

# Business Newsletter...

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## EXPANSIONS

A new corporation that would produce ammonia, ammonium nitrate, urea, nitrogen solutions, and a number of other chemicals is being considered by General Dynamics and Philadelphia & Reading Corp. Name for the proposed new firm would be Dynamics Reading Chemicals, Inc. Raw material would be anthracite mining wastes and residues. Financial details are not yet worked out, the companies say.

Monsanto has started a long range expansion and modernization program at its elemental phosphorus plant at Columbia, Tenn. Company says it intends to maintain its position as the "world's largest producer of elemental phosphorus and as a leading producer of phosphates and phosphate products." Work at Columbia, Tenn., plant is key to that plan.

U. S. Industrial Chemicals opened its new Morea liquid feed premix plant at Tuscola, Ill., last month. This is the second Morea plant, the first being at Anaheim, Calif.

Dow Agrochemicals, Ltd., will build a \$2 million plant for Dowpon herbicide manufacture at King's Lynn, Norfolk, England. Dow Agrochemicals was formed last year in partnership between Dow Chemical and W. E. Ripper, British authority on pest and weed control. Plant will be located on a dock-side site covering 66 acres.

Agricultural Chemicals, Inc., has been formed to build and operate a 40,000-tons-per-year fertilizer plant in southeast Wisconsin. Exact location is not yet determined. R. P. Koos, former president of N. S. Koos & Son Co., will be president and general manager. Capitalization is \$750,000. Stockholders will merchandise plant's entire output. Other officers are: K. S. Kneiske, vice president; D. R. Guptill, secretary.

## MONSANTO AND CENTRAL FARMERS SETTLE

Monsanto and Central Farmers have signed a consent decree settling their differences over the phosphorus technology which Monsanto claims as a trade secret. Under terms of the court order, Central Farmers is permanently prohibited from disclosing that process information; nor may Central Farmers use the data for 10 years at any of its plants. Presently built facilities at Central Farmers' Georgetown, Idaho, plant are not affected by the terms of the court order. No damages or money payment was provided for in the settlement.

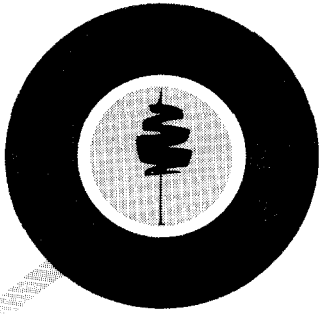
## AGRICO OFFERS STOCK

American Agricultural Chemical Co. is offering an additional 216,093 shares of its common at \$33.50 a share. Proceeds are to be added to the company's general fund. Company reveals that it expanded to the tune of about \$31 million in the six years ended March 1, and plans another \$19 million worth in the next three years. Program for the next three years includes acquisition of new facilities, improvements in existing facilities, and extension of its markets. Public offering of stock follows recent three-for-one split. Agrico reports that for the eighth consecutive year it has been recognized by the American Institute of Management for "distinguished accomplishment."

## NEW PRODUCTS

A gamma ray spectrometer that will determine nitrogen in solids or liquids is being introduced by Schlumberger Well Surveying. Called the Nitrometer, it is said to compare favorably in accuracy with the Kjeldahl method. However, an analysis takes the Nitrometer about 15 minutes, compared with the four hours it takes to run a Kjeldahl. In

