

The Story of SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

• BY W. R. SIEPLEIN

"Tall Oaks from Little Acorns Grow." So grew the Chicago Plant, the World's largest paint, varnish, lacquer and associated products factory. All grown from one building out in the "low prairie" in 1888.

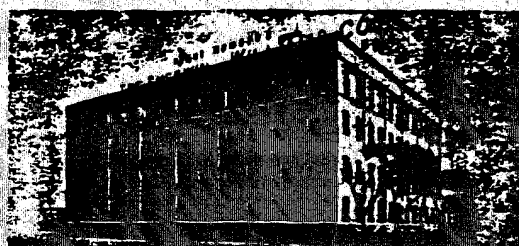
1947 . CHICAGO PLANT TODAY occupies 100 acres, 160 buildings, 1,300,000 square feet of floor space, employs 2,500 people. Produces paints, varnishes, lacquers, synthetic resins, waxes, dry and dispersed colors, chemical products, white lead, turpentine, specialties and tin cans. Many new and original products and manufacturing processes have been developed using the most modern equipment.



1888 . CALUMET PAINT FACTORY (present building 18) built by Pullman Company for manufacture of their railway car paints, was bought by Sherwin-Williams. Equipment one stone mill and twelve small iron mills for coach colors. A slag crusher, pulverizer and two stone mills for freight car paints. Mr. Martin employed in 1890 as Superintendent. Staff a dozen men.



1899 . TWELVE 30-INCH S. W. standard mills installed. H. J. Haas becomes Superintendent.



1905 . NEW OFFICE BUILDING (Nos. 15 and 13). Having outgrown the quarters at Stewart Avenue, the Chicago office and warehouse were moved to Kensington to be consolidated with the factory.



1903-4 . DRY COLOR AND INSECTICIDE DEPT. (Nos. 110-114) moved from Cleveland to Chicago. 1936 insecticide manufacture transferred to Bound Brook.



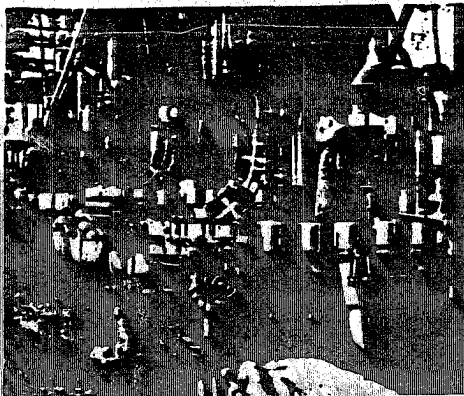
1904 . CONVENTION AT CHICAGO to show off the new plant. Representatives travelled in automobiles from downtown hotels to Kensington.



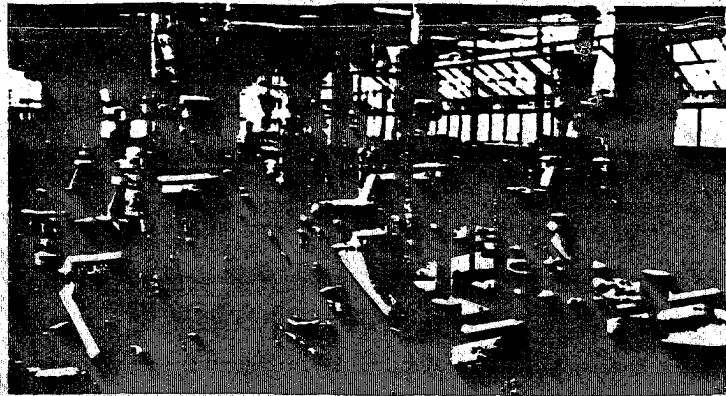
1910 . WHITE LEAD DEPARTMENT. Old Dutch process was installed for making Dry White Lead and O.D.P. Lead in Oil. A Quick-Process plant corroding lead in cylinders was added in 1921. This is the only process now operating. Old Dutch Process being too slow was discontinued altogether in 1943.



1914-18 . CHEMICAL PRODUCTS DEPT. established Sherwin-Williams in a leading position making intermediates no longer obtainable from Germany. Many chemists employed including Dr. Van Stone, Messrs. May, Miller, Doty, Deeds, Bingham, Semmerville and Weber.



1920 . . **TIN CAN DEPARTMENT** transferred from Cleveland. J. L. Cunningham, Superintendent. Present annual capacity 125,000,000 cans. Plant for lithographed cans being added.



1921 . . **NEW ENAMEL DEPARTMENT** added to provide for much increased demand for high quality enamels and other liquid paints. Equipment fifteen tandem mills, four roller mills, thirty-eight mixers, thirty-eight thinning tanks. Daily capacity 4,000 gallons.



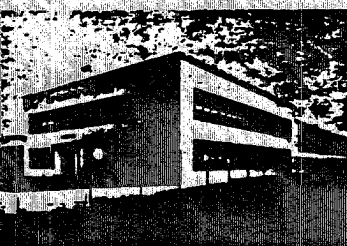
1922 . . **LACQUER MANUFACTURE BEGUN** (buildings 510-544). Heavy demand for quick-drying automobile finish. Dr. Van Stone in charge. Fred Long employed. Many industrial product lacquers now sold under name of Open.



1935 . . **NEW ENLARGED FACTORY OFFICE** was established in a central location in building No. 531 to more conveniently account for all cost details of many added products and new factory operations.



1935 . . **ALLIED RESEARCH LABORATORY** established top floor building 531 to consolidate research and development of paint, enamel and vehicle formulas for Sherwin-Williams and Affiliated Companies.



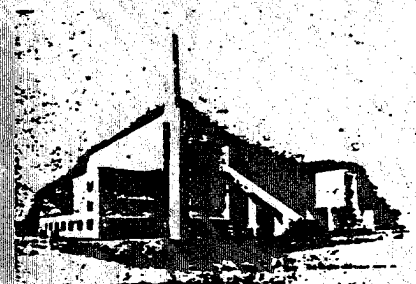
1941 . . **NEW WAREHOUSE** (building 28) floor space 215,000 square feet—5 acres erected to provide for stock of many new products being made at Chicago. Modern equipment. Increase in business already crowds this large area.



1938 . . **NEW SYNTHETIC RESIN VARNISH** plant installed to make Alkyd and Phenolic and similar varnishes, are rapidly displacing also resinous varnishes. Research laboratory transferred from Cleveland.



1941 . . **ADDITIONAL CHEMICAL PRODUCTS BUILDING** (No. 650) erected to produce many items for military purposes, synthetic rubber and lubricating oils—also providing new processes for some of the intermediates used in color making.



1946 . . **NEW POWER PLANT** will soon be in full operation to provide steam and compressed air beyond electrical power procured from outside sources. Equipped with most modern boilers, air compressors, auxiliary machinery, coal and ash handling devices.