

# The Doorway™

M.C. Gill Corporation Group of Companies

High Performance Composite Products Since 1945 • [www.mcgillcorp.com](http://www.mcgillcorp.com)

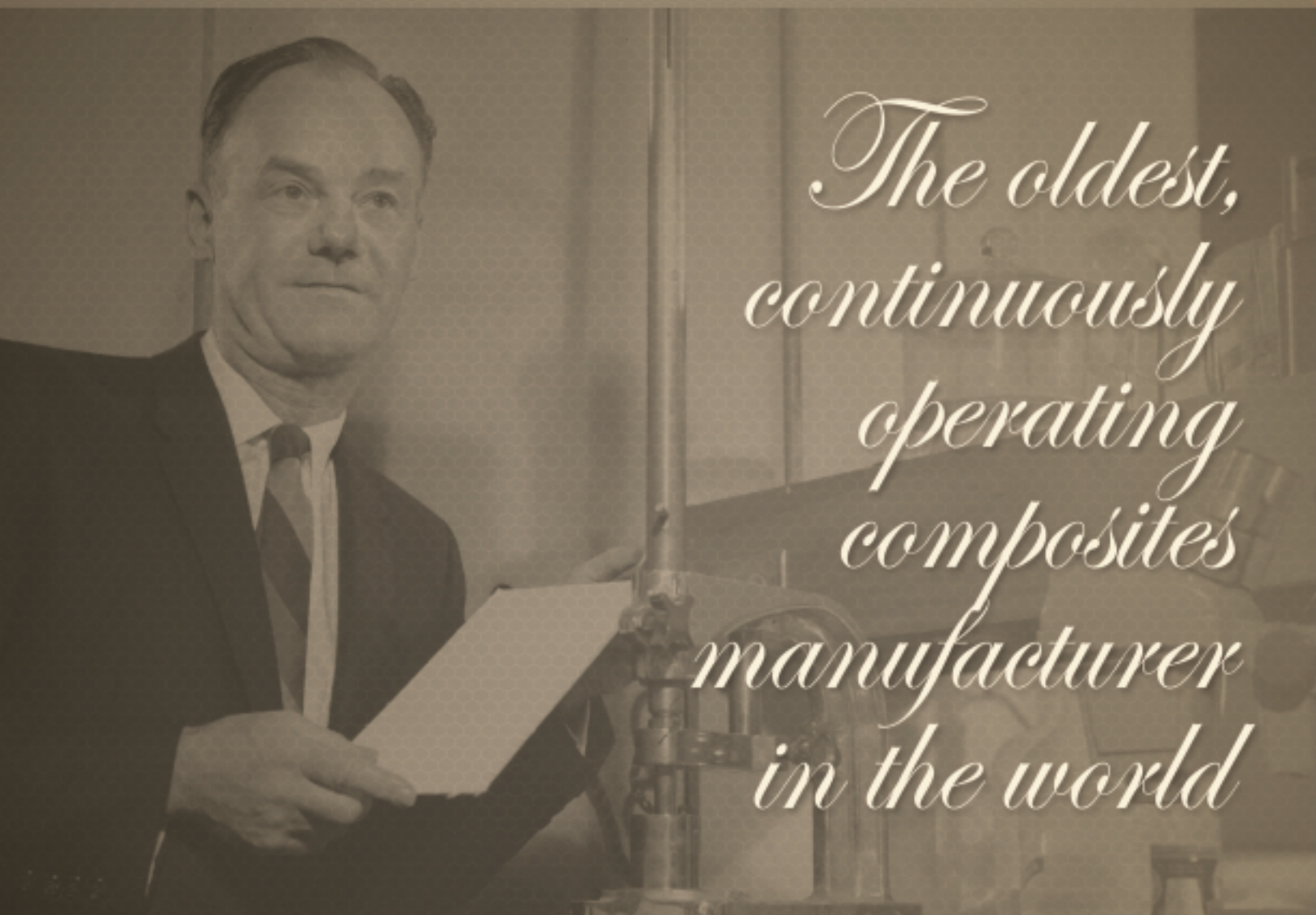
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**M.C. GILL  
CORPORATION**

*Celebrating*  
**60**  
*Years*

**1945 - 2005**





*The oldest,  
continuously  
operating  
composites  
manufacturer  
in the world*





1945: First electronic computer, ENIAC, built.



