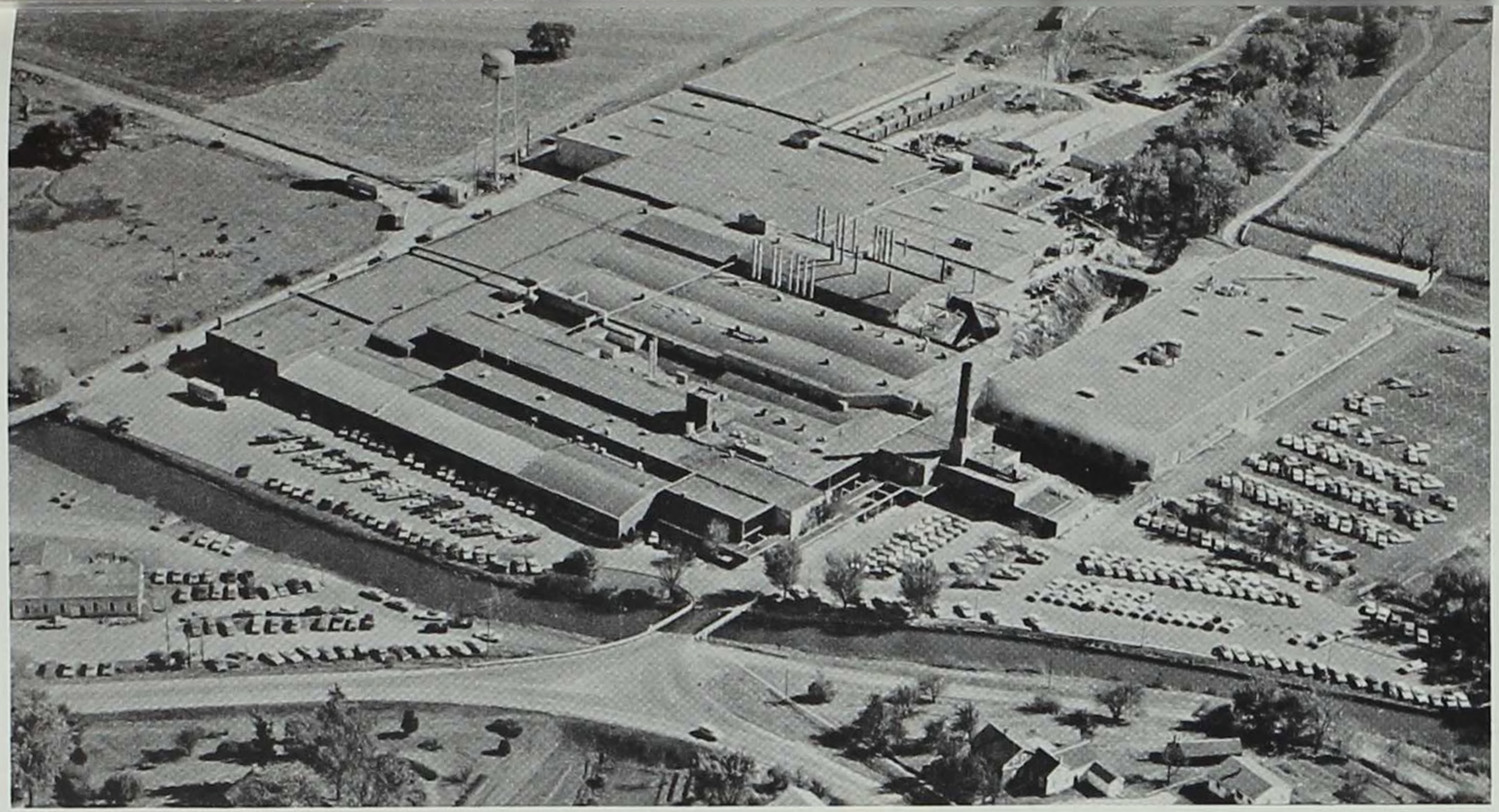
IOWA INDUSTRIES: Others

Tire's eye view of the Firestone plant, Des Moines

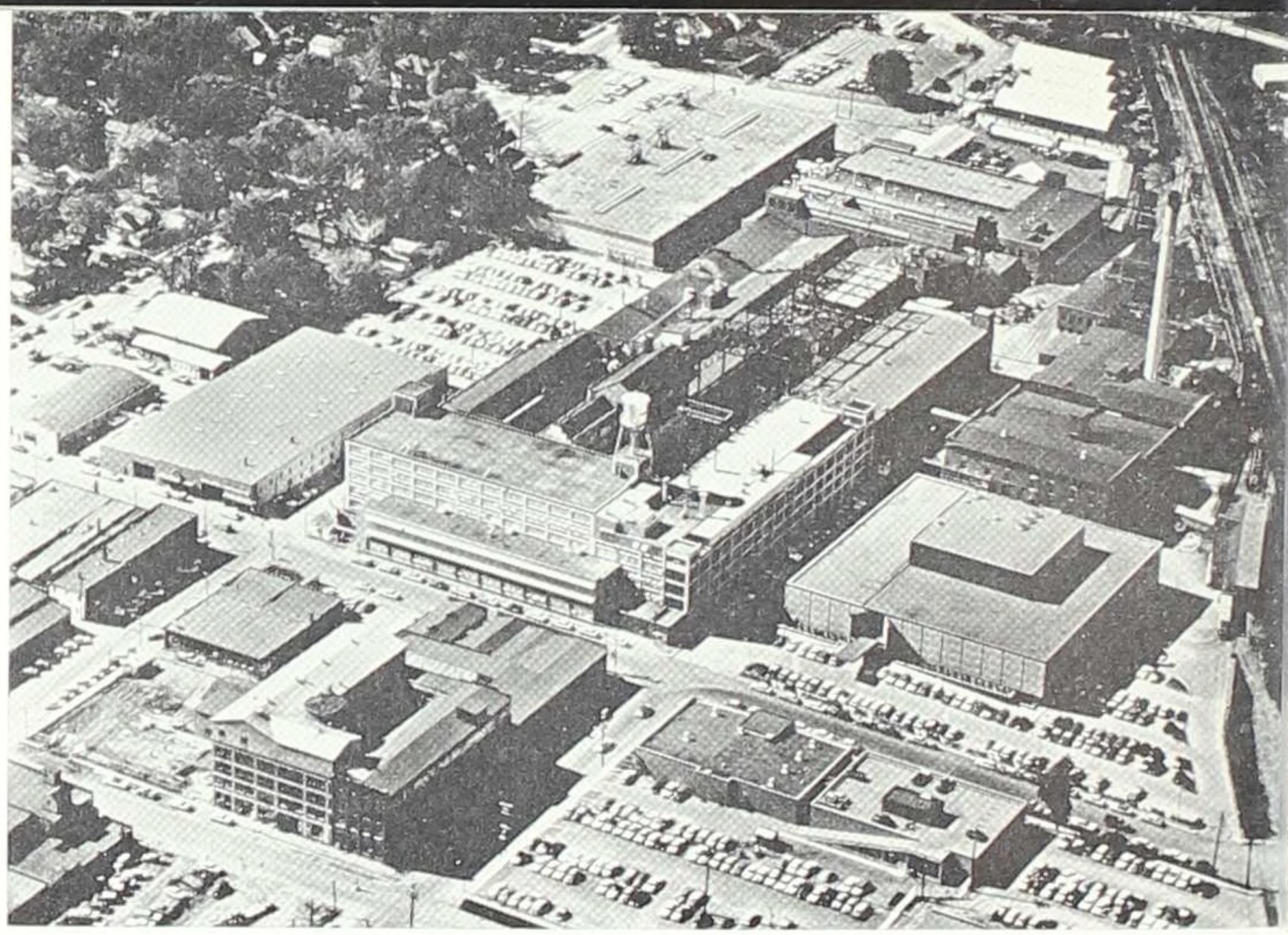
AMF WESTERN TOOL, INC.: Des Moines

Founded in 1935 by E. W. Kolls and Ralph Torgersen, Western Tool & Stamping Co. was for over a decade a metal stamping and tool facility. In 1946 President Kolls decided the future lay in the manufacture of its own products. Entering the lawn mower field, Western Tool ultimately became a large producer of power lawn mowers, lawn sweepers, tillers, snow blowers, golf carts, and snowmobiles. It employs 1,000 workers with an annual payroll of $4,700,000. Western Tool & Stamping Co. was acquired by American Machine & Foundry Company on June 27, 1963, and the name changed to AMF Western Tool, Inc.

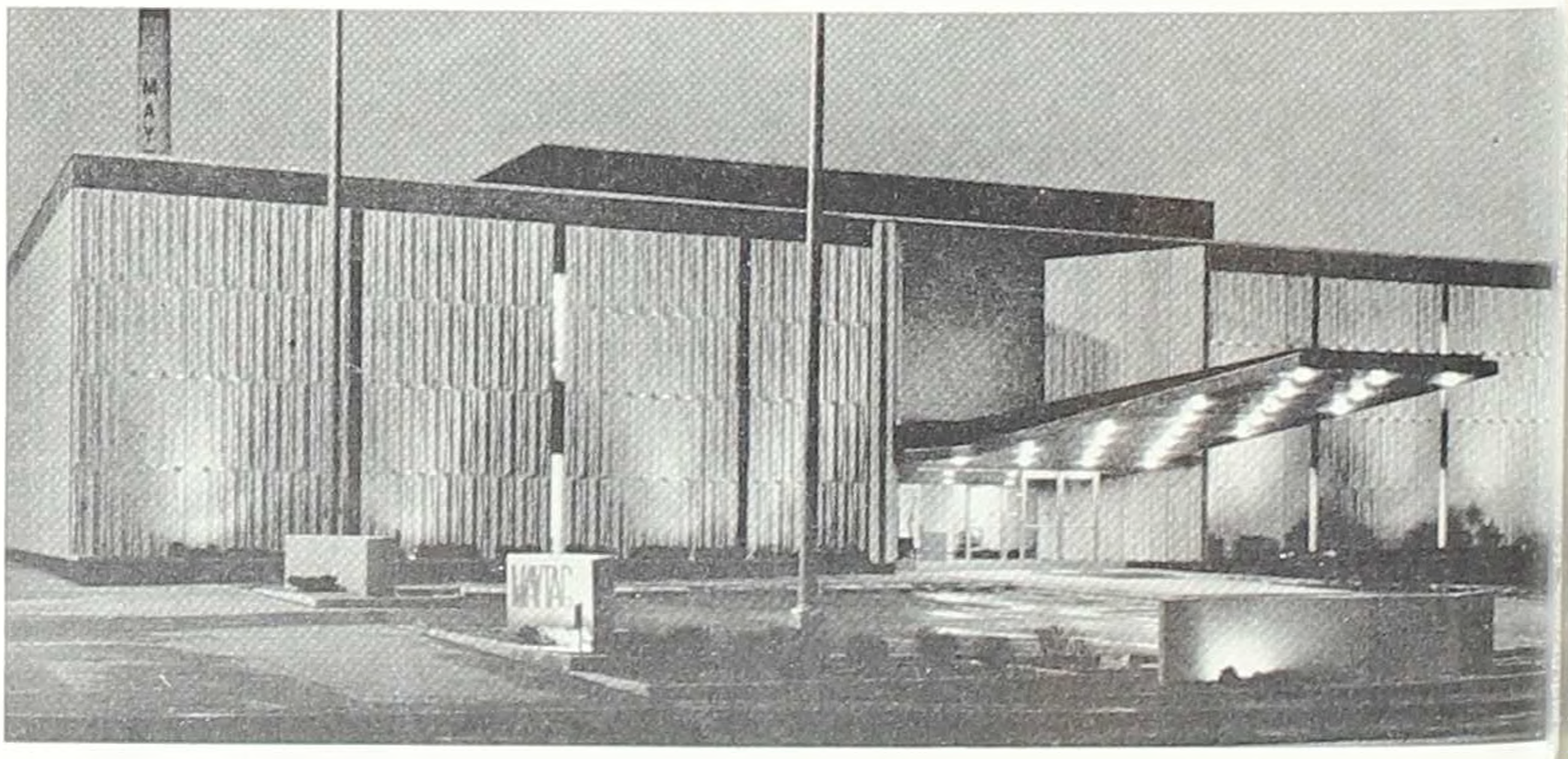


AMANA REFRIGERATION, INC.: Amana

In 1934 George Foerstner and two workers at Amana built and sold a beverage cooler. The Middle Amana Woolen Mill was taken over and the manufacture of meat cases and coolers began. In 1936 Foerstner sold out to the Amana Society but continued as plant manager. Amana soon became the country's largest builder of cold storage locker plants. In 1945 the company entered the home freezer market and was the first to produce upright freezers. By 1950 the plant had outstripped its backing and the Amana Society sold to private investors. The plant has been expanded considerably since that time and now manufactures freezers, refrigerators, room and central system air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and furnaces. Now employing over 1,500 workers, Amana Refrigeration, Inc., merged with the Raytheon Company of Lexington, Mass., in 1965 and operates as a wholly-owned subsidiary.

