

Dicalite Products Made Of Diatomaceous Earth

Rounding out 26 years of operation in Torrance this year is the Dicalite Division of the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. whose 300-acre dicalite mining operation is located in the hills above Waltham.

The company mines and processes the diatomaceous earth known as diatomite and sends it to markets in practically every country of the world.

Among the products manufactured from the valuable earth are filteraids, fillers, insulating materials, extender pigments, absorbents, admixtures for concrete, and others.

The basic material of the Dicalite firm are Diatoms, a microscopic aquatic plant possessing mobility, which have existed for geologic ages.

Minute Organisms
These minute organisms are

so tiny that a high-power microscope must be used to observe them. Their structure is a veritable work of art, with designs wrought in intricate lines and patterns. In complex beauty and variety of types, they are similar to snowflakes; over ten thousand different types have been classified.

The two main classifications are: marine and freshwater.

Marine types exist to this day in the salt water of seas and oceans, where they have a valuable function in providing food for other plants and organisms, including shellfish, mammals, fishes,

and the like. Because of this they are often called "the grass of the sea."

Freshwater types are also found today in abundance in semi-stagnant lakes and streams, contributing to the typical appearance of such bodies of water. Although widely distributed throughout the world, diatoms seem to thrive best in very cold waters and are now abundant in arctic seas and lakes.

Deposits Here
Marine diatoms flourished in the region which is now Southern California, when it was under the sea. Their remains settled to the ocean bottom and formed immense deposits of diatomaceous silica. An idea of the size of these deposits can be gained from the fact that one of the theories regarding the origin of California's rich oil fields is that each tiny plant contributed a minute drop of oil from its organic matter be-

ing converted to oil by the processes of nature.

These deposits extend from the area of Laguna in the south to the area of Monterey in the north, and their formation is variously estimated at 3,000,000 to 10,000,000 years in the past.

Lakes Formed
Freshwater diatoms formed deposits in the more recent period of volcanic activity—possibly as late as 100,000 years ago—in the western portion of the United States. Volcanic lava flows dammed rivers to form lakes in which the diatoms flourished. Eventually the rivers cut through the lava dams, leaving the deposits high and dry. Most extensive of the freshwater deposits are located in Washington, Oregon, and Nevada.

In appearance, exposures of diatomaceous silica resemble considerable differences. Unlike most living things, diatoms have a skeleton made up of silicon dioxide, chemically a very inert substance. Common

sand has a similar composition, with, of course, a very different physical structure.

Three Types
There are three general types of Dicalite products: "Natural," which has been dried, milled and air classified; "Calcined," which has been dried, milled, subjected to high temperature burning, and air classified; "Process Calcined," on "White," which has been dried, milled, subjected to high temperature fluxing, and air classified.

While these products are utilized to produce items ranging from silver polish to streptomycin, the new wonder drug, the major uses are: as filteraids to speed up the clarification of food products, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, etc.; as insulating materials for high temperature use around boilers, furnaces, etc.; as paper aids, where small amounts added like a filler speed production and improve quality and appearance; as a flattening and extender pigment for paints.

