



**WOMEN AT WORK**—Ryan Electronics, a division of Ryan Aeronautical Company, and its manufacturing plant at 2750 West Lomita Blvd., adjacent to the Torrance Airport, is

recognized as one of the most modern facilities of its type in the country. Women with their white smocks and ability to work with tiny details are an asset to Ryan.

## Dow Chemical's Torrance Plant Gears for Larger Plastics Role

Moving into 1961, it was obvious that The Dow Chemical Company's Western Division facilities at Torrance were being geared for still another chapter in the ever-changing story of plastics.

In December, Dow's Plastics Technical Service facilities at Torrance were virtually doubled. The additional facilities — an array of new equipment located in 2,500 square feet of added building — make it possible to study, develop various techniques of using polypropylene-based plastics for molding, coating, film and foam applications.

**EXPANSION**  
Completion of the laboratory expansion actually was a prelude to developments on a broader scale. D. W. Ryan, manager of the Torrance plant, expects construction of a plant for producing polypropylene to be completed

during the first half of 1961. The production facilities—first of their type for the western United States—represent an investment of several million dollars.

The expansion of the laboratory facilities and the building of the polypropylene production plant have important meaning to Torrance and Dow alike.

As far as the laboratory is concerned, L. E. Tallman, manager of plastics technical service for Dow in the West, points out that the facilities are now geared to provide customer technical service for Styrofoam and other Dow plastic foams; various forms of Styron, Dow's polystyrene which is used in a wide variety of molded products; polyethylene resins from which a variety of products are made, including molded items and polyethylene film; polyvinyl

chloride and saran.

**ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT**  
Included in the expanded facilities are additional injection molding equipment, extrusion machinery for evaluation of polypropylene-based plastics in various shapes and forms, and equipment for fabricating expandable bead materials.

At present, polypropylene is such a new material in terms of commercial usefulness that no one can predict with any real assurance what its major uses will eventually be.

However, enough is known of its general properties to make it obvious that the material has real promise in a number of major fields. On the basis of market forecasts an early sales figures, Dow believes that polypropylene and the polypropylene family

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## Father-Son Firm Grows with City

Fourteen years of progress marks the firm and steady growth of N. B. Owen and Son, a general machine, tool and die shop which has grown from a father and son partnership working in a 20 by 40 foot building in 1947 to a corporation requiring a 11,000 square foot plant located at 4819 Emerald St.

The firm specializes in ceramic dies, component equipment for ceramic tile plants and the manufacture of missile parts and tooling for same. Engineering services are also available.

Equipment included in this proprietary line — presses, both friction screw and hydraulic; spray machines; clay grinders; fettling tables; dies; and kiln components—have been placed with firms in India, South America, the Philippines, Venezuela, and in California, Texas, Indiana and other states.

## Rapidly Expanding Airport Facility Major Asset

One of the major landmarks of the City of Torrance is the rapidly expanding facilities of the local municipal airport.

Jack Egan, airport manager, revealed basic statistics on the Torrance field for Press reporters when he estimated that some 350 aircraft are based year-round at the local terminal.

Other statistics concerning the 475 acre Torrance airport showed that the field will net about \$50,000 profit over operating costs during the current fiscal year. Gross revenue expected during the year, which ends June 30, is \$148,000, while operating expenses during the same period will run about \$98,000.

**200,000 FLIGHTS**  
Approximately 200,000 flights are made from the Torrance port each year, Egan said, while on a peak day about 1200 flights will leave the runway. Franchised operators dispense about 260,000 gallons of aircraft fuel annually, he added.

Since 1948, and up to January, 1962, the city has made or will have made approximately \$300,000 worth of im-

provements on the airport. Major items are the forthcoming fire station and tower, a service road and taxiway constructed in 1959, and a water line installed in 1960.

Since 1948, commercial and aeronautical lessees have constructed an equal amount of improvements.

It is estimated that the value of airport land, together with its improvement, and excluding the industrial and commercial improvements, is about \$13,000,000.

**MASTERPLAN**

The city is currently engaged in revising and updating the Airport Master Plan. Of particular interest is a second runway, parallel to the main runway and 3,000 feet in length, together with a new east-west taxiway with exit and entry taxiway connecting. Also, the Master Plan shows approximately 800,000 square feet in parking and tie-down apron. Plans are also underway to acquire areas west of the airport to protect approaches to the runway.

Airport officials are now conducting a study relative to

the possibility of supporting a revenue bond issue, which, it is hoped, will raise capital funds needed for some of the listed capital improvements.

**MIDWAY POINT**

Torrance airport is a part of the national airport plan. As it is located about midway between two large civil airports, Long Beach and Los Angeles International, which perform air carrier services, the national airport plan has designated Torrance as an executive and business airport.

It is estimated that the airport currently serves a community of about 400,000 persons and, it is expected, it will serve double this number within the next ten years.

**FACILITIES READY**

Facilities available at the airport are many and varied. Commercial and industrial firms, operating under city franchises, offer the finest dining service and excellent food, an excellent choice of beverages, liquors, snack and cigarettes, comfort and relaxation areas for travellers, repair and overhaul of propellers for light planes, a manu-

facturing firm that constructs 1/4-midgets for children, 1/2-midgets for teenagers and adults, plus two versions of the open frame go-kart, engines parts and accessories.

Aircraft maintenance is a major industry at the airport, with sales on parts and accessories occupying the second position. One agency even handles the sale of fabric for aircraft covering.

Flight instruction and scenic flights, rentals, aircraft service are offered at a government approved school. Other agencies carry complete stocks of all new supplies and buy and sell used aircraft complete or in part.

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