

1948-1998

Defiance Plant



**Castings Built With Pride
Shipped Worldwide**

First iron poured in Defiance - August 23, 1948

This edition of the Powernews commemorates the anniversary of the first iron poured at the Defiance Plant. Here are some of the events leading to that historic day.

- August 27, 1946: General Motors Corporation announced that Defiance, Ohio had been chosen as the site for its new foundry.

"The search narrowed down to a choice between Defiance and another city. Both offered about equal advantages as far as transportation, water and other services. Defiance promised to be a larger source of new GM employees, so Defiance got the plant."

"Nearly all [people] can offer lengthy argument over the advantages of life in a typical small American City, particularly if the city is Defiance, OH. They like the quite tempo of their way of living."

- September, 1947: Construction of the Defiance Plant begins.

"Construction was begun in September, 1947, and into the new plant went all the knowledge that years of experience in foundry operation had given the division."

- August 6, 1948: Management personnel began training approximately 40-50 hourly employees.

"Central Foundry had men at Saginaw, Lockport, and Danville who had poured a lot of iron. Some of them came down to Defiance to teach Defiance men how to make cores and molds, and show what happens when iron flows into a mold."

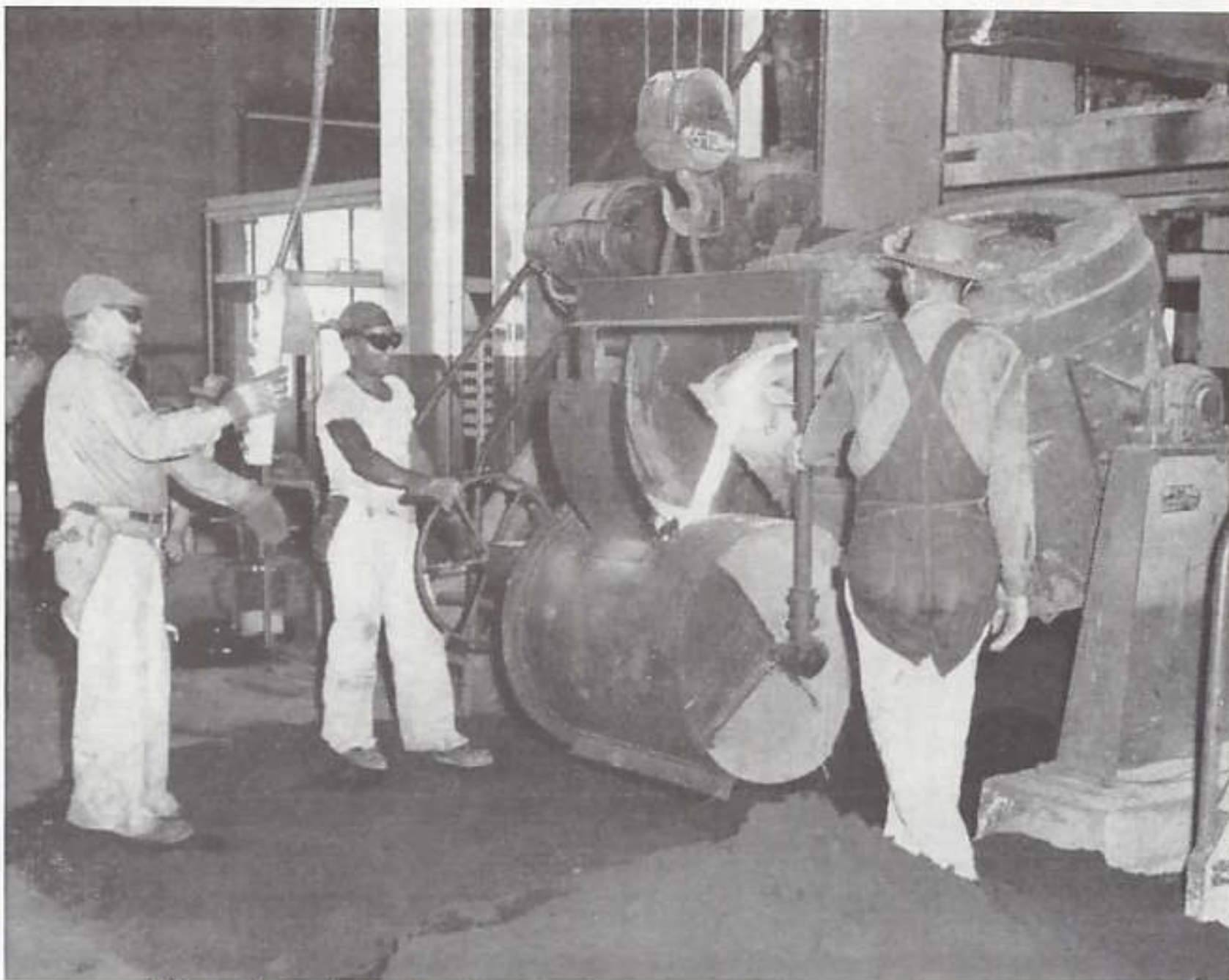
- August 9, 1948: The Defiance Plant opened.