Harvey Among Largest U.S. Metalworking Firms

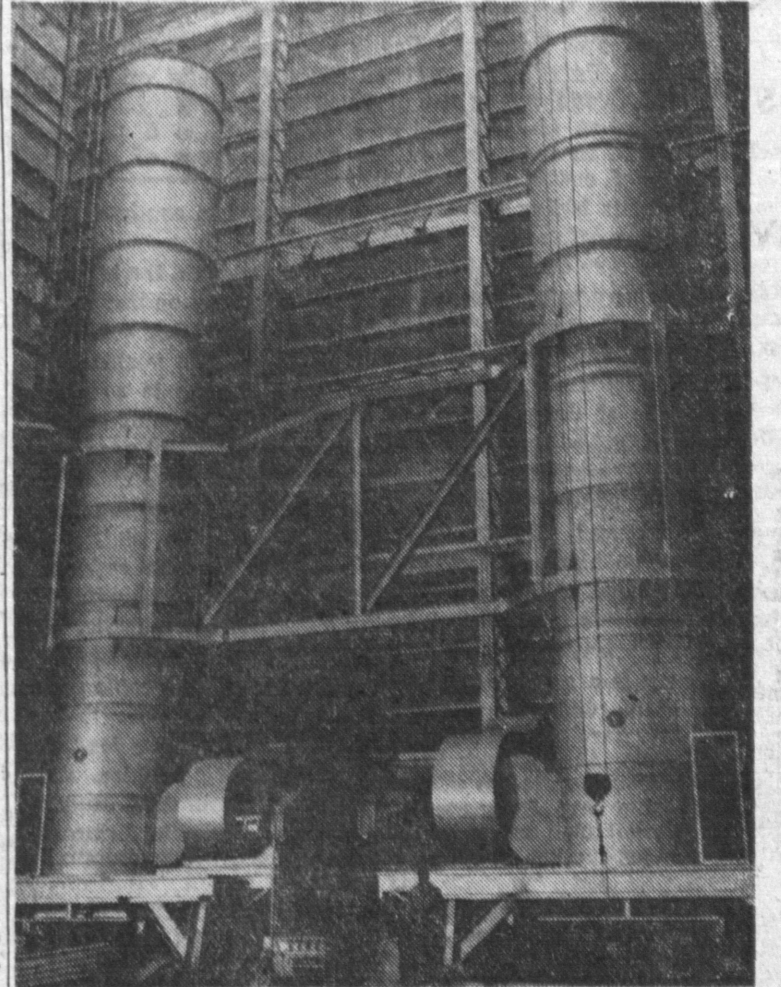
Harvey Aluminum and Harvey Machine co., located at Western avenue and 190th street, rank among the major industrial companies in the United States.

The aluminum division is the nation's largest independent producer of wrought aluminum mill products, and Harvey Machine operates the largest automatic screw machine facility west of the Mississippi.

Founded in Los Angeles in 1914, Harvey employs more than 2500 skilled production personnel, technicians, engineers, and administrative workers residing in the Harbor Area.

So basic is Harvey's production output in relation to the labor scene, that for every person the company employs, 60 others are employed in outside industry.

Largest of Harvey's recently expanded facilities is the aluminum mill, where the Torrance company produces aluminum extrusions in all alloys and all sizes, special shapes, press forgings, hollow sections, structural, rod and bar, forging stock, pipe, tube, impact extrusions, aluminum screw machine products, and related products; also similar items in titanium and steel.



HEAT TREATING FURNACES

The height limit tower on the Western avenue side of the Harvey Aluminum plant houses these two huge vertical solution heat treating furnaces. The tallest furnace is 106 feet, 2 1/2 inches high; below each furnace is a water-filled quenching tank 110 feet deep. The process is designed to strengthen certain aluminum alloy extrusions.

Sand-Gravel Firm Now Largest

What started as a one-man operation in 1936, is now the largest sand and gravel operation in the South Bay area from Santa Monica to Long Beach.

So stated John Robertson, superintendent in charge of the sand and gravel plant, in describing the growth and development of Chandler's Palos Verdes Sand and Gravel co. at 23611 Narbonne ave.

The company was started by L. H. Chandler who is now its president. The firm employs 115 individuals at present and covers an area of 300 acres.

Chandler's sand and gravel company produces 300 tons of sand per hour, operating 22 mixer trucks and 19 dump trucks, servicing the whole area from Santa Monica to Long Beach.

It furnishes concrete sand, plaster sand, gravel, and ready-mix concrete.

In addition to the local ready-mix plant, the firm also has another branch located at Sepulveda and El Segundo blvds., which was just put into

operation.

In the last 10 years the firm has grown from a three-truck operation to its present size, adding the ready-mix plant in 1948.

Chandler also operates the Compton Plaster co. whose two yards are located at 810 W. Rosecrans and 2400 Pacific Coast highway.

Chandler has lived in this area about 35 years.

In charge of the main operations are Dave Hagan, superintendent in charge of both ready-mix plants; George Tait, in charge of sales; and Robertson, superintendent in charge of the sand and gravel plant.