1947: U.S. Air Force pilot Chuck Yeager becomes first person to break the sound barrier.



1948: Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire" wins Pulitzer.

1945

• PEERLESS •  
PLASTIC PRODUCTS



1945: The company began as Peerless Plastic Products, Inc. in a rented four-car garage



1952: A Quonset hut served as an early warehouse space



Early products included lamp shades, place mats and table top overlays



M.C. with early wall covering



Ellen Gill and son Stephen show how easy it is to clean Wallfab

On September 11, 1945, Merwyn C. Gill, known as "M.C.," founded M.C. Gill Corporation, originally named *Peerless Plastics Products, Inc.*, in a rented garage in Montebello, California.

M.C.'s initial effort was to make a plastic wallpaper called "Wallfab" that was easy to clean and hard to destroy. Unfortunately, it was equally hard to install and M.C. quickly moved on to other consumer items.



1948: M.C. Gill provided wall covering for the post-war house.

Actress Janet Leigh, famous for film roles including *The Manchurian Candidate* and *Psycho*. In the 1950s she stopped by M.C. Gill Corporation to model a new line of Gillfab wall covering material.





1950: Col. David C. Schilling (USAF) makes the first nonstop transatlantic jet flight in 10 hrs. and 1 min.



1953: Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower inaugurated president of United States.



1957: Russians launch Sputnik I, first Earth-orbiting satellite - the Space Age begins.

## 1950



Phil and Stephen Gill confer with Angels Baseball player Bob Usher about the M.C. Gill line of balsa bats and cork balls



## 1955

The Montebello facility



1950: Manufacturing was simpler in the 1950s, shown here in an early South El Monte plant



Bulkhead made from a Gillfab panel

1953: The company moved to South El Monte



In the beginning, the products such as laminated placemats and lampshades were directed toward the average household. These were easy to clean and would last much longer than similar products used at that time. He even tried a plastic-coated balsa wood baseball bat with cork baseballs in an effort to provide baseball equipment that small children could use. Success was slow

in coming, so M.C. conducted his business at night and weekends while holding a regular day job.

After seven years of trying to make consumer goods viable, he talked to a glass cloth salesman, who just happened to mention that Douglas Aircraft was looking





1962: Lt. Col. John H. Glenn, Jr., is first American to orbit Earth - three times in 4 hr. 55 min.



1966: The first Star Trek episode, "The Man Trap," is broadcast on September 8.



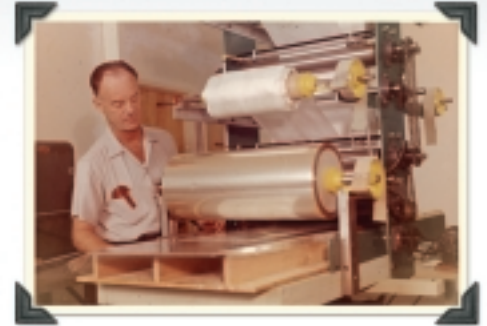
1964: The Beatles appear on The Ed Sullivan Show.

# 1960



# 1965

1st Doorway goes to print beginning a 41 year tradition



M.C. experimented with all types of equipment

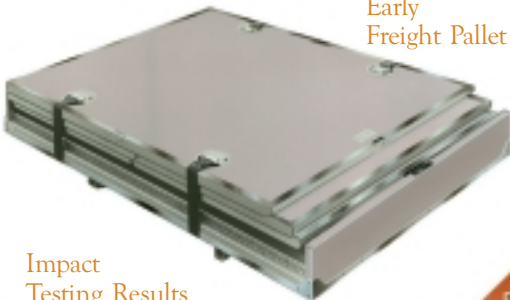


Labor-intensive operations have gradually been automated



Little Joe Shield

Early Freight Pallet



Impact Testing Results



Aircraft Galley Fabricated with M.C. Gill Panels

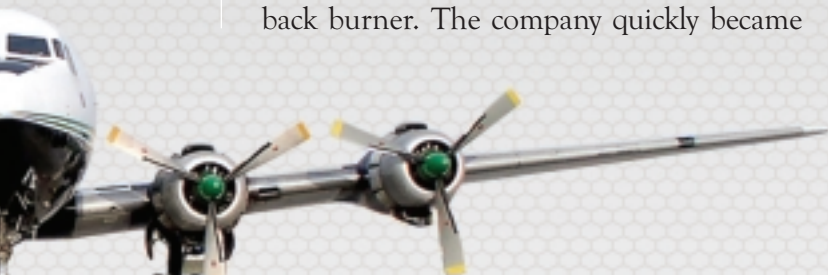
The Walking Man testing machine puts flooring through its paces