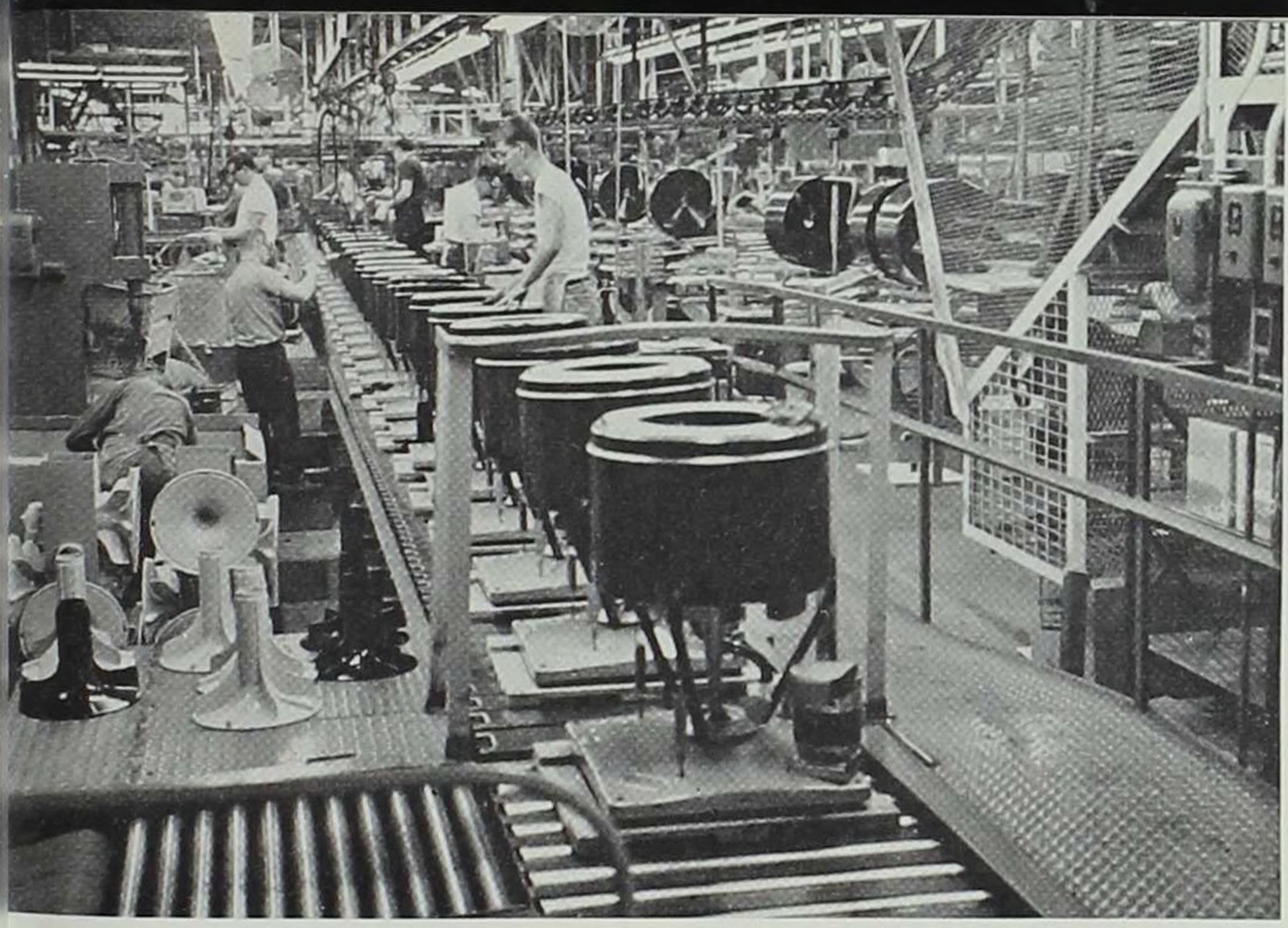


Maytag plant #1, Newton



Maytag Headquarters Building

Maytag plant #2, Newton

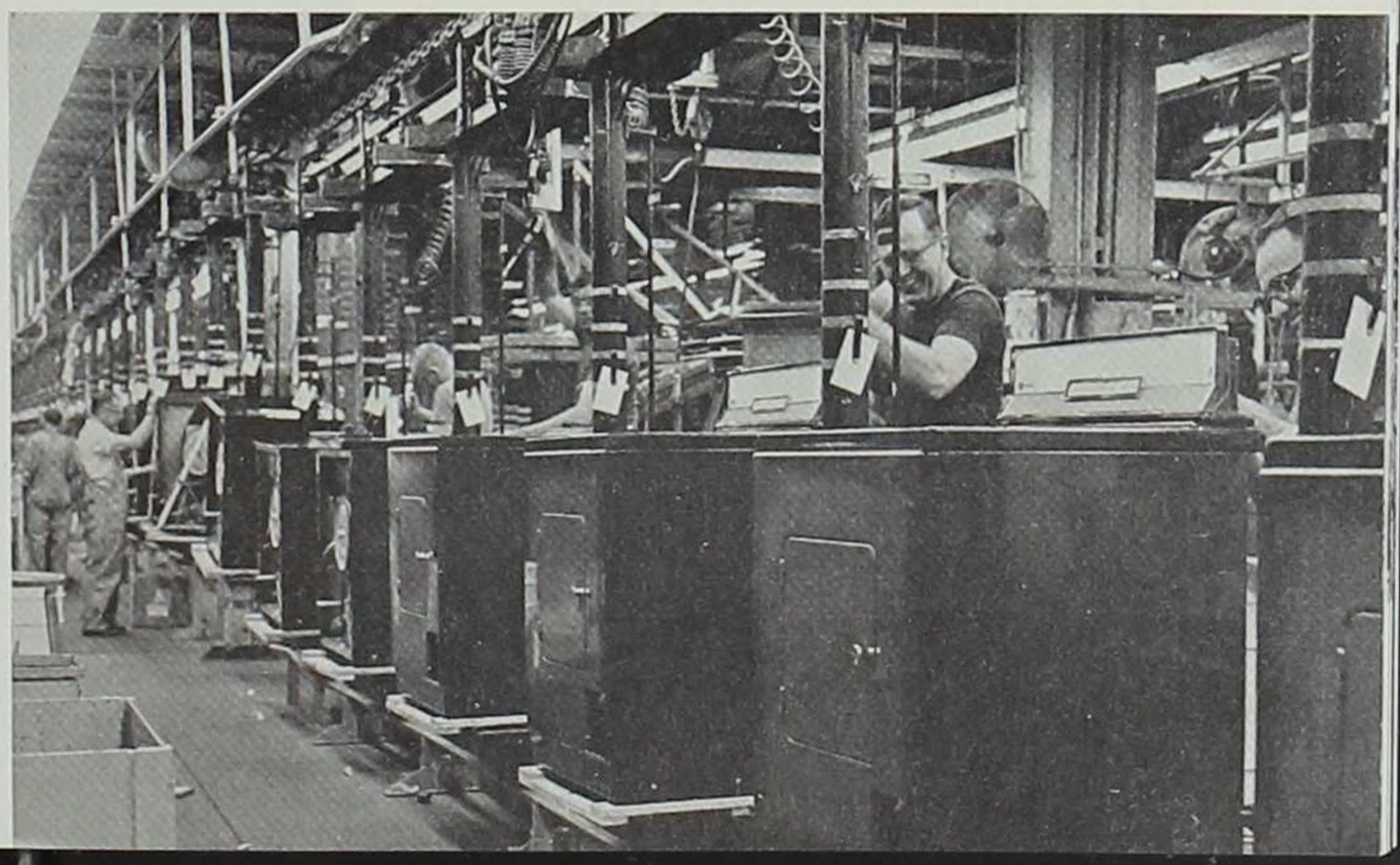


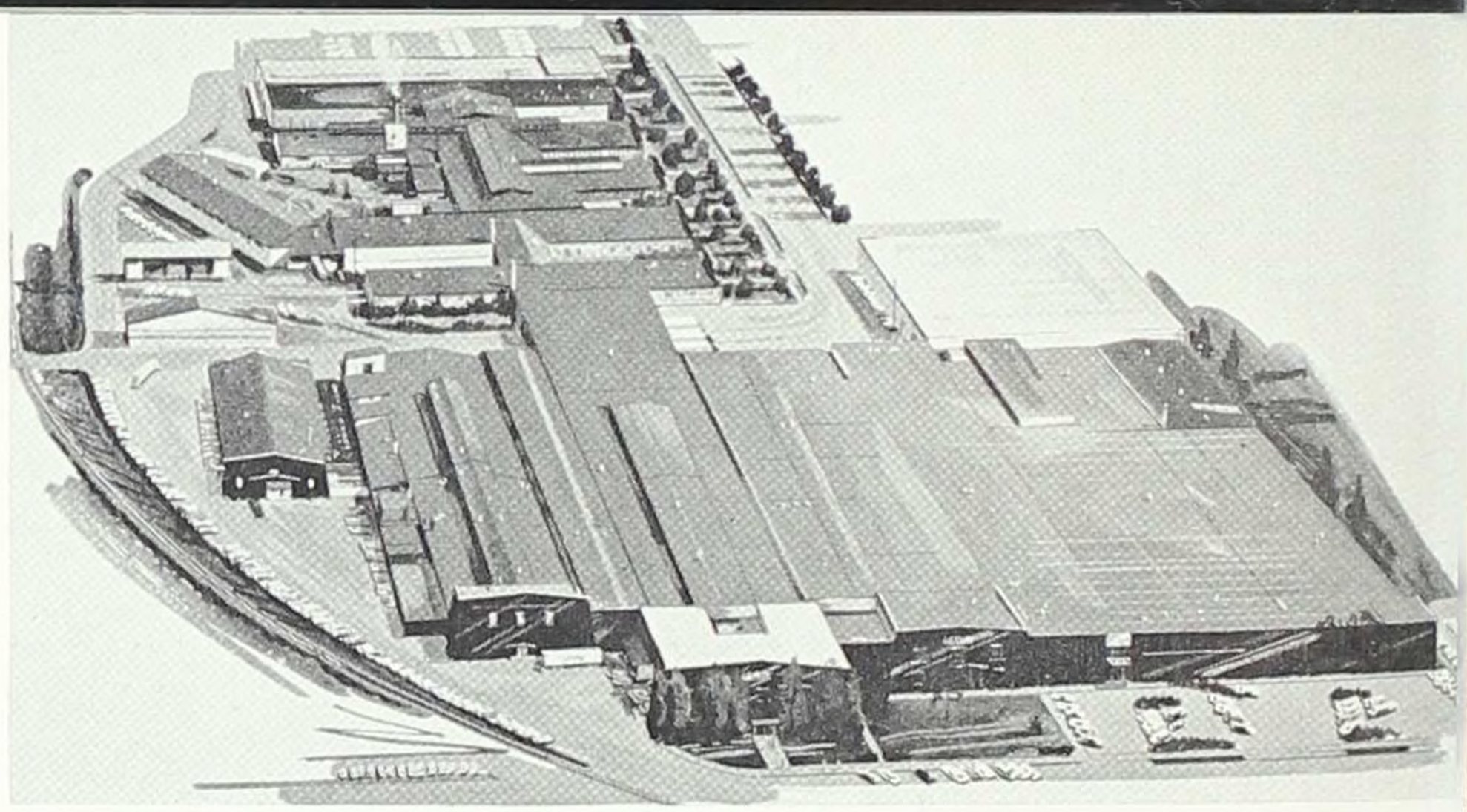
Automatic washer assembly line

THE MAYTAG COMPANY: Newton

In 1893 Fred L. Maytag, W. C. Bergman, A. H. Bergman, and G. W. Parsons formed the Parsons Band Cutter and Self Feeder Company. In 1907 the Newton firm entered the washing machine business and took its present name in 1909. The "Gyrafoam" principle was introduced in 1922 and two years later Maytag led the field in washer production. The six millionth wringer washer appeared in 1949 and in that same year a second plant, to produce automatic washers and dryers, was built in Newton. Maytag now manufactures a line of home laundry appliances, automatic washers and dryers for self-operated laundry installations, and a dishwasher now in limited distribution. In 1966 Maytag had 3,405 employees, an annual payroll of $30,519,064, and net sales of $120,769,510. There is a small Maytag plant at Hampton.

Clothes dryer assembly line





Lennox plant, Marshalltown

LENNOX INDUSTRIES INC.:
Marshalltown

The world's largest manufacturer of warm air heating systems came into existence during the 1890's in the Marshalltown machine shop of David Lennox. In 1904 Marshalltown newspaper publisher, D. W. Norris, purchased Lennox's furnace business and until his death in 1949 aggressively promoted the sales of furnaces to an ever-widening market. In 1917 the first of the existing Lennox plants was built in Marshalltown. In 1954 the Armstrong Furnace Company of Des Moines was purchased. The company now employs 1,200 workers in its Iowa plants. Known originally for its heating line, Lennox is now a major factor in the air conditioning field. John W. Norris is president of this family-owned business.