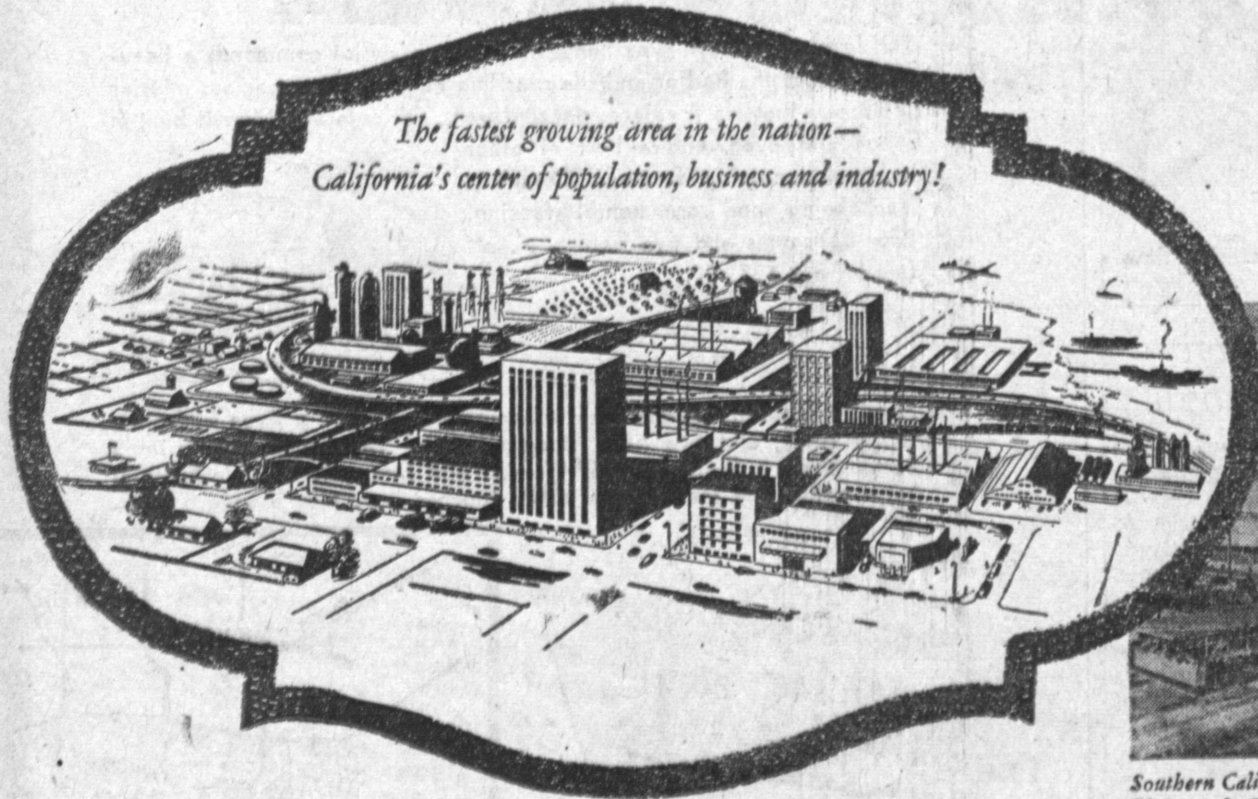
Specialist 3/c Transferred

Specialist third class James T. Haas, 24, whose mother, Mrs. Frances T. Marchbanks, lives at 1045 Jay street, recently was assigned to the 398th transportation terminal battalion's headquarters detachment at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Haas, a bulldozer operator, entered the army in March, 1952. He was last stationed at Camp Leroy Johnson, La.

His wife lives at 1129 Charter street, New Orleans.

