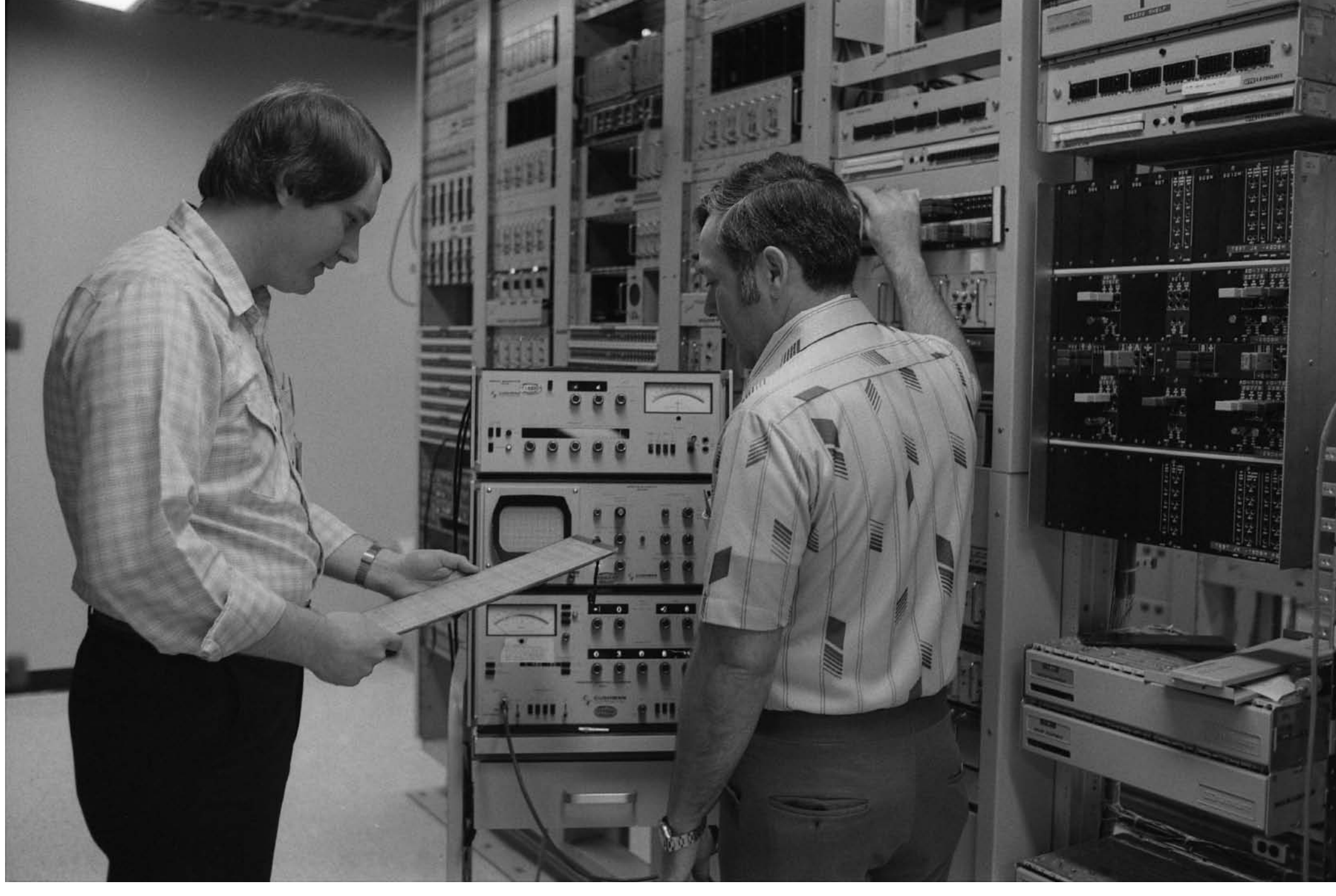


# ADVERSITY PROMPTS COOPERATION



Built in the 1970s, BPA's Dittmer Control Center required continual updating and maintenance to keep pace with technological advances throughout the 1980s.



Built in the midst of the recession, One Main Place, a 20 story concrete and glass tower, completed construction in 1982.

**1980** In January, the nation slipped into recession. It would last six months.

**1981** In July, the nation slipped back into recession, this time for 16 months.

**1982** By December, 161,000 Oregonians, or 12.1% of the state's workforce, were unemployed. One-third of the members of IBEW Local 48 left Oregon for work. NECA contractors pared ranks 50-75%. Typical: McCoy Electric cut staff from 100 to 25.

**1983** Labor-Management Cooperation - Tim Gauthier, NECA executive manager, and Ed Barnes, Local 48 business manager, formed an ongoing partnership on sales, marketing, public relations, and funding of apprenticeship and training center, that exists today.

**Market Flexibility** - IBEW Local 48 gave NECA contractors "flexibility" to compete. They reduced journeyman's wages and fringe benefits; provided flexible work-week and shift work conditions; adjusted pay for overtime, travel and subsistence; and lowered apprentice costs to contractors.

**Investing In Themselves** - NECA/IBEW Local 48's Edison Pension Trust Fund commenced a multi-million dollar financing of "union-built" construction projects, starting with a Tigard office building, a Hillsboro industrial park, and the largest, Loehmann's Plaza across from Washington Square. Many more such projects would follow in the years to come.

**1984** As Oregon recovered, NECA contractors found work, like Sirianni Electric on the Benjamin Franklin Building and EC Company on Gresham Hospital.

IBEW Local 48 electricians completed the \$425 million modernization of Crown Zellerbach's "Roaring 20" papermaking operation in Camas, Washington, on time and at a labor cost savings of \$800,000.

*"They lived up to their pledge that the job would be completed without interruptions caused by strikes or jurisdictional disputes."*

William T. Creson, Chairman of the Board  
Crown Zellerbach, 1984

**1986** NECA/IBEW Local 48 launched a creative and unique Market Recovery program. Members paid 3.5% of their hourly wage into a fund provided to NECA contractors to recover jobs and preserve market share in Local 48's jurisdiction. After withstanding a federal legal battle the program continues today.

The mid-eighties also brought us Portland's iconic MAX light rail, a now-indispensible public transportation system.



The MAX light rail system opened on September 5, 1986. Pictured above is the NECA/IBEW Local 48 wrapped MAX cars. The future is electric!

**1989** Illustrative of growing industry complexity, NECA contractor McCoy Electric installed a Super Profiler computerized milling machine that halved the time Boeing needed to produce titanium landing gear components.