

P. G. and E. Progress

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Television Helps Run Big Plants

Boiler Operations Viewed by Remote Control

UNDER its long established policy of pioneering in scientific methods to increase efficiency and improve service, the P. G. and E. is using the marvel of television to assure smooth operation at its principal steam-operated electric generating plants.

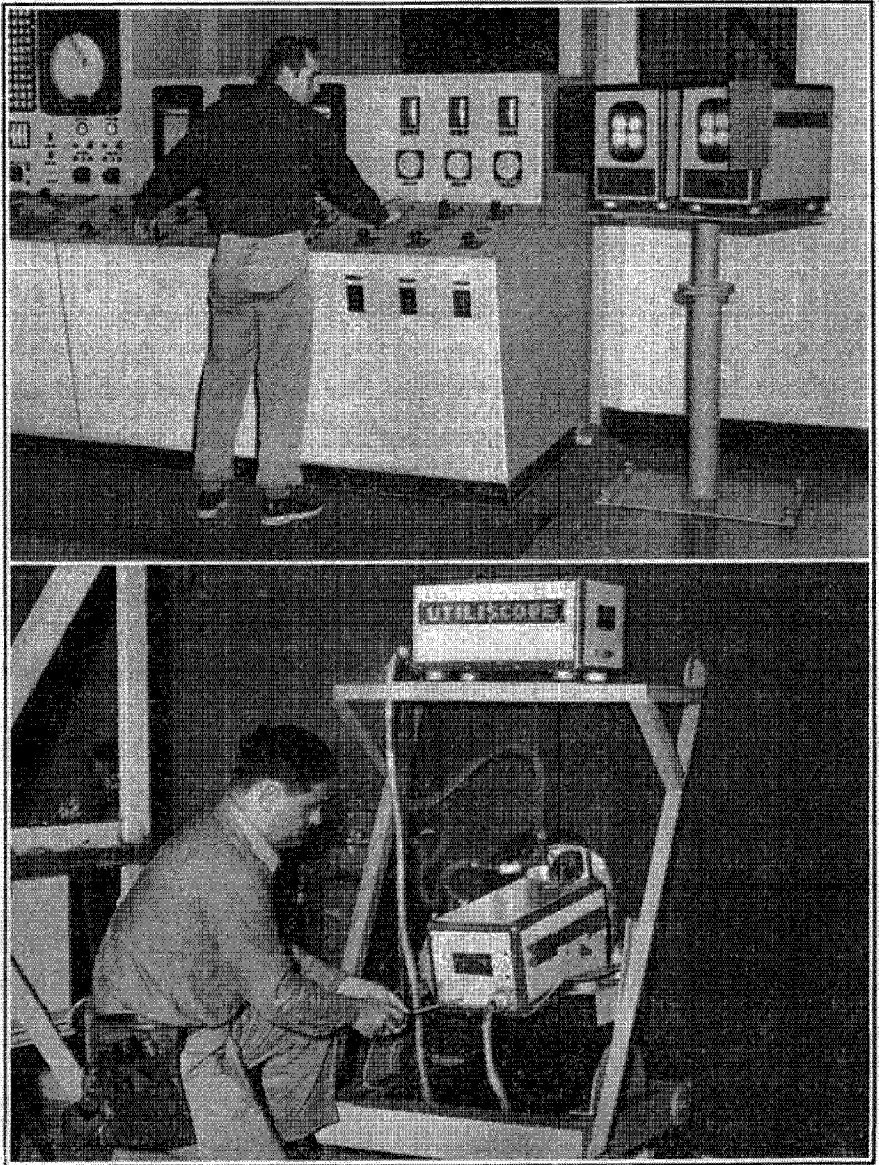
First used at the 771,000-horsepower Moss Landing Steam Plant, near Monterey, television equipment has also been installed at the Contra Costa Steam Plant at Antioch—a twin in size and capacity. An even more elaborate setup has been planned for the huge new 804,000-horsepower plant being erected at Pittsburg.

The system enables operators to observe, from their distant control room, the intricate steps by which a boiler is shifted from natural gas to fuel oil and vice versa. The system has numerous other advantages. It provides a continuous view of the burner operation under the control of top supervisory personnel. Even during periods when no changeover is necessary, TV can spot mechanical or operational flaws, such as impure fuel oil or defects in burners, and thus improve efficiency of operation.

Steam plants are designed to produce power by use of either natural gas or oil. Of the two, gas is preferred. But, when heavy demands for gas are made by the company's regular customers, the Moss Landing and other plants must be shifted quickly to fuel oil. Such changeovers usually occur on short notice and sometimes several times in a single day.

Until the magic of television was utilized, the changeover was a drawn out, tedious operation, during which men had to observe each individual burner at the boiler. Now thanks to TV, a constant image of the burners may be observed at the master control board.

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Max Bauman, operating the master control board of the Moss Landing steam generating plant, at top, keeps constant watch on boiler burners through television screen at his right. Below, electrician Milton Kelly adjusts television camera at boiler. P. G. and E. has installed similar equipment at its Contra Costa steam plant and will use it at a new plant being built at Pittsburg. It is another example of how modern science helps to provide greater efficiency in power production.

More Super Inch Gas

4,000 Feet of Pipe Laid Daily In San Joaquin Valley

AN 88-mile loop paralleling the P. G. and E.'s Super Inch natural gas line is being laid down the San Joaquin Valley at the rate of 4,000 feet daily. It is part of a 220 mile looping project, the second major expansion of the 502 mile transmission line in two years.

