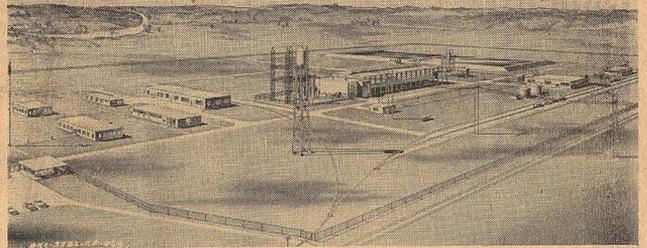


McIntosh Chemical Plant Nears Completion



This is the site of the Mathieson Chemical plant as it appeared in January of last year. The view looks northeast from a point east of the railroad right-of-way fence.

Above is the artist's conception as to how the Mathieson plant will look when it is completed and in operation by June 1st of this year.

Mathieson Chemical Corporation Leads Industrial Development In Washington County Area

\$9,000,000 PLANT WILL BE IN PRODUCTION BY JUNE 1st; TO MAKE CAUSTIC SODA, CHLORINE

By: Elsie Stallworth.

Much has been said and written in recent months about the industrial development in Washington County and surrounding area; so much so, that announcement of another new plant to be constructed in this locality prompts scarcely more than passing comment and has already been relegated to the inside pages by the big city dailies.

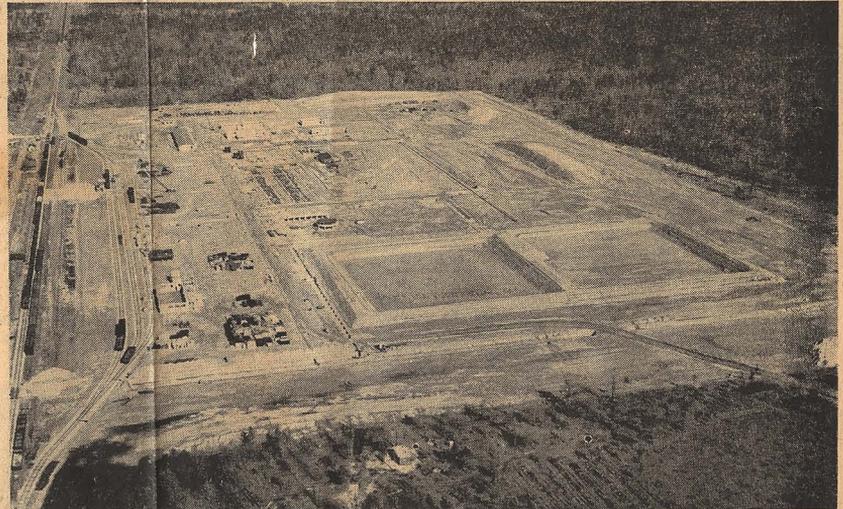
However, one has only to visit McIntosh and the site where the new Mathieson Chemical plant is rapidly being erected to be hit by the full import of what industrialization really means. Where grassy plots and woodland stood only a few short months ago, huge steel structures now point skyward, brine reservoirs dot the landscape, and modern concrete office buildings have replaced stately pine trees.

Typically symbolic of American production and industry, the Blaw-Knox Construction Company has quickly converted a sleepy southern village into a humming, growing community. It was a bare ten months ago that the company began clearing the ground for the \$9,000,000 plant which will be in production by June 1st of this year. (Mathieson's annual report states that the estimated construction cost of its Alabama subsidiary would be nearer \$11,000,000).

The Washington County plant is wholly owned by the Mathieson Corporation, which itself has invested \$1,000,000. In addition, it arranged

to issue \$8,000,000 worth of debenture notes, which has been subscribed to by an important customer and an insurance company.

The Blaw-Knox Construction Company which is building the local plant specializes in the design and construction of complete chemical plants. They employ a large staff of experienced engineers and other essential personnel in order to give industry benefit of the latest American technical knowledge. The company is prepared to build plants using the Mathieson patents and technology anywhere in the world.



Pictured is an aerial view of the Mathieson plant site taken a few months ago. It shows the progress of construction up to that time. Photo is used with permission of the American National Bank, which published it with the bank's annual report this year.

The McIntosh plant is just one of 21 plants owned by the Mathieson Chemical Corporation. The other 20 are located in 10 southern and eastern states--Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, West Virginia, and New York. Home office of the corporation is in Baltimore.

These plants daily produce 7,500 tons of "heavy" chemicals, including sulphuric acid, ammonia, soda ash, caustic soda, chlorine, and their derivatives--organic chemicals and chemical fertilizers. No other chemical manufacturer makes such a variety of basic chemicals, and Mathieson is the only commercial producer of sodium chlorite--a bleaching agent--in the United States. The local plant at McIntosh will engage in the production of chlorine and caustic soda.

Caustic soda is used in large quantities in the production of viscose rayon, in the manufacture of other chemicals, and in the refining of gasoline and oil. It is also used in textile processing, the preparation of bleaching solutions, processing of pulp and paper, the production of soap, and the manufacture of plastics and resins.

Caustic soda, chemically called sodium hydroxide, is popularly known as lye. It is further utilized in the making of dyes, explosives, and insecticides.

Manufacturing process of the Mathieson corporation centers around the electrolysis of brine through the use of the patented Mathieson Mercury Cell which produces caustic of an extremely high purity. This mercury cell, a rocking type, was installed at the Saltville, Va., plant over 55 years ago, the first in this country to be used in production of caustic soda and chlorine.

