

Confidential

Jackson County
Gold Hill Dist.

LAUGHLIN ALLOY STEEL CO., INC.

Plant on Agate Road, NW of Medford 7 miles. Plant is reached by going up Crater Lake Hwy., then turning left off Hwy. onto Agate road, 2 miles on Agate road. Plant is on Camp White property.

Talked to David A. Trudeau, foundryman. He was very glad to give me any information he could and was not at all bashful about authorizing publication of any and all information.

A few days ago, J. S. Burns of Van Waters & Rogers stopped in and said he had talked to Trudeau. Burns said Trudeau would not "trap" on any metallurgical problems they talked about.

The smelter will make stainless steels of the "300" series, (various alloys of iron, carbon, tungsten, moly, nickel, chrome, copper, cobalt, etc.). They will produce the metal and cast it.

The iron will come from scrap which is being obtained from a dealer in Ashland. Trudeau said iron could be also obtained from chromite by oxidizing (?) the chrome. Not sure about this. Trudeau says he can change from an acid to a basic charge in about a day and a half. The lining change in the furnace is the only big step in changing from one metal to another and that he can make anything anyone wants.

They are working on local sources for all the metals and seem to be assured of sources for most of them. Others aren't available here.

The building is completed and the insides are being finished. An 8' Greene Electric furnace is ordered. Trudeau says initial production will be about 20 TPD with 50-60 men/shift. They have already made plans for possible expansion of the plant -- if and when.

I don't know much about what he is doing but I am wondering about

several things. First--a market for the stuff. Evidently there are similar plants in Portland and San Francisco. That doesn't leave too much in between. Second--a source of the raw material. Obviously, there is some of the stuff around, but I didn't suppose he could be supplied with enough local scrap to keep him going very long. Some of his alloying metals will have to be brought in from the outside. They will undoubtedly have to buy metal from the Tacoma smelter, etc. I don't think he plans on smelting base metal ores for his alloying metals. The smelter will not use enough alloying metals to keep a mine in business full-time--outside of possibly chrome.

The company has probably considered these questions, however. They plan to be in operation within two months. This is the same deal that has been pending for years. Maybe Laughlin finally did it.

Visited by Max Schaffer
Fall 1955