to make do in converted garages, trailer houses and old motels.

Housing was not the only wartime shortage. The new plant could not find enough copper for the buss that conducted electric current to the No. 4 pot line. In 1942, railroad gondola cars bearing $22 million in silver from the Federal Reserve at West Point, N.Y., rolled into Troutdale. Under the scrutiny of armed guards, 50 men unloaded the gleaming treasure and installed it around the pot line. For more than three years employees worked with an electrified fortune at their fingertips. In 1946, the silver buss, by then gouged and blackened, was dismantled and returned with less than a pound missing from the original shipment of 102 tons.

"The silver buss was worth more than the whole plant," recalled C.D. Alexander, plant manager, in 1975.

The post-war years

After the war ended in 1945, the plant was declared surplus and sat idle for nearly a year. Richard Samuel Reynolds would put an end to the plant's respite. Having honed his business skills for his uncle at R.J. Reynolds' tobacco company, Reynolds moved into the aluminum foil business after World War I, and, in 1940, into aluminum production. During the war, he operated two plants. In 1945, he leased the idle Troutdale plant, purchased it in 1946 and put its work force back on the potlines at 90 cents an hour.

> *"The silver buss was worth more than the whole plant."*
>
> **C.D. ALEXANDER**
> Reynolds Metals plant manager

His investment was nearly lost in 1948. The great flood that inundated and wiped out Vanport at what is now Portland's Delta Park, did its share of damage farther upriver. Dikes burst and watersheds filled up, making a lake of most of the south shore of the Columbia River. The aluminum plant, sitting below the water line behind the scant protection of two dikes, was in peril.

Fearing that the flood water would reach the potlines, the lines were shut down and cooled and the entire work force went to work with sandbags, ringing every spot in the dike where pressure and water threatened. The plant was down for 10 days, its defenders working feverishly from the Sandy River to Blue Lake.

At the end of the battle, the onl dry spot in the area was occupied b the aluminum plant. The late San Cox, longtime mayor of Troutdale worked at Reynolds and remem bered the camaraderie of that figh as a morale booster that unite workers for the next two decades.

Reynolds and his aluminum plan were instrumental in the develop ment of a school district that bor his name.

The first families arriving in 194 brought children who fille Fairview and Troutdale schools t bursting and forced expansion o those elementary buildings. Th plant under private ownershi brought a wad of tax money tha made Gresham jealous, and gav Fairview, Troutdale and Wilke school districts the muscle to forn their own district and build thei own high school. Previously, stu dents from those schools attende Gresham High, or sometimes com muted to Portland schools.

Reynolds High opened i September of 1956 with 215 stu dents and 13 teachers. The gym wa built in 1957 and named for Richar Samuel Reynolds. His son, R.S Reynolds, Jr., flew in for the dedica tion from Richmond, Va., wearing white sweater with the Reynold Lancer insignia. That night, in a gym nasium decorated with 500 pound of kelly green and natural aluminum foil, he announced the Reynold scholarship, $1,500 a year for fou years of college, given to a graduat ing student.

Over the years, the company raised the amount so that it paid a significant chunk of the education of students chosen for the honor.

Still, the Reynolds plant would prove to be a bad neighbor in some respects. Fumes killed great swaths of flowers and eliminated the big bulb farms in the Corbett and Springdale area. Damage from emissions, coupled with post-war changes in imported bulbs, put an