"They charged the furnace, put molds on the line, and production began. It's been going on ever since. They're foundrymen now, iron men."

- August 23, 1948: The first iron was poured into molds for diesel blocks.

"With the crew of Defiance men, few of whom had ever seen a foundry before, Central Foundry made the first pour in its new plant in August, just 11 months after ground had been broken."

"Most of the men doing that work were farmers, or carpenters, or clerks not too long ago. They're iron men now because Defiance promised iron men for the job."



This was the actual scene when the first iron was poured at the new Defiance Plant, just 11 months after the ground was broken. Above, Raymond W. Shorts, Ray Goings, and Richard Brewer are shown as they filled the first ladle from the foundry's cupolas.

Defiance Plant 50th Anniversary....a major celebration!

This month marks the actual month when we started pouring iron in Defiance 50 years ago. We are going to celebrate that in our plant during the month of August. In September, we will have a major celebration for 3 days which will include a car show and open house. During that period of time our employees and their families, along with other members of the community, will have an opportunity to celebrate this with us by touring our plant to see what we do, and by sharing the many activities that will be held on the plant premises.

As we look back at 50 years in Defiance, we see tremendous progress from where we started. Employment grew from a very small number to over 4,000 people, and the plant physical size from 250,000 square feet to the 2 million square feet we have today. Our products have varied greatly over the course of the past 50 years and will continue to vary into the future. We started out as a Grey Iron Plant and then added Nodular Iron in the 1960's, and now as all of you know, we are trying to add aluminum.

Through all of this, it really is THE PEOPLE THAT MADE OUR PLANT GREAT! Some of the people that are currently working here started very close to when the plant opened. I think it is a tribute to the work ethic of the people in Northwest Ohio as well as the leadership that gave us a good solid start in the casting business. We've seen a tremendous amount of change in 50 years, but will see much more change as we go forward in the next century.

I would like to thank all the people in the Defiance Plant and the Defiance community for their support in the past 50 years, and look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Mike Hamilton
Defiance Plant Manager

"Let no person imagine that he or she has no influence. Whoever they may be, and wherever they may be placed, the person who thinks becomes a light and a power."

Henry George

I believe that the workers who founded Local 211 in 1948 had a firm conviction of the above statement. Workers then and today are challenging the "No Thought Required" approach. New technology and changing markets are making the old ways obsolete. In today's world we must develop and use the intelligence of the American Worker to increase our advantage and build a stronger economy for all.

We, as a local union, have to maintain a strategy to achieve success, a prevailing attitude, values, and beliefs in our U.A.W. Our local union, because of the people who formed it and members and officers who have followed, has always been one that acts cooperatively to solve problems of mutual interest and that works toward a common goal for our members.

