

News of the Month . . .

INDUSTRY

Cities Service, Continental Oil Start Building NH₃ 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

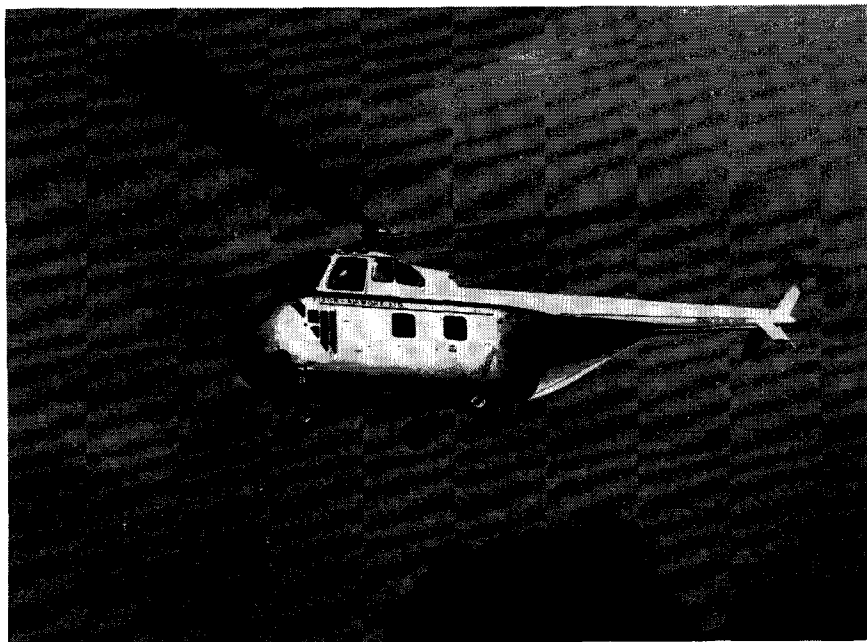
West End Chemical Co. and Stauffer announce that their boards of directors are considering a proposal for merger of the two companies. Under the proposal, West End would continue to operate under its present management as an autonomous division of Stauffer.

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.