for someone who could make a 48 inch wide laminate for the cargo compartment of the DC-6. Douglas gave him a trial order and this allowed M.C. to make the transition to selling cargo compartment liners and to put consumer items on the back burner. The company quickly became

the principal supplier to the Douglas DC-6 Aircraft, and then expanded its customer base with replacement sales to various airlines such as Pacific Northern and United.

In 1955, M.C. put it all on the line and bought a used, steam-heated, hydraulic belt press that was 6 feet wide by 14 feet long - the largest in the industry.





1972: President Nixon makes unprecedented eight-day visit to Communist China and meets with Chairman Mao Zedong.



1977: *Star Wars* is released in theaters.



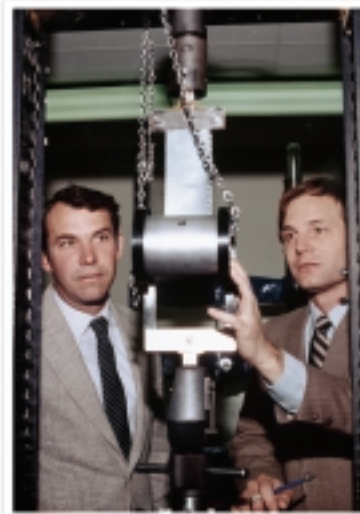
1970



Displaying samples



Examining a balsa wood block

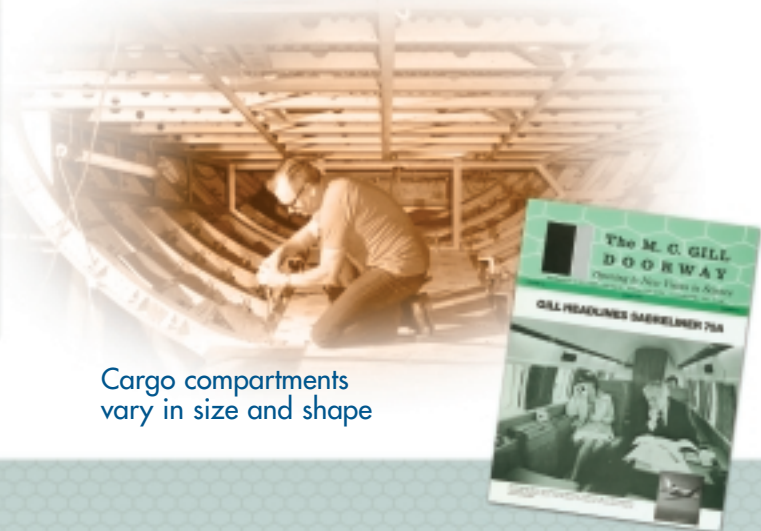


Stephen and Phil Gill with peel test equipment

1975



Styles and cabin configurations have changed over time



Cargo compartments vary in size and shape



The press enabled the company to make larger laminates than were available from any other source, thereby providing M.C. with a distinct competitive advantage. Affectionately called “Press 2,” it is still in operation at the company’s El Monte, California facility producing cargo liners and floor panels.

By 1955, the Research and Development Lab created a superior polyester cargo liner laminate. Interestingly, in carefully controlled

laboratory testing, both Boeing and Douglas found that it did not test nearly as well as a competitor’s unidirectional laminates; however, it outperformed all cargo liners in service. It was so successful that even today cargo compartment liner is widely referred to as “Gilliner” – our brand name – by engineering and purchasing professionals.

In the early 1960s, the aircraft community was looking for a product to replace



1981: The IBM PC is introduced with software from Microsoft.

