

SPENCER EVENING WORLD

A NEWSPAPER DEDICATED TO THE PROGRESS AND BEST INTEREST OF OWEN COUNTY

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Spencer's Rostone Plant: 25 Years Old And Growing

Rostone Corporation, Owen County's largest industrial employer, recently celebrated its first quarter-century here in Spencer with officials of the company looking to the 26th year with an extremely optimistic forecast.

1977 marked the 25th year for the local plant and, at the same time, the home plant in Lafayette celebrated 50 years in the production of a multitude of molded plastic products for the electrical industry.

The Spencer plant now employs 159 persons to operate the facility on an around the clock basis...including 11 employees who have been with Rostone ever since the local plant began operation in 1952.

Willis Sampson, General Manager of the local plant and a Corporation Vice-President, holds the earliest employment date, starting with the company in Lafayette on October 6, 1939. Manufacturing manager William "Bill" Cole is second on the list with his employment beginning in March, 1946 while Press Supervisor Ernie Morrison is third, beginning in June, 1947.

Other employees with 25 or more continuous years service include quality control supervisor Robert McKay, maintenance supervisor Turner Franklin, quality control and production engineering manager Bernard Bucklew, personnel and administration manager Wade Allbritten, inspector Harry Lawrence, group leader Donald Edwards, finisher Clarence Hawkins, inspector Martin Lee and die shop manager Delbert Davis.

During the first 25 years growth has been steady at the local facility as the entire Rostone operation has become one of the top producers in a highly competitive marketing field.

Growth here is visible in the physical plant but also in employment as well as financial input into the community through wages.

Beginning as a small plant in 1952 the total hourly wage for that first year was just under \$64,000. By 1960 it had grown to nearly \$273,000, by 1966 to \$409,000 and this past year, 1977, the total hourly wages distributed to employees was \$1,390,145.86! Adding about \$300,000 in salaried employees wages the total input into the community from Rostone during '77 totaled nearly 1.7 million dollars...a giant slice of the total local economic picture.

The major growth over the past six or seven years has resulted from a combination of



Rostone Corporation, East Franklin Street, Spencer

52 Employees Led Rostone Through That First Year Of Production In Spencer

Persons who were employed on an hourly basis at Rostone during the first full year of production in 1952 included:

Clock

1. Turner Franklin, maintenance
2. James Hendricks, maintenance
3. Donald Malicoat, press operator
4. Robert McKay, inspection and press
5. Roscoe Wm. Close, mixer

factors including expansion in facilities and employees, a program to place Rostone on a competitive pay scale with other industry in the area... and of course, inflation. The growth has been impressive but new plant manager Rod Vandever indicates the brightest days are still in the future for the Spencer plant.

6. Loren Barnett, press operator
7. Harold J. Stantz, press operator
8. Harry Kirton, (transfer from Lafayette), press operator
9. Bernard Bucklew, (transfer from Lafayette), finisher
10. Troy Breeden, maintenance
11. Maurice Hetsler, press operator
12. Floyd Jones, press operator
13. Stephen Poulton, finisher
14. Roy Freeman, finisher
15. Roger C. Baysinger, press operator
16. Albert Hanson, press operator
17. Horace Max Mills, finisher
18. Harry Lawrence, press operator
19. Robert McGinnis, press

- operator
20. Hubert Baumgartner, press operator
21. Marion Snyder, mixer
22. Lora M. Rumble, clerical
23. Paul L. Adams, mixer
24. Donald O. Edwards, finisher
25. Larry Wm. Hopkins, Finisher
26. Donald Glen Terrell, mixer
27. Robert Baugh, finisher
28. Clarence Hawkins, finisher
29. Lloyd James Thacker, finisher
30. Martin Lee, mixer
31. Ernie Morrison (transfer from Lafayette), press foreman
32. Jimmy H. O'Neal, finisher
33. Raymond Witt, finisher
34. Richard Hendricks, mixer
35. Robert Hancock, inspector
36. Dewey Coster, mixer
37. Lawrence Williams, in-