

The Doorway

A Publication of The Gill Corporation

High-Performance Composite Products Since 1945 • www.thegillcorp.com

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CELEBRATING

75

YEARS
1945-2020



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND CHAIRMAN

The Gill Corporation (TGC) was founded in September of 1945, just after the end of WWII. Our founder, M. C., was an industry pioneer who correctly believed that “plastics” was the future. His family shared that vision and, to this day, TGC has been owned and operated by the Gill family.

I started working here in 1957 and I am extremely proud to have been a part of TGC for over 63 years. During that time, TGC has continued to grow and expand its operations to four different locations in three countries. We’ve come a long way from the early days of the corporation in a garage in Southern California.

It is very unusual for a family business to remain private for 75 years. We could not have achieved this milestone without the support of our customers who we have always strived to support with the highest-quality, innovative products. In addition, we have many vendors who have helped us during both the good times

and bad times. Lastly, I want to acknowledge the thousands of employees who dedicated themselves to helping the family achieve the corporation’s goals. We’ve seen many things over the last 75 years and this issue highlights and celebrates some of them.

As we close our 75th year, we are mired in the worst commercial aviation downturn in my career. I want to assure you personally that TGC is prepared to cope with this pandemic and we will emerge ready to continue supporting the industry with the highest-quality products delivered on time. That’s what we’ve done for the past 75 years, and I have every intention of continuing that commitment for the next 75 years, although I may not be here for the full term.

—*Stephen E. Gill*

There is a company timeline in this issue but not a lot of detail. If anyone wants more detail, or has a comment, or just wants to say “Hello,” send me an email at thecEO@thegillcorp.com and I will answer all requests.



Stephen at age 15.



Phillip, Ellen, M.C., and Stephen in the Corporation's doorway.



Stephen and Phillip with testing equipment in the lab.



Stephen and his first production crew.

A LOOK BACK AT OUR FIRST YEARS 75



9/2/1945
History's deadliest War, WWII, ends



9/11/1945
The Gill Corporation began as Peerless Plastic Products, Inc.



1948
Bob Usher, center fielder Los Angeles Angels, endorsed Bat N Ball



1952
The Corporation received first cargo liner order from Douglas Aircraft



1957
Stephen Gill started his career at the family business



1959
Discovered secret formulation to make Gilliner 1066 the most popular airplane cargo liner in the world



1960
M.C. Gill moved the business to El Monte and into Building #1

In 1945, M. C. Gill established Peerless Plastic Products Inc. The company made durable and easy to clean household products like placemats, lampshades and wallpaper. One of the early products M.C. produced, a plastic-coated balsa wood baseball bat with cork baseballs, foreshadowed the composite/balsa wood product line still in production today.

1945

1950s



1964
Manufactured bulletproof flooring for helicopters used in the Vietnam War



1966
Gillfloor 5007C was invented and sold to airlines as replacement floor panel

1967
Acquired and expanded into Building #2 (below, top) and Building #3 (below, bottom)



1970
Designed and built first woven prepreg



1978
Began developing and manufacturing own adhesives



1974
Built and expanded into Building #4

Seven years into producing consumer products, the course of history changed when M.C. learned that Douglas Aircraft was looking for a supplier that could produce a 48-inch wide laminate for the cargo compartment of the DC-6. Exiting the consumer business, TGC quickly became a principal supplier of cargo lining for the Douglas DC-6 Aircraft, marking its official entrance into the aviation industry. Today, the Gill Corporation is a globally recognized leader in the design and manufacture of high-performance sandwich panels, cargo linings, honeycombs, and fabricated assemblies. While a lot has changed in aviation since 1945, TGC's continuous investment to deliver superior products and services remains unchanged.

A consistent area of expenditure has been in the area of new product innovation, with a focus on introducing products that respond to a specific need. Whether developing products that support next-generation aircraft design or collaborating with airlines to introduce products that outperform original equipment manufacturer (OEM) and competitor standards, TGC thrives on delivering solutions to even the most stringent requirements. This commitment is evidenced by the company's extensive portfolio of product designs that feature a wide range of materials and technologies.