J. W. Norris

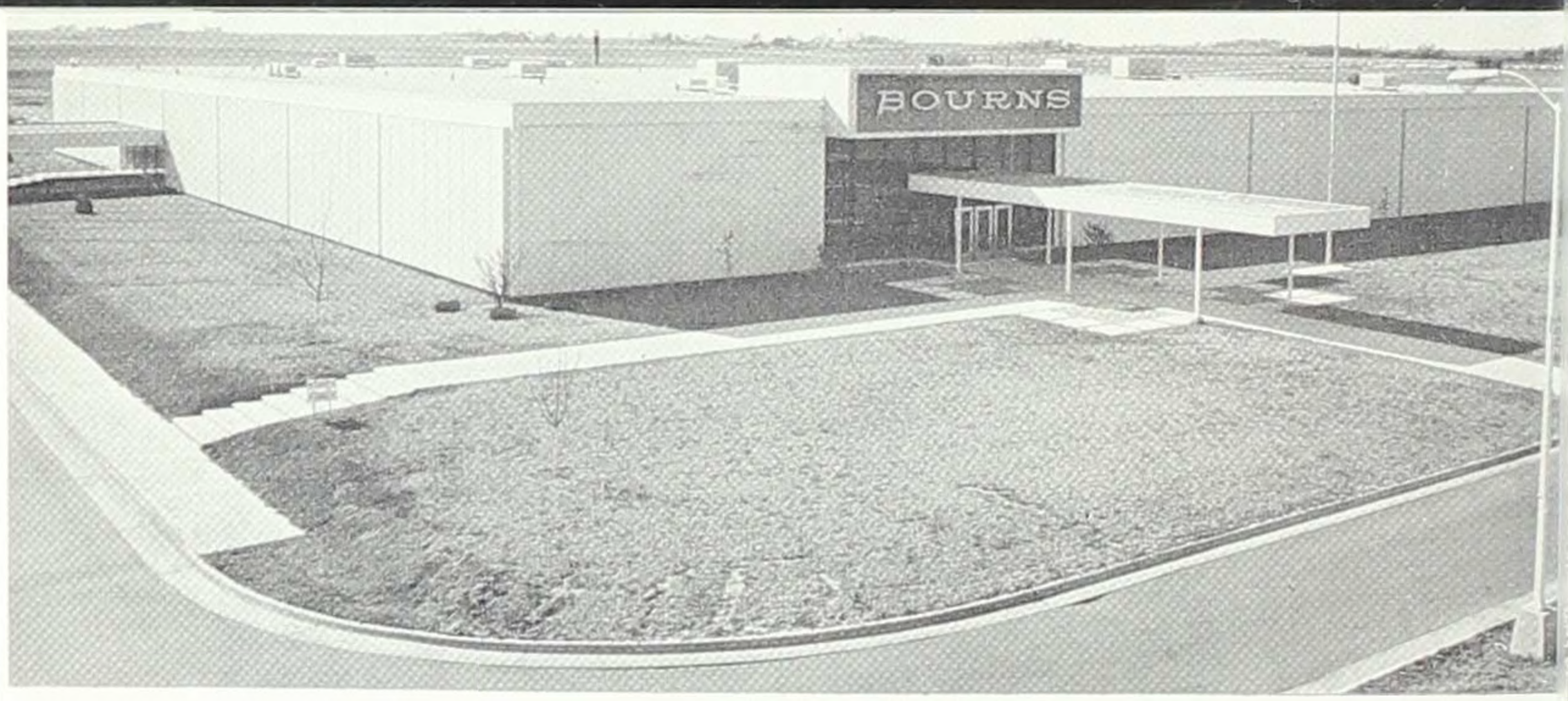
Lennox Research Laboratory, Marshalltown

The Bendix Corporation office in Davenport

THE BENDIX CORPORATION: Detroit

The Instruments and Life Support Division, formerly the Pioneer-Central Division of Bendix, was established with the purchase in 1950 of the Victor Animatograph plant in Davenport. Starting with 1,000 employees, the division now has 1,300 persons working in two plants and receiving wages in excess of $8 million annually. Chief products manufactured for the aerospace field are: flight instruments, propellant management and instrumentation systems, life support, survival, and pressurization systems, cryogenic storage and control systems, and inturgescent forming products. Temperature compensated oscillators and sonic cleaning systems are made for the commercial field.

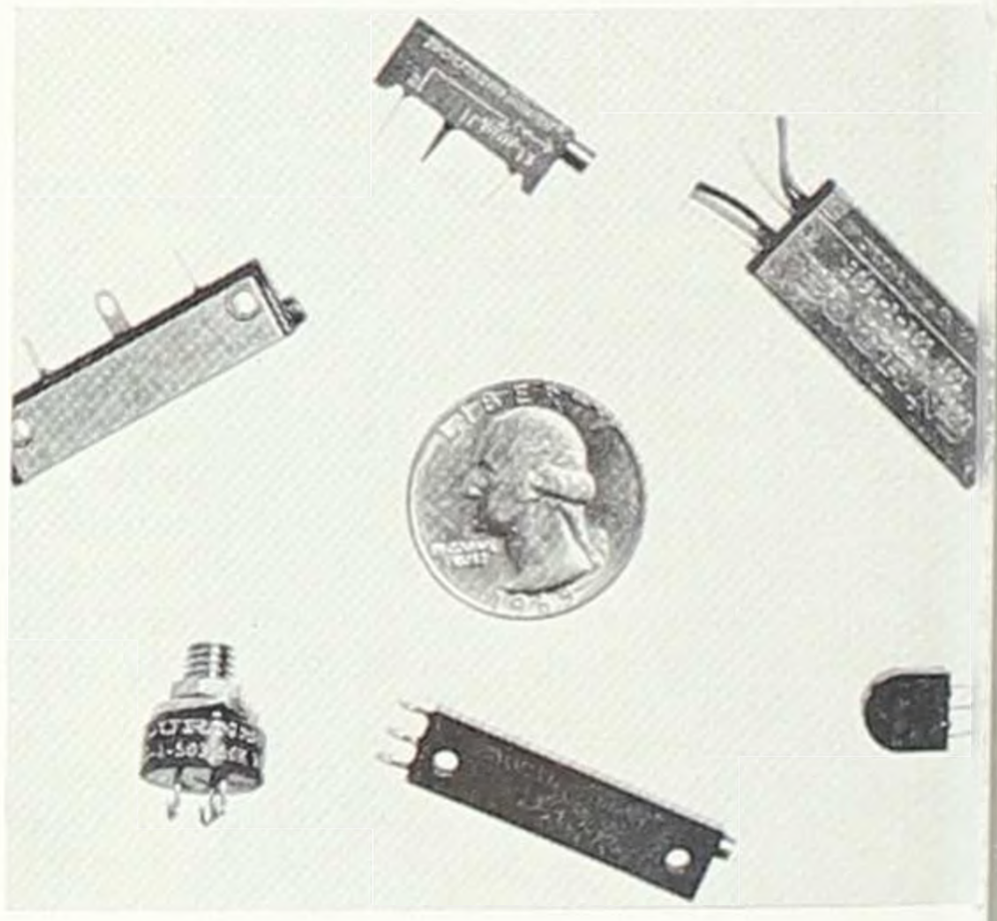
Hickory Grove Road facility as it appears today



Bourns' Ames plant

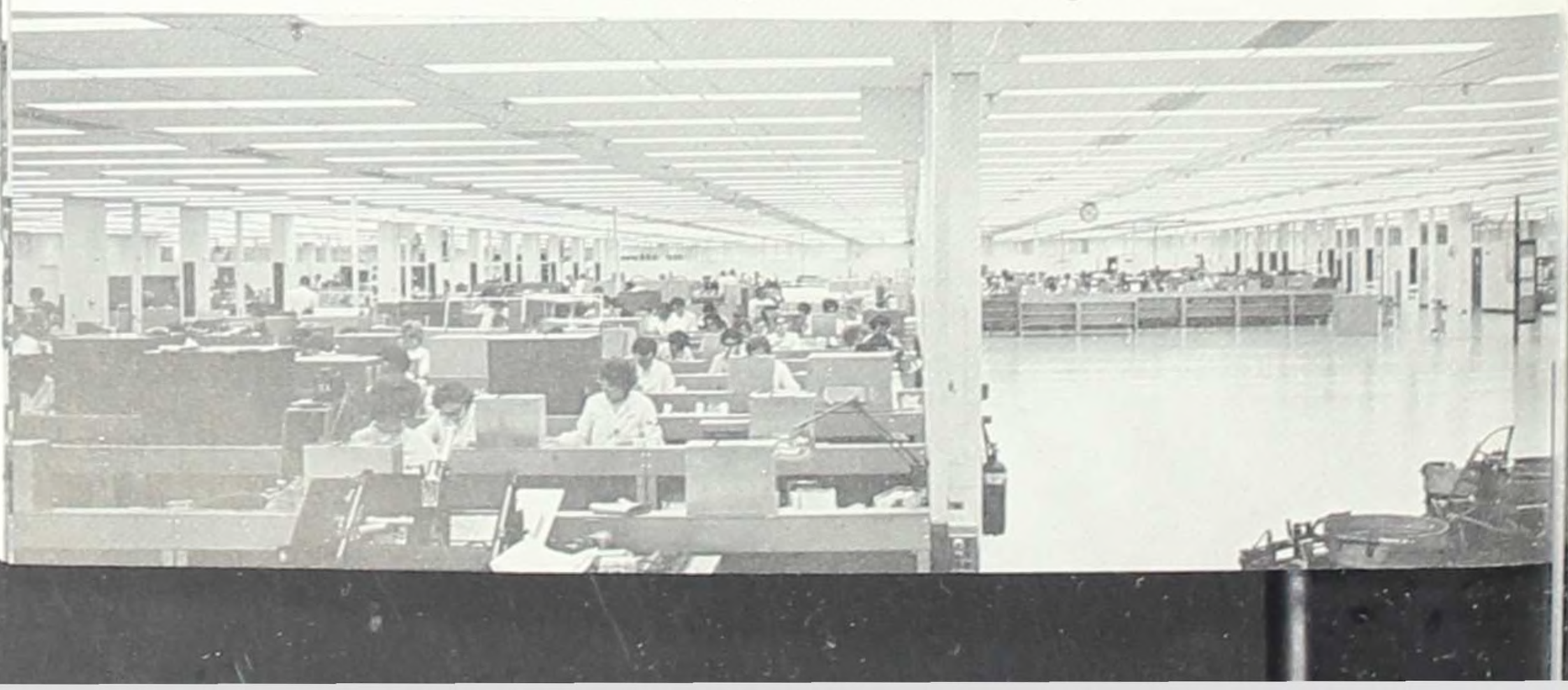
BOURNS, INC.: Riverside, Calif.

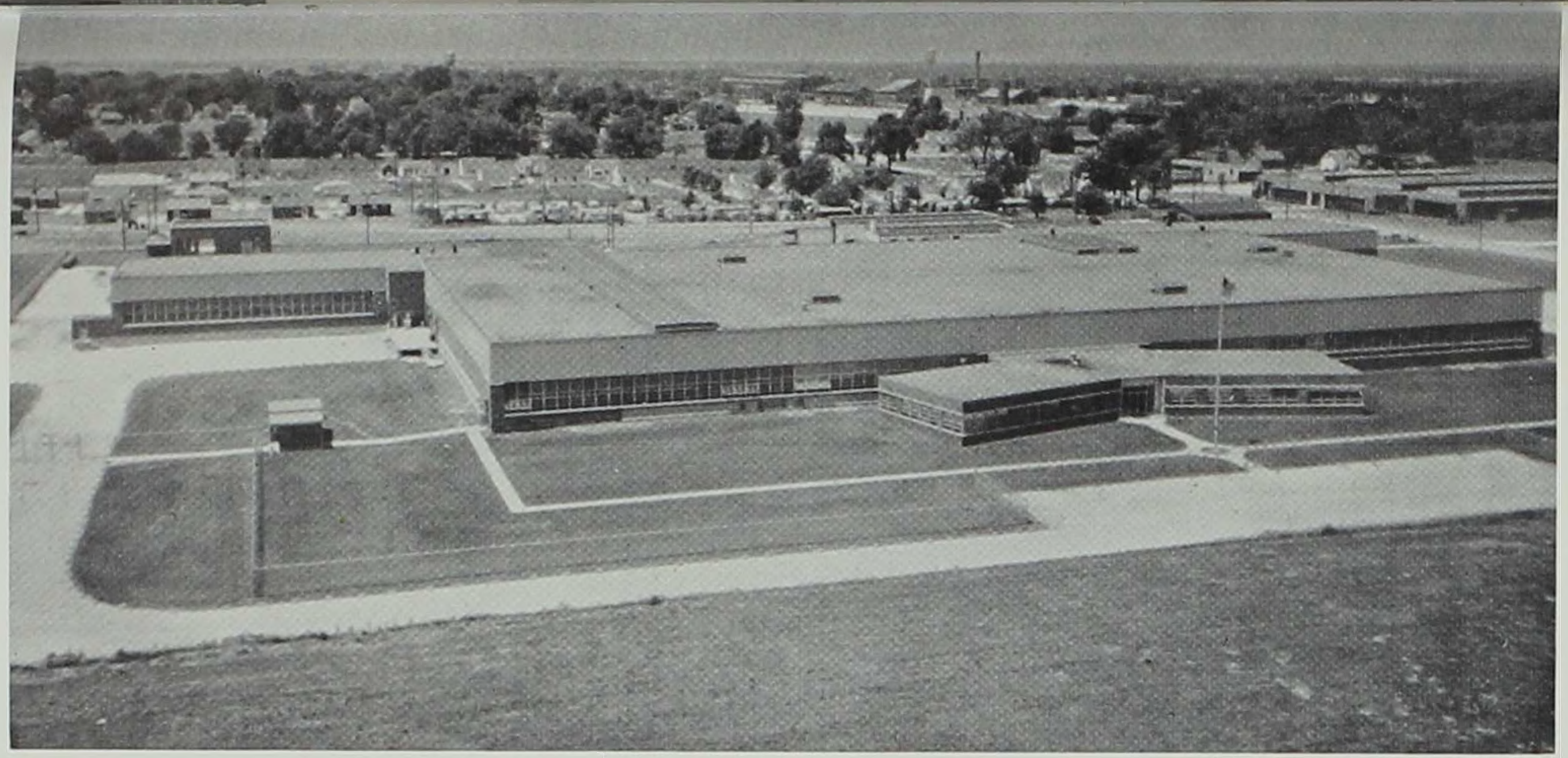
The Ames facility of Bourns started operations in January of 1956 when six people were employed to assemble selected products of the company's Trimpot Division. Growth since has been substantial and today the Ames plants are located on a 74-acre site which will allow for further expansion as demand for Bourns products increases beyond present production capacities. Some 1,000 workers are employed at Ames. Bourns products are used in thousands of vital industrial, commercial, and military applications throughout the free world. As a member of the Trimpot Division, the Ames unit manufactures electronic components and medical electronic equipment.



How would you like to work on items this small?

