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EL HERALDO
de Chihuahua

Roban 45 autos al día



300 years

From rugged mountain high melting



Avalos old. Photo Archive

El Heraldo de Chihuahua
24 January 2009

El Heraldo de Chihuahua

On May 6, 1905 the Governor of the State of Chihuahua, Enrique C. Creel, and seized the American Smelting and Refining Company, Henry R. Simpson, held the contract for the establishment of a metal farm in the municipality of Chihuahua.

Install the ground chosen for smelting was a fraction of the ranch Avalos, belonging to Latifundio terraces, covered with mesquite and huizache exist without any shelter there; why it was originally given the name of cast Avalos. Thus the ground with an area of 475 hectares was gratis by General Luis Terrazas, through and influence of Governor Creel.

It was also agreed, subject to agreement with the owners of Tabalaopa take water from the canal that farm. Previously the company had acquired some mining estates in Santa Eulalia, Santa Barbara, Chihuahua Naica and elsewhere. In January 1906 arrival in the capital of William Morse, vice president of the American Smelting and Refining Company, was accompanied by H. Icles, manager of traffic and S. Austin division superintendent, to lead the work of construction.

After recognizing the field and brought the most appropriate for major installations, because of its proximity to the then Mexican Central Railroad, made plans and projects. Then it was extended a line of metal pipe to conduct water from the canal Tabalaopa up the finances of the plant.

General clearing of the land beginning the first of May and simultaneously began work on the pipelines for the railways should intercommunicate to the plant with the trunk routes of the national railways of Mexico, Mexico and East Kansas City, Chihuahua al Pacífico Mineral and Santa Eulalia.

A delay of the station Ferronales, used for embarkation and disembarkation of the negotiation, he gave the name of Morse, named as vice president of the company. The line crossing the railway tracks and National Mineral de Santa Eulalia, which had acquired the company, was due to difference between the two companies and transactions through the Ministries of Development and Communications and Public Works. The beneficial plant, with initial capacity of two hundred tons, was completed on May 1908, consisting of three smelters Roasting brand, to burn and melt metals.

Then be built to house local offices and houses for workers and a complex of rooms for managers and confidential employees, who represented American neighborhood Avalos. According to work, the general's son named Juan Terrazas won the award of the skate shop, which blew through the end of 1913 to exercise a monopoly of trade. We know that this won the award as a reward for the donation of land from his father.

The cost of the works executed by the Foundry Avalos was one million 500 thousand pesos. The first manager of the industry was General George B. Squares and the first was John R. superintendente Enlau. In April 1908 the management instructions to turn the unit Santa Eulalia to send Avalos received the plant throughout its metal production and the beginning of the month following the first shipments arrived, with the agreement of accumulating 10 tons of minerals before benefits begin. Avalos also came from referrals from metals funds Naica, Santa Barbara and San Francisco Gold and fats extracted from the yards of the former Hacienda de San Felipe, located in the neighborhood of El Palomar.

Coincided with the movement of raw materials prior to the arrival of Avalos a large body of technical employees who were temporarily housed in premises built in advance and instructed the head of technical department at Walter Lelevier. On June 25 approved the first two furnaces, burning some metals to remove sulfur-containing.

Once verified the previous tests with satisfactory results the first furnace was turned on July 18, 1908, beginning with the benefit of metal two days later. Occupation was initially 150 employees, which were increasing until 1500. The second furnace began operations on August 5 and the third on November 25. It was later increased to 6 and in 1923 began the implementation of electricity from the hydroelectric plant of the nozzle of the Conchos, which in early 1926 began to replace coal with a stone.

The first strike by workers at the foundry Avalos was registered in July 1911, triggered by a provision of the management company for the discounted monthly weight to each of the employees and workers to cover the salary of a Yankee physician. There was also disagreement on the economic exploitation that they ran the store from scratch and launched accusations of arbitrary and despotic against the police commissioner Perfecto Peña.

A core of two hundred people went to the capital and traveled the city streets in an orderly fashion until the government palace, presenting their complaints to Governor Abraham Gonzalez, who served as a mediator to resolve the difficulties. Several suffered more stoppages plant Avalos, stressing the 1912, 1913 and 1915 for various reasons.

After 1918 the metallurgical plant was expanded, increasing to eight ovens. Also highlights the installation of infrastructure such as gardens, sports fields and even the first golf course in which senior executives were spending their leisure time. Avalos foundry operated until 1991 under the name of Industrial Minera Mexico and received minerals from mines around the state and other entities such as Durango, Zacatecas,

Aguascalientes, San Luis Potosi and Guerrero.

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