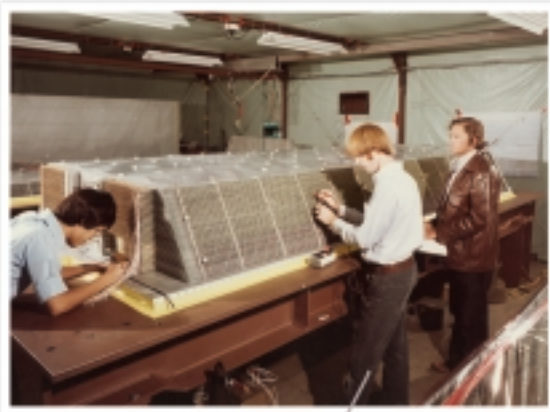


1985: The Titanic is located 560 miles from Newfoundland.

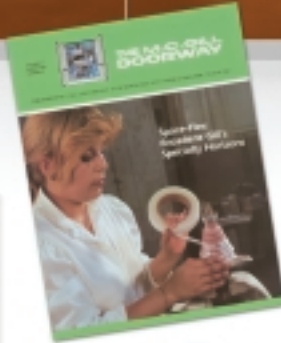


1989: The Berlin Wall is torn down.

1980



Special project testing



1985



Food cart using Gillfab Sandwich Panels



Robotman dramatizes panel toughness



aluminum-faced/aluminum-honeycomb flooring panels. In those days spiked heels were in fashion and they caused damage to the aluminum floor panels. To solve that problem, the corporation developed the Gillfloor 5007 panel which used end-grain

balsa as the core material, for its light weight and water resistance, with fiberglass laminated polyester skins. Gillfloor 5007 panels became a favorite in the industry and again were purchased extensively by the airlines as replacement flooring.

In the mid 1980s, when the leading honeycomb supplier decided to enter the panel market, M.C. Gill developed its own honeycomb capability.



1990: Hubble Space Telescope launched.



1994: South Africa holds first interracial national election; Nelson Mandela elected President.



1997: Tiger Woods wins the Masters Tournament, the youngest golfer ever to do so.

1990



Honeycomb being sliced



1995



Purchased Building 7 – 17th and largest expansion



Flammability testing



A CNC machine profiling a piece of honeycomb



M.C. Gill Corporation acquires Castle in 1998 and Insoleq in 1997



After qualifying Nomex® honeycomb at Boeing, M.C. Gill became a major player in the industry and today supplies Boeing with a large percentage of their Nomex® honeycomb requirements.

M.C. Gill Corporation has made five acquisitions since 1980 and still has four divisions: two in the United States, one in the United Kingdom and one in France.

Over the years, in an effort to make

composites more widely accepted, the corporation has taken orders for such diverse end uses as laboratory counter surfaces, high-speed ferries, entertainment industry backdrops, ballistic laminates, seat components for exotic sports cars, portable weather stations, and one or two of our products have visited the moon and are still there.

In order to control deliveries and quality, the company now makes its own prepreps,



1998:  
Europeans  
agree on  
single  
currency,  
the Euro.



M.C. Gill celebrates  
60th Anniversary



2000: Y2K  
computer scare.

2000

2005



High-speed ferries use  
lightweight panels



Alcore Brigantine  
products aboard  
the Queen Mary 2



M.C. Gill  
Floor Panels  
are used  
worldwide



M.C. Gill Corporation  
acquires Alcore and  
Alcore Brigantine  
in 2001



We supply cockpit floor panels for the  
largest passenger airplane to date,  
the Airbus A380

honeycomb, film adhesive, resin formulations  
and has become one of the most vertically  
integrated manufacturers in the business.

As the corporation completes its 60th year  
in business, it remains committed to continued  
success by maintaining its outstanding  
reputation for quality, customer service and  
leadership in the composites industry.



Our website provides complete  
information on products and services  
[www.mcgillcorp.com](http://www.mcgillcorp.com)

# M.C. Gill Corporation

has expanded several times across its headquarters site in  
El Monte, California.



