Tulsan Invents Improved Brake Lining Method

A revolutionary new method for bonding the brake lining to the brake shoe electrically in two minutes has been invented by a Tulsa man.

He is B. Williams, an employee of the Tulsa Clutch, Brake and Wheel Co. Co-owners with Williams of the new invention are W. Arch Reed, owner of the company, and H. B. Hallman and James W. Frazier, also of Tulsa.

Williams’ process employs a hydraulic ram which presses the lining and shoe against a molding surface at a pressure of 300 pounds per square inch, and a 400 ampere DC constant potential generator which supplies a quick flash of heat to the brake shoe through a carbon agent. The pilot model will line two shoes at the same time, but the machine can be built to handle ten linings simultaneously. It is also hoped the resin cement can be improved to cut the process time to thirty seconds.

At present, the only bonding process available uses a baking oven and takes 30 minutes. Most car manufacturers rivet the lining to the shoe, instead, causing loss of braking surface.

General Electric, National Carbon Co., and Chevrolet have shown great interest in the new invention, supplying parts and advice.

The new machine is expected to be widely used in brake shops, as well as by new car manufacturers.

Industrial Tour Repeat Planned

A proposed 1953 follow-up of this year’s Oklahoma Industrial Tour met with unanimous approval at the meeting of the Oklahoma Development Council at Stillwater last month.

The tour has been lauded as one of the most effective projects for establishing direct contacts with national manufacturers ever undertaken by Oklahoma businessmen, and a grass-roots demand for a repeat performance was reported in state areas that want to become industrialized.

The 1953 tour, ODC members said, will probably be on a smaller scale, and will be aimed at follow-up work with contacts made this year, and at reaching into the New England and New York areas for new contacts.

Bartlesville’s New Hospital Dedicated

The 90-bed, $2 million Jane Phillips Memorial hospital, one of the most modern and best-equipped in the Southwest, has been completed and dedicated at Bartlesville.

Located on an eleven-acre tract east of the city, the hospital is a three-story structure with 50 fully equipped rooms. In addition, there are separate buildings to house central heating and air-conditioning equipment, and a nurse’s home with accommodations for 26. All the buildings are of steel-reinforced concrete with brick exteriors and limestone trim.

The hospital is designed for easy expansion to 180-bed capacity by adding another floor to the east wing and, if necessary, 50 more beds could be provided by adding a fourth floor. Kitchen, dining area, power plant and operating and delivery rooms are adequate to handle such an expansion.

Major Gordon W. Lillie got his nickname, “Pawnee Bill,” from Pawnee, Oklahoma, where he lived.

Memorial Erected To Otoe Veterans

A stone memorial to all Otoe Indian veterans and men and women now in the armed services has been erected and dedicated at the Otoe Indian Agency, one mile south of Bressie.

The memorial, which is eight feet high, is mounted in a concrete base in front of the main agency building.

New Pamphlets Are Available At P & R Board

Eight new publications are now available at the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, and six more are slated to appear in the near future.

Included are a 40-page booklet prepared by the Water Resources Division entitled “Oklahoma’s Water Resources” and a revision of “Progressive Oklahoma,” 48-page general information booklet about the state, presenting for the first time in full color Oklahoma’s flag and seal and the state flower, bird and tree. Color pictures of these state emblems are also available on a separate folder.

The water publication, first of its kind since 1948, deals with ground water, surface water, and quality of water. It lists the state’s 730 lakes ten acres or larger in size, and describes all the federal lakes in the state. It will be available upon request after February 1.


Our Cover

Our cover picture this month was made at a southwestern Oklahoma industrial establishment, the Larrance Tank Co. of Lawton. A welder is putting the finishing touches on one of the company’s products. (Photo by Casey Petrauskas, Planning Board photographer.)
Industry Growing In Lawton

Oklahoma’s unprecedented industrial growth in the last decade hasn’t been limited to large cities, or to any particular section of the state. Lawton, a city of 34,757 in 1950, favorably located to serve markets throughout the Southwest, is a good example.

A typical Lawton “success story” is that of the Larrance Tank Co. Founded in 1920 with twelve employees and a $50,000 investment, it at first produced only oil field storage tanks in a one-building, 100 by 60 foot plant.

