

# Dow Plant Moves Torrance Deeper Into Plastics Field

Exactly five years ago this month, construction activity on a 50-acre tract at 305 Crenshaw Blvd. in Torrance was moving toward a peak.

Going into place was a wide and complex variety of chemical equipment: mixers, reactors, extruders, and miles of various types of piping.

As complicated as the scene might have looked, every inch of pipe and every pound of machinery was being installed according to plan. The Dow Chemical Co. was building a plant that would move Dow and Torrance deeper into the Age of Plastics.

**Aware of Plastics**  
The work of a special plastics was built, there was already plentiful evidence of the fact that residents of Torrance were deeply aware of plastics. A large number of Torrance houses have ranked as pioneer users of plastics as fencing material, patio roofs, wall tile, dishes, furniture parts, and decorations.

But that was just a part of the story of plastics in Torrance, and the building of the new plant in 1953 provided another important chapter. This year, a bare five years after its start, Plant Manager D. W. Ryan and the approximately 85 other Dow employees at Torrance are geared to give almost undivided attention to the production, improvement, and distribution of plastics.

That fact is evident in the plant's three main functions: the production of Styron, the production of Styrofoam, and the work of a special plastics technical service laboratory.

**Makes Styron**  
When the plant was originally built, it was designed mainly for the purpose of manufacturing Styron, the trademark name for Dow's family of polystyrene compounds. The manner in which it began is typical of much of the vigorous industrial activity that has been an earmark of Southern California in recent years.

Dow offices and warehouse facilities at Torrance became operational on June 6, 1953. The first production of Styron began Sept. 14, 1953. Just 36 hours after the plant went on stream, the first salable material was produced. Twelve

hours after that, the first sale had been made.

**Added Styrofoam**  
That first fast pace was practically duplicated with the beginning of production of the Torrance plant's second major product, Styrofoam. Production of the special form of Dow polystyrene that is produced by expanding polystyrene to 40 times its original volume began in January, 1956. After a few short weeks of stockpiling the material, the first sale was made in February.

Demand for Styrofoam along the West Coast, incidentally, has been growing ever since. Production facilities for the material were recently expanded by approximately 50 per cent.

One reason for the continued success of Styron and Styrofoam lies in the work of the third major Dow activity at Torrance: the plastics technical service laboratory that is directed by Louis E. Tallman.

**Research Stressed**  
The main object of the plastic technical service laboratory is to help turn research results into salable plastic products.

## Lad Injured

A four-year-old child was taken to Harbor General Hospital Thursday with head injuries following a traffic accident.

Aurelio Acosta, 23, of 2207 Del Amo Blvd., told police he did not see the child dart into the street. Acosta's car hit the youngster in front of 2207 Del Amo.

The driver was not held.

## My Neighbors



"I can't stand these high taxes. Marry me and we'll start raising some deductions!"

This is done partly by integrating research with production—a job that involves close cooperation with Dow researchers on new products, with sales personnel on established products, and with production experts on specifications and long-range planning.

Another major job of the PTS laboratory is to give technical aid to customers throughout its entire area of operation. This includes service and testing of Dow plastic products handled by the Dow sales department, as well as newly developed experimental materials.

Other plastic technical service responsibilities include competitive surveys to aid in the maintenance of a good competitive position for Dow plastics, technical writing, liaison for the exchange of information with Midland, Mich., and other plastics technical service sections, and special assignments at the request of the plastics department.



**BASIC RAW PRODUCT . . .** Primary aluminum pig, shipped down from Harvey's aluminum reduction plant at The Dalles, Ore., is fabricated at the Torrance facility into such mill products as extrusions, forgings, tubing, pipe, rod, and bar. Other aluminum products range from airframe sections and electrical conductors to railroad shapes and store front sections. Harvey also produces wrought products in titanium, steel, zirconium, brass, magnesium, and rare metals.



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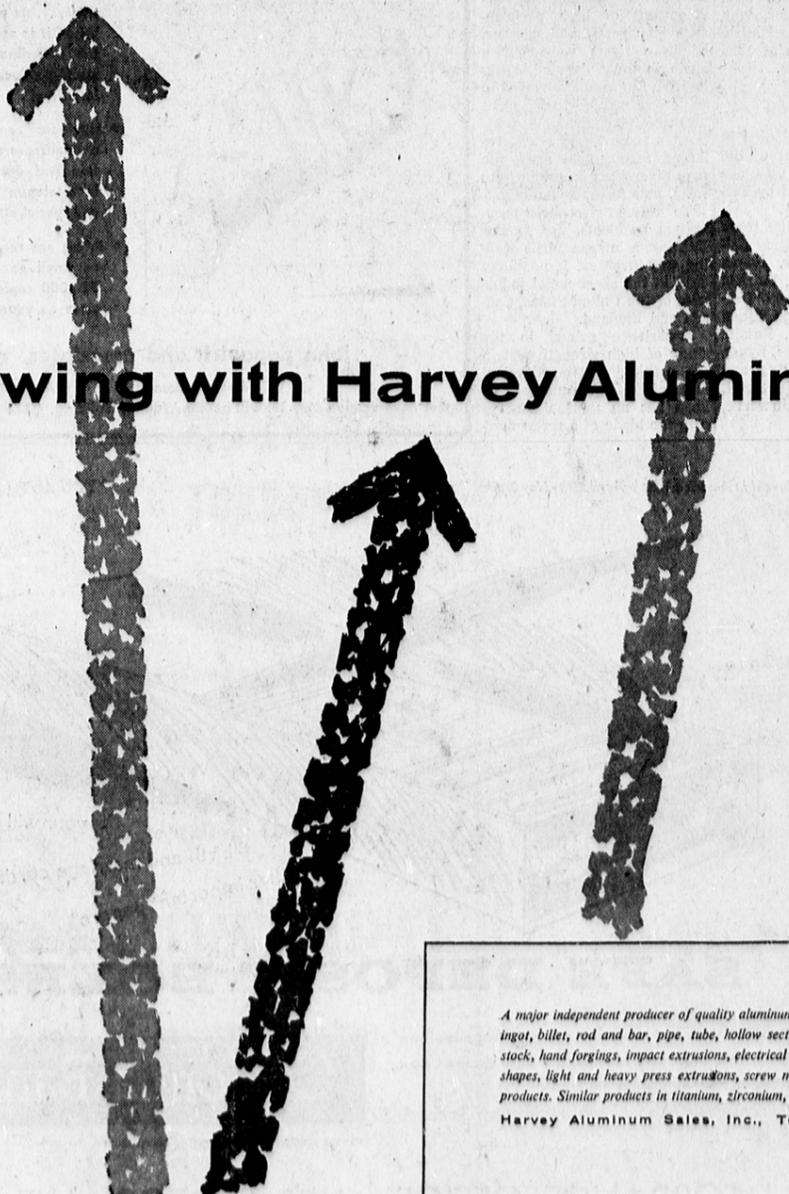
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