

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

WILLIAM C. GOGGIN

Transcript of an Interview  
Conducted by

James J. Bohning

at

Midland, Michigan

on

20 August 1986

(With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)

William C.  
Coggin

JH  
3/15/96

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## WILLIAM C. GOGGIN

1911 Born in Alma, Michigan on 2 August

### Education

1933 B.S., chemistry, physics and mathematics, Alma College  
1935 B.S.E.E., electrical engineering, University of Michigan  
1936 M.S., electrical engineering, University of Michigan

### Professional Experience

Dow Chemical Company  
1936-1937 Student Training Program  
1937-1939 Engineer, Physics Research Laboratory  
1939-1941 Salesman, Special Products Division  
1941-1942 Assistant Manager, Plastics Sales Division  
1942-1943 Manager, Plastics Sales Division  
1943-1947 Manager, Plastics Development Division  
1947-1959 Manager, Plastics Technical Service  
1959-1967 General Manager, Plastics Department

Dow Corning Corporation  
1967-1971 President and Director  
1971-1976 Chairman of Board

### Honors

1954 Honorary D.Sc., Alma College  
1976 Plastics Hall of Fame

## ABSTRACT

William Goggin begins the interview with a description of his family and his childhood years in Michigan. After attending grade school and high school in Alma, Michigan, he attended Alma College. There, he received his B.S. in chemistry, physics and mathematics. Goggin went on to the University of Michigan to further his education in electrical engineering. After two years, he received a B.S.E.E. in electrical engineering. Remaining at the University of Michigan, he obtained his M.S. in electrical engineering in 1936. While a graduate student, Goggin interviewed with Dow Chemical Company, and joined their staff in the Student Engineer Training Program in 1936. There, he learned first-hand the specialties of chemical engineering. After completing his training, Goggin first worked on setting up testing procedures for new polymer electrical insulators. While an employee with Dow, Goggin received a patent for a cording stretching apparatus. Goggin's work in Dow's Plastics Division coincided with the rise of plastics in the world market, especially during World War II. He rose steadily through the company, remaining an employee with Dow for his entire career. He retired as Chairman of the Board of Dow Corning Corporation in 1976. Goggin concludes the interview with a discussion of the development and profitability of products.

## INTERVIEWER

James J. Bohning is currently a professor at Lehigh University. He has served as Professor of Chemistry Emeritus at Wilkes University, where he was a faculty member from 1959 to 1990. He served there as chemistry department chair from 1970 to 1986 and environmental science department chair from 1987 to 1990. He was chair of the American Chemical Society's Division of the History of Chemistry in 1986, received the Division's outstanding paper award in 1989, and presented more than twenty-five papers before the Division at national meetings of the Society. He has written for the American Chemical Society News Service, and He has been on the advisory committee of the Society's National Historic Chemical Landmarks committee since its inception in 1992. He developed the oral history program of the Chemical Heritage Foundation beginning in 1985, and was the Foundation's Director of Oral History from 1990 to 1995.

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