

Oscilloscopes Create Major Oregon Industry At Beaverton

Portlanders Introduce New 'Scope',
Quickly, Quietly Grab All Business

By GERRY PRATT
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At the close of World War II, two men came out of the Coast Guard filled with the notion that wartime electronic developments would make possible a radically improved type of oscilloscope.

Jack Murdock and Howard Vollum put their ideas together with their radio repair and engineering knowledge and in their small appliance shop on SE Foster Road, went to work building their 'scope.

While the DuPonts and the Radio Corp. of America went back to building pre-war style instruments, the two Portlanders introduced, through a company they called Tektronix, Inc. their new 'scope.

It passed unnoticed by the giants at first and as one Tektronix executive recalls: "We had the business before the others knew what had happened."

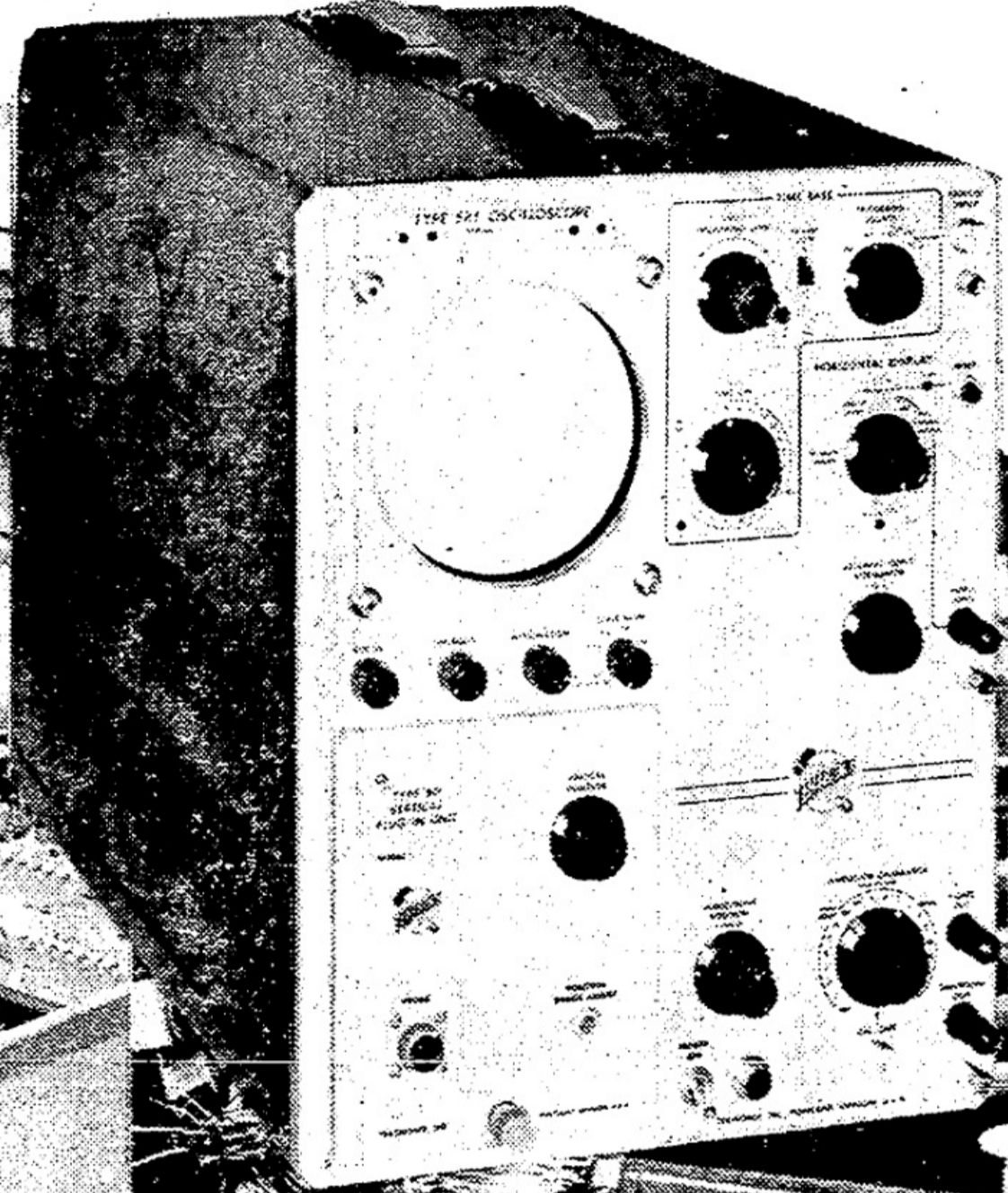
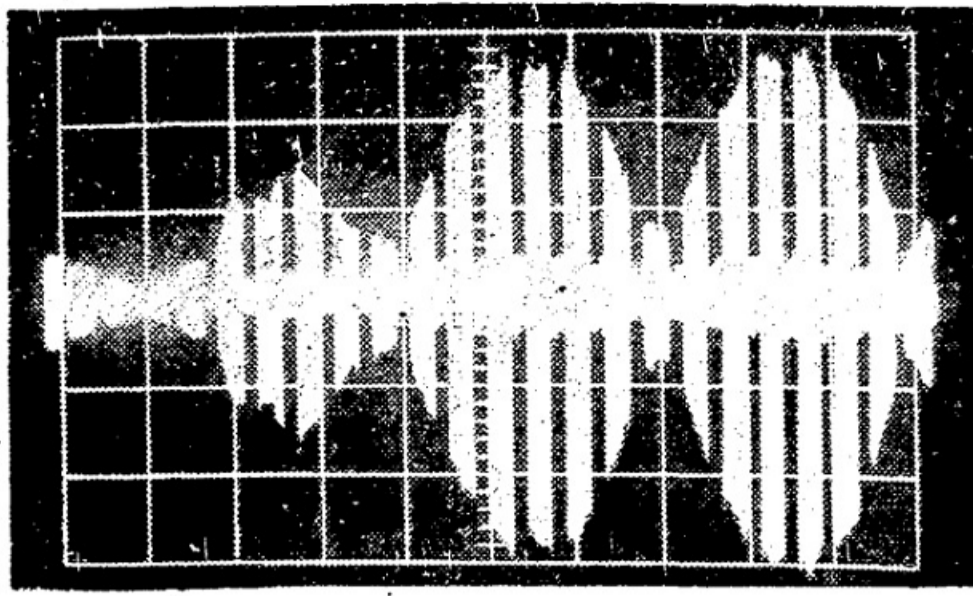
Today, with a work force spurred on by the knowledge that they the workers get 35 per cent of the Tektronix profits before taxes in bonus arrangements, Tektronix has become the world's most experienced and successful builder of oscilloscopes.