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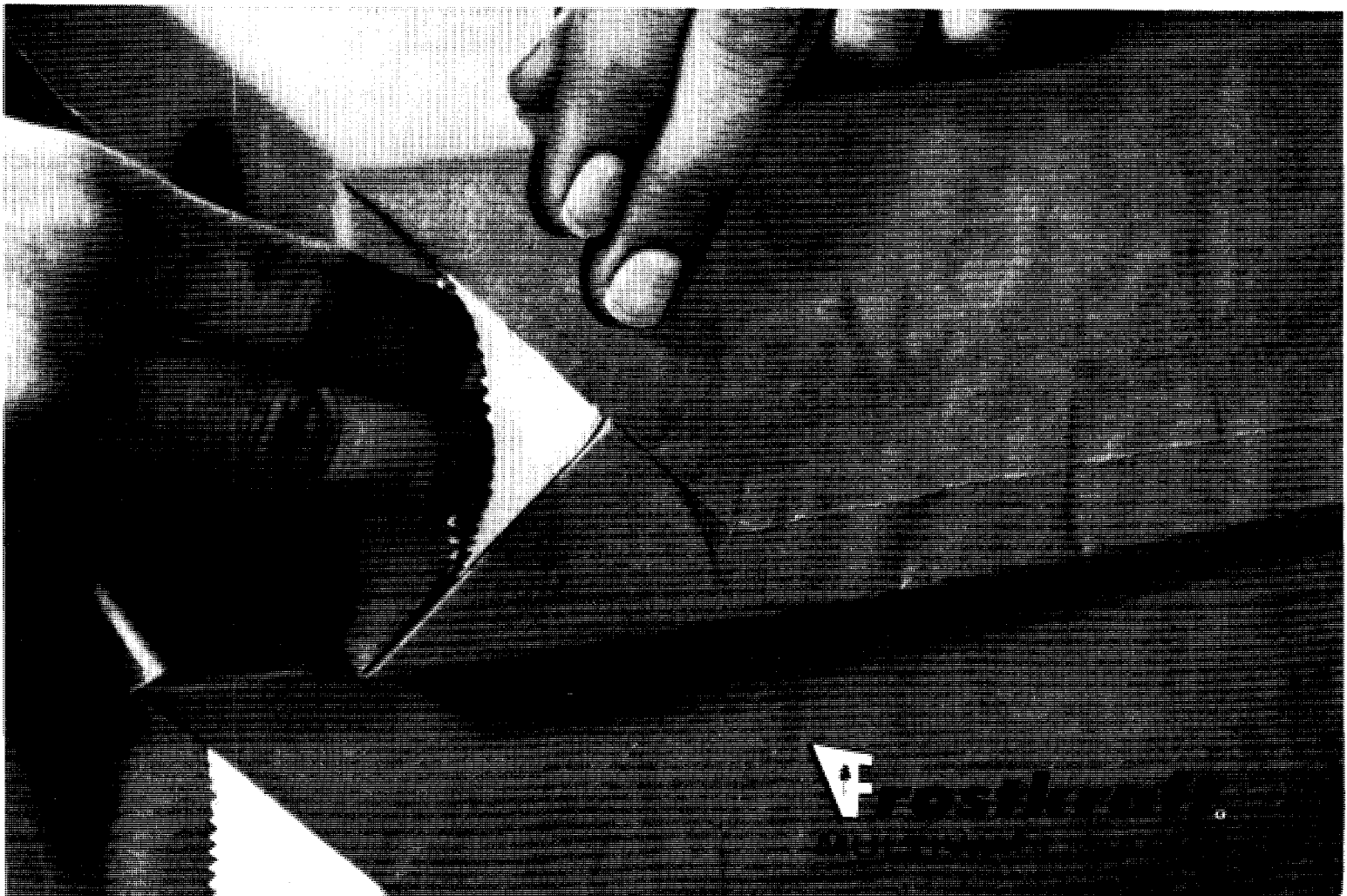
## STEPPED-END BAGS

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Here's a revolutionary new multiwall for shipping powdered, pelletized, and granular materials! A new stepped-end valve and closure design perfected by Olin Mathieson kraft packaging engineers eliminates 'blow-backs' and messy spills during filling, reduces escape of 'fines', speeds your packaging operation, and protects against seepage during shipment! Investigate this new stepped-end feature today... also available in the new Olin Mathieson Skid-Master nonskid bag! Packaging Division, P. O. Box 488, West Monroe, Louisiana.