The manufacturing area is immaculately clean



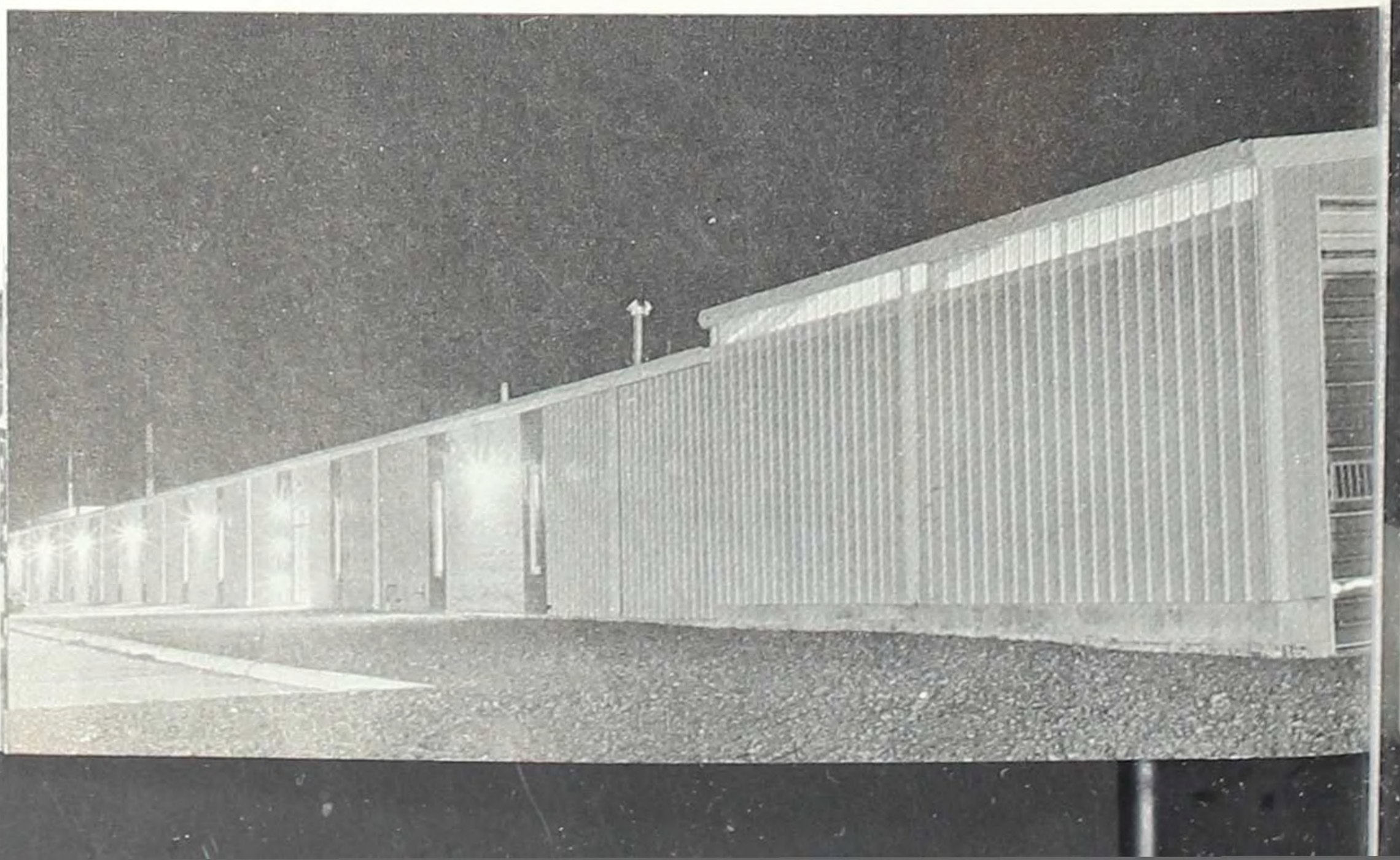


SYLVANIA ELECTRIC PRODUCTS, INC.: New York

Sylvania hired the first workers for its new Burlington receiving tube plant in 1951 and the 200,000-square foot structure was dedicated the following year. By 1956 employment had reached 1,160, of whom 85% were women. Annual wages of $7 million were paid to 1,500 employees in 1966. The Burlington plant functions as the Electronic Tubes Division, producing electronic tubes as well as others having industrial and commercial applications. Production of the tiny tubes is a painstaking process with 10,000 electrical measurements being required for each lot, while assembly, processing, and testing involve 62 different steps. Sylvania was merged into General Telephone & Electronics Corporation in 1959 and functions as a wholly-owned subsidiary.

STANDARD KOLLSMAN INDUSTRIES, INC.: Melrose Park, Ill.

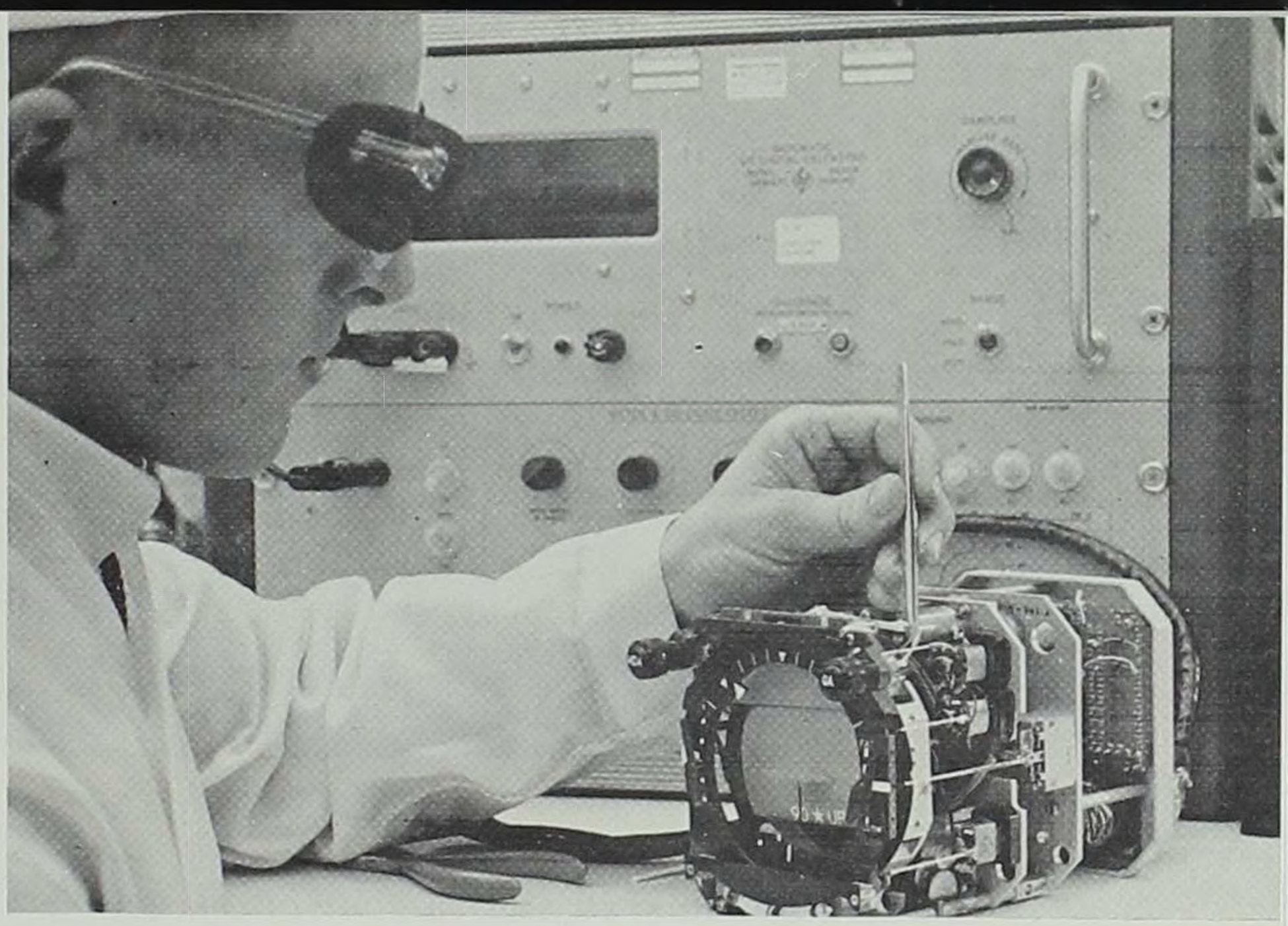
Largest industrial development in Iowa in 1966 came in Ottumwa when Standard Kollsman started operations there with more than 1,000 employees — 1/10 of the state's new industrial employment for the year. A building constructed by the Ottumwa Area Development Corporation was leased. In its first year in Ottumwa, Standard Kollsman paid its workers wages totaling more than $3 million. The plant manufactures UHF and VHF tuners for both black and white and color television sets.



ZENITH RADIO CORPORATION: Chicago

Wincharger Corporation was founded in 1934 in Sioux City by two brothers — John and Gerhard Albers. It is now a subsidiary of Zenith Radio Corporation. The Sioux City firm manufactures radio sets and electronic components, Winco power alternators, dynamotors, universal motors, and special purpose power supplies. Two plants in Sioux City give employment to well over 1,500 residents of that city.


