# • A.O.C.S. Commentary

# A-D-M Builds New Chemical Center

THE CHEMICAL CENTER which Archer-Daniels-Midland Company is building at Peoria, Illinois, is a very material indication of one of the company's long-range goals. That is to increase our emphasis on chemicals while at the same time building our agricultural enterprises.

Construction at Peoria is proceeding on schedule, with the first elements of the plant expected to go on stream next spring. It will be December 1962, however, before the entire plant is in operation.

Initially, the Peoria plant will produce established ADM products—fatty acids, fatty nitrogen compounds, fatty alcohols and derivatives, plasticizers, esters, olefins, and other intermediates now manufactured at Wyandotte, Michigan, and Ashtabula, Ohio. These plants will be closed. Eventually it will take on commercial production of new products now in research laboratory or under test and market evaluation.

The Peoria plant will, of course, be one of the most modern of its kind and the most versatile in ADM's Chemical Group. Including the most advanced processing techniques for hydrogenation, molecular distillation, continuous splitting, esterification, epoxidation, and ammonolysis, it will be readily adaptable to production of future chemicals developed through ADM's intensified research activities.

Peoria was selected as the site for the plant for several very important reasons. It is favorably situated with respect to the markets ADM desires to serve as well as to sources of raw materials—vegetable and animal fats and oils and petrochemicals. Rail, water, and highway transportation facilities are excellent. A plentiful supply of water necessary for processing is readily available. An excellent labor supply exists in the Peoria area.

And finally, we found the business climate in Peoria very favorable and the people of that area eager to assist new industry. The importance of this matter of business climate in relation to plant location cannot be overemphasized.

At the same time this new chemical production center is rising on the banks of the Illinois River, a new central research laboratory is being constructed on the bluffs of the Minnesota River in a Minneapolis suburb, Bloomington. Here will be grouped for the first time under one roof the company's technical operations—all phases of chemical and resin research, food products research, technical service, and the engineering department.

When completed in the fall of 1962, the new laboratory will enable ADM to increase substantially the technical manpower devoted to innovation, or the development of new products. With this facility, ADM will widen its quest for better chemicals, foods, and fibers.

The chemical center and the central research laboratory are inseparable projects. From the laboratory will come the products to increase ADM's contributions to the chemical industry. Peoria as well as existing chemical plants (Continued on page 7)



ADM Chemical Center, Peoria, Illinois, as it will look when completed.

- 4. Ma
- 2. Warehouse and Packaging Building
- Office Building
  Warehouse and
  Service Building

- 4. Maintenance Building 5. Compressor Building
- 6. Laboratory
- 7 & 8. Process Buildings
- 9. Hydrogen Plant
- 10. Provision for Future Expansion
- 11. Steam Plant

#### (Continued from page 4)

will provide the manufacturing capacity for these products. The plant site, 13 miles southwest of Peoria, covers 220 acres between the Illinois River and US Highway 24. Ten buildings comprise the plant complex. These include an office building, a maintenance shop, and a two-story laboratory building. The latter will house the plant's control and process engineering laboratories. A two-story processing and packaging unit adjoins the large warehouse which will provide storage and distribution facilitiles for finished products.

The two main process buildings, each three stories high, are 227 by 134 feet and 167 by 132 feet, respectively. Each of the process buildings is served by separate Dowtherm boilers housed in adjacent structures. One unit has a capacity of 11 million btu's, the other 4,250,000 btu's. There also are a compressor building and a boiler house.

Steam for the plant will be generated in two stoker coal-fired boilers, each with a capacity of 60,000 pounds an hour at 300 psig, and one gas-fired boiler with a capacity of 6,500 pounds an hour at 900 psig.

Although the plant is located on the banks of the Illinois River, processing and cooling water will be obtained from five deep wells which can produce 5 million gallons a day. Water will be stored in a 250,000 gallon ground level tank for emergency use and in a 300,000 gallon elevated tank. The latter is divided into three sections—one for untreated well water, one for zeolite treated process water, and the third for zeolite treated water for the fire protection system. The entire plant is equipped with a sprinkler system to meet Factory Insurance Association standards. The plant's water cooling tower has a rated capacity of 7,000 gallons per minute.

The plant's hydrogen gas generating unit has a capacity of 600,000 cubic feet a day. Inert gas generating capacity is 14,000 cubic feet an hour, and the nitrogen gas capacity, 3,000 cubic feet an hour.

Tank farm facilities will allow storage of 211,000 gallons of solvents and liquid chemical intermediates. Other facilities provide for storage of 44 million pounds of raw materials, in process materials and finished products. Rail trackage at the plant, which is served by the Toledo, Peoria and Western railroad, and truck facilities will provide for the simultaneous loading or unloading of 10 crude oil tank cars, five produce tank cars and six tank wagons. The plant also is equipped with a truck scale, a railroad scale and a tank car and tank wagon cleaning station.

ADM engineers, working closely with Illinois state authorities, devised a waste disposal system that will satisfactorily eliminate any pollution of the Illinois River by water discharged from the plant.

Waste waters will be run through a series of catch basins and settling and skimming tanks. After passing through these basins and tanks, the plant water will be emptied into a private inland lake and discharged under close control into the river. Regular analytical tests will be run on the discharge to assure that it is free of fatty materials, a practice that ADM also has followed at its Wyandotte, Michigan, and former Ashtabula plants.

> JAMES C. KONEN, Vice President, Research and Development, Archer-Daniels-Midland Company

## Wurster & Sanger Announces Change of Address

Wurster & Sanger, Inc., and Wurster & Sanger International, Inc., have moved to their new offices located at 164 West 144th Street, Chicago 27, (Riverdale), Illinois.

They have also formed a new sales company in Panama. This was legally established July 12, 1961 as Wurster & Sanger International, Inc., Apdo. 4289; Panama, R. de P., to handle business outside the United States.

## **Orthmann Laboratories**

Orthmann Laboratories have been purchased by American Bio-Synthetics Corporation and will be operated as a wholly owned subsidiary. H. A. Pinkalla is president and director of the Corporation which also includes the Milwaukee Research Institute Division. The Corporation address is 710 W. National Ave., Milwaukee 4, Wis.