By concentrating on quality control and research and development, the company has grown into one of Oregon's major industries, one that industrial experts predict will triple in size through the next decade.

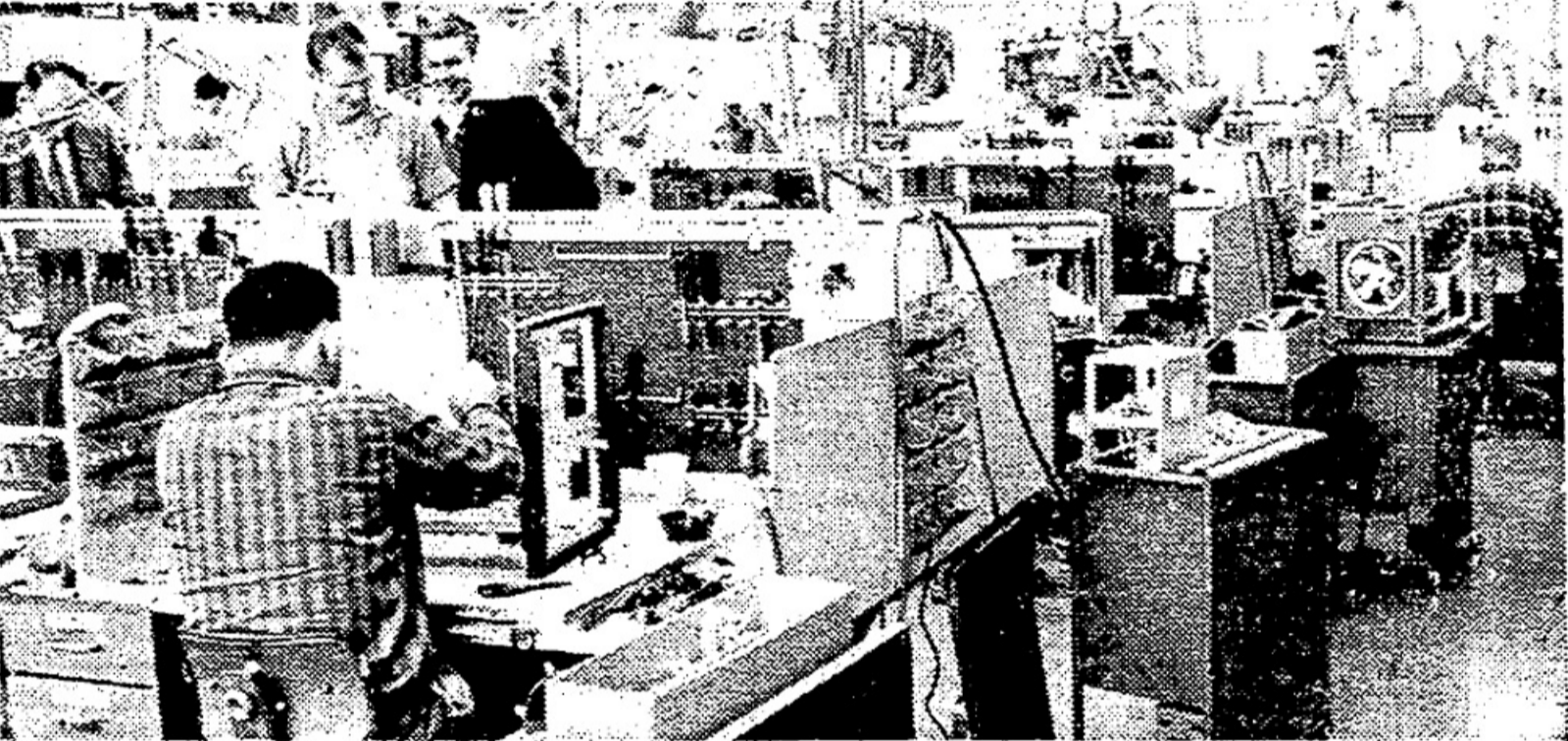
(Oregonian Photos by Chuck Von Wald)



SPUTNIK brought fame to Tektronix oscilloscopes when scientists used instrument to record this message from satellite on 'scope screen.



