

October 1969 was transferred to Marshville, North Carolina, as Plant Superintendent of the newly-acquired asbestos textile manufacturing facility. He served as a member of the ATI Fiber Testing Committee from 1957 to 1963 and was Chairman of the Air Hygiene & Manufacturing Committee in 1964 and 1965.

In 1959 Joseph P. Wronski joined the laboratory staff at Manheim as Head of the Physics Section. Joe Wronski had just completed three years with the Atomic Power Division of Westinghouse Electric Corporation. This was the Department created to develop the atomic reactor that powers the NAUTILUS-type submarines. Joe Wronski served as Chairman of the Fiber Testing Committee of ATI in 1965 and 1966.

Until September 1970 the U.S. Asbestos Division was under the supervision of the then General Manager, Dr. Eugene P. Steff. Doc Steff graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in 1942 with a B.S. Degree in Chemistry. He was elected a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh in 1946. Dr. Steff entered the employ of the Division as Head of the Chemistry Section of the Manheim laboratories under Director Robert L. Moore. In 1953 he was promoted to Assistant Director of Research, in 1960 to Assistant General Manager, and to General Manager in 1967. He was elected a Vice President of the corporation in 1968 and Group Vice President of Operations in 1970.

The Division is currently under the direction of Kenneth A. Gainer. He joined the laboratory staff at Manheim in 1949 as a chemical engineer. For many years Ken specialized in quality control. His expertise in this field materially contributed to the successful manufacture of rocket and missile components, based on R/M Pyrotex, the non-woven asbestos felt. In 1966 he was appointed Product Manager of Friction Materials. Promotions followed in rapid succession and in September 1970 Ken Gainer was named General Manager.

In common with all members of the asbestos textile industry, the U.S. Asbestos Division manufactures products essential to the industrial economy. Most of these products are based on asbestos. In recent years the Division has broadened its activities and is now heavily engaged in plastics, notably fluorocarbons. The basic importance of these products to the overall industrial economy assures a steady growth in partnership with American industry.