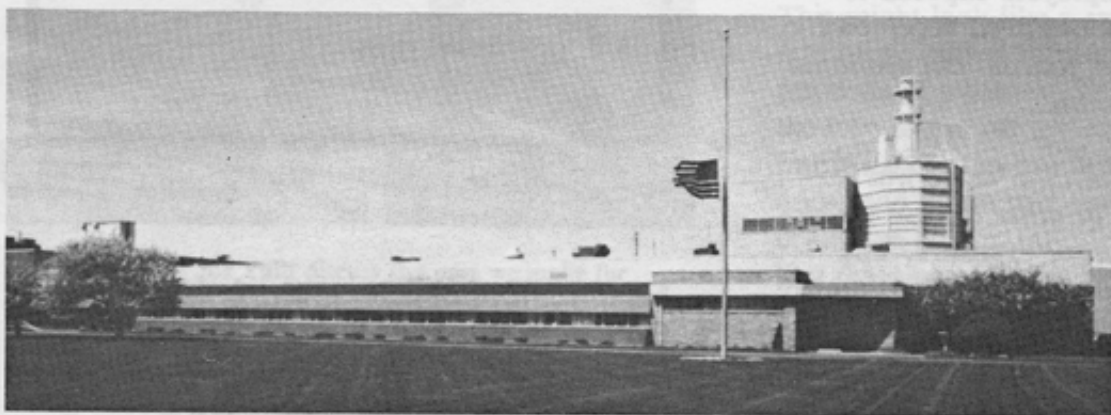




ROSITE[®] INSIGHT

The Rostone Newsletter



A PROFILE OF ROSTONE

ROSTONE HISTORY - In 1926, David Ross, who founded Ross Gear (now TRW) and Fairfield Mfg., encouraged a young Purdue professor, Richard Harrison, to develop a new synthetic building stone. By 1927, Harrison had developed a chemical process using a local shale and hydrate of lime to form a material that could be colored and pressed into shapes for building siding. Ross, Harrison and Harry Peffer (also of Purdue) then founded Rostone to develop, manufacture and market this material.

By 1933, model homes had been built for the Chicago World Fair, and several homes in Lafayette had been sided with Rostone. At the same time, Allen-Bradley of Milwaukee approached Rostone to encourage the development of an electrical insulating material for the growing electrical controls market. By 1937, the Depression had killed the building material program, but ROSTONE was firmly established in the cold molding of electrical parts made of inorganic insulating material.

In addition to the electrical market, Rostone also serves the automotive and business machine markets, for applications requiring strong light-weight material that can hold close tolerances.

Rostone also compounds its proprietary formulations for our customers who do their own molding. We have licensed manufacturers in Puerto Rico, Japan and Taiwan to compound Rosite for their own use.

Rostone is staffed with scientists, engineers and technicians who develop new compounds for our customer's applications.

Most of our customer relationships go back many years. As our customers design new products and require new materials, our technology department works closely with the design engineers to develop and test new materials. Also, new processes and continual improvement to drive down costs are required to remain competitive.

MOST ROSTONE EMPLOYEES have been with us for many years; the average being around 15 years. They expect their experience to be utilized and to be involved in continual improvements and solving problems. They are capable of communicating with customers. The processes are complex and precise documentation is required, so the ability to understand these instructions, measure products, perform mathematical calculations and make process corrections is critical. Rostone is proud of the work ethic and dedication of its employees. It's strongest resource is its people.

Despite extensive experience, competition requires we continually learn new skills and achieve international recognition for our quality systems and performance. Training is an ongoing program.

ROSTONE'S FUTURE is based on focusing and building on our fundamental strengths . . . aggressive materials development, long-term customer relationships, enlisting the experience of our people for continual improvement in driving down customer costs and improving service, good financial management, and looking beyond the short term. We are in a rebuilding mode and have our work cut out for us. The future of Rostone is in our hands, and it's up to us to regain the market leadership.

A WORD OF REASSURANCE

Information currently received from the Styrene Information and Research Center (SIRC) related that:

Recently, a researcher, Dr. Otto Wong, completed a study of employees exposed to Styrene. His manuscript has been accepted for publication in the British journal *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*.

Dr. Wong concluded that . . . "*there was no increased risk of cancer or other disease which could be attributed to styrene exposure. The study was able to provide remarkably complete data on nearly 16,000 workers.*"

As a result, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France has concluded that there is inadequate human data to establish any increased risk of cancer as a result of exposure to styrene.

IARC is the group that a few years ago (based on limited data from studies on rats) prompted a label of "probable carcinogen" -- later reduced to "possible carcinogen" to be attached to styrene.

This new and more extensive research appears to have changed their minds.

** CORRECTION **

In last month's newsletter, in the article on ISO 9000, there was a statement that said our ISO certification program will probably take from 12-14 weeks. What it should have said was that our ISO certification program will probably take from 12-14 months.

I apologize for this error.

N. Haab



Make yourself happier -- *simply by smiling*. Even when artificially induced, a happy smile produces the same brain changes that occur during spontaneous moments of joy and delight.

Paul Eckman, PhD



GOOD LISTENERS
ARE NOT ONLY POPULAR
EVERYWHERE, BUT AFTER A
WHILE, THEY KNOW SOMETHING TOO.