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addition, says the manufacturer, Nitrometer analysis is nondestructive. Company expects the instrument to be used in the food processing and fertilizer industries.

A liquid spreader-sticker made with polyethylene is revealed by Allied's General Chemical Division. Called Plyac, it can be used with insecticide, fungicide, and herbicide sprays to improve initial and residual effectiveness, thus reducing the dosage or number of applications otherwise necessary. Says General, it is non-ionic and non-oily; and it mixes well with commonly used spray materials. Two to four ounces of Plyac per 100 gallons of spray is usually sufficient.

## NEW RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVALS

Dow's Kuron has been accepted by federal regulatory agencies for controlling aquatic weeds in lakes. Comparatively low in toxicity to mammals and fish, it is effective in concentrations as low as 2 p.p.m. in lake water. It kills many common aquatic weeds, such as water milfoil, fanwort, bladderwort, and waterweed.

Korlan, also Dow's, is now being recommended for control of external insect parasites of livestock. Korlan 25W has been registered for use on cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses, and mules. It was introduced a year ago as a residual spray for use in farm buildings.

Du Pont suggests a new spray program for control of blight in potatoes. It is based on minimum protection, with applications of one to two pounds of Manzate per acre every five to 10 days; higher doses and shorter intervals between sprays are resorted to only when weather conditions favor blight or when blight warnings are issued. This program, says Du Pont, offers economical control and maximum yields.

Chemagro's Dyrene fungicide is now registered for use on celery to control late and early blight and Rhizoctonia.

Parathion can now be applied to artichokes up to seven days before harvest. Previously parathion could be used up to 15 days before harvest. New approval from USDA, which says use of parathion seven days before harvest will not result in a residue over the established tolerance of 1 p.p.m., applies to 15 and 25% wettable powders and to 2% dust.

The interval between application and harvest has been shortened for malathion on a number of crops. Interval is now one day, whereas it was seven days for some crops and three days for others. For combinations of malathion and some other chemicals, interval is longer.

Chlortetracycline antibiotic may now be used by commercial fishermen to keep their catch in a sound condition. Tolerance is 5 p.p.m. on fresh-caught, unprocessed seafood. It cannot be used on processed seafood. FDA says fishermen may use the antibiotic as a dip or in the ice, but they may not use it as a replacement for adequate refrigeration.

Du Pont's Thylate is now registered for use on strawberries to control gray mold or botrytis rot. Berries treated within three days of picking must be washed to remove residues.

## MAJOR IN PLANT PROTECTION?

North Carolina State College is working out a curriculum to offer students interested in employment in the pesticides industry. It would be called a "major in plant protection." Main background would be in chemistry, botany, zoology, soil-agronomy, marketing, salesmanship, and economics. N. N. Winstead, chairman of the faculty committee working out details of the program, is asking for comments of industry people.

## 2,4-D PLANT EXPLODES

Three workmen were killed and several others injured in an explosion at Thompson-Hayward's 2,4-D facility in Kansas City late in April. Damage to the plant was estimated at \$1 million. There was no immediate explanation of the cause of the blast.

## COLOR BILL DRAFTED

FDA is circulating copies of its proposed color additives bill to interested industry and government personnel. FDA's bill calls for all colors, both natural and synthetic, to be regulated. Tolerances would be set. Separate lists of colors would be drawn up for each use—food, drug, and cosmetic. No color would be approved that causes cancer in man or animals in any amount. Individual batches of colors would have to be certified by FDA, unless it finds this unnecessary.

## NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGES

The Uhde Corp. has changed its name to Hoechst-Uhde Corp. A subsidiary of Farbwerke Hoechst AG., it offers processes for licensing from its parent and from Friedrich Uhde, GmbH.

Panogen Co.'s sales and headquarters office has been moved from Ringwood, Ill., to Chicago. The agricultural chemical division of Morton Chemical Co., Panogen will now be located at: Morton Salt Bldg., 110 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago 6, Ill. New product development will continue at the Morton research laboratory in Woodstock, Ill.

