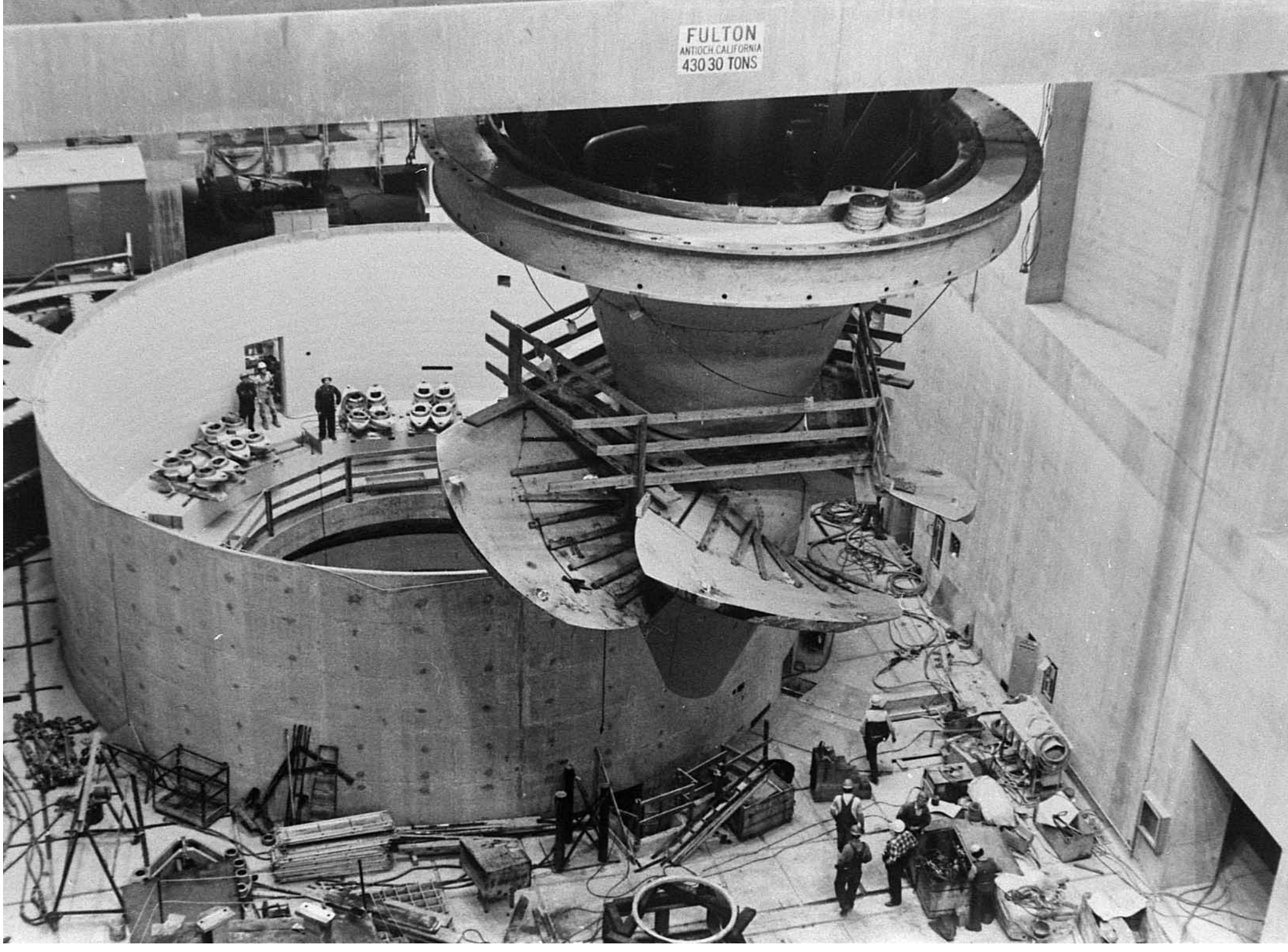


# FOREST PRODUCTS TO SILICON FOREST



Bonneville Dam's second powerhouse, constructed between 1974 and 1981. The combined electrical output of the two power houses at Bonneville would now exceed 1 million kilowatts.



High rise office buildings and other structures transformed Portland's skyline to that of a major city as seen in this 1978 aerial photo.

**1970** The first 30 cent contribution negotiated to start the Edison Pension Plan. Today there are now 3 local pension plans, The Ninth District Plan, the Cornell Hart 401-K and the original Edison Plan with combined assets of 1.3 billion dollars.

**1971** The NECA/IBEW Local 48 partnership created the Edison Pension retirement benefit plan, paid for by employers. Edison plan income paid to retirees would supplement income from Social Security and other existing plans. That way retirees and their families could enjoy the same standard of living they had during their working years.

**1972** Members of IBEW Local 517 in the coastal areas of Lincoln City to Astoria merged with Local 48.

**1974** The stock market fell. Consumers and business alike roiled from 12% hyperinflation. Oregon slipped into 16 months of recession. Construction projects of NECA/IBEW Local 48 shifted away from pulp, paper and lumber to high technology equipment, semiconductor research and silicon wafer fabrication.

Bonneville Power Administration energized the central computer complex, and power system control circuits and terminals, of Dittmer Control Center in Vancouver, making it the "O'Hare Airport" of the electric grid in the Pacific Northwest.

Intel, at the urging of Tektronix, commenced two years of construction on its Fab 4 computer chip factory in Aloha, the first of seven such semiconductor research and fabrication campuses in Washington County by 2012. Thousands of NECA/IBEW Local 48 contractors and electricians would benefit from Intel's 40-year, \$20 billion investment in Oregon.



Trojan Nuclear Power Plant, completed 1975.

*"Perhaps one of the . . . biggest challenges which Local 48 members undertook was the Trojan Nuclear Plant (1970-1975). Union members faced unusual first-time problems, travelled some un-tread paths, and set new precedents . . . . Yet Trojan proved to be the cheapest-built nuclear power plant in the U.S., and the longest-running plant without breakdowns."*

Edward L. Barnes  
Business Manager (retired)  
IBEW Local 48

**1975** Forest products construction faltered. Industrial and marine projects slowed. Tektronix expanded. Boeing opened a plant in Gresham. Other high technology projects employed NECA contractors. IBEW Local 48 membership verged on 2,000.

**1977** The Metro Joint Apprenticeship Training Center (JATC) outgrew Benson High School. Metro JATC apprenticeship increased 60%, to 300 attendees. NECA contractor Hugh D. "Buzzy" Allison convinced NECA/IBEW apprentice committee to purchase and remodel a 15,000 square foot former Safeway grocery, at Northeast 42nd and Killingsworth, for training much needed apprentice electricians.

**1979** NECA ended the decade with 55 contractor members. IBEW Local 48 had 2,400 members. Journeyman earned \$17.25 per hour. Prospects for the future looked bright indeed.

The Federal Reserve Bank hiked interest rates to dampen inflation. The move depressed interest-sensitive home construction and, within two years, would shatter Oregon's economy, still dependent on timber.