One of Gill's earliest successes in cargo liner innovation occurred in the late 1950s when the Research and Development lab discovered a secret resin ingredient for producing Gilliner 1066. This proprietary resin formulation coupled with a novel glass reinforcement

1960s

1970s

yielded a robust cargo liner that outperformed industry standards. Gilliner quickly became the most sought-after replacement cargo liner with airlines throughout the world. Although Gill's cargo liner design has continued to advance to offer increased impact strength and abrasion resistance, low smoke and toxicity characteristics, and reduced weight, Gilliner still maintains its brand recognition today.

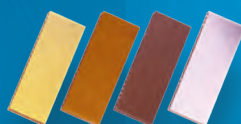
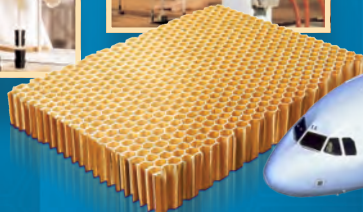
In the 1960s, TGC developed Gillfloor 5007. This durable floor panel replaced aluminum floor panels that were experiencing increased levels of damage largely caused by high-heeled shoes. Designed with a core of end-grain balsa wood and fiberglass-laminated polyester skins, this panel improved impact strength and offered a corrosion-

resistant alternative to aluminum. While end-grain balsa has largely been replaced with honeycomb core materials, Gillfloor 5007 continues to be the material of choice in select freighter programs.

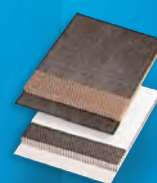
From the mid 1960s to the late 1970s, TGC continued to grow and Buildings #2, #3 and #4 were acquired. Realizing vertical integration was the best way to stay competitive and control quality, TGC designed and built its first woven prepreg. Within a few years, TGC was also developing and manufacturing its own adhesives.



1989
Developed meta-aramid Honeycomb product



1994
Achieved an OEM qualification for aftermarket panels



1995
OEM floor panel qualification completed



1996
Won the largest OEM core contract in company history



1989
Acquired Building #5 and expanded R&D department



1993
Received first meta-aramid Honeycomb award from an OEM



1995
Purchased Building #7



1994
Awarded first contract for detailed floor panels for MD80s and MD90s



1994
Built and expanded into Building #6

1980s

1990s

In the 1980s, TGC purchased Building #5 which facilitated the expansion of the R&D department. In addition, TGC continued to implement its strategy of vertical integration and designed and built its first unidirectional prepreg to support the growth of the floor panel business. In response to the leading honeycomb provider entering the panel market, the company developed its own honeycomb production line.

A few years later, in the early 1990s, the investment in honeycomb core production paid off as TGC received its first large honeycomb award from an OEM. When a significant floor panel qualification followed, it was time to add Building #6 to the campus. By the mid 1990s, the company was growing rapidly and

was awarded a contract to supply detailed, ready-to-install, floor panels for the entire McDonnell Douglas product line. By the late 1990s, the company had purchased Building #7 and secured the largest core contract in its history. At the same time, a series of strategic acquisitions provided TGC with the capability to supply the industry with new value-added, specialty honeycomb products.

Entering the early aughts, TGC became the largest independent manufacturer of aerospace-grade floor panels for both OEM and aftermarket, with customers throughout the world. TGC also developed and qualified its para-aramid honeycomb to meet the ever-



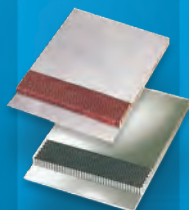
1997
Acquired Insoleq
(TGC Europe)



1998
Acquired Castle
(TGC El Monte)



2001
Acquired Alcore and
Alcore Brigantine
(TGC Maryland and
TGC France)



2001
Awarded the majority
of OEM raw stock floor
panel business



2003
Sponsored the creation
of the Composites Merit
Badge for the Boy Scouts



2004
Developed
and qualified para-aramid
honeycomb product



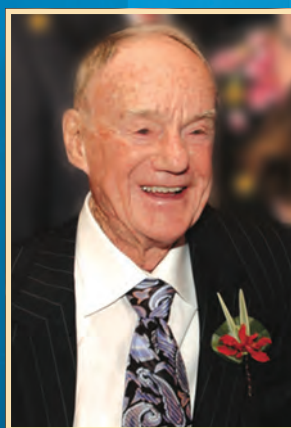
2007
Won the
Boeing
Supplier of the
Year
Award



