

# News of the Month . . .

## INDUSTRY

### Cities Service, Continental Oil Start Building NH<sub>3</sub> Plant

Plans to construct a \$12.5 million ammonia plant are announced by Petroleum Chemicals, Inc., jointly owned subsidiary of Continental Oil and Cities Service. The plant, to produce 100,000 tons of ammonia annually, is to be located at Lake Charles, La., where construction is expected to begin shortly and to be complete in the fall of 1957. The two parent companies will supply the plant with hydrogen from their Lake Charles refineries. Major portion of the output is to be used as fertilizer and will be marketed by Mid-South Chemical Corp. of Memphis, Tenn.

### Stauffer Ships Pelleted Mixed Fertilizers from New Plant

First shipments of pelleted mixed fertilizers were made recently from Stauffer Chemical's new \$1 million plant at Vernon, Calif., the first of several such plants to be built in the West by the company. Initial production was of 17-7-0 fertilizer, with regular production of 5-15-0, 10-10-5, and 10-10-10, and other special mixtures also planned.

### West End Chemical May Merge with Stauffer

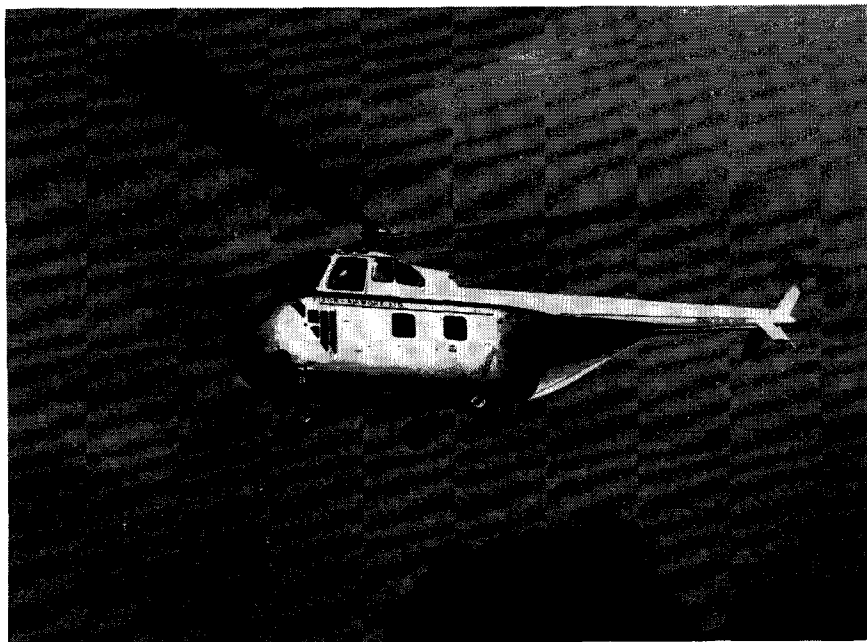
West End Chemical Co. and Stauffer announce that their boards of directors are considering a proposal for merger of the two companies. Under the proposal, West End would continue to operate under its present management as an autonomous division of Stauffer.

### Ozark Mahoning Opens Fertilizer Distributing Center

Ozark Mahoning Co. has opened a new fertilizer distribution center at Claremore, Okla. The company's complete line of high analysis mixed and straight fertilizers will be available to fertilizer manufacturers and dealers in the area. The fertilizer is offered, bagged, in trucks, and in box or hopper cars. Ozark Mahoning materials are sold in an 11-state area.

### Pack-It Expands

Pack-It, contract packager of Newark, N. J., announces it is expanding operations with the installation of a Fry bag sealer and an additional



### New Helicopter for Fisons

Westland Whirlwind S.55 helicopter recently put into use by Fisons-Airwork for agricultural spraying operations to extend its aerial contract work. The S.55 can carry 200 gallons of spray chemical or a 2000-pound load. Fisons-Airwork was formed about 10 months ago to absorb the aviation section of Fisons Pest Control Ltd. Fisons-Airwork has an interest in aerial spraying firms in South Africa, East Africa, and the Sudan, thus giving it a total of 9 helicopters and 17 spray-planes

Stokes & Smith powder-filler. The equipment is to be in place in time for the agricultural chemicals season.