In recent years research has developed a new Stationary Mercury Cell which produces concentrated liquid caustic directly at the cell. This new process is now in operation at the Saltville plant and will be the type

installed at McIntosh. The high purity of caustic soda manufactured by Mathieson has enabled the company to obtain a substantial share of the consuming market. Liquid caustic is normally shipped in drums, tank trucks, or tank cars. High purity rayon grade caustic is maintained from cell outlet to customer by special handling equipment.

The Mathieson process is ideally adapted for isolated areas. The plant requires few skilled operators, and the operation requires no steam for evaporation and only small quantities of water. Building requirements are reduced to a minimum because no evaporators, salt filters or crystallizers are needed. Salt is rarely available in the pure state, but the Mathieson process operates efficiently with salt that has been treated in a comparatively simple manner without the removal of calcium and sulfate.

Chlorine, which the local plant will produce in addition to caustic soda, is used extensively in the manufacture of organic and inorganic chemical compounds. Bleaching of pulp, especially kraft, uses large quantities. It is a sanitizing agent for water and sewage.

In recent years chlorine has been utilized in the manufacture of insecticides, pharmaceuticals, and chlorides for the plastic and rubber industries. The Saltville, Va., plant, with its newly installed Stationary Cell, and the McIntosh plant will increase Mathieson's chlorine production capacity by 350 percent.

Plans were revealed this week for a sulphuric acid unit to be added to the new plant facilities, at a cost of \$717,000. The largest single consumer of sulphuric acid is the fertilizer industry. In recent years increased production of sulphate of ammonia and superphosphates, and the newer concentrated high analysis fertilizers produced in the United States exclusively by Mathieson, has added substantially to the consumption of sulphuric acid by the fertilizer industry.

Mathieson, with seven plants, is one of the largest producers of sulphuric acid in the United States.

Aside from the all-important factor of the availability of salt, points which had to be considered before the plant could be located at McIntosh included freight, water, and electric facilities, fuel, and labor supply.

In addition to the mercury cell units, the local plant will include equipment for salt handling, brine preparation, caustic handling, chlorine drying and liquifying, power generation, and utilities, shipping and maintenance shops.

At the present time there are six native Alabamians employed by the Mathieson Company, four from McIntosh and two from Huntsville. One of the Huntsville men and Howard Daugherty of McIntosh are now at the corporation's Niagara Falls plant undergoing training for supervisory work. Within the next few months more local people will be hired and trained for this new work. The plant payroll will amount to approximately \$1,000,000 per year. Joe Wood, operations-manager has stated.

Incidentally Mr. Wood, who came to McIntosh from a newly purchased Phoenix, Ariz., plant, is a graduate of Auburn. Although a native of Memphis, he is presently living in Mobile.

W. H. Paul of the Niagara plant is personnel manager. Most of the other employees now at the plant are experienced Mathieson employees who came to Washington County from other plants to set up the new operation.

Mr. Wood has assured the people of this area that the company is vitally interested in employing all the local help possible, in keeping as much money as possible in the county, and in building up local businesses and services. County school facilities are being investigated, and a check is being kept on how many new children are coming into McIntosh. Existing school facilities will probably be expanded when needed, rather than

new ones built.

At the present time the Mathieson Chemical Corporation is cooperating with the Tombigbee Development Company in the construction of a new 40-unit housing project on the recently paved Nichols Road, near the home of Mr. Rob Boykin. Already the concrete foundations have been laid for more than 12 houses, and framework is going up on several. All will be ready for occupancy within four months. Some 40 persons will be employed during the building period.

The houses will be of frame construction and will feature three bedrooms, living room-dining room combination, bath, and kitchen. They will be equipped with hot water heaters, floor furnaces, and natural gas. There will be two types of floor finishes--asphalt tile and hardwood.

Four floor plans and five or six roof styles will be used throughout the project. Some of the houses will have breezeways to garage. Joe McCafferty of Mobile is contractor.

All this industrial activity is just a forerunner of what this section of Alabama can expect before the year is out. Springing up around the Mathieson plant are Geigy, Calabaria, and Stauffer chemical companies. They will use Mathieson's chemicals in the manufacture of their products. Courtauld's located at nearby Salco, as is Stauffer, will produce rayon, and will utilize Mathieson's caustic soda in its process. Barry steam plant at Salco is providing electrical power for these manufacturers.

----So the wheels of industry are gaining momentum in this hitherto farming area! Everywhere reactions to this business impetus are to be seen -- in new buildings and new businesses. Chatham State Bank is planning a new building; facilities of existing stores are being expanded. The entire populace will benefit increasingly from this new industrialization, brought about, for the most part, by one company -- Mathieson Chemical Corporation.



Congressman Frank W. Boykin is shown with John Nason, assistant to the vice-president of Mathieson Chemical Corporation, pointing to the 500-acre site in Washington County, near McIntosh, where Geigy Chemical Company will build their \$1,250,000 dye-making plant. The plant site extends from the Southern Railroad to the banks of the Tombigbee River. The Geigy Company, a \$200,000,000 concern, has plants in England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and other foreign countries, but the new plant to be located at McIntosh will be the company's first plant in the United States. Geigy has been selling millions of dollars worth of goods in the United States for many years, but it has never manufactured anything in this country. The company has 650 research engineers at their Basil, Switzerland plant.

The Geigy Chemical Company will use products from Mathieson Corporation in its manufacturing process. Congressman Boykin has stated that the salt deposit at McIntosh extends for ten cubic miles.