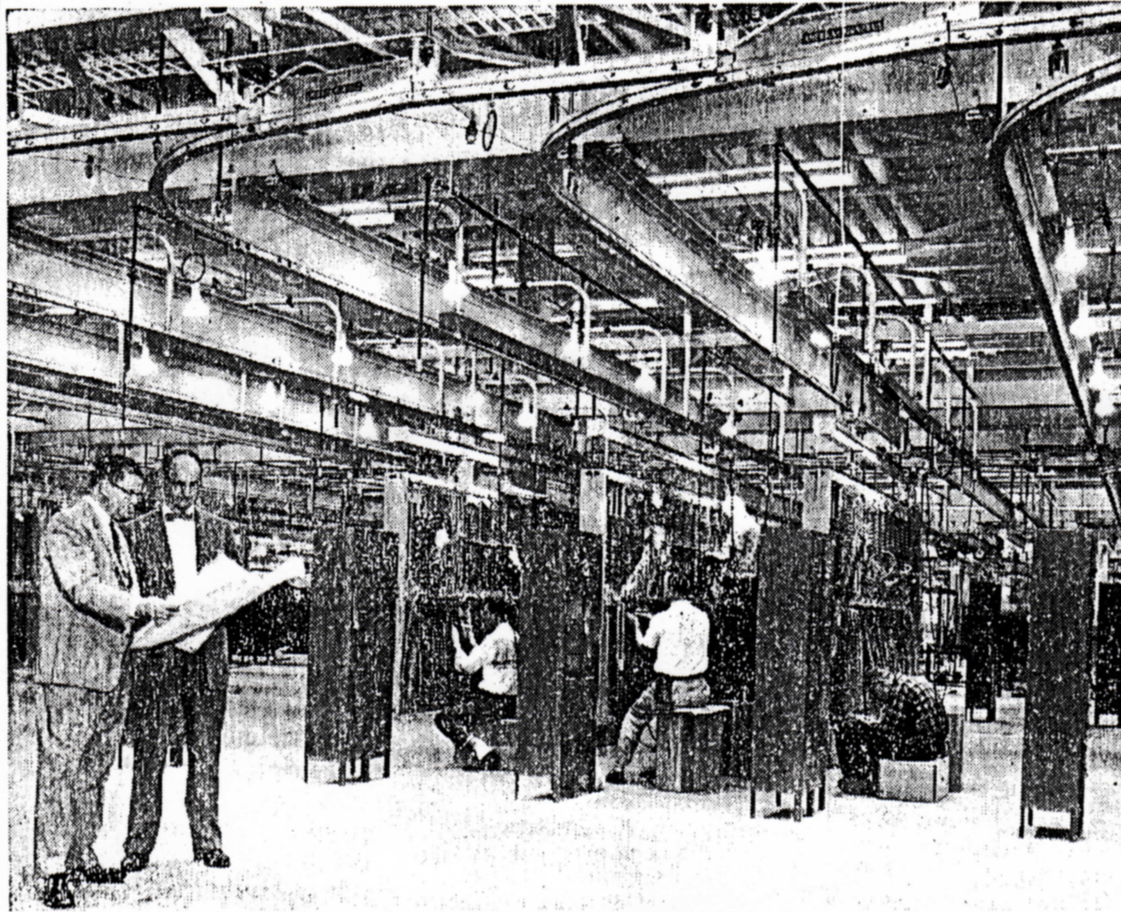


## Western Electric Start Manufacturing Unit



At left, assistant superintendent Walter J. Clark and Robert W. Jafek check equipment layouts in the frame wiring section of the new crossbar building where initial manufacturing operations began this week. In the background, wiremen using wire wrapping guns connect pre-formed cable to terminals of crossbar equipment mounted on steel frames.

The first manufacturing operations began this week in the Western Electric Company's new crossbar building at its permanent plant, announced H. P. Heath, manager.

A small, advanced group of trained personnel was moved from the Company's pilot shop on 16th and Cuming Streets to the crossbar building to begin mounting, stamping and wiring crossbar dial telephone equipment. This equipment, consisting primarily of electro-mechanical switches, is used in telephone central offices to connect the telephones of any two subscribers.

Other manufacturing operations will begin in the 1,000,000 square foot building as the installation of equipment is completed. As facilities become available, more trained personnel will be moved from the downtown pilot shops into key operating positions at the new plant and new personnel will be hired to meet the expansion. During this period, the production at the permanent plant will supplement the production at the pilot shops to meet the growing demands of Bell telephone companies for dial central office equipment.

At full capacity the crossbar plant will produce on a single shift basis enough crossbar dial equipment each year to handle 300,000 lines. It is expected that the plant will reach full operations by the end of 1959.

The crossbar building is now completely enclosed and all the manufacturing areas have been turned over by the Company's construction engineers to the manufacturing engineers for installation of machinery and equipment.