Building 5 – 1980



Building 7 – 1996



Welcome



Building 4 – 1974



Building 6 – 1990



Building 1 – 1960



Building 2 – 1967



Building 3 – 1967

# A World of



**Stephen Gill, Vice Chairman, and  
M.C. Gill, Chairman**

When the M.C. Gill Corporation began, it was the dawn of the commercialization of FRP – fiberglass reinforced plastics – known these days as “Composites.” At first there were boats, archery bows, fishing poles, corrugated roofing materials and relatively simple fiberglass panels. Since then, composites have found their way into many different products: ballistic armor, jet airplanes, sports equipment, to name a few.

What new products will we see in the future and what is M.C. Gill Corporation doing to provide these new composites?

The M.C. Gill Corporation has a significant R&D Department that refines our product line to meet more demanding material specifications from the Original Equipment Manufacturers as well as work on new ideas for products. We are also working with the University of Southern California Engineering Department and funding the Merwyn C. Gill Composites Center, where they are conducting graduate level research in composites.

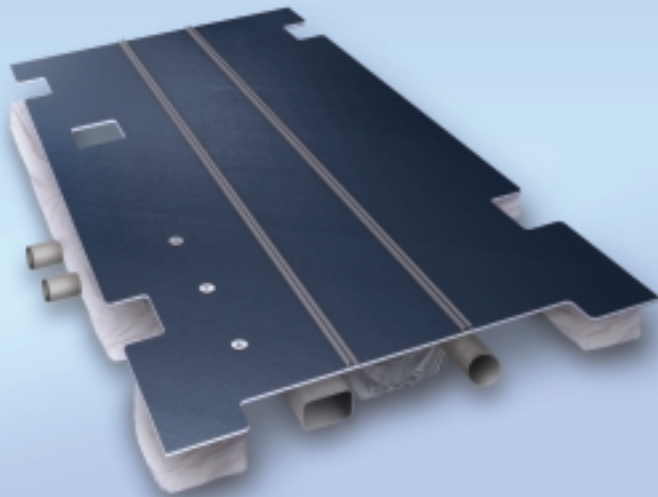
We can't say where composites will go next, but we are sure their presence will increase in commercial aviation. We would even predict that they will be used extensively in all forms of transportation, both military and commercial, as weight and fire resistance become more important.

Another area will be architecture. Corrosion is not a problem with composites and they don't burn like wood-based products.

# Opportunities

As composites are more widely used, prices will come down and become competitive with wood, steel and other metals commonly used in construction.

Those are just a couple of thoughts on the future. Here are some things that we are working on now:



## Transparent Laminate Research

Our ongoing research projects cover a range of innovations. One of these is a transparent laminate. This product has many applications, such as a cargo liner that allows easy inspection through the sidewall.



## Integrated Systems

The trend toward value-added products means that future products will incorporate additional components such as insulation materials, ventilation ducts or perhaps optical fiber cables.

## Sound Abatement

Airline customers want to travel in a quieter cabin. We are working with the University of Southern California Engineering Department on developing flooring panels that will absorb as opposed to transmitting sound vibrations.



# The M.C. Gill Corporation Group of Companies



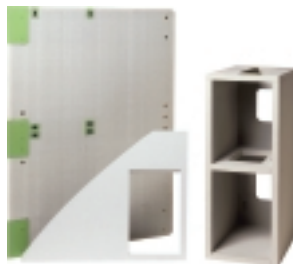
## **M.C. Gill Corporation Europe Ltd. – Bangor, Northern Ireland, UK**

Manufactures aircraft insulation, details composite panels including various honeycombs and creates complex assemblies using advanced fabrication methods. It also provides warehousing for other M.C. Gill products for quick European delivery.



