

December 21, 1959

VAN HINH TRU.....

Report on Visit to the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company on Monday, November 2, 1959

Persons met: Messrs Willett S. Moore and W. G. Lunke

Starting in 1870, the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company was designated as the scenic line of the world. It covers 2,155 miles and crosses the states of Utah, Colorado and New Mexico. Its lines are connected to major cities such as San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento and Los Angeles on the west coast and Chicago, Saint Louis, Fort Worth, Dallas and Houston on the east and south.

In order to compete with other means of communication, a total of \$99 million has been invested in the twelve years period since 1947 in additions and betterments to road and equipment. Of this amount \$77.9 million has been spent on equipment. Every part of the railroad plant has benefited from expenditures of the remaining \$21.1 million.

The results of twelve years are:

- Gross trainload has increased 78.1 percent
- Train speed has increased 19.9 percent
- gross ton miles produced per freight train hour operated has registered an increase of 113.1 percent

December 21, 1959

VAN DINH THO.....

Report on Visit to The Gates Rubber Company on Tuesday, November 3, 1959

Persons met: Mr. Stan Johnson, sales supervisor
Location: 999 South Broadway, Denver, Colorado

Charles C. Gates and his brother John were graduated engineers from the Michigan College of Mines. Before they launched out in the leather manufacturing on October in 1911, they were both engaged for several years as mining engineers. The reason Charles C. Gates started his business is that he was growing weary of the constant travel required by his job.

First of all Charles C. Gates invested his total savings of \$1,000 in a small shop known as "The Colorado Tire and Leather Company" and the little plant was making the durable tread, a steel studded band of leather which could be fastened over the flimsy auto tires of that day to increase mileage. Then the company started making halters out of scraps from the treads. Thanks to persistent effort and events the company soon became known as the largest manufacturer of halters in the country.

As time went on however, the superiority of rubber as material for tire treads soon led to discard these leather products and with them went the manufacture of leather halters.

In 1914 the steel studded durable tread gave way to a new product: The Gates half Sole. This had a rubber tread on a fabric carcass which could be cemented to the worn tire. Up to 1928 all Gates' products had been accessories for automobiles but in that year the company built a braided hose plant and went into the garden hose business. This quite naturally evolved into a line of industrial types of hose at a later date just as the V-belts led to the development of the Gates Vulvo ropes, a line of heavy duty belts. Another natural step was that of entering the market of moulded and extruded products made from rubber and textile materials.

From such a beginning the Gates rubber company grew steadily until it already had earned a reputation as the largest manufacturer of automobile fan belts in the world.

Besides manufacturing automobile fan belts the company made tires too, chiefly after World War II. As the price of the rubber dropped from a high of around \$1.25 per pound to a low of around 12 or 20 cents per pound, a new tire cost very little more than a Gates half sole. As a result Gates swung right into the making of rubber tires. In the early days 3,500 miles was tops but today Gates tires give performance of from 25,000 to 40,000 miles.

The Denver plant has now about 7,200 employees.

In addition to the Denver plant Gates Company has a second plant located at Nashville, Tennessee. Built for efficiency, the new Gates tires plant will have machinery arranged by a continuous flow through of materials from one end of the plant to the other. Completely modern and equipped with the latest of tire manufacturing machinery, the new Gates tire plant going into production in October 1959 will contain some 600,000 square feet of floor space.

Gates has another factory located outside of the United States and it will swing into production shortly -- probably by November 1, 1959. Built on 7 and 1/2 acres of land in Toluca, Mexico, 40 miles west of Mexico City, the new plant will manufacture a complete line of V belts. Between 15 and 20 persons will be employed by the new plant when it first starts production.

December 22, 1959

VAN HENH THO.....

Report on Visit to Colorado State University and two ranches at Fort Collins on November 4 and 5, 1959

Person met: Mr. Charles Dean Story (Ph.D. Professor of Animal Husbandry) and his family. Mr. Morris, Professor of French Language at Colorado State University

Location : Colorado State University - 65 miles from Denver and is 5,000 feet above sea level.

Colorado State University at Fort Collins, a co-educational land grant institution, is located in the fertile irrigated valley of the Gache la Poudre River, where the broad plains meet the foothills of the Colorado Rockies.

First official action toward establishment of the University was taken in 1870 - six years before Colorado became a state - when the territorial legislature provided for its founding. First classes were held in 1879 and the first college class was graduated in 1884, a class of three as compared with the classes of more than 600 currently being graduated.

In addition to instruction of students, the University's responsibilities under law include an Experiment Station for research in agriculture, engineering and home economics and the agricultural extension service which disseminates information in agriculture and homemaking throughout the state.

The University operates on the quarter system. Enrollment exceeds 5,000 students. The main campus consists of a 320 acre area in the southwestern part of Fort Collins, a thriving city of 20,000 inhabitants.

The programs of study at Colorado State University are:

- College of Science and Arts
- College of Veterinary Medicine
- College of Agriculture
- College of Engineering, (agriculture, civil, electrical, and mechanical)
- College of Forestry and Range management
- College of Home Economics

Page Two

On November 4th Mrs. Story drove us (Van Dinh Tho and Pham Sung Lu) to a farm located about 20 miles from Fort Collins. When arriving we found a group of eight men from Yugoslavia. Their tour of five months were sponsored by the I.C.A. All of them except one, who acted as an interpreter, didn't speak English. The rancher let everybody know that the cattle raised are meat cows because the land is improper to the raising of milk cows. To be sufficient for the expenses of one family of four persons it must be at least 200 animals. The cattle was parked in two different places to separate the meat cattle from the animals for reproduction.

On November 5th Mrs. Story drove us to another ranch situated near Fort Collins. According to the owner, the ranch was 25 years old and the land which was brought \$100 per acre costs now \$3,000 because it is now located within Fort Collins boundaries. The rancher had about 3,000 sheep and 750 bulls and cows and a press table.