Super Inch, which began operation in 1950, reached a daily capacity of 400,000,000 cubic feet in 1951. This was increased by 150,000,000 cubic feet by a project just completed and the new project will add another 150,000,000 cubic feet daily. Prior to 1950, all P. G. and E. natural gas came from California fields.

The new job, running from a point south of Kettleman Hills in Fresno County to near Arvin, Kern County, will be completed in April. Other sections will include one of 87.8 miles between Newberry and Danby in San Bernardino County, one of eight miles near Mojave and one of 32 miles starting north of Hollister and running to a point south of that city.

Super Inch is the world's largest-diameter, long-distance natural gas line and connects with other big gas lines crossing Arizona and New Mexico. It connects more than a million P. G. and E. natural gas customers with producing fields of the Permian Basin, east of El Paso, Texas and the San Juan Basin, which extends over the boundaries of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah.

Thick Frosting on Business Cake Predicted by Weeks

One of the most optimistic business predictions made in recent months was spoken by Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks recently before the Business Advisory Council, a group of leading industrialists. He forecast continuing prosperity.

"We are on a very high plateau now, and for the long range I am optimistic. The population is growing at the rate of 2,500,000 people a year, and new products are coming on the market for which the people have an insatiable demand."

Weeks said there may be minor adjustments in the economy but explained: "It is a question of whether the frosting on the cake is three-eighths of an inch thick or a quarter of an inch."

Also speaking before the council, Sidney Weinberg, senior partner of Goldman, Sachs and Company, investment bankers, said: "I would rather be a poor man and free, than a rich man and a slave."

On the Job With the "Old Timers"

Grant Cunningham—A Man With Many Careers in One

TAKE a sturdy son of pioneer stock, credit him with more than thirty years of service in the P. G. and E., place him in one of the most picturesque settings in America—and you have this month's "old timer".

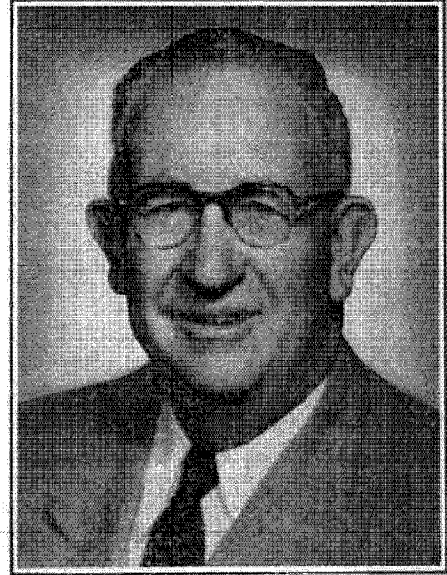
Grant E. Cunningham, the company's district manager at Monterey, is a tall, heavy set man of kindly ways and friendly manner. His life has been one of fine family habits, community service, self betterment and conscientious attention to duty.

Grant was born on November 26, 1895, on a farm near Chino, San Bernardino County. He was one of eight children. Forty-five years earlier his grandfather, Dr. Peter Cunningham, had crossed the plains in a covered wagon from Indiana to practice medicine in California. His father, however, preferred agriculture and the family grew up on a farm near Turlock, Stanislaus County.

In his teens Grant aspired to be an engineer and, on finishing high school, he enrolled in the engineering course at the University of California in Berkeley. But, by the time he had completed two years of study, America became embroiled in World War I, so he left the campus and did his bit as an "expediter" at the Alameda shipyard of Bethlehem Steel. The postwar decline in shipbuilding ended that work and, after a year or so of odd jobs, he joined the P. G. and E., in November, 1922, as a utility man at Turlock. That was a many-sided assignment, which included setting meters, maintaining street lights, servicing electric ranges and other appliances.

A series of major moves in the company began in 1925, when Grant went to Manteca as a combination man—another multiple job of estimating, laying out work for meter readers and collectors, plus doubling in service behind the office counter. A long period of service in Salinas started in 1930, when he became agricultural power salesman in that area. In 1942, he was appointed senior estimator in the office of the division superintendent and by 1946, he was supervising estimates and maps.

In January, 1949, the customers in King City met Grant as their new local manager and on May 1, 1951, he was advanced to the post of district manager there. In July of this year, he became district manager at Monterey. As such he directs operations in a region with a



Grant E. Cunningham

population of 70,000 and including all of the Monterey peninsula and considerable adjacent territory.

Almost from the outset of his business career, Grant has had at his side a one-time University of California coed from Nebraska. They met at a ladies' day dinner at the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and were married on November 28, 1917. They have a son, Richard, and two grandchildren, residing in San Mateo.

Like most P. G. and E. men, Grant's roots always have been deep in community life. While at King City he helped to design the local golf course and organize the golf club. Last year he was president of the Southern Monterey County Chamber of Commerce. He is a past exalted ruler of the Salinas Lodge of Elks, a member of the Rotary Club and a Mason. His principal hobby, in addition to golf, is photography—an avocation which has won him several prizes for salon prints.

Night courses in a wide variety of subjects, arranged by the employees' association, have contributed to his well-rounded education.

Grant's older brother, Lloyd, has had a P. G. and E. career closely paralleling his. A month after he joined the company, he obtained a temporary job for Lloyd and that temporary job lasted until 1951, when Lloyd was pensioned. Another brother, James, is service supervisor with the Turlock Irrigation District.

It is characteristic of Grant Cunningham's quiet efficiency, even disposition, personal courage and humility that he should describe his thirty-one years in utility work and his community service as the pleasant rewards of our American way.