

of the new corporation. Jack's job was to fill the first tanks with an old-fashioned hand pump and to peddle them around Indianapolis.

Also to this shed came red-headed Mathew J. "Bud" Carney to talk with the young experimenters. He was an automobile invention scout for the Union Carbide Company, and had been drawn to Indianapolis by the rumor that two youngsters were tinkering with a gas tank that could light automobiles. For eight years he would haunt their doors with offers from Union Carbide. The doors grew more impressive during those eight years as, in spite of the frequent explosions, the tanks proved workable and more and more of them appeared on the running boards of the early automobiles.

The invention was perfected slowly but the demand for the tanks grew as the use of automobiles increased. The boys moved their chemicals into an abandoned factory. It promptly blew up, and half the windows in Indianapolis were shattered. A ludicrous part of the disaster was the blasting of a sauerkraut factory near a hospital, plastering the hospital rooms and occupants with wet kraut. Suits were brought on every side. This was the beginning of Carl's years of courtroom appearances due to Prest-O-Lite troubles.

Finally the City Council ordered the factory moved outside the city limits, "a good ten miles from any populated zone."

Carl and Jim started a new factory outside the city limits, on South Street. The architects planning the concrete walls did not consider the Hoosier climate, with its rapid changes of temperature. The wet concrete froze when the thermometer fell to thirty degrees, and softened as the next day's temperature soared to seventy. The walls collapsed. Below a mountain of raw cement lay the bodies of seventeen workmen.

The factory was rebuilt on the same site, and survived for many years. Branch plants established in the key cities of the United States were less durable. Prest-O-Lite in the beginning was a business built on dynamite. Plants were erected in Chicago, New York, Boston, Cleveland and points west, and one after another blew up. Carl and Jim evolved a code to keep these