We're sorry to report the death of Gene Robbins. Gene worked at Rostone 16 years, most recently in the mix room.



HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!!!





Larry Batta and Joe Yuill discuss the part we make for Colorado Memory. It's the small black part in the center.

COLORADO MEMORY PART NO. 03306-100

We have just started production on a new part for Colorado Memory Corp. of Loveland, Colorado. This *"tape transport carriage"* is used in their hard drive back-up systems for PC's. This unit stores all the information you have on the hard drive of your computer onto a cassette for safekeeping. That way, if your hard drive crashes, lightning or a current spike hits your computer, all the time you spent putting information into your computer is not lost. We have an earlier model of the Colorado Memory back-up system in our computer area.

This unit will not only go into their new model, but be designed into some of their older models due to its lower cost. The estimated usage starts out at 8,000 pieces per month, but climbs to 35,000 per month by April 1995. It may even require that an additional mold be built to keep up with the demand.

Colorado Memory is a new customer for us. They came to us. Fred Stephens, the product engineer for the unit, used to work for Genicom Corp.

They are the end users of the large printer frame we mold for TEC America (03023-100). Fred was impressed with the job we did on that part so he directed this new part from his new company our way. This proves that the impression you make on someone can mean additional business opportunities down the road.

This might look like a small insignificant part, but it is by no means as simple as it looks. Errors of fractions of a thousandth of an inch would cause the tape to run off and render the unit inoperative. For instance, the two bearings bored that are out at the end of the part must be on the same centerline within .0015". What makes it worse is that these two bearing bores are on opposite sides of the mold from each other. That is by far the tightest across parting line tolerances we have ever held! This did not come easy. Our tool room (Jim Dickison) spent some 143 hours tuning these critical dimensions in. Quality Assurance (Gerry McClure) spent approximately 110 hours checking steel, running capability studies, etc.

The design of this mold used some new innovations that we have been introducing here at Rostone. One is the use of "in-mold degate". This concept is the use of an additional ejector bar to move blades of steel to pinch off the gate before the plastic cures out. This not only leaves a smooth "as molded" surface but saves money elsewhere. There is no need for a gate cutter, and in this case, **saves approximately \$30,000**. The operator is given more time to inspect the parts, maybe even deflash them and pack at the press. It also eliminates the dust problems we encounter with gate sawing.

The mold was designed and built by Artisan Tool & Die of Muncie, Indiana.

Drop by the lunch room display case and take a look at the unit built into their assembly.

Larry Batta, Sr. Product Engineer

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Don Peters	30 years	5/11/94
Charlie Davison	30 years	5/27/94
Connie Hart	20 years	5/13/94
Alice Myers	20 years	5/13/94
Terry Hufford	20 years	5/15/94
Dwight Davis	20 years	5/24/94

WELCOME TO OUR NEW "SUMMER" EMPLOYEES

Shawn Johns	Chip Jessee	Jeremy Spencer
Marcus Whitaker	Robert Enochs	Ryan Gilbert

Planning your Memorial Day weekend? Don't forget the discounted tickets we have for Kings Island. See Jackie Jessee in Human Resources.



KINGS ISLAND

Save off the general admission price of \$25.95 by purchasing your Good-Any-Day tickets in advance.

Contact Jackie Jessee

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YOUR PRICES

1-Day Tickets
Adults--\$18.50
Children or
Seniors--\$13.50
2-Day Tickets
Adults--\$27.00
Children or
Seniors--\$19.00

Children tickets are for ages 3-6, children under 2 are free; seniors must be 60 or over.

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GOLF OUTING



The first golf outing of 1994 was enjoyed by 32 fun seeking, sun seeking golfers, some pretty good -- some not quite as good, but all enjoyed a picture perfect day. Sunburns were showing forth radiantly by mid-day. Cans and bottles of liquid refreshment were the order of the day as the temperature edged into the eighties. Thankfully, golf scores tended to be lower. The number of lost golf balls was reported to be considerably higher. The number of

golf balls in the pond surrounding the 18th green was so great the water was spilling over the banks. Two powered golf carts with occupants were reported to have slid off the gravel cart path and into the creek at the bottom of the hill on hole 15. However, this could not be confirmed.

Two teams tied for **third place** in this select shot event, at one-over-par. They were the teams of **Greg Hilbert, Paul Andrews, Ted Harvey, Mel Dickison and Kevin Williams, Darwin Keller, Jack Dulin, Jean Hall.**

Second place honors, at a score of one-under-par, went to the team of **Mark Killian, Bill Robinson, Bill Moore and Roger Keller.**

Top team of the day taking **first place** at three-under-par, included **Dave Williams, Dan Martin, Jim Spalding and Dave Terry.**

Individual prizes for skillful (or just plain lucky) shots were:

Longest Putt	Hole #1	Greg Helm
Longest Drive	Hole #6	Mark Killian
Closest to the Pin	Hole #9	Greg Helm
Longest Drive	Hole #10	Andy Hill
Closest to the Pin	Hole #15	Mark Killian
Longest Putt	Hole #18	Leo Farrell

The next select shot, team golf outing is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 7:30 a.m., at Oak Grove Golf Course in Oxford. Put the date on your schedule and come join in for a fun-filled, relaxing day of golf. You too will be saying, "I love this game!!"



S. Jean Hall