COLLINS RADIO COMPANY

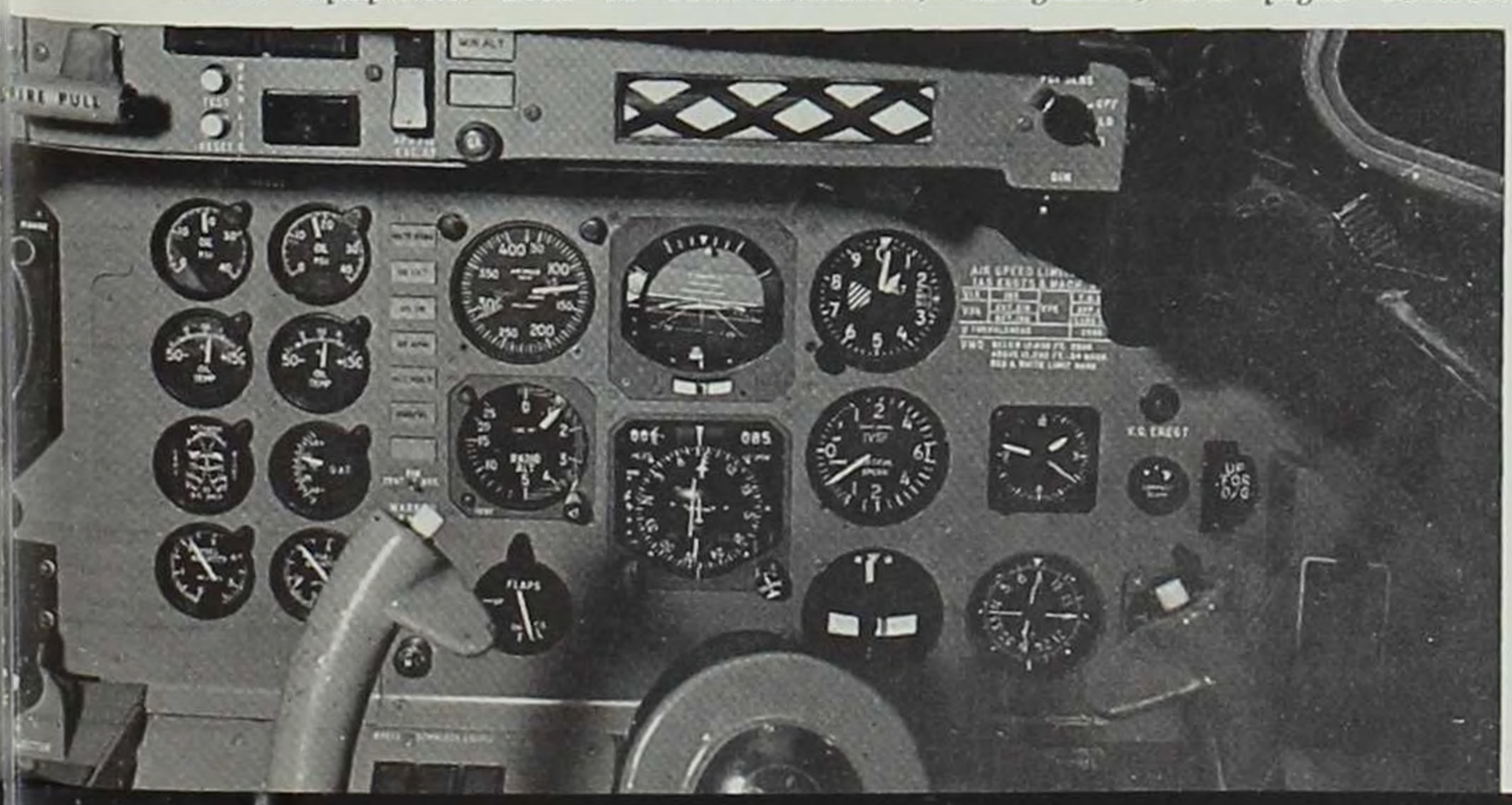


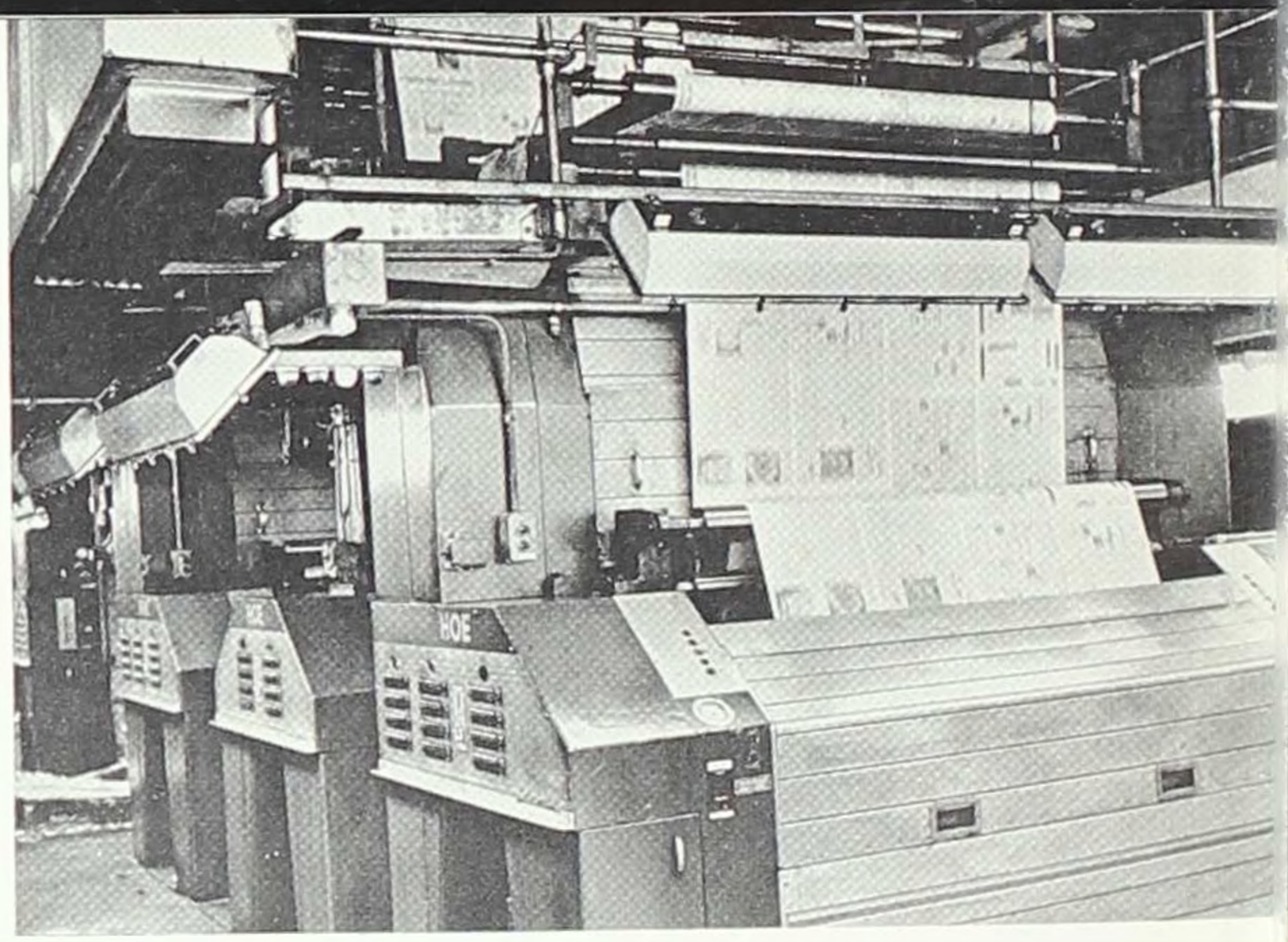
Testing an aircraft flight director

COLLINS RADIO COMPANY: Dallas

Collins Radio's amazing growth is one of the great stories in Iowa's industrial development. Founded in 1933 with one plant and five employees, it is the largest single employer in any one Iowa city with 11,500 employees in Cedar Rapids and an annual payroll of $75 million. Starting as a small manufacturer of amateur radio equipment, Collins has expanded to a world-wide organization with 20,000 employees, annual sales of $400 million, and is a manufacturer of more than 1,000 products. Company philosophy has been to develop and manufacture electronic equipment of advanced design and highest quality. Principal products are communication, navigation, and flight control equipment for commercial airlines, military aircraft, and general aviation; data communication and processing equipment for industrial and military users; specialized military communication systems; manned space flight communication systems; and amateur radio communication equipment.

Instrument panel of a twin-engine turbo prop plane contains many dials for Collins equipment used in communication, navigation, and flight control.





Newest and fastest of the Register's presses

DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE COMPANY:
Des Moines

In addition to being Iowa's largest newspaper publisher, the Register and Tribune Company is also a large employer. The company, incorporated in 1902, publishes the morning *Des Moines Register,* the evening *Des Moines Tribune,* and the *Sunday Register*. The latter has the largest circulation, having jumped from 375,000 in 1940 to over 520,000 in 1966. During the same period the company's employment has risen from 800 to 1,100 persons and its annual payroll from $2,140,000 to $8 million. Gardner Cowles acquired control of the company in 1903. Gardner Cowles, Jr., is the current president. Plans for the future call for a 4-story addition to the present plant comprising a 2-story loading area plus 2 floors.

Printing Office Building

FRED BOHEN

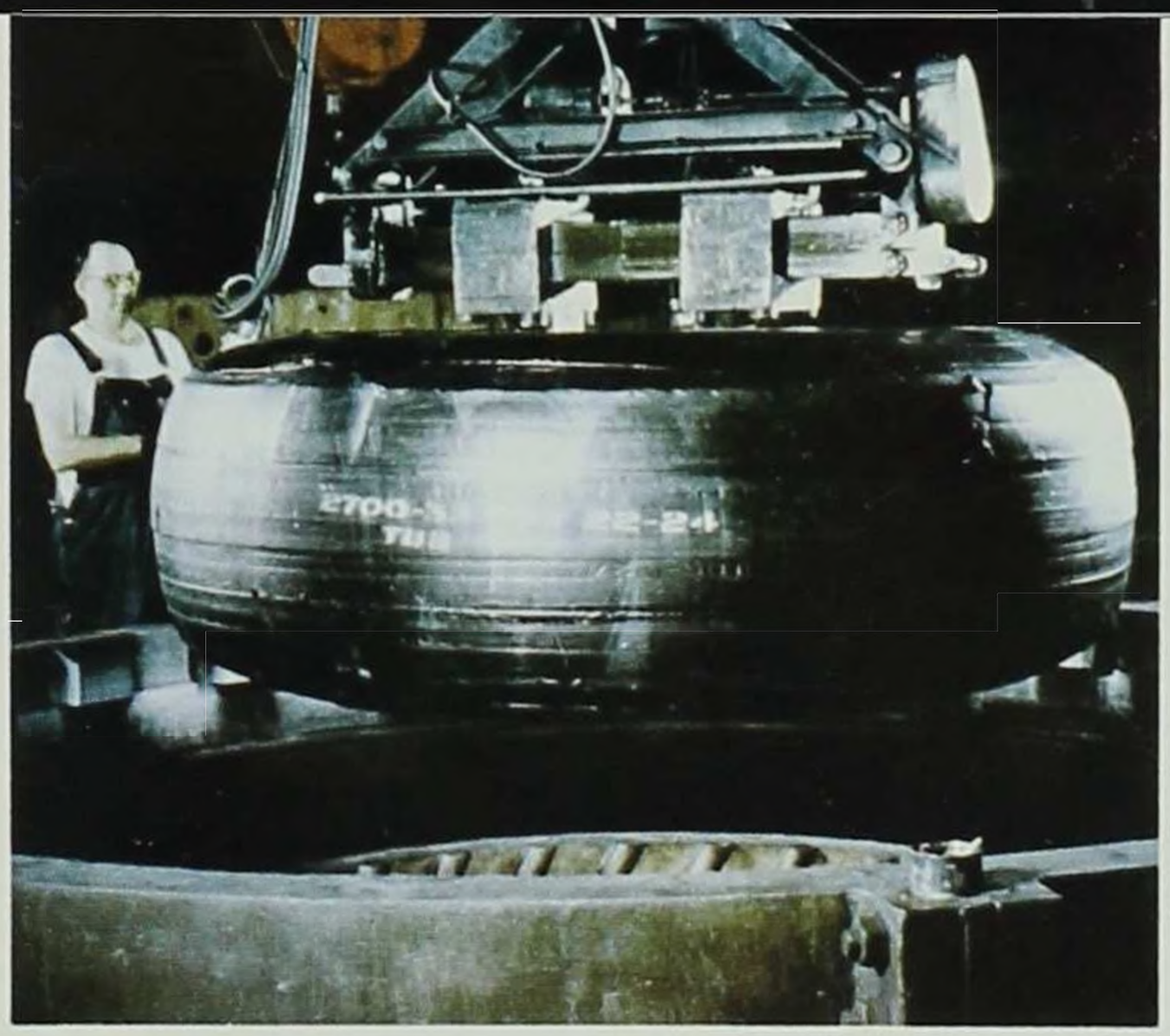
MEREDITH PUBLISHING COMPANY:
Des Moines

In 1902 Edwin T. Meredith began publishing a new magazine, *Successful Farming*. This was the start of the Meredith Publishing Company which, in 1912, moved into a new plant containing 55,000 square feet. It has steadily expanded until its plants now contain 920,500 square feet of space. Employment has risen from eight to 2,080 persons with an annual payroll of $14,229,000 by 1966. *Successful Farming* has a circulation of 1,300,000, while Meredith's *Better Homes and Gardens* has over 6,750,000. From the magazines and from its various divisions, the company had sales of $100,403,000 in 1966. F. O. Bohen is chairman and chief executive officer and Darwin Tucker, president.

Printing plant

THE ARMSTRONG RUBBER COMPANY: West Haven, Conn.

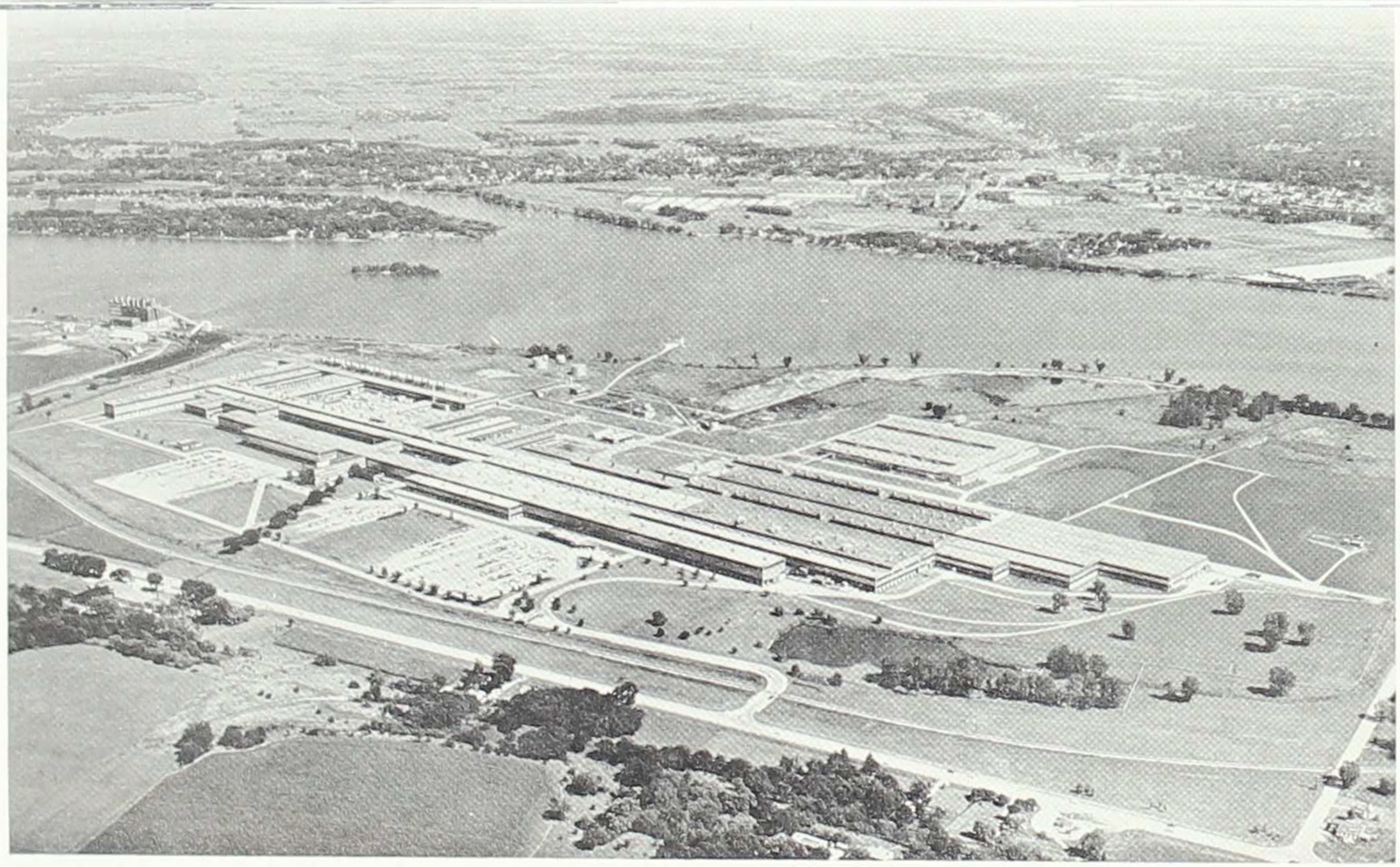
The Lake Shore Tire & Rubber Company, which was organized at Des Moines in 1927, was sold to Armstrong in 1943. In 1940 the plant had 250 employees producing 2,500 tires a day; by 1966 employment had reached 1,385 and a yearly payroll of $11 million. Production is primarily tires for passenger cars, mobile home trailers, trucks and buses, tractors, industrial pneumatic, farm tractor and implement, aircraft, and tire recapping material. The Des Moines factory is the largest of four Armstrong plants, producing about 4,360,000 units annually. A $6 million capital improvement program, expected to be completed by 1970, will increase output substantially.



Loading giant excavator tire into curing unit

THE FIRESTONE TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY: Akron, Ohio

The government began construction of a rubber plant at Des Moines in 1944. When war ended production of high flotation tires to float military vehicles over mud and sand, Firestone purchased the $4 million plant. This ultra-modern unit now employs 2,400 workers with an annual payroll of $24 million. One tire every four seconds comes off the assembly line — a total of 22,000 passenger tires a day. An additional 600 truck, 1,200 rear tractor, and 84 earth mover tires can be produced daily. The largest tire cured is a 48x68 earth mover. It is four feet wide at its greatest width and is 10 feet, 1½ inches in diameter. This plant is the largest single user of electricity in Des Moines, consuming enough to supply a city of 25,000. It also uses water sufficient for a city of 10,000.