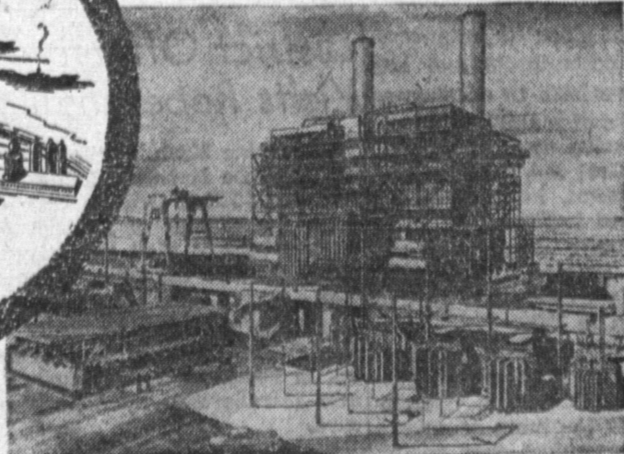
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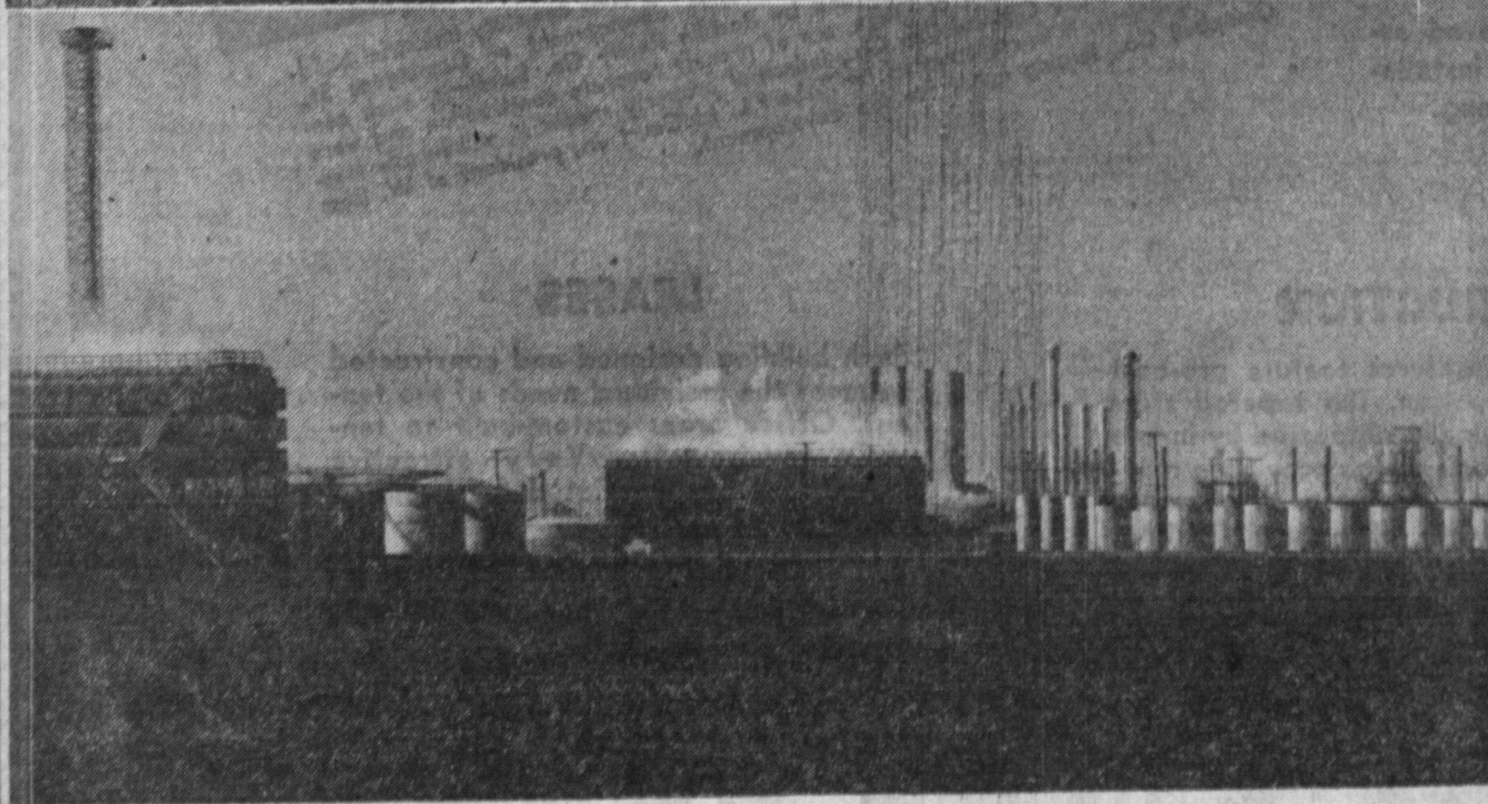
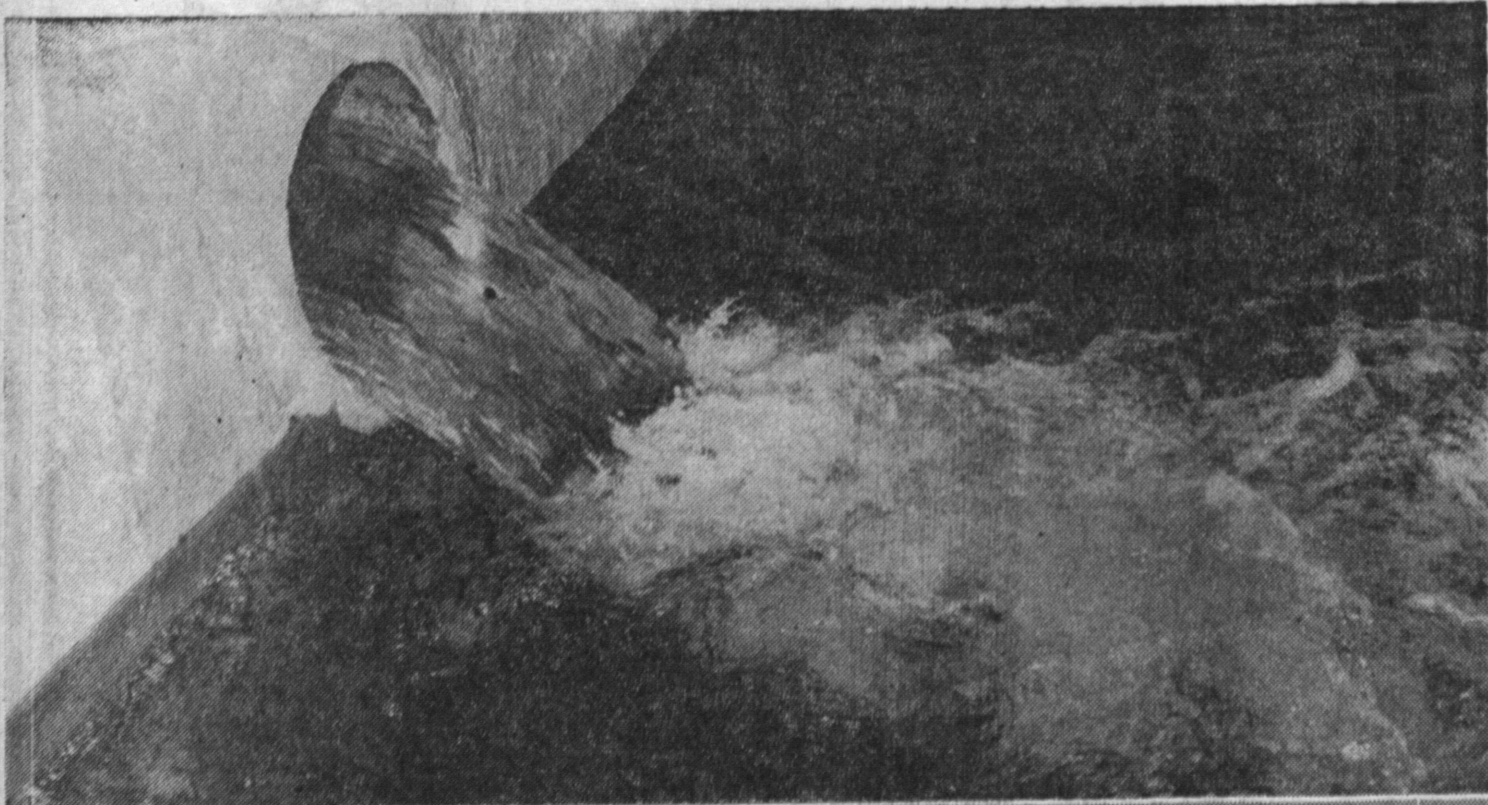
More and more electricity is necessary in our homes, offices, factories and farms to make such growth possible. For sixty years Edison has supplied customers in the Southland with that vital electric service, and since 1945 the company has spent more than half a billion dollars for new plants, lines and stations to serve this dynamic territory. Still more Edison facilities are on the way today for the future which is now in the making.



Southern California Edison's New 320,000 Kilowatt El Segundo Steam Station. First unit completed May, 1955— Second unit to be completed September, 1956.



SERVING HOMES - FARMS - INDUSTRY



DOMINGUEZ WATER CORPORATION