

ROSITEMS

Est. 1953

Last Issue From U.S. 52 Location

May 2005

Plant Closing Announced

It has been announced that the Lafayette Facility will close its doors on May 20th, 2005.

The Rostone molding business has been purchased by Kurz-Kasch, a leading manufacturer of: Conventional and Encapsulated Coils and Stators, Engineered Composite Components and Subassemblies, Magnetic/Electrical/Electronic Sensing Devices, and High Performance Solenoids, based in Dayton, Ohio.

The sale was made final on March 1st. This comes just a month after the sale of the compounding operations and the Rosite formulations to Industrial Dielectrics, Inc. (IDI) based in Noblesville, Indiana.



The Mix Room Move is Complete

You have seen or heard the equipment being hauled out of the mix room. March 21st will be the first Monday, since the beginning, Rostone will operate without a mix / compounding department or a materials development lab.

We will purchase the Rosite mix from IDI and will still purchase a few other materials as we have been. Many have worked in the Mix Room and Lab over the years and much of Rostone's reputation was built upon the material formulation and skill of those departments.

The Press Room Move has Begun

Many tools have already been transferred to Kurz-Kasch's Wilmington, Ohio plant. We still have quite a few tools yet to run and orders to fill. All of the Rostone employees have worked with the same attention to detail as always. There has been no drop in the overall product quality or the attitude toward doing the job right. This only further proves the character and tradition of the Rostone worker. As we know, full production will be complete in May and we expect to see a lot of equipment moving out of the building between now and then.



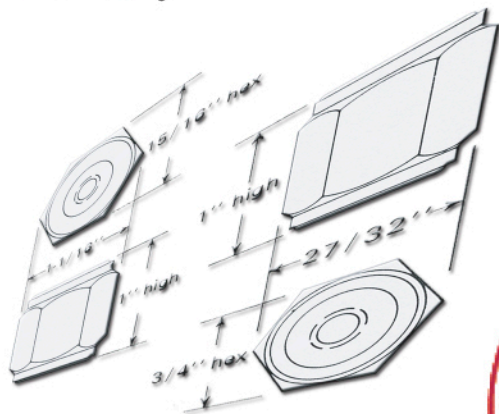
ORC Plastics, Rostone Facility

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Short History

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 Pepper (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 served the automotive and business machine markets, for applications requiring strong light-weight material that can hold close tolerances. Rostone also compounded its proprietary thermoset polyester formulations, ROSITE, for customers who do their own fiberglass reinforced thermoset molding.

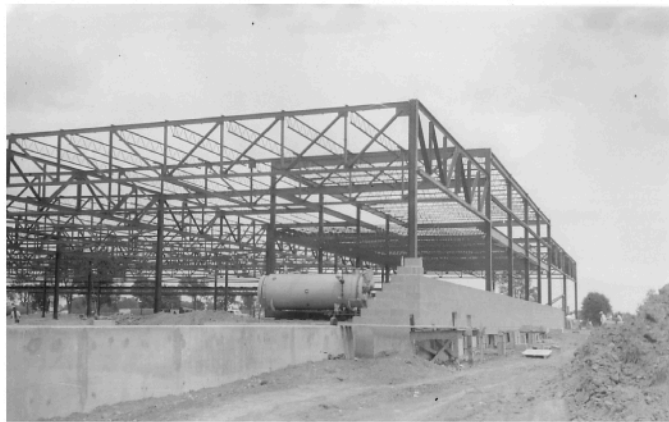


2450 Sagamore Parkway South



First Molding at Sagamore Plant

Without benefit of fireworks, searchlights or other fanfare associated with a first run feature, Charles Oliver made the first molding on the 750 Ton press at the new plant. This momentous occasion occurred at 1:00 P.M. on May 2, 1957. Assistance at this milestone was given by Brent Floyd on mixer, and Herb Buchanan on finishing tools. ROSITEMS, May 1957