### Grace Realigns Divisions

Dewey & Almy Chemical Co. Division of W. R. Grace & Co. has been split up into three separate divisions of the parent company. In addition, a new division has been created. The three Dewey & Almy divisions are: Dewey & Almy Division, with George W. Blackwood as president and William L. Taggart, Jr., as executive vice president; the Cryovac Co. Division with Bradley Dewey, Jr., as president; and Dewey & Almy Overseas Co. with Henry L. Gilbert as president. The new division is polymer chemicals, with T. T. Miller as president.

## BUSINESS AND FINANCE

### Du Pont Sales \$1.9 Billion

Du Pont sales and earnings set new records in 1955 as a result of additional manufacturing capacities coupled with increased demand for the company's products, the annual report discloses.

Sales were at a new high of \$1.9 billion, 13% above 1954 and 9% over the previous high of \$1.75 billion in

1953. The company's index of sales prices decreased about 1% in 1955.

Earnings were \$9.26 per common share against \$7.33 for 1954, the previous high. Total earnings came to \$432 million, including \$307 million from Du Pont sources and \$125 million from General Motors dividends. This compares with \$344 million for 1954, which included \$252 million from Du Pont sources and \$92 million from General Motors dividends.

### Atlas Powder Reports Peak Chemicals Operations

Production and sales of chemicals and explosives in 1955 were the highest on record for Atlas Powder Co., Ralph K. Gottshall, president, states in the annual report.

Sales and operating revenues from all products totaled \$60,340,583, up 4% from the \$57,647,346 reported in 1954. Net earnings totaled \$3,480,469, an increase of 31% over the \$2,643,404 earned in 1954.

The 1955 earnings equaled \$4.70 a share on the 727,526 common shares outstanding at the end of 1955. The 1954 earnings equaled \$4.05 per share on the 589,212 common shares outstanding at the close of that year.

# Announcing...



# VANCIDE

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**EFFECT ON FOLIAGE AND FRUIT** In Niagara Vancide, growers get a mild, non-caustic fungicide that leaves no spotting effects on either foliage or fruit. It can be used on *all varieties* of apples, including Red Delicious, Baldwin and others that have been susceptible to injury by certain fungicides. Storage tests and the actual experience of leading growers demonstrate that Vancide sprayed apples have outstanding keeping qualities.

**AVAILABLE IN TWO TYPES** There are two Vancide formulations currently recommended. Vancide "A" is for early season primary scab control on apples. Vancide "M" is for season-long use to control scab and other diseases especially on russet-susceptible varieties as well as for any variety through the cover sprays.

**PROPERTIES AND BENEFITS** Niagara Vancide not only gives exceptional control over apple scab but has shown effectiveness over certain other important apple diseases. Its use has produced fruit of highest color, finest finish. Vancide is compatible with all insecticides, hence fits well into any combination program.

**USAGE AND AVAILABILITY** Both formulations of Niagara Vancide are furnished as wettable powders. They are easy-to-handle, non-toxic and non-irritating to the user. Vancide is available this year for limited commercial use. Be among the first to profit from its benefits. See your Niagara field man or write us for literature.

# Niagara CHEMICAL DIVISION

Food Machinery and Chemical Corporation

Middleport, N.Y., Richmond, Calif., Jacksonville, Fla., Tampa, Fla., Pompano, Fla., Wyoming, Ill.,  
New Orleans, La., Ayer, Mass., Harlingen, Tex., Pecos, Tex., Yakima, Wash., Pine Bluff, Ark.,  
Canadian Associate: NIAGARA BRAND SPRAY CO., LTD., Burlington, Ontario



**Hercules Holders Approve Stock Split**

Stockholders of Hercules Powder have approved a three-for-one split of the company's common stock. Also approved were an employee savings plan and a stock option plan.