## **Castle Industries – Ontario, California, USA**

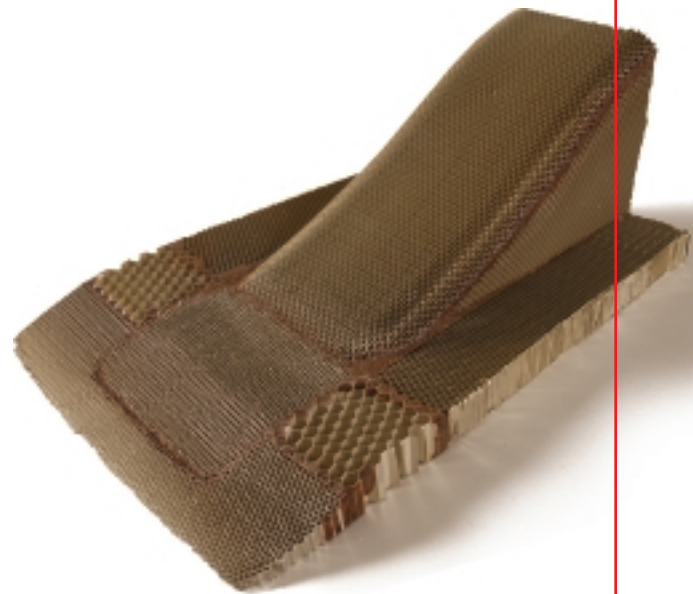
Specializes in aircraft quality metal parts fabrication, engineering and design. If a piece of metal can be bent, pressed, punched, routed, shaped, molded, welded, profiled or fabricated into a high-performance part, Castle has the equipment and experience to do it.





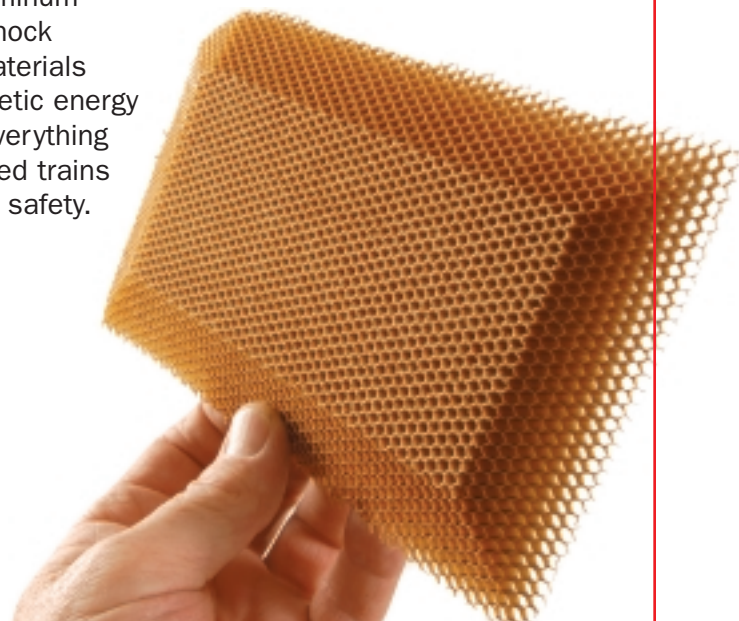
## Alcore – Edgewood, Maryland, USA

Manufactures a variety of metallic honeycomb cores for aerospace and other applications. Offers extensive special processing capabilities on metallic and non-metallic cores, from simple operations like chamfering to complex projects including roll-forming, 5-axis machining and splicing of different densities into core blankets.



## Alcore Brigantine – Anglet, France

Offers broad capabilities in structural core materials technology in Europe. This includes aluminum honeycomb, with special processing expertise and an in-house design office and manufacture of sandwich panels from simple shapes to extremely complex parts. It also produces advanced aluminum honeycomb shock absorption materials used as a kinetic energy absorber in everything from high-speed trains to automotive safety.





# KARL HUBENTHAL and the Gill Toons



I PREFER  
ONE OF  
THESE  
BECAUSE  
THE MESSAGE  
IS MORE  
SUBTLE

DOBE  
9

How much a  
man's hand is on  
the stick in the cloud  
with his hand on the  
stick. (He's not  
any for a bit)



Karl Hubenthal, known as "Hubie," was an illustrator for the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* for years. He became M.C.'s friend and drew many cartoons for *The Doorway*.



KARL HUBENTHAL



# Major Sponsor

M.C. Gill Corporation is the major sponsor of two organizations that support knowledge and development of composites products: The Boy Scouts of America and the University of Southern California.

## Boy Scouts Composites Merit Badge Demonstrated

At the 2005 Boy Scout National Jamboree in Virginia the Composites Merit Badge was introduced. Surfboard blanks were laminated with the help of the Scouts. The badge is expected to be available in early 2006. It will introduce a new generation to composites. Information about this badge is available online: [www.compositesmeritbadge.com](http://www.compositesmeritbadge.com)



## Merwyn C. Gill Composites Center at USC

Research activities are conducted at the Center on the University of Southern California campus, in Los Angeles, where graduate students continue their work on composites technology.