ALUMINUM COMPANY OF AMERICA: Pittsburgh

One of the great additions to Iowa's industrial economy since World War II was Alcoa's sheet, plate, and foil rolling mill at Riverdale just outside Davenport. This huge industrial unit, which is located on a 432-acre site (85 acres of which are under the plant's roofs), began production in 1948. An expansion program costing $62 million was completed in 1958. The mill is aptly referred to as "acres of aluminum," because that metal was used in building the original plant. The 4-story administration building was the world's first multi-storied, all aluminum-walled building. In 1966 the mill employed 3,500 workers with an annual payroll of $32,500,000.

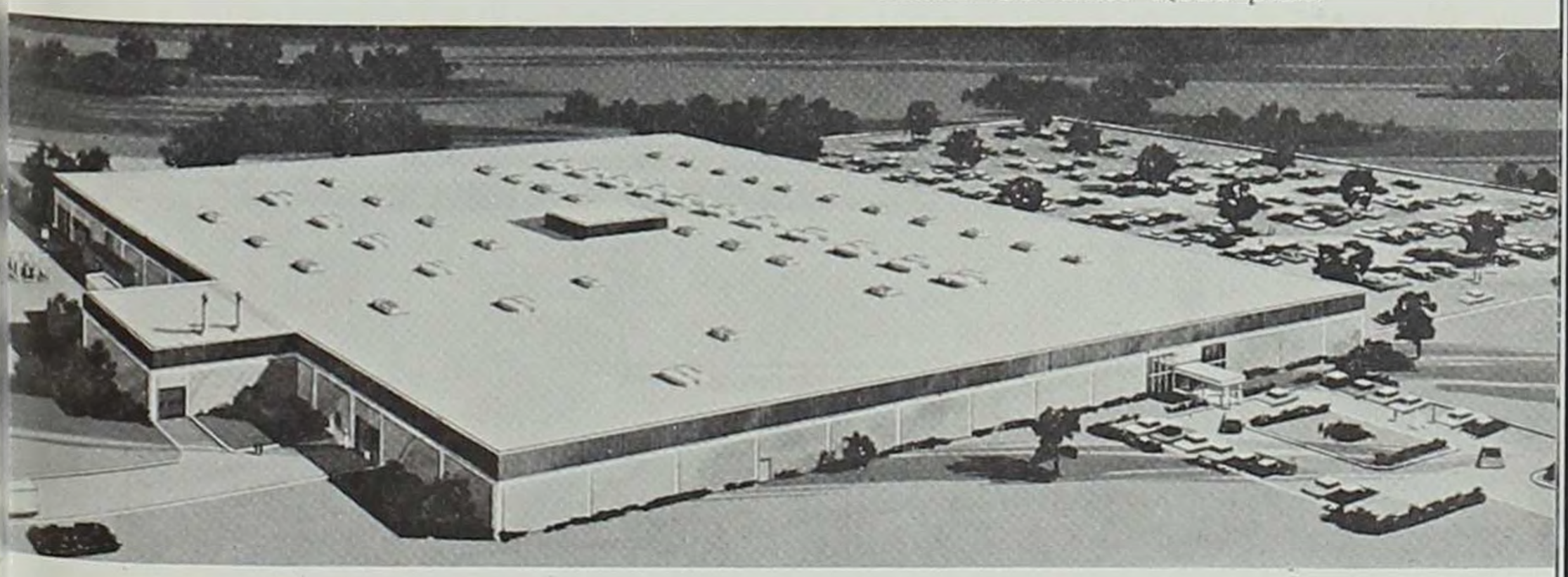
Fisher Office Building

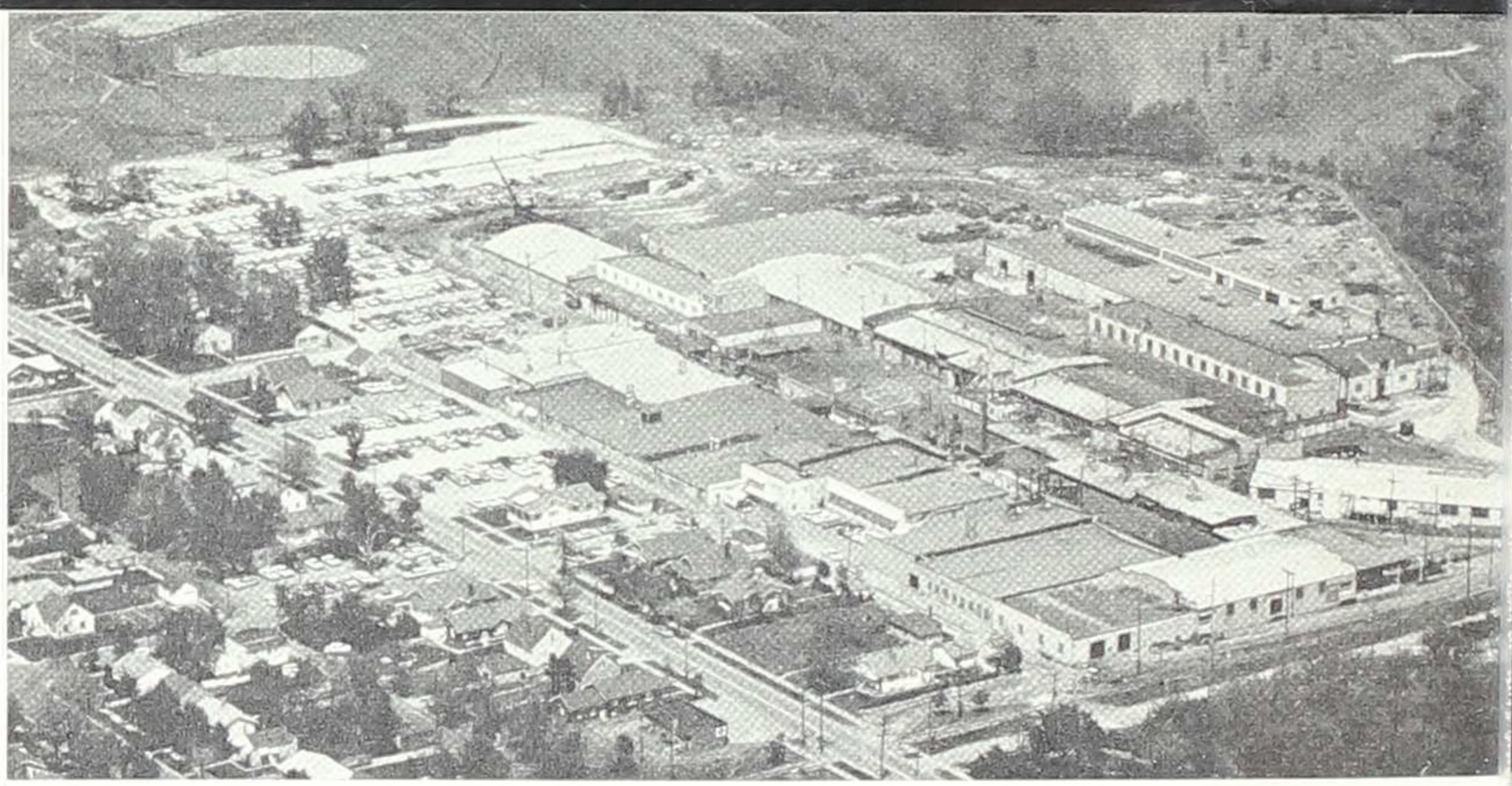
J. W. Fisher

FISHER GOVERNOR COMPANY:
Marshalltown

Founded in 1880 by William Fisher, Fisher Governor is now the world's largest exclusive manufacturer of automatic pressure control valves, liquid level controllers, and liquified petroleum gas pressure regulating equipment. With only 14 employees in 1912, the firm now employs over 3,000 and has five manufacturing divisions in North America. Under President J. W. Fisher, the founder's grandson, the company had sales of $62 million in 1966. Going into production in the spring of 1967 is a 360,000 square foot manufacturing plant which will double the floor space of the Marshalltown manufacturing division.