2011
787 entered service with TGC's newly
qualified lightweight panels, core and liners



2013
Awarded largest floor panel
fabrication contract from an
OEM in company history



2013
Company founder, M. C.
Gill, passed away



2014
Won the Inner City 100 Icons of
Industry Growth Award



2014
Won the CMS Industrial Awards
CERN Gold Award



2014
Second unidirectional prepreg
built and installed

2000s

2010s



THE GILL CORPORATION

2015

The company changed its name from M. C. Gill Corporation to The Gill Corporation to acknowledge the contributions of other family members, namely, Ellen, Stephen, and Phillip



2015

Named San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Business of the Year



2015

Won Historical Award from City of El Monte



2018

Stephen Gill won The Gilbert W. Speed Award Honoring Outstanding Leadership and Collaboration



2018

Won The City of El Monte Business of the Year Award



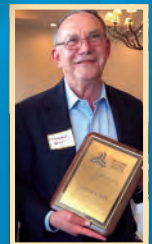
9/11/2020

The Gill Corporation celebrates 75 years of success.



2019 Qualified second woven prepreg

2016
Built and expanded into Building #8

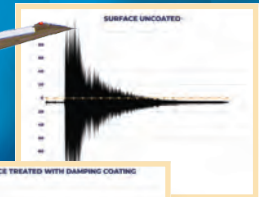


2019 Stephen Gill was entered into The Western Plastics Pioneers Hall of Fame



2018

Awarded another OEM floor panel fabrication contract



2019
Qualified GillVANA, new sound dampening floor panel

growing demand for lighter and more durable floor panels. A few years later, the B787 entered service with TGC's newly qualified lightweight floor panels, as well as TGC's newly qualified honeycomb and cargo liners.

A major turning point came in 2013 when TGC was awarded the largest floor panel fabrication contract in its history. During this time the industry and TGC were experiencing unprecedented growth. TGC continued to invest and a world-class fabrication center of excellence was established. Increased panel demand prompted TGC to build a second unidirectional prepreg. Building #8, with

140,000 square feet, was acquired and shortly thereafter TGC added another large floor panel fabrication contract to its growing backlog.

In 2019, TGC qualified GillVANA, a dampened honeycomb floor panel that reduces cabin noise, entering its 75th year the way it started, with continued innovation and solutions.

Today, The Gill Corporation is celebrating 75 years of success and remains committed to continued success by maintaining its outstanding reputation for quality, customer service and leadership in the composites industry.

2020

Quotables

"Income tax returns are the most imaginative fiction being written today."

—HERMAN WOULK, AUTHOR

"I'm not young enough to know everything."

—OSCAR WILDE, AUTHOR



OSCAR WILDE

"In this business, you either sink or swim, or you don't."

—DAVID SMITH, SCULPTOR

"I'm not okay, you're not okay, but that's okay."

—ELIZABETH KUBLER-ROSS, AUTHOR

"If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt."

—DEAN MARTIN, ENTERTAINER

"If you don't set goals, you can't regret not reaching them."

—YOGI BERRA, BASEBALL PLAYER

"If you can't measure it, you can't manage it."

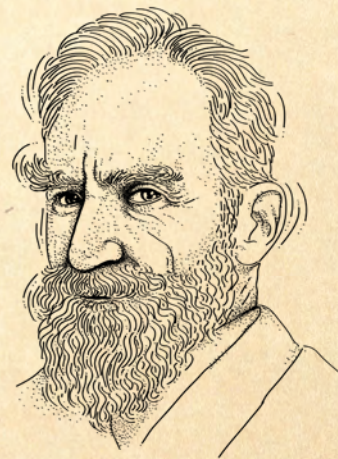
—ROBERT KAPLAN, BSC

"If life were fair, Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead."

—JOHNNY CARSON, ENTERTAINER

"If Columbus had an advisory board, he would probably still be on the dock."

—ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG, SECRETARY OF LABOR



GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

"If all economists were laid end to end they would not reach a conclusion."

—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, AUTHOR

"If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there is a man on base."

—DAVE BARRY, HUMORIST



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