Along with the stock split, shareholders approved a change from no par value to \$2.083 par value a share.

Holders of Hercules common on April 3 will receive two additional shares for each share held.

**American Potash Sales Up 17%; Earnings, 62%**

Sales and earnings of American Potash & Chemical Corp. in 1955 were the best attained to date, according to the annual report.

Sales increased 17% and earnings 62% over 1954. Net sales for the year ended Dec. 31, 1955, were \$27,731,612 compared to \$23,631,032 for the previous year. Net income was \$4,060,192. After preferred dividends, earnings were \$6.14 a share. In 1954 the company's net income was \$2,510,909, equivalent after pre-

ferred dividends to \$4.38 per share. Peter Colefax, president, stated that sales of potash increased over 1954. Shipments of potash to Japan were made for the first time since 1939. Sales of the company's agricultural chemicals showed significant gains.

Colefax stated that the continued growth of the company requires an intensive research program, and to this end the research budget was increased during 1955 to approximately 3.5% of sales and has been further expanded in 1956. Specific emphasis is being placed on boron and lithium chemicals. Construction of a \$200,000 addition to the laboratory at Whittier, Calif., was begun in December.

**RESEARCH**

**Forest Insect Laboratory to Be Built at Oregon State**

A \$35,000 forest insect laboratory is to be built at Oregon State College with completion expected by fall. The laboratory will be devoted to testing insecticides for use in controlling such forest insects as the Douglas fir bark beetle, spruce budworm, silver fir beetle, balsam woolly aphid, and western pine beetle. Sponsoring the project, which is to be headed by Julius Rudinsky, are the Northwest Forest Pest Action Committee, the Oregon State Board of Forestry, and the forest experiment station and department of entomology of Oregon State College.

**Dow Opens New Lab for Biochemistry Research**

Dow Chemical opened its new \$1.1 million biochemistry research building at Midland, Mich., last month. The new building will be used for toxicological investigation of chemical products and processes, development of new products, and fundamental research.

The air conditioned, one-story building provides 26 laboratories and eight animal rooms. Sixty-four men and women are on the staff and there is room for about 30 more. Head of biochemical research is Don D. Irish.

**ASSOCIATIONS**

**Cereal Chemists to Discuss Amino Acid Supplements**

Between 70 and 80 papers are scheduled to be presented when the

American Association of Cereal Chemists meets May 20 to 24 in New York. The meeting is to take place in the Hotel Commodore. At the opening session, Charles Glen King of the Nutrition Foundation will report on cereals in human nutrition, with special reference to present-day India. Raymond W. Miller of Harvard, formerly consultant to FAO, will discuss the problem of human relations in changing dietary patterns.

A series of papers on supplementing cereals for human foods is scheduled, with papers by N. W. Flodin of Du Pont, C. A. Elvehjem of the University of Wisconsin, and Norman Jolliffe and R. A. Peterman of the New York City Bureau of Nutrition.

**IFT Meeting to Discuss Chemicals in Foods**

Chemicals in foods will be a featured topic of discussion at the annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists in St. Louis, June 10 to 14. Congressman A. L. Miller (R.-Neb.) will address the meeting on proposed legislation on chemicals in foods.

There will also be a symposium commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Food and Drug Law, with Rep. Miller, FDA Commissioner George P. Larrick, and others on the platform.

Bernard L. Oser, director of Food Research Laboratories, will moderate a panel discussion on the current status of chemicals in foods on June 12.

**CFA Meets in November**

The California Fertilizer Association announces that its annual meeting dates are Nov. 11 through 13.

**Soybean Meetings in August at U. of Ill.**

The American Soybean Association and the National Soybean Processors Association will hold joint meetings on

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**CALENDAR**

**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.** Atlantic City, N. J. April 16-20.

**American Association of Cereal Chemists.** Hotel Commodore, New York, N. Y. May 20-24.

**Institute of Food Technologists.** St. Louis, Mo. June 10-14.