Fisher Governor Road plant

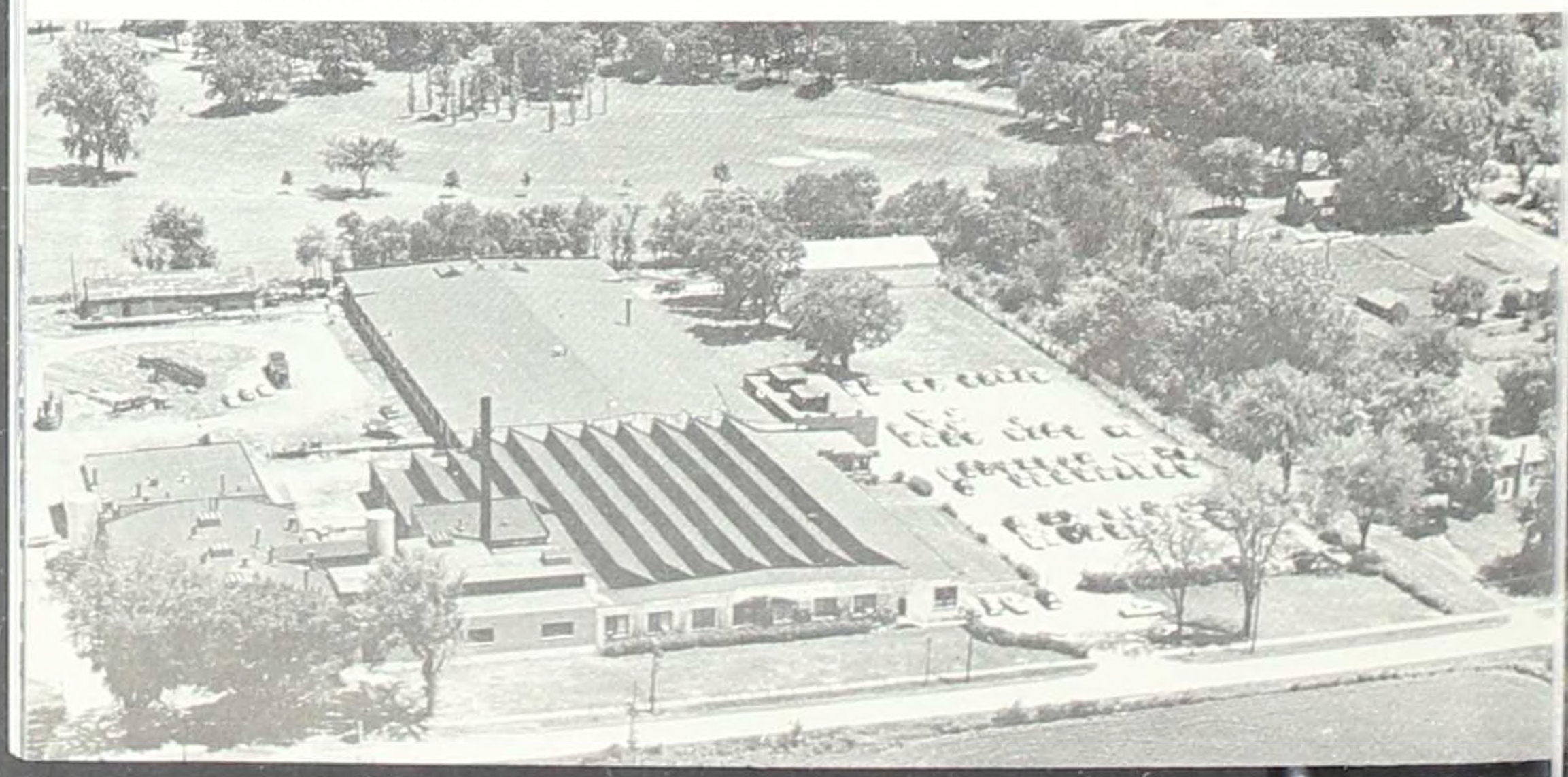




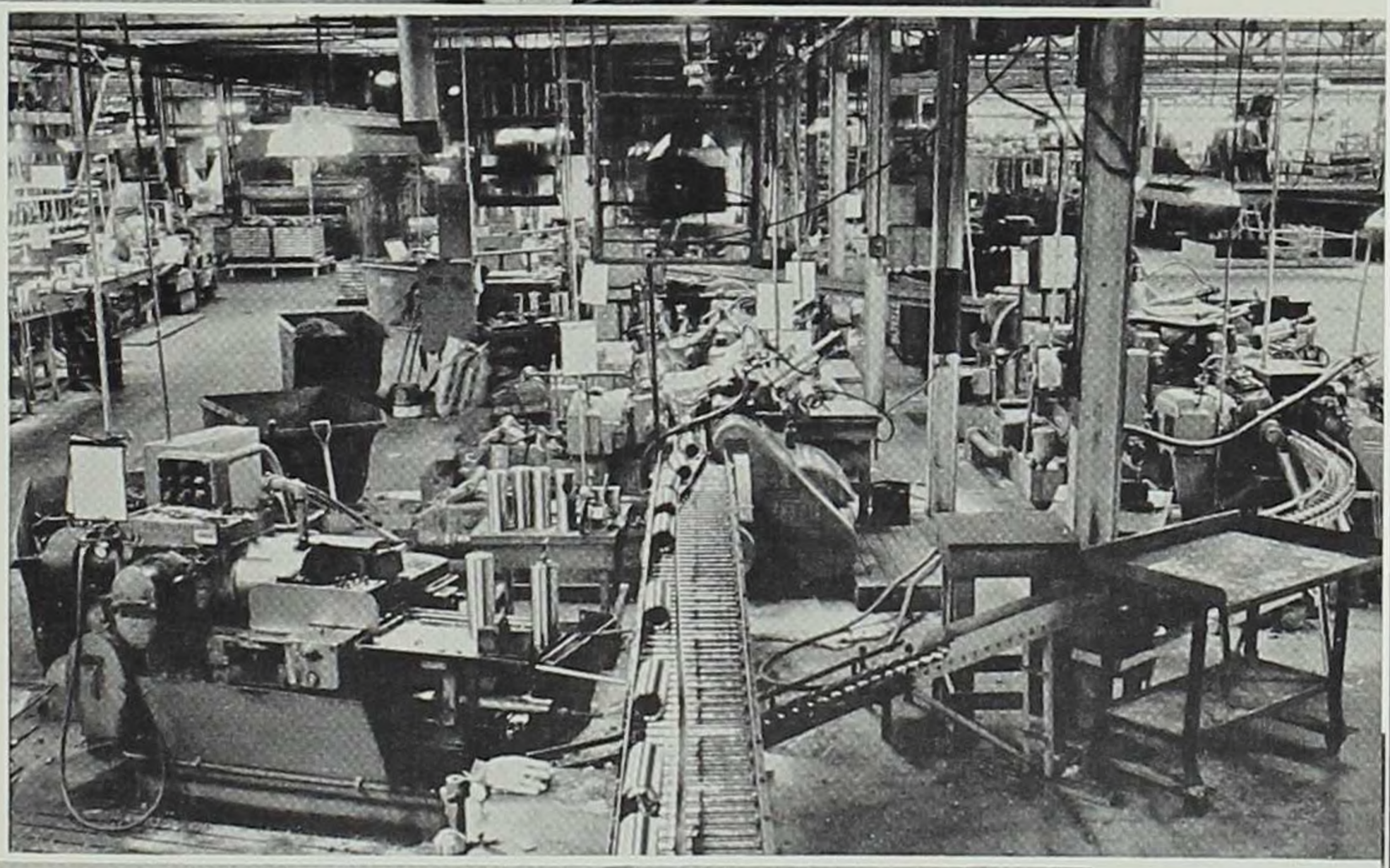
CHAMBERLAIN CORPORATION: Waterloo

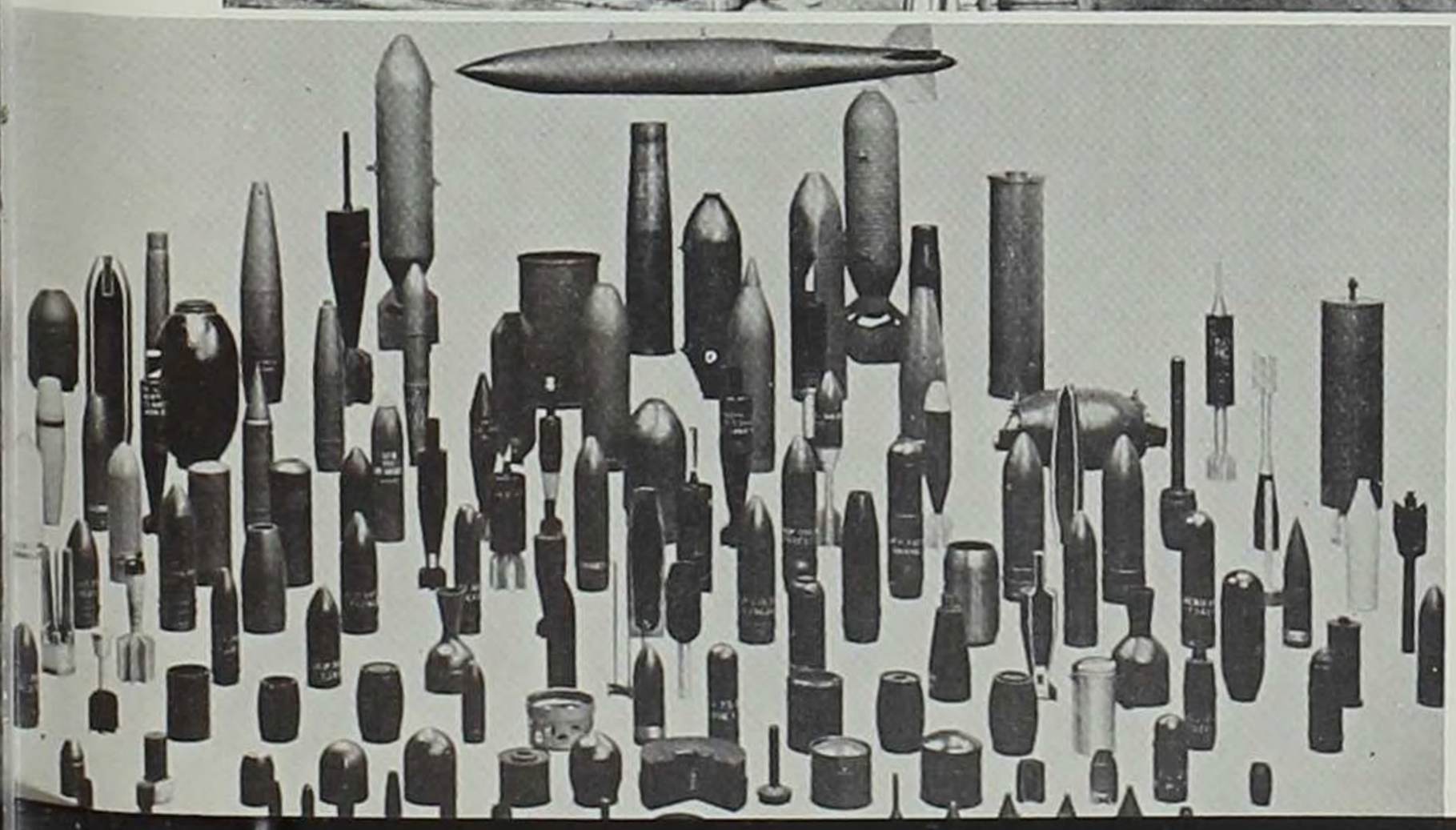
Organized in 1905 by Andrew and Floyd Chamberlain, the Chamberlain Corporation has been growing rapidly in recent years. The Collis Company of Clinton was purchased in 1964; majority control of Wagner Manufacturing Company and its subsidiary, Waterloo Wood Bearing Company, both of Waterloo, was purchased in 1965; and majority control of Moloney Products, Incorporated, Albia, was acquired in 1965. With the new acquisitions the company has expanded its line of products considerably. Chamberlain is involved in ordnance munitions research and manufacture, processes aluminum refrigerator shelves and baskets, decorative metals, and produces custom stampings and forgings. The Wagner plants produce home and commercial garage and overhead doors and specialized wood products; Collis manufactures steel and wire specialties and machine tool accessories; and Moloney produces aluminum storm doors and windows. The Iowa employees of the company total 1,735.

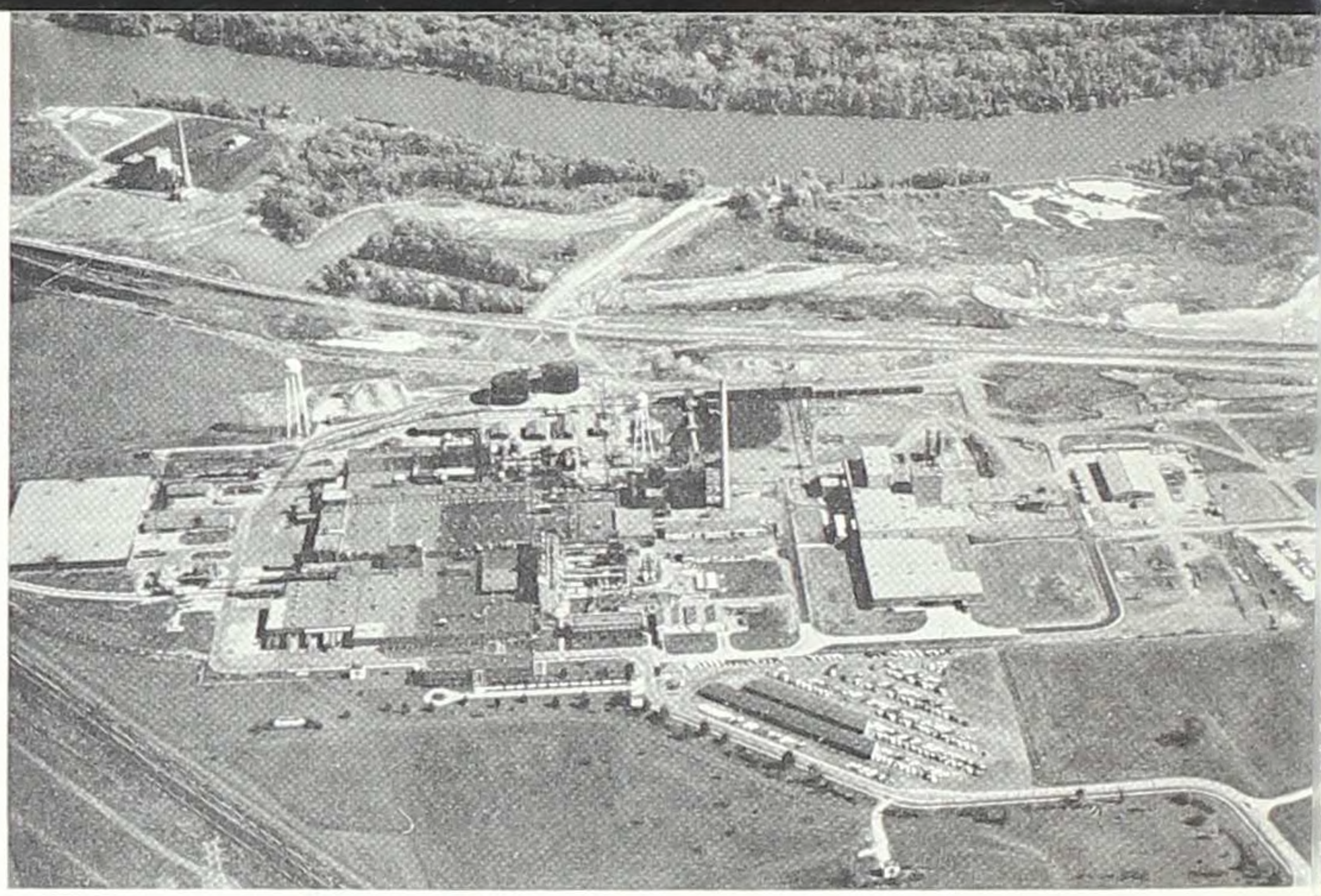
(Above) Pictured are the Chamberlain plant in Waterloo and (below) Collis plant in Clinton. (Opposite page, top to bottom) Machine accounting procedures have helped in handling the company's increasing business. A typical shell production line at Waterloo, and some of the ordnance material made by Chamberlain.