Our first elected President, John Shock and first elected Chairman, Carl Gray, started what was to be a rich history in the labor movement in the Defiance area. Back then, union members had to be organized more than ever to achieve success at the bargaining table.

An educated, active, and united union membership is still the key to obtaining good contracts in 1998 and in the future. Everyone needs to get involved and stay involved in their union's activities at a level that is comfortable for them. Mutual support and encouragement are vital.

Gary Bertram
Chairman - Local 211

U.A.W. Local 211

PRESIDENTS

John Shock	1949-51
Eugene Mangas	1951-52
Leo Wagner	1952-53
Loren Thieroff	1953-54
Delmar Yarrington	1954-55
Bernard Weidenhammer	Appointed 9-55
Andy Maulfair	1955-56
John Shock	1956-57
Delmar Yarrington	1957-59
Roy Hardy	Appointed 11-58
Harry Sanders	1959-61
John Shock	1961-65
Harry Sanders	1965-66
Lloyd Page	Appointed 2-66
John Shock	1967-69
Nelson Ball	1969-71
John Beatty	1971-73
John Shock	1973-75
Marvin LeMaster	1975-84
Ted Fleming	1984-93
Karl Boecker	1993-96
Ted Fleming	1996-present

CHAIRMEN

Carl Gray	1949-50
Arnold Schwarze	1950-52
Howard Schmunk	1952-53
Delmar Yarrington	1953-54
Kenneth Blosser	1954-57
Dave Kelihiolokai, Jr.	1957-59
Robert Rowe	1959-65
Lemenzo Brooks	1965
Robert Rowe	1965-66
Kenneth Blosser	1966-67
Arlo Wagner	1967-69
Kenneth Blosser	1969-72
Willie Coleman	1972-73
Ralph Newman	1973-75
Alfredo Aguilar	1975-78
James Hammersmith	1978-84
Norbert Boecker	1984-90
James Hammersmith	1990-93
Victor Schlegel	1993-96
Gary Bertram	1996-present

Current President and Chairman

Ted Fleming currently serves as U.A.W. Local



211 President. Ted began his career with General Motors on November 30, 1965. Always active in the local union, Ted was elected as Financial Secretary in 1975,

and served in that capacity until he was elected to President in 1984. Along with maintaining his busy schedule as President, Ted stays active working with youth in the Bryan area, and serves as coach and also umpires various sports activities. Ted and his wife Sherry, daughter Chelsea and son Cole reside in Bryan, OH

Gary Bertram, is the current Local 211 Shop



Chairman. Gary began his career with General Motors on 5/27/69, and was elected to various union positions since 1975, including District Committeeman,

Committee-man-at-large, Executive Board Member-UAW Foundry, Wage and Hour Council, and Chairman of the Local 211 Shop Committee. Gary has managed Little League Baseball in Defiance, and managed the Local 211 Softball team which won the 1976 Championship. Gary and his wife Bonnie live in Defiance, and have a son, John, and daughters Rhonda and Michelle.