Now it is producing structural steel, storage tanks for refined gas and transport equipment, as well. It has an average of 50 employees, a $200,000 annual payroll, and a 40,000 square foot plant. New machinery is now on order and awaiting shipment as part of a $35,000 expansion program.

Fred C. Larrance Sr., founder and president of the firm, thinks Lawton stands a good chance for even more expansion, principally because of its location close to the southwestern trade area. Larrance markets his product south to Dallas, east to Texarkana, southwest to Colorado City, north to Enid and west to the New Mexico line.

Another successful Lawton enterprise is the Lentz and Wiggins Canning Co., established by George Lentz and James B. Wiggins in September, 1947. Expansion since that time has increased the value of the plant approximately $10,000. There are eight employees, and an annual payroll estimated at $12,000.

Products include chili with or without beans, beef and gravy, pork and gravy, beef stew, pit cooked and sliced barbecueed beef and barbecue sauce. The company makes and cans two grades of chili — a premium brand under the Mt. Scott trade name, and Li’l Mex, a competitive brand.

These products are marketed through wholesale grocers in all but six Oklahoma counties, and plans are being made for marketing in neighboring states. The company shipped 84,000 cases of canned goods in September alone.

Tamales will be added to the list of products this year; a vegetable dicer and tamale machine have already been installed.

Lentz and Wiggins both lived in Lawton before establishing their business there; the former worked for Cudahy Packing Co., and the latter was in the retail meat business.

Typifying the wide variety of Lawton’s manufacturers is the Moore Hat Co. The founders, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Moore, previously operated a hat cleaning and blocking concern in Lawton. They started making straw hats by hand, just for the fun of it, in 1946. First model, a wide-brimmed straw pampa,
Doll Toggery Is Business Grown From A Hobby

There's no question about what well-dressed dolls in the Tulsa area are wearing—it's clothes from Mrs. Homer C. Thomas' Doll Toggery, naturally!

Mrs. Thomas's unusual business, which now occupies the living room and dining room of her home at 1225 S. Fulton, began as a hobby.

Mrs. Thomas had never sewed before she quit work in a Tulsa office in 1948. Then one night she decided to make a doll dress for relaxation.

She completed her first project, a doll's skirt and blouse, and started on another. Soon she was making so many doll clothes to give away to neighbor children the hobby was costing money, and she decided to sell her doll clothes to finance it.

A neighbor child had Mrs. Thomas dress a doll for her to display at a P-TA meeting, and told people who were interested the doll clothes could be made to order. Orders poured in so fast she soon began stocking gifts, as well.

Mrs. Thomas began her business with a stock of doll clothes already made, but they were sold so fast that now all her doll clothes are made to order.

In addition to Tulsa and vicinity, orders have come in from other eastern Oklahoma towns, and even from Kansas.

Bell Announces New Expansion Program

The Bell Oil and Gas Co., with its catalytic cracking unit at its Ardmore refinery approximately 30 per cent complete, has announced another $4,500,000 expansion program.

New program will include construction of a $3,000,000 pipe line from Ardmore to Cushing, to get underway early in 1953. Another major project will be a $1,500,000 coking unit at the Ben Franklin refinery at Ardmore.

Oklahoma Motel Men Organize

Growing interest in Oklahoma as a vacation state and the resulting increase in tourist traffic has prompted state motel and motor court operators to organize so they can serve this expanding market more efficiently.

Hadley Kelsey, Oklahoma City, was named temporary president of the new association at a meeting in December. A committee of five was appointed to form a permanent organization at a meeting set for January 15. Other temporary officers are Lyle Overman and D. H. First, both of Oklahoma City, vice presidents; and Jack Spencer, Shawnee, secretary-treasurer.

Approximately forty-five tourist court operators from all over the state attended the organizational meeting.

Principal speaker was F. E. Hobgood, a vice-president of the Texas Motor Court Association, who outlined methods of operation of that organization.

Tulsans' Invention Creating Interest

An invention developed by two Tulsans is arousing considerable interest in the automotive industry.

The device, an automatic switch which turns off car lights from thirty seconds to two minutes after the ignition key is removed, solves the problem of getting from the garage to the house in the dark. A needle valve is set to cut the car's main electric current.