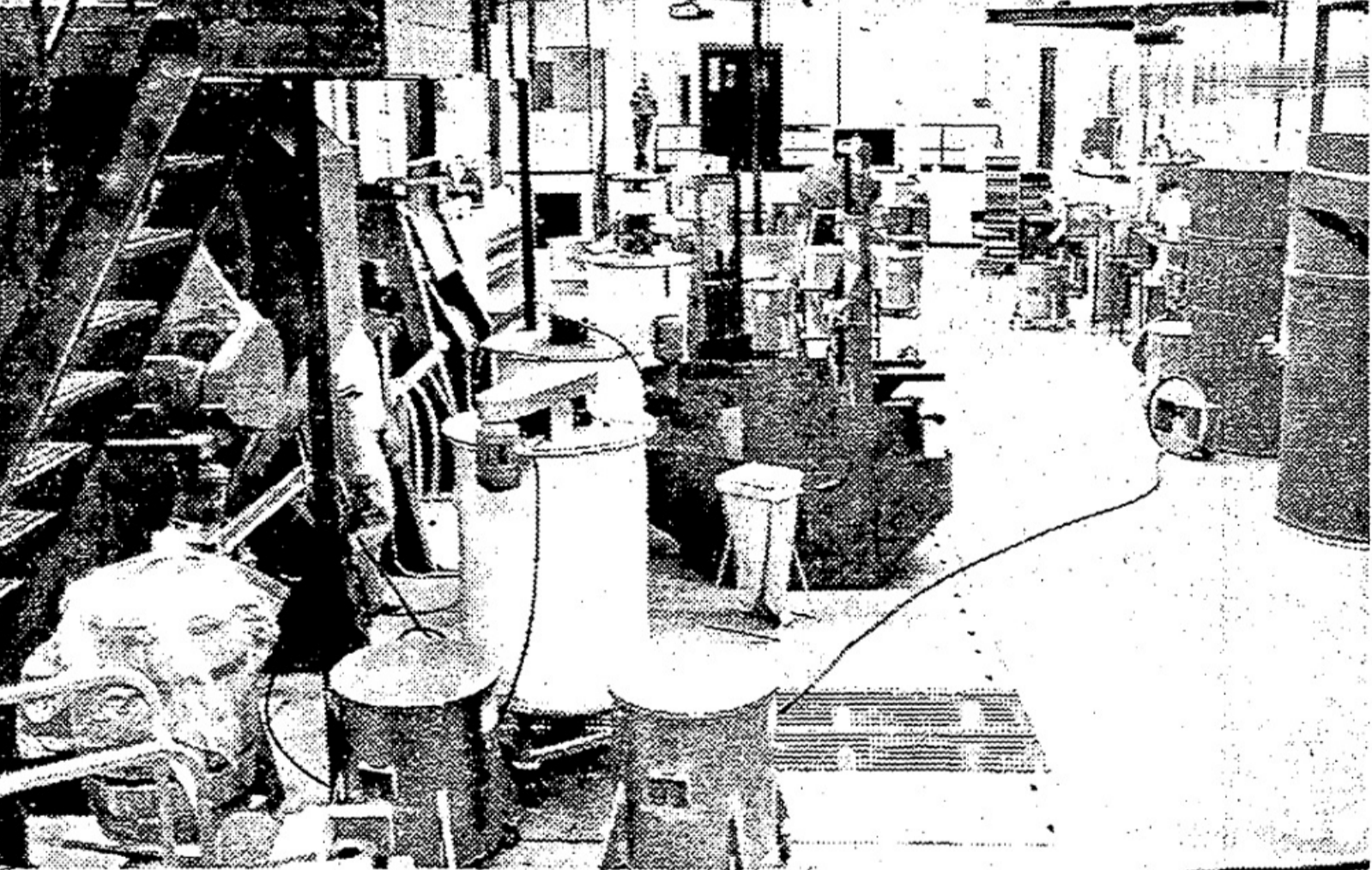
WORKING FROM chassis stamped and drilled by Tektronix presses, this assembly worker carefully places insulators in small oscilloscope. Low employee turnover, careful selection of workers and good working conditions contribute to exceptionally low rate of failures.