One dozen managers have headed the foundry...1948-1998

John Doerfner, Jr. - Feb. 1, 1948 - Jan. 1, 1950

Myron O. Booth - Jan. 1, 1950 - Jan. 16, 1952

Carl A. Koerner - Jan. 16, 1952 - April 1, 1955

F. James McDonald - April 1, 1955 - Dec. 1, 1956

Gordon S. White - Dec. 1, 1956 - Oct. 1, 1957

Thomas R. Wiltse - Oct. 1, 1957 - April 1, 1961

Thomas E. Smith - April 1, 1961 - Aug. 1, 1969

Floyd McCurdy Jr. - Aug. 1, 1969 - Feb. 1, 1975

Richard V. Stumph - Feb. 1, 1975 - March 1, 1976

George B. Mauch - March 1, 1976 - June 1, 1984

Burt N. Eichkorn - June 1, 1984 - July 1, 1987

Michael B. Hamilton - July 1, 1987 - Present

Mike Hamilton is the current plant manager. He is a native of Laingsburg, Michigan and is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Following college, he spent two years with the U.S. Army as an Infantry Officer. Mike joined General Motors in 1965 as a college graduate in training at the Saginaw Malleable Iron Plant. There he was a foreman, general supervisor and superintendent in the core, melt, foundry, anneal and finishing departments. Mike was transferred to Defiance as manufacturing superintendent in 1976 and was promoted to production manager the following year. He returned to the Saginaw Malleable Plant in 1977 as general superintendent. In 1984 he was named Plant Manager of the Saginaw Nodular Plant and in 1987, Manager of the Defiance Plant. Mike has been very active in the United Way, YMCA, and recently finished a year as president of the Ohio Cast Metal Association. Mike and his wife Eileen live in Defiance and have two grown children, Jill, who is a dentist in Cleveland, and John, who is a commercial fisherman in Alaska.



Mike Hamilton



This November 8, 1947 photo shows the construction of Plant 1.

50th Anniversary events/activities

Tuesday, September 15, 1998 - First day will be open from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m. to employees and their families only.

- Meal will be provided for employees only, to be served during normal lunch break. A ticket will be required.
Tickets will be distributed the day prior. Music will be provided by Tejano Sounds (D.J.)
- History display highlighting plant.
- Plant open house - walk through tour. All tour participants **must** be able to wear provided safety glasses to enter plant area.
- NASCAR simulator. Experience the sensation of Jeff Gordon's Monte Carlo. Note: Simulator will be available on Employee Day only.
- NASCAR displays: 1998 Grand Prix and 1958 Chevrolet.
- New vehicle displays.
- Concept vehicle display.
- Mercury Marine and Hummer display.
- Carnival rides, clowns, and other entertainment for the kids - 2:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Sprint car display
- Refreshments

Special Notice:

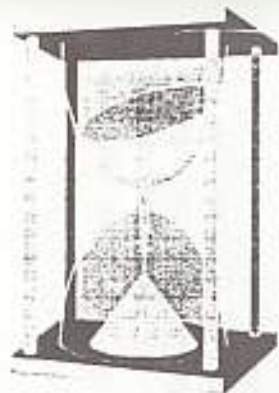
Special parking will be provided for those attending the 50th Anniversary event in order to keep the plant parking lots open for our employees who are working. Follow the signs to the special 50th Anniversary parking areas. Shuttle service will transport attendees to and from the event gateway.

Wednesday, September 16 - 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Open to the public

- 9 a.m. - Opening ceremony with GM and U.A.W. leadership.
- Drawings for great prizes.
- Employee entertainment groups to perform throughout the day and evening.
- History displays
- NASCAR displays
- Ohio State Patrol "Night Hawk" Helicopter on display
- New vehicle displays
- Concept vehicle displays
- Mercury Marine and Hummer display
- Carnival rides, clowns, and other entertainment for the kids - 2:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Refreshments
- Sprint car display

Thursday, September 17 - 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Open to the public

- Employee entertainment throughout the day and evening
- History displays
- NASCAR displays
- New vehicle displays
- Concept vehicle displays
- Mercury Marine and Hummer display
- Carnival rides, clowns and other entertainment for the kids - 2:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Drawing for lease vehicle and other great prizes
- Finale with performances by area High School marching bands and a helium balloon launch
- Refreshments
- Sprint car display

**1948****1998****Change****NAME****Central Foundry
Division****Powertrain
Division****BUILDING
AREA****290,000 sq. ft.****2,064,376 sq. ft.****7 times
bigger****EMPLOYEES****250 people employed****3,750 people employed****15 times
as many
people****EMPLOYEE RATIO****100% Men
0% Women****88.3 % Men
11.7% Women****TIME TO PRODUCE
1 MILLION TONS
OF CASTINGS****333 years****Less than 2 years****166 times
faster****TONS PRODUCED
PER YEAR****3,000 tons****570,000 tons****190 times
more**