Texaco, Inc., is the new name of The Texas Co.

## ASSOCIATIONS AND MEETINGS

Members of the ACS Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry are writing a history of their Division. C. S. Boruff of Hiram Walker and John H. Nair III of Mellon Institute are handling it—they are asking members with knowledge of the Division's activities during the period before 1940 to contact them.

Deadline for abstracts of papers to be presented on the Pesticide Subdivision's program for the fall meeting is June 5. Paper does not have to be in final form at that time. Abstracts for the Symposium on Pesticide Residues in Milk and Meat should be sent to Joseph F. Treon, Atlas Powder Co., Wilmington, Del. Abstracts for papers to be given at the general sessions should go to Louis Lykken, Shell Chemical, 460 Park Ave., New York, N. Y.

National Plant Food Institute, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., June 14-17.

California Fertilizer Conference, University of California, Davis, June 29 and 30.

School on Food Protection Factors in Modern Food Technology, MIT, Cambridge, Mass., June 22-26. Tuition, \$175.

- Cost savings help to promote bulk blending in South and Midwest (page 381).
- Because land is hard to come by, Dutch farmers use fertilizer with high degree of precision (page 383).
- Fertilizer salesmen's role is not clearly understood (page 387).
- Bill introduced to put newer types of agricultural chemicals under same legislation that applies to pesticides (page 390).

Spotlight

# Research Newsletter . . .

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## VIRUS THREATENS WESTERN SUGAR BEET INDUSTRY

It is a virus disease that has been causing decreasing sugar content and yield of sugar beets in the West. So says USDA, which identifies the virus as virus yellows disease and adds that the vector is an aphid. Losses have been largely masked by increased use of nitrogen fertilizers, which in turn has helped to reduce sugar content. USDA says there is no satisfactory control at the present, but it is following up on these possibilities: selection of planting dates to avoid infection; destroying wild and escaped beets and other sources of infection; an aphid control; and development of resistant varieties.

## SOIL TEST FOR NITROGEN

A rapid chemical method for determining potentially available nitrogen in soils is being sought at Rutgers. Because presently available biological methods are so time consuming and tedious, levels of nitrogen application are usually recommended on the basis of the crop to be planted without regard to the soil's ability to supply nitrogen. E. R. Purvis and W. J. Hanna of Rutgers hope to develop a chemical method and then to calibrate it on corn and wheat under laboratory and field conditions.

## INSECTICIDES SLOW SEED FLOW FROM DRILL

It's not the chemical action, it's the mechanical action, that causes smaller stands of crops grown from insecticide-treated seed. That's the conclusion of USDA scientists, who report that germination of insecticide-treated seeds is not reduced in the laboratory. They reason that decreased flow of seeds through the drill, resulting in fewer seeds planted per acre, is the cause of smaller stands. Their recommendation to farmers: adjust seed drills to allow for decrease in seed flow and enlarge the opening in the seed hopper floor to increase the flow of seeds. In their tests, seed flow variation obtained under different rates of treatment ranged from 9 to 21% below that of untreated seed.

## SRI GOING INTO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Stanford Research Institute is establishing an agricultural research center at its southern California laboratories at South Pasadena. Heading it is Harris M. Benedict, senior plant physiologist. SRI, which has had experience in the fields of agricultural economics, agronomy, and animal husbandry, now plans to focus its scientific resources in the physical and life sciences, economics, and engineering, on programs of benefit to western agriculture. In addition to work under its own roof, SRI will have some funds available for other organizations in agricultural research.



- Equation useful in approximating crystallization temperatures of liquid mixed fertilizers (page 404).
- By-product gypsum and phosphate rock are fused to produce granular, nonhygroscopic, nonacidic phosphate fertilizer (page 408).
- Normal super can be converted to several high-analysis phosphate fertilizers (page 410).
- Rapid, accurate automatic titration determines calcium and magnesium content of plant materials (page 418).