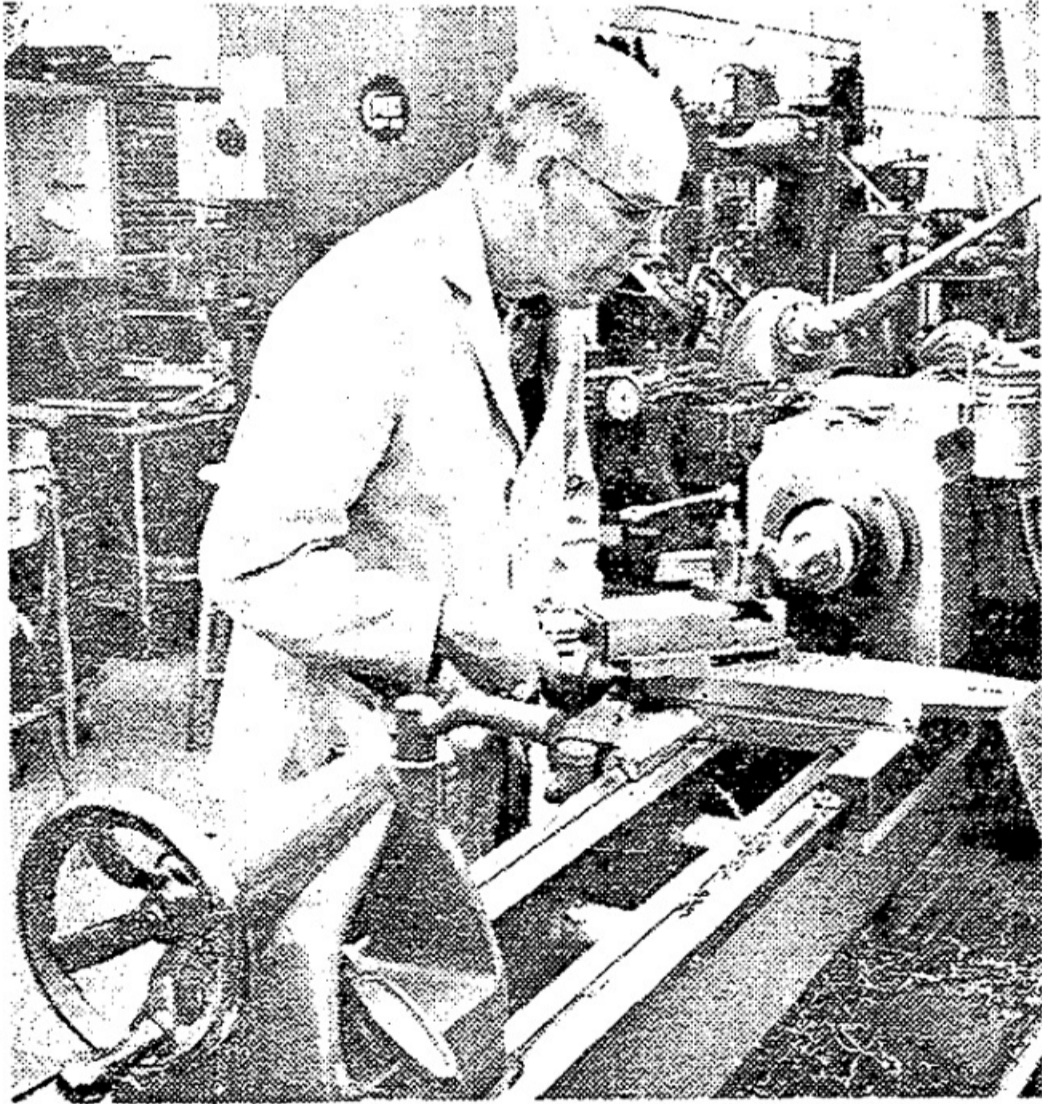
FINAL STEP in Tektronix manufacturing process is a technician testing of machine by highly trained technicians that lasts several days. The Oregon firm's uncompromising battle for quality has made Tektronix world's top name in oscilloscope manufacturing.