We also supported the USC SCRacing team, that recently took the car they constructed using our sandwich panels to a race in Michigan. Out of 140 schools that registered for the competition they placed an impressive 36th. The team even took time to stop at the Pikes Peak International Raceway and successfully tested the car.





*Ellen W. Gill*

*1915 - 1989*

Key to the success of the M.C. Gill Corporation was Ellen W. Gill. Born Ellen Wildy in Hemingford, Nebraska; she grew up in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. E.W.G. spent a year at Colorado State before transferring to USC where she graduated with a business degree in 1939. A year later she married M.C. and together they produced three children (Stephen, Phillip and Debaney) and one business.

E.W.G.

E.W.G. became a full-time employee of the company in 1952, and worked tirelessly behind the scenes handling bookkeeping, purchasing, payroll and an array of related functions. Her vision and stability provided the support needed to get the fledgling company up and running.



# The Funny Side

Irate Customer: What! You sell cigars in here but prohibit smoking?  
Sales Girl: Well, we sell bath towels, too!

A pregnant secretary wrote the following resignation note to her boss: "Dear Boss, I have grown too big for this job."

A golf professional was approached by two women. "Do you wish to learn to play golf," he asked one of them.

"No," came the answer. "My friend wants to learn. I learned yesterday."

One male wedding guest to another, watching the bride and groom leave the church: "There, but for some fast thinking on a moonlit lake last July, go!"

A pink elephant, a green kangaroo and two yellow snakes strolled up to the bar. "You're a little early, boys," said the bartender, "he ain't here, yet."

# Can You Figure This Out?



Here's an easy way to make money and get the other fellow to pick up the check. Take a piece of chalk and say to your victim: "I bet I can draw a circle around you that you can't jump out of, no matter how close you are to the chalk line." Can you guess how?

Answer: Draw the circle around his head, neck or chest.

# Little-Known ODDITIES

No noise was heard during the construction of Solomon's temple, which was one of the first "prefabricated" structures.

More than half of all injuries are to the hand and arm.

Do you know that Continental and Delta Airlines utilize Gillab 990C, made by M. C. Gill, to surface the sides and top of their baggage claim area in the Los Angeles International Airport?

Pennsylvania has more towns of over 5,000 population than any other state.

It required 40 years to the day to construct the famous Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City.

About one mile of wire is used in making a window screen.

Do you know that M. C. Gill makes light-weight, strong, sanitary baffles of honeycomb panels, faced with fiberglass skins for use in trailers for hauling juice oranges in bulk? Baffles keep the bulk oranges from being crushed.

More than two tons of rose petals are required to make an ounce of perfume essence.

The Atlantic coast line is longer than that of the Pacific: 1,888 miles compared to 1,366 miles.

In 1925, over one-fourth of all radio sets in homes were homemade.



# Can You Figure This Out?



Can you balance an empty pop bottle on a five dollar bill and remove the bill without touching or upsetting the bottle? (You can do it with beer bottles also, but don't try a quick yank).

Answer: Gently roll up the bill at one end, being careful not to touch the bottle. The roll will ease the bottle off the bill. A new bill works best.

# The Funny Side

A barber surveyed the slick hair of the young man who had just seated himself in his chair. Then he asked:

"Do you want it cut or should I just change the oil?"

French waiter to American couple:

"Monsieur, we have an American special: Ten per cent off if you don't try to order in French."

Bacteria were first observed by Leeuwenhoek on his microscope in 1675.

The world's 10-mile snowshoe race record is 59 minutes, 23 seconds.

Lawn tennis was first played in the United States in 1873.

Largest denomination paper money in the U.S. is the \$10,000 bill, bearing the portrait of Salmon P. Chase.

There is no known insulator against magnetism.

There are few blue or pink flowers in Alaska.

Do you know M. C. Gill is one of the pioneers in fiberglass and honeycomb laminating in the West?

Rhode Island is the state with the most population per square mile.

A generation is usually regarded as covering 30 to 33 years.

Greyhounds can run 36 miles per hour.

# Little-Known ODDITIES