For more history visit www.rostone.com or www.rostone.org

ROSTONE

Rostone Milestones

1927 - Rostone established

1932 - U.S. Patent Office grants a patent for an inorganic compound and the "process" to produce the material named Rosite®

1937 - Rosite® trademark granted (Electrical insulating compounds)

1956 - U.S. Patent Office grants a patent for "composite" material

1957 - Rostone develops polyester compounds

1958 - Lafayette (Indiana) manufacturing plant and HQ opens

1964 - Rostone begins license-relationship with Asahi Glass Co. (Japan)

1964 - Rostone acquired by the Allen-Bradley Company

1985 - Rostone internal mgmt. Team completes an L.B.O.

1985 - Rostone participates with

Westinghouse in a joint-venture (Puerto Rico)

1985 - License arrangement established with Japanese manufacturer

1985 - License arrangement established with Taiwan, R.O.C.

1990 - Private investment firm acquires Rostone

1993 - Joint-venture in Puerto Rico replaced by license arrangement

1994 - Rostone initiates formal procedures and plan for ISO-9002 certification

1995 - Rostone recommended for ISO-9002 registration in August 1995

1999 - Rostone becomes ORC Plastics, Rostone Facility

- Rostone achieves QS9000 registration

2005 - Industrial Dielectrics, Inc. purchases Rosite® name and formulations

2005 - The Rostone business is sold to Kurz-Kasch and Lafayette operations are discontinued

Reunion Sign-Up

There are many of us that would like to get together and eat, visit, talk about old times, cook-out, or just say hello.

There is a sign-up sheet going around to fill-out so you can be contacted about a Rostone reunion. There is not set date, but sign-up so you can get together with the people you spent so much time with all these years.

See Mike Johns if you haven't signed up!

Employment After Rostone

Many of us are, or will be soon, hitting the pavement in search of a new job. Although there are many job search methods, finding the right job is quite a challenge. The Indiana Work force Development is your first stop.

The Department of Workforce Development's web site is <http://www.in.gov/dwd/> There you can register, search for jobs and file for unemployment.

Editor's Note:

Thanks to All

The Remaining Few

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those that stuck with us. It has been difficult over the past few years and it is a amazing we have made it this long...

We have worked with little and have accomplished a great deal. We successfully supplied General Motors as a Tier 1 supplier, adjusted to smaller runs using near worn equipment while meeting tighter quality requirements, and maintained our QS9000 registration. We all made significant contributions.

I don't have the years at Rostone as most, but I have come to feel as if I have been a "Rostonian" for years. Well, you know what I mean...

I can't help but to imagine what we could have accomplished with newer equipment, materials available when we needed them, and the time to grow the business.

Again, I wish the best for all and,

I would like to say "Thanks".

I have enjoyed working with everyone! Take care.

- Dave Thomas 1998 - 2005

Rostone Molds More Than Just Parts

Like many people have done, I came to Rostone as a young adult looking to work a few years and move on to something better. I started out in Cold Mold Dept learning how to eat dust and asbestos for a living. In later years I moved up to fiberglass and dust. The real journey was started and I didn't even know it was happening. The job was good and paid well. Work wasn't hard and conditions were ok. The hook was the people. It was like a family setting. People were friendly, willing to jump in and help at work or after work. We socialize several times a year with different things put on by Rostone with our families. All were welcome. Spending a third of each day with co-workers, sharing experiences throughout the years with different people in different situations was a learning experience. Some were things that help me choose the best way to do things, others taught me what to stay away from. Rostone helped mold me into the person that I am today.

It will be sad to know that after 37 years Rostone will no longer be a part of my daily life but I truly want to thank every person I worked **with** over those years. I have memories that I will keep for the rest of my life, good and bad, they all are worth keeping.

As I have done for many years and will do for many more to come. I'll pray everyday that GOD will bless and protect each of you and be the strength of your life.

Hope to see many of you in the future days, GOOD LUCK in everything you do.

MIKE JOHNS

1968-2005