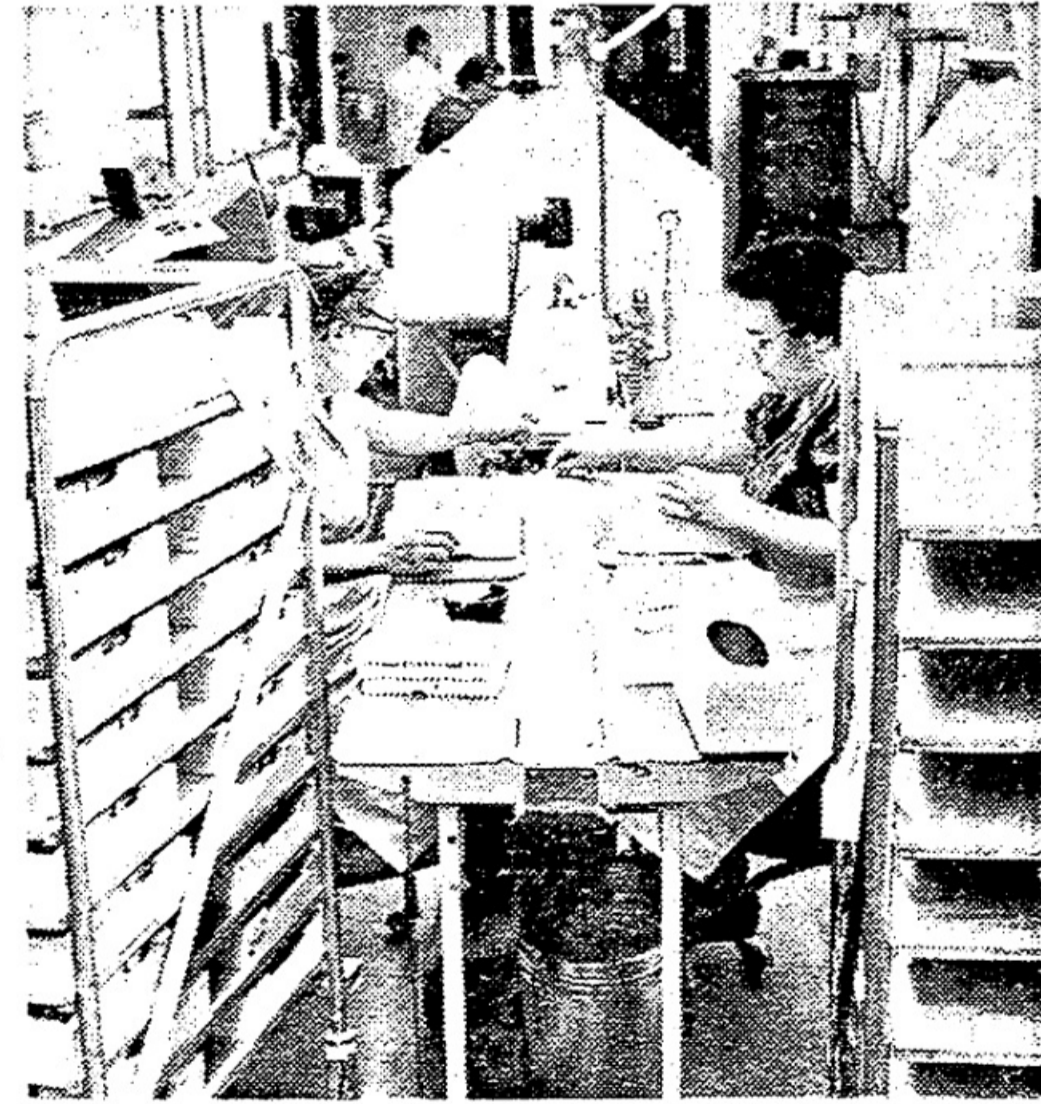
CIRCUITS, LAID out on pattern board in full colors, are followed by this assembly worker who fastens complete pattern together as another step in assembly-manufacture of oscilloscopes. Jobs like these provide work for some 3,000 Oregonians as well as an additional 600 in other out-of-state Tektronix offices and plants. Finished 'scope of \$40-million-a-year business is in center.



