

# RADIO AGE

RESEARCH • MANUFACTURING • COMMUNICATIONS • BROADCASTING • TELEVISION



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AIR VIEW OF RCA VICTOR DIVISION'S MODERN TUBE PLANT AT LANCASTER, PA.

## RCA BUYS LANCASTER TUBE PLANT

**T**HE most modern electron and television tube manufacturing plant in the world, located at Lancaster, Penn., has been purchased from the U. S. Navy Department by the RCA Victor Division, which built and operated the plant for the Navy during the war. The purchase price was \$4,362,500.

The availability of television for the public will be advanced considerably by the company's acquisition of the plant, according to Frank M. Folsom, Executive Vice President in charge of RCA Victor. The plant is the largest in existence for the manufacture of cathode-ray picture tubes used in television receivers and television camera pickup tubes, he pointed out. These tubes, he declared, will be made available to other television home instrument and broadcast equipment manufacturers.

An additional investment of \$2,000,000 is to be made by RCA Victor, Mr. Folsom said, to expand and further modernize the plant's high-speed production equipment for the manufacture of cathode-ray tubes.

### *On a 99-Acre Tract*

The plant contains 396,000 square feet of floor space and stands on a tract of 99 acres. The present personnel is about 1000, of which 90 per cent are permanent residents of Lancaster and vicinity. As peacetime production expands, according to Mr. Folsom, employment is expected to rise until it equals or exceeds the plant's peak wartime level.

From its completion at the end of 1942 until the end of the war, the Lancaster plant produced unprecedented quantities of the power, cathode-ray, and special purpose

tubes used to control modern weapons and military vehicles and communications. Peak production, reached in June, 1944, it was revealed, was equal to a rate of \$30,000,000 a year.

In disclosing future plans, L. W. Teegarden, Vice President in charge of the Tube Department, stated that the plant will be devoted to the manufacture of the same general types of tubes for use in radio broadcasting and other forms of communications, in electronic power and control applications in commerce and industry, as well as in television.

### *Anticipates Larger Tube Demand*

"We expect the market for kinescope picture tubes will eventually exceed our wartime production of all types of cathode-ray tubes," Mr. Teegarden said. "We anticipate a demand for large power tubes, both for high-frequency heating in in-

AT RIGHT: RACKS OF CATHODE RAY TUBES MOVE DOWN ONE OF THE PRODUCTION LINES AT THE LANCASTER PLANT.

BELOW: OPERATING OFFICIALS OF LANCASTER PLANT. LEFT TO RIGHT: E. M. WOOD, MANAGER OF MANUFACTURING; J. A. KING, PLANT MANAGER; DR. D. ULREY, MANAGER OF ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.



dustry and for use in the communications field, including television, which will likewise exceed the wartime peak. A growing variety of applications for phototubes in the field of industrial control indicates a future market at least five times as great as the pre-war level."

The main building of the plant accommodates nearly all of the tube production operations in addition to offices, a complete engineering laboratory, a cafeteria, a dispensary, and warehousing space.

Other buildings include a luminescent materials plant where RCA manufactures all its own cathode-ray and kinescope screen coating materials, a gas plant for the manufacture of hydrogen, oxygen and liquid air used in tube manufacturing processes, a fireproof solvent

storage building, a modern powerhouse and a separate building for engineering development of large power tubes. On the grounds are all-weather tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and a large parking lot.

#### *Wartime Needs Were Met*

Foreseeing the need for expansion to meet wartime needs, RCA drafted a plan for plant expansion during the summer of 1941. The plan was transmitted to the Bureau of Ships one month prior to Pearl Harbor. In January, 1942, the Navy asked RCA to build and operate additional facilities in this field.

Building operations at Lancaster were begun in March, 1942, and the plant was ready to begin production the following December. Just nine

months later, in September, 1943, the Lancaster plant had attained the production rate to which it was committed. From October, 1941, to the peak month of June, 1944, RCA expanded its production of cathode-ray tubes 29.6 times; pick-up tubes 27.1 times; power tubes, 4.4 times; and special purpose tubes, 3.7 times.

During the war, the Lancaster plant was the largest single supplier of cathode-ray and power tubes for war critical radar, shoran, loran, radio altimeter, and airborne television ("block" and "ring") equipments used by the various armed services. Other vital wartime products included high-sensitivity multiplier phototubes used for jamming enemy radar and high-frequency magnetrons used in fine-detail radar mapping.

## New Officers Elected

John T. Cahill, senior member of the New York law firm of Cahill, Gordon, Zachry & Reindel, was elected a Director of the Radio Corporation of America at the annual meeting of RCA stockholders, May 7, and Arthur B. Tuttle was elected Treasurer of the Corporation by the Board of Directors on May 10. Cahill's election fills the vacancy caused by the death of DeWitt Millhauser. Tuttle succeeds George S. DeSousa who will continue as Vice President of RCA.

Mr. Cahill was born in New York City on November 17, 1903. Graduated from Columbia University in 1924 and from Harvard Law School in 1927, he became associated with the firm of Cotton and Franklin. He served as Assistant Attorney General of New York from 1931 until 1933, when he joined the firm of Wright, Gordon, Zachry & Parlin.

In 1936 Mr. Cahill was named Special Assistant to the District Attorney of New York County. He served as United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 1939 to 1941, then returned to private law practice.

Associated with RCA for twenty-five years, Mr. Tuttle has served since December 6, 1940 as Vice President and Treasurer of RCA



JOHN T. CAHILL  
*Director of RCA*



ARTHUR B. TUTTLE  
*Treasurer of RCA*

Communications, Inc. He joined RCA in January, 1921, later was advanced to Credit Manager, and in 1927 was elected Assistant Treasurer. During the early part of 1931, he was Treasurer of the Radiomarine Corporation of America and also held the position of Treasurer in RCA Communications.

A native of Bay Shore, L. I., Mr. Tuttle studied at Commercial High

School in Brooklyn and completed special courses at Cornell University. He served with the New York National Guard on the Mexican Border in 1916, and was a second lieutenant in the infantry during the First World War. He saw service in Belgium and Germany. Before joining RCA, he worked as an engineer with the DuPont Construction Company, Flint, Mich.