The Auto Light Switch and Battery Saver, which works like the windshield wiper from a vacuum created by the intake manifold, was developed by George Jackson, Tulsa engineer, from an idea expressed by Mrs. Cecil Elifritz.

Jackson has made a few pilot models, and a patent has been applied for.

Mapes Outlines Cure For State Economic Ills

A seven-point program for bringing about economic improvement in Oklahoma was outlined by William H. Mapes, sales supervisor of the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, in a paper presented at a joint meeting of the Muskogee and Tulsa chambers of commerce.

Mapes' program, aimed at stopping the exodus of Oklahomans to other states reflected by the 1950 census and at inducing new industries to locate in the state, is as follows:

1. Support the Oklahoma Development Council.
2. Whip up state pride, the way it has been done in Texas.
3. Develop community programs in small towns with the help of skilled outside consultants.
4. Understanding and acceptance of problems organized labor groups engaged in industries bring.
5. Planning such municipal services as fire protection, police protection, transportation, water distribution and sewage disposal with an eye to industrial expansion.
6. Assembling facts to present to the legislature in support of arguments against legislation which punishes industry.
7. Formation of investment groups in cities for lending money at relatively low rates of interest for financing factories.

Beatrice Foods Co. Is Improving Plant

A $10,000 modernization program is nearing completion at Beatrice Foods Co., dairy products distributors, at Pawhuska.

Program includes renovation of the building and addition of new equipment. It will provide a walk-in frozen foods freezer, milk vault, conveyor equipment and new office, display room and reception room, and a show and locker room for employees.
Holdenville Welcomes Seamprufe

Friday, December 12, was Seamprufe Day in Holdenville; the town turned out in force to welcome officially its newest industry.

Bands from Holdenville and two neighboring cities, Wetumka and Seminole, participated in a parade in which local merchants had entered floats. The governor and other state officials, as well as Mayor C. T. Mackey and chiefs of two Indian tribes, took part in dedication ceremonies at the new plant. Holdenville merchants closed their stores so they and their employees could attend the dedication and the Open House that followed.

More than 500 visitors went through the spacious, ultra-modern building and saw employees perform all the operations in making the lace-trimmed nylon tricot slips now being produced at the rate of a thousand dozen a week.

While women hired locally operated their specialized, high-speed machines, taking time out to explain each process to interested spectators, other workers prepared to make the first cutting in the Holdenville factory. (Garments were formerly shipped there already cut from a plant in Pennsylvania.) Long sheets of material were spread straight and smooth by a machine on a top-quality hard maple cutting table. A pattern for six slips, all to be cut at once, had already been traced on a sheet of brown paper. Wasted material is kept to a minimum, but pieces of the synthetic fiber left can be put through a regenerating process and used in new material.

One hundred twenty women were at work when the Open House was held; more are being hired at the rate of five a week. Employment is expected to reach 500 when the factory gets in full production.

The $300,000 building was constructed by the City of Holdenville to house the new plant, after negotiations were completed two years ago. Spacious and well-lighted, it is equipped with two 50-ton air conditioning units which keep temperature and humidity right for the nylon thread; there is a separate 15-ton unit in the cafeteria so food odors will not get into the plant.

All employees, except for four highly technical positions, are local people. Some were trained in the company's McAlester plant before going to work in the new place. They practice on scraps to become accustomed to the machines; then, after they've graduated to making garments and have learned to sew properly, they go to the production line. There, supervisors watch the work closely to see that it comes up to the company's high standards.

Even boxes in which the slips are packaged are made at Holdenville; they are shipped in flat, and formed on a machine there.

Slips produced at Holdenville are shipped from the McAlester plant, which now has over 700 employees. In addition to their Oklahoma factories, the Caplin brothers have three in Pennsylvania. Founded in 1928, the company has based its operations on making a better product at a competitive price, and has grown steadily.

The Holdenville plant was named for the late William Caplin, founder of Seamprufe and father of the present owners. His portrait, which will hang inside the entrance, was unveiled at the dedication. Mrs. Caplin and three of their sons, Murray, Paul and Harold, attended the opening. A fourth son, Joseph, was unable to come.

Governor Murray concluded his speech at the dedication by making Murray and Paul Caplin honorary colonels on his staff. Harold had received the honor on an earlier visit to the state.