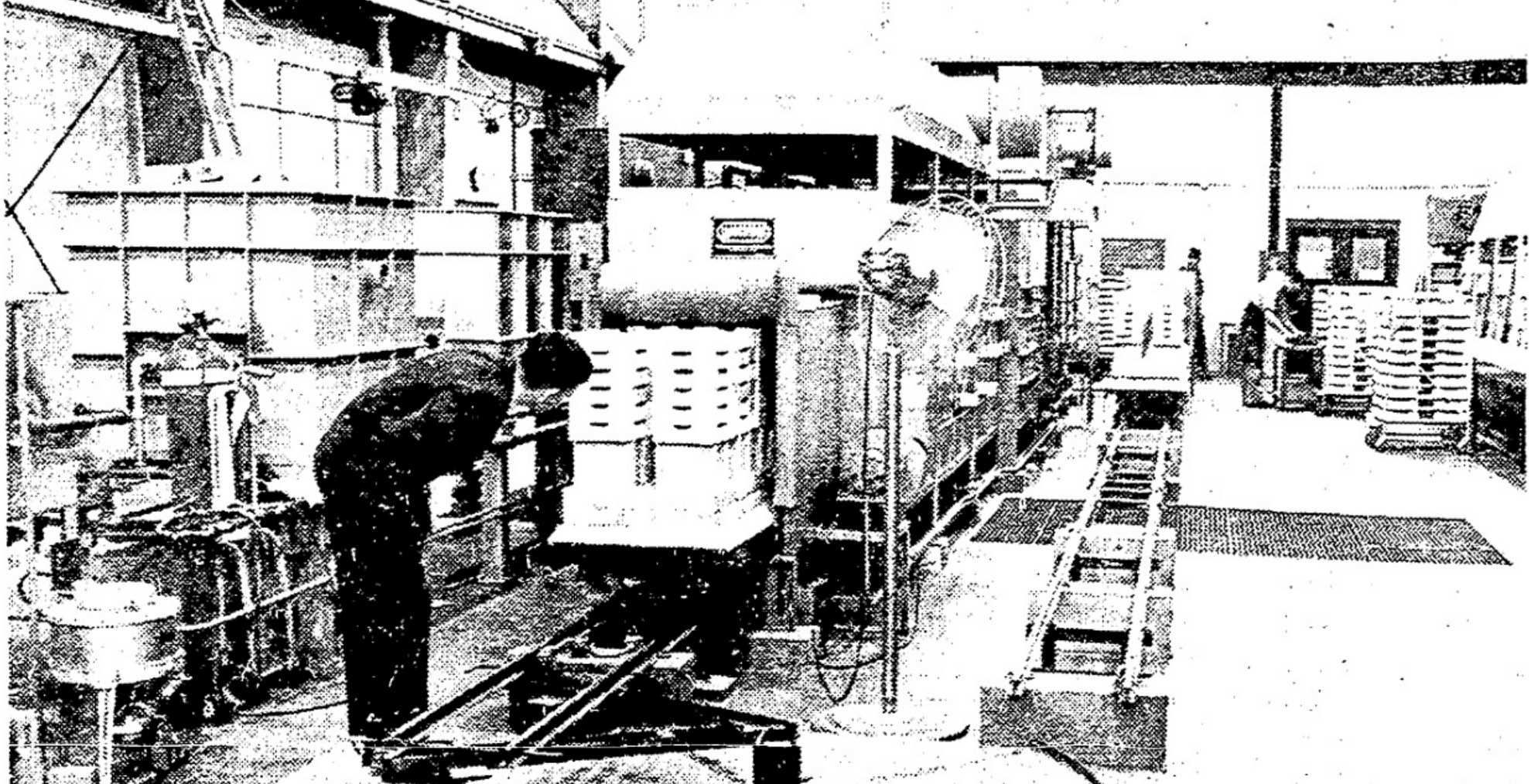
CERAMIC MIXING plant supplies materials for Tektronix own ceramic manufacturing process. Company officials claim that because of high quality demands, Tektronix suppliers had priced the oscilloscope insulators to a point where it was cheaper for company to build its own. Extensive ceramic plant and kilns make nothing but the tiny insulators of the 'scopes.



MACHINE SHOP, complete with heavy machining equipment, manufactures most of Tektronix's own tool demands. Here machinist turns out some of company's precision equipment.



SORTING PRODUCTION of one section of ceramic plant is just one of jobs Tektronix experts have found women do better than men. Majority of company's employees are women.



KILN FOR final baking of Tektronix ceramics handles many thousands of pieces a day. Clay-like pieces are run through the intense heat of this oven, coming out at right, finished products.

NEW PLANTS (at right) under construction near Beaverton will house some 1,400 workers and are expected to be in production early in 1961.