TRUNK

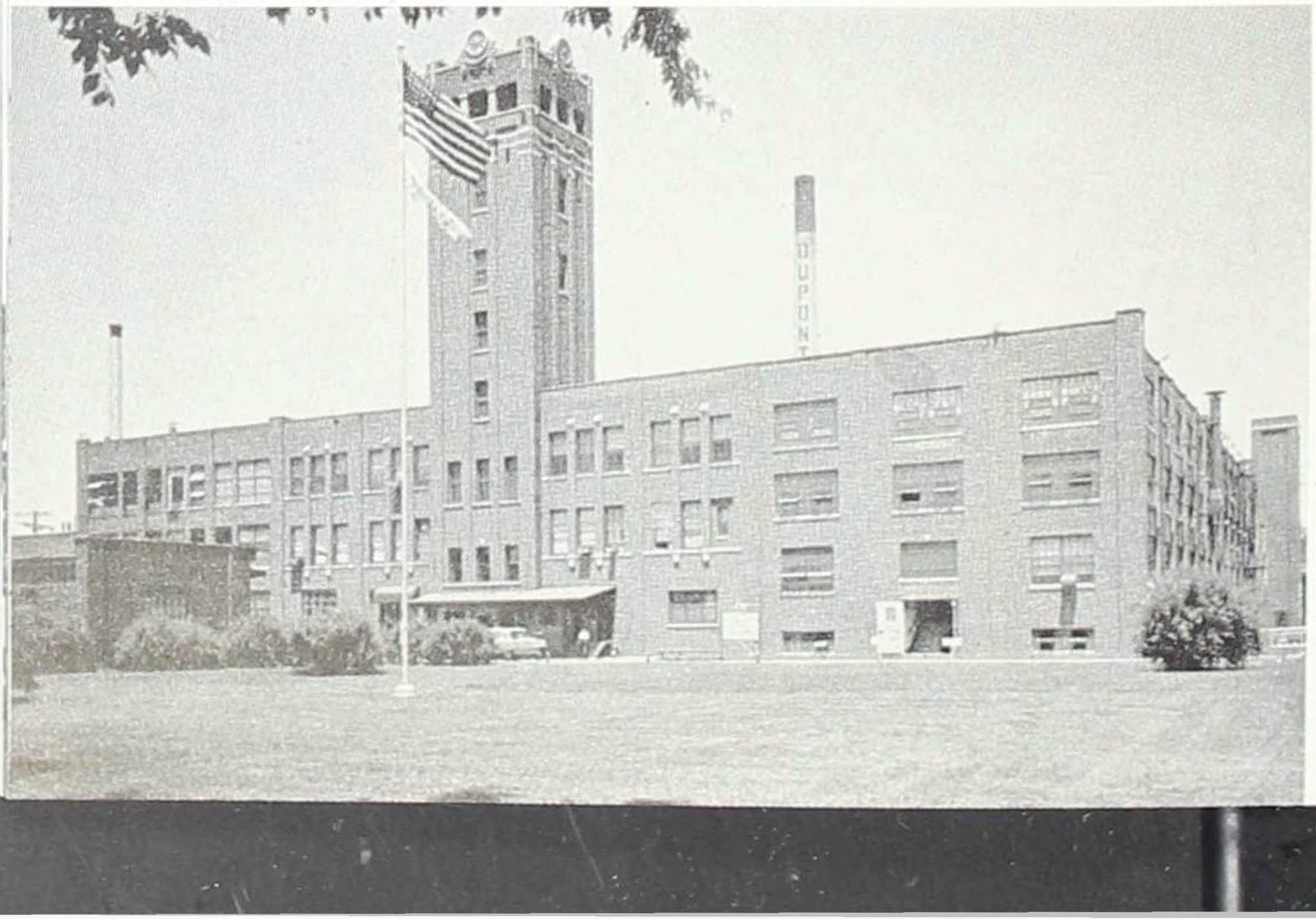


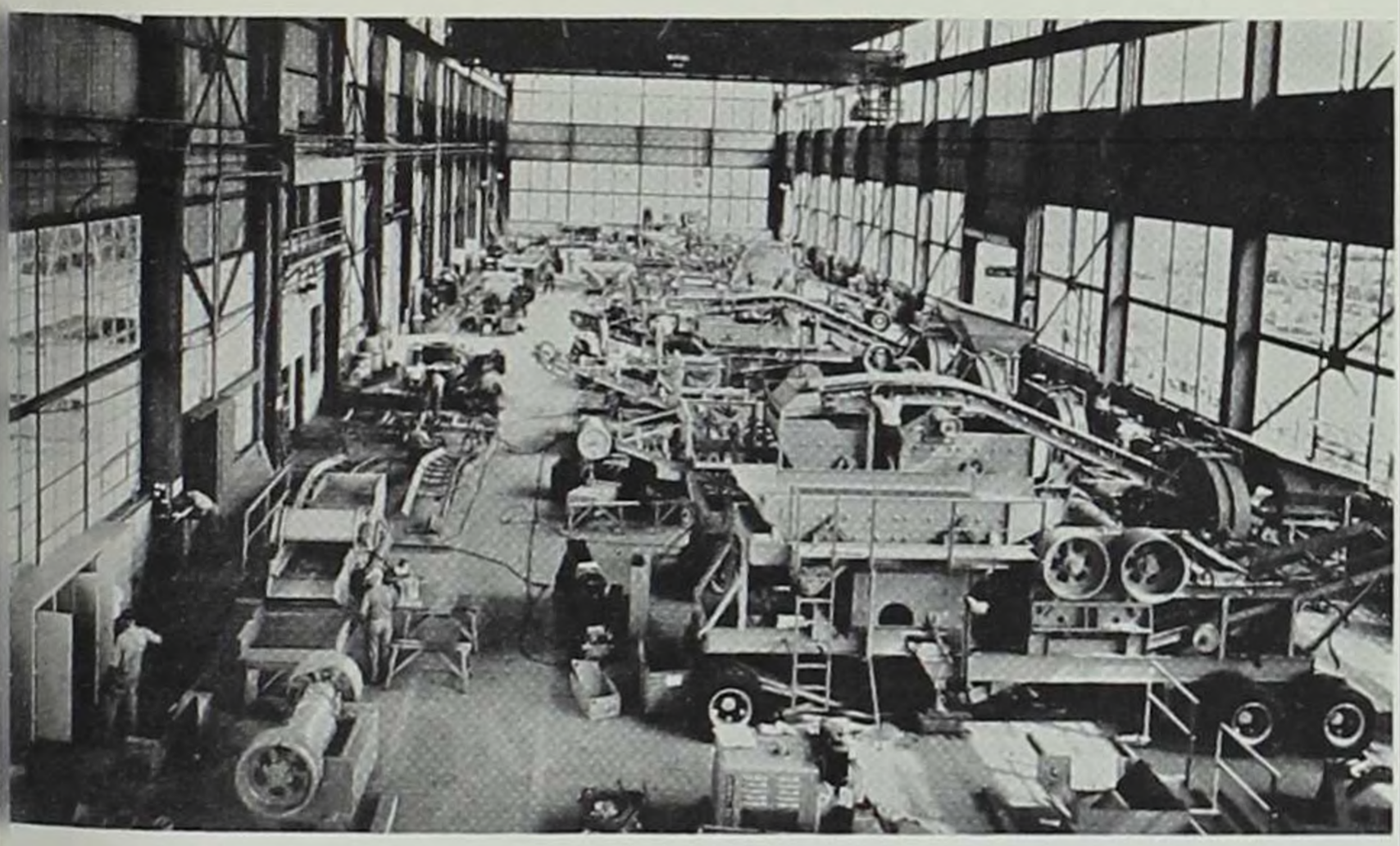




E. I. duPONT de NEMOURS & COMPANY, INC.: Wilmington, Del.

Among the oldest and most famous of all American industrial firms is Du-Pont, established in 1802. Among the company's newer facilities is the Clinton plant (above). It was built in 1940 on a 220-acre tract of land near Clinton for the manufacture of cellophane. The plant employs 1,300 persons and provides an annual payroll of about $10,400,000. The company also has a plant at Fort Madison (below) manufacturing paint, varnish, thinner, and can coatings. Approximately 300 workers are employed at annual wages of $2,194,000.

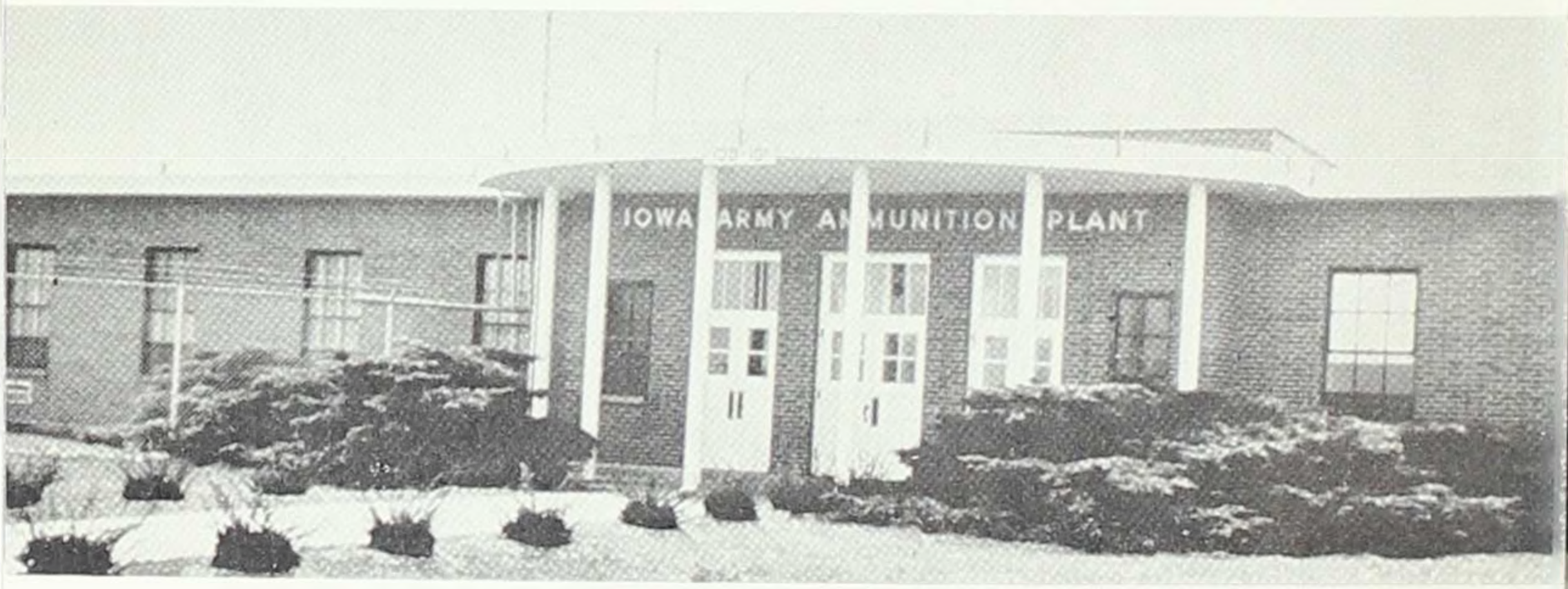




HOWARD HALL

IOWA MANUFACTURING COMPANY: Cedar Rapids

Iowa Manufacturing's president, Howard Hall, in 1923 purchased the property of the Bertschey Engineering Company in Cedar Rapids. From this small plant of 12,158 square feet, the company has grown to become the world's largest producer of portable crushing, screening, and washing equipment. These products are used in many foreign countries as well as throughout the United States. Today the company has approximately 1,700 employees.

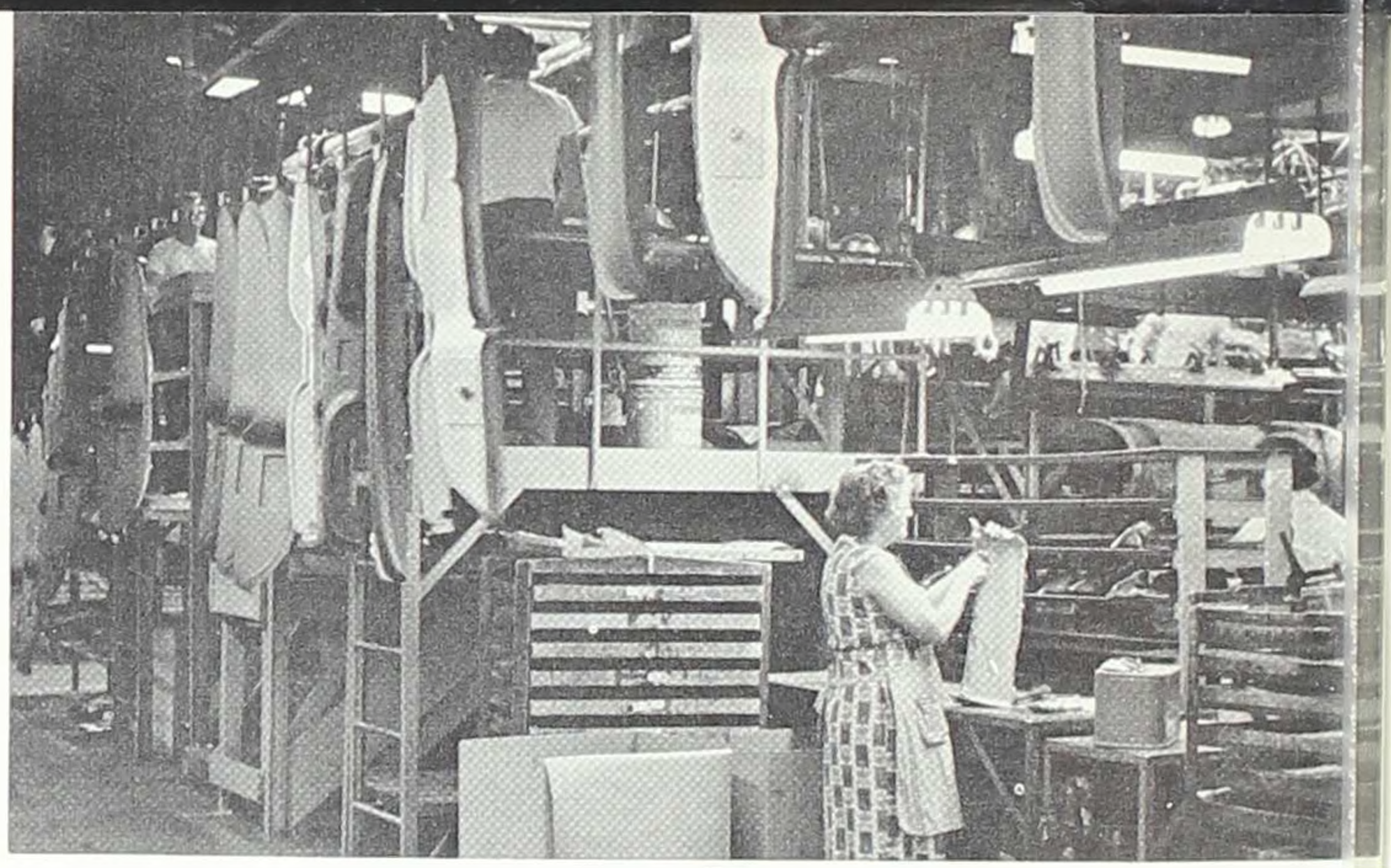


MASON & HANGER-SILAS MASON CO., INC., Lexington, Ky.

Founded in 1827, Mason & Hanger-Silas Mason is the contractor-operator of the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant and the Burlington AEC Plant near Burlington. Its operations in Iowa started in 1947. Employing 3,515 workers and with an estimated 1966 payroll of $24 million, the company loads and assembles weapons, ammunition and ammunition components for the United States Army and the Atomic Energy Commission.

W. A. SHEAFFER PEN CO.: Fort Madison

Certainly one of Iowa's best-known companies, Sheaffer was founded in 1913 by a Fort Madison jeweler, W. A. Sheaffer. That first year the company had seven employees and net sales of $85,000. In 1965 it had 1,350 employees. Since the 1920's Sheaffer has been, with few exceptions, the largest manufacturer of pens and mechanical pencils and has many "firsts" to its credit. It has two plants in Fort Madison producing writing instruments, fountain pens, ball points, markers, mechanical pencils, leads, and erasers. Sheaffer became a subsidiary of Textron Co. in March of 1966.



SHELLER-GLOBE CORPORATION: Toledo, Ohio

In 1948 Sheller Manufacturing Corp. purchased the Dryden plant in Keokuk. After the Sheller purchase the plant operated as the Dryden-Keokuk Division. Sheller merged with Globe Wernicke Industries in 1966 and the new corporation started in Iowa with plants in Keokuk (see back cover) and Iowa City (below). The latter plant was established in 1964. Sheller-Globe's more than 2,000 workers received in excess of $10 million in wages in 1966. Manufactured at the Keokuk plant is sponge rubber, padded trim items, ABS and plastisol covers (safety devices and weather strips). The Iowa City plant produces polyurethane foam and plastisol products.