Harry Belvin, chief of the Choctaws, presented Mrs. Caplin a hand-woven Indian blanket, and Chief John Davis of the Creeks gave her a picture by Acee Blue Eagle.
New Ada Plant To Make Improved Steel Chairs

A $175,000 plant to manufacture steel folding chairs is now under construction at Ada, and is expected to be in operation by April.

Announcement of the new corporation was made by James Thompson, head of the Thompson Book and Supply Co., one of Oklahoma's largest school supply companies. Thompson will also head the new concern.

The Ada plant will be the only one in the Southwest manufacturing steel folding chairs, and the second such plant west of the Mississippi.

Muskin Plant Is Expanding

The Muskin Manufacturing Company, Muskogee furniture factory, is undergoing further expansion, Norman Muskin, plant manager, has revealed.

The Muskogee branch, which has already outgrown the parent factory at Walkerton, Ind., is adding equipment to enable it to mill its own lumber for furniture, Muskin said. Formerly the company bought lumber already milled, and did only assembly work at the Muskogee plant.

More building space is being constructed to house the new machinery.

If a road is constructed entering the plant grounds, the company is planning for still further expansion.

Douglas Head Says Tulsa Plant Staying

Douglas Aircraft Company's Tulsa plant is there to stay, Donald W. Douglas, president, told Tulsans at a Chamber of Commerce banquet in December.

Douglas, who decided to discard his prepared speech in favor of the brief announcement on his trip from Santa Monica, Calif., promised the group his company's Tulsa operations will continue "indefinitely." He inferred it will produce commercial planes if government contracts are cancelled.

Tulsa Product Helping Keep Army In Field

A portable gasoline-processing device developed and produced in Tulsa is being used wherever American troops are in action, as well as by major oil companies, airlines, and other commercial establishments in the United States.

The product is a separator developed by the Warner Lewis Company during World War II. Based on a refinement of a basic oil field principle, it is used to remove dirt particles and water from gasoline. It is used to process fuel for trucks, tanks, trains, helicopters, submarines, ships, planes, and other mechanized war devices.

Particularly important is its use in processing jet fuel. This must be entirely free from contamination, for water particles freeze at high altitudes, making obstructions as solid as actual dirt.

During World War II, the separators were among the first to hit the beach, so they could be used to process fuel for trucks, jeeps, and construction machinery.

The separator was developed in 1942, at the request of the Office of Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army. Lewis's pilot model far excelled all others submitted in the Bureau of Standards tests.

The Oklahoma firm still leads the world in production of this machine, which has been improved to incorporate micronic filtration, air elimination and fully automatic controls with its original purpose of removing foreign matter from fuels.

Tulsa Sewage Plant Plans Are Approved

Final plans for Tulsa's new sewage disposal plant, which will eliminate the flow of raw sewage into the Arkansas River, have been approved.

The $975,000 plant will be known as the Turkey Mountain sewage disposal plant.
Branding Irons Heated On State Made Furnace

A portable butane gas furnace for heating branding irons may seem out of keeping with the wild west, cowboys-and-Indians conception of Oklahoma most Easterners have, but nevertheless, that's one of the products being made by W. D. Conner and Son, steel fabricators and contractors, at Pawhuska.

Though this modern, single-unit furnace, invented by Conner himself, may lack the glamor of a wood fire, it's faster, easier, and more convenient, and is gaining in popularity with ranchers, particularly in Oklahoma's Blue Stem Bowl.

Conner's first heater, built three years ago on special request by a customer, was a two-unit furnace. The one-unit variety, so far as Conner knows the only one of its kind in the United States, was developed later.

The branding iron furnace, however, is just one of the many products turned out by this unusual firm. Most of the others are also connected with industries for which Oklahoma is chiefly known in the east—cattle and oil.

For example, Conner and Son manufactures calf tables, cattle guards, and a cake distributor for feeding cattle. The cake distributor, like the branding iron furnace, was invented by Conner; he developed it about five years ago.

Conner and Son also does oil field repair and construction work.

The elder Conner has been in business at Pawhuska for almost thirty years. His son, Dale, entered the business in 1945, after he got out of service.

Two years ago, the firm moved to a new building, a quonset hut type structure.

EL RENO GETS FOUNDRY

A new addition to El Reno industry is a foundry operated by Charles Barker, formerly of Enid.

