



E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY  
INCORPORATED

DU PONT, WASHINGTON

EXPLOSIVES DEPARTMENT

DU PONT WORKS

P. O. ADDRESS

DU PONT, PIERCE COUNTY, WASH.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS

WESTERN UNION, FORT LEWIS, WASH.

August 17, 1959

News Editor

REPUBLIC

Yakima, Washington

Dear Sir:

The Du Pont Works of the Explosives Department of E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & CO., INC., Du Pont, Washington, will hold a 50th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, August 29, 1959, between the hours of 10:00 A. M. and 2:00 P. M. The celebration is in recognition of 50 years of continuous operation since startup of the plant in September, 1909. The 170 employees, pensioners, their families and guests, totaling approximately 500, are invited to attend.

Informal ceremonies are to be held in the morning, and a cafeteria style luncheon will be served at noon. During the afternoon, everyone will have an opportunity to view portions of the manufacturing facilities by riding on the special "Powder Line" Railroad which normally carries explosives ingredients from one isolated building to another. There will also be conducted foot tours of certain other operating and service facilities.

You are cordially invited to attend this celebration. There should be ample opportunity to take pictures of the celebration as well as exterior views of the plant and buildings.

Attached is a News Release of this event.

Very truly yours,

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & CO.

G. W. COLLINS, MANAGER

G. W. Collins

GWC:kc

Attachment BETTER THINGS FOR BETTER LIVING ... THROUGH CHEMISTRY



NEWS RELEASE

From: George W. Collins, Manager  
Du Pont Works  
E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.  
Du Pont, Washington

The booming economic growth and development of the Pacific Northwest area over the past 50 years has drawn its strength from many sources including a small but highly productive commercial explosives plant at Du Pont, Washington, 15 miles south of Tacoma on the shore of Puget Sound.

Over a billion pounds of explosives, produced at this plant operated by the Du Pont Company, have played a powerful part since 1909 in carving out highways and logging roads, driving mountain tunnels, building huge hydroelectric power dams, opening up vital mineral deposits, and demolishing dangerous hazards.

On August 29, the Du Pont plant will celebrate its 50th anniversary with an open house for families and guests of employees, retired employees, and leading local citizens, it was announced by George W. Collins, manager of the plant. The plant will be shut down and every person will have an opportunity to visit the seldom-seen manufacturing facilities on the special "powder line" railroad which normally carries explosive ingredients from one isolated building to another.

Explosives manufactured in those buildings have been used on the Grand Coulee Dam, the Cascade Tunnel, the Alaska railroad, for other railroads and highways, and other historic construction projects in the Pacific Northwest. Output from the plant has



also been exported for use on the Panama Canal, mining projects in the Philippines and Alaska, and other construction work in Hawaii and Central and South America.

"Explosives have always been man's most powerful tool in accomplishing huge construction projects, and we are proud to have played a part in the development of this great Pacific Northwest area," Mr. Collins said.

Located midway between Tacoma and Olympia, the plant covers about 1500 acres on Puget Sound. It serves domestic and export markets by rail, truck, and water. Explosives are shipped regularly to Alaska by water direct from the plant.

In World War II, millions of pounds of black powder and high explosives were manufactured at the plant for United States military forces in the Pacific Theater of operations. Gelatin dynamite made at Du Pont was used to clear advanced landing fields for naval forces. At one point during this period, plant employment reached more than 350 persons.

Construction of the plant began in 1906, at a location near the original site of Fort Nisqually. This historic location, occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1833, was the scene of the first effort to develop fur trade territory between the Columbia and Fraser Rivers. Operation of the Du Pont Plant began in 1909. Throughout the years it has grown and developed to meet the changing demands for high explosives in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Western Montana, as well as the Pacific export area.



The plant now has 172 employees. Of this total 33 men, or one out of every five, have been with the company for 25 or more years. There are 51 retired employees, six of whom worked 45 or more years for the company. The annual payroll exceeds \$1,000,000, and a substantial portion of the plant supplies are purchased locally.

"The plant's safety program is one of our most important activities," according to Mr. Collins. "We have not had a lost-time injury in over two-and-one-half years. Previous to that there was an injury free period over three-and-one-half years. The longest injury-free period on the plant was five years, four months. We endeavor to do everything possible to insure the safety of our employees and the plant operation. For example, we recently installed a new continuous nitrator to manufacture nitroglycerin. This new equipment is considered to be the safest means available for making the liquid explosive and was installed principally as a safety improvement."

One of the more unusual aspects of the plant is the herd of 70 deer roaming the site, which, along with 55 head of cattle, help keep down vegetation and thus reduce the danger of fire.

Many different types and grades of dynamite are manufactured at Du Pont Works. Each is tailored to fill a specific need. In addition the company offers blasting know-how to its customers to provide a more efficient and safer use of the product. During the long period of operation, continuous research efforts have made important improvements in dynamite characteristics, such as safety, strength, and water resistance.

#####