Barker intends to do normal foundry work—casting parts for all types of equipment.

Garment Plant To Be Located At Checotah

Patterson Manufacturing Company, makers of nationally-distributed work clothing, will locate a garment factory in Checotah, company officials have announced.

The Patterson company formerly operated a plant employing over 500 women at Miami which was destroyed by fire last year.

At least 100 women will be employed from the beginning at the Checotah factory, officials said. Sufficient applications for employment was one of the conditions in selecting the site. Checotah had no difficulty meeting the condition—over 300 were received in a few days after the appeal was made.

Payroll is expected to be at least $150,000 a year to start. When full production is reached, 500 or more women will be employed, and the payroll will exceed $500,000.

The factory, which is expected to be in operation early in 1953, will occupy the Bonicelli Wholesale Grogery building. Checotah businessmen have pledged $20,000 to purchase and remodel the building to the company's specifications. Money will be repaid over a period of ten years, at which time the building will become the property of the Patterson company.

The firm manufactures overalls on contract for Sears Roebuck, J. C. Penney and Company and Montgomery Ward, as well as selling them through general retail outlets. Headed by A. W. Patterson, it has a history of twelve successful years in the garment-making business.

The Checotah plant is also expected to serve as a shipping center for the firm's factory at Siloam Springs, Ark.

NEW PROCESS TO UP DEMAND FOR GYPSUM

Vastly increased demand for gypsum rock found in western Oklahoma will be created by new chemical processes which the University of Oklahoma Research Institute is now seeking to patent.

The new processes, based on European industrial methods, were developed by A. L. Burwell, industrial chemist, through the Oklahoma Geological Survey. They convert the gypsum rock to nitrogen fertilizer or to industrial sulphur.

EL RENO PLANT ADDS PACKAGING EQUIPMENT

Equipment added to the General Mills plant at El Reno has enabled it to package flour in two-, five- and ten-pound paper "family size" bags, in addition to the 25 and 50-pound cloth bags formerly packaged.

Equipment was moved from the plant formerly operated at Oklahoma City.
Water Rights Demand Is Up

The 1952 drouth has caused a four-fold increase in applications for water rights in Oklahoma.

The Division of Water Resources reported a total of 503 water rights applications received during the first 11 months of 1952, while only 122 applications were received during the whole of 1951.

Ira C. Husky, director of the division, said that the great majority of the applications came from farmers wanting to irrigate their crops.

A legal claim or priority for the use of water in Oklahoma is based upon an application filed with the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board. An application is needed whether the water source is underground or surface water. However, water may be used for domestic purposes or to water livestock without submitting an application.

Gilcrease Museum Adds New Galleries

Two new galleries have been added to Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, making possible changing exhibits of materials now stored for lack of space.

The new galleries, 32 by 17 feet and 30 by 21 feet, bring the total number to ten large and three small galleries, in which valuable works of art, including oil and water-color paintings, and artifacts, manuscripts, sculpture, books and folios are exhibited.

The first group of paintings exhibited in the new gallery are a collection of documentary pictures of outstanding Indians and western scouts, done by Henry H. Cross (1837-1918).

State Steps Up Defense Output

Almost $170 million is being invested in new plants and equipment in Oklahoma in an effort to step up defense production, according to figures compiled by Thomas McCaffrey, Jr., president of the Society of Industrial Realtors.

According to McCaffrey’s statistics 97 Oklahoma firms are expanding to meet military requirements. Petroleum refineries and blast furnaces, in particular, are stepping up production.

Approval for quick federal tax writeoffs has been given on a total investment of $168,354,000 in new plants and equipment necessary for defense.

INDUSTRY . . .

(Continued from page 3)

in price from $10 to $100. There are ten qualities of felts, priced from $10 to $50.

The company moved to a new 50 by 150 foot building this year, completing a $60,000 expansion program.

A fourth firm that is thriving in Lawton is the Lawton Spring and Welding Service, operated by Carl Capshaw and his son, Eugene. The original investment of $40,000, made five years ago when Capshaw decided Lawton was a good place to go in business for himself, has grown to $60,000.

Capshaw employs seven people, has a yearly payroll of $17,000. He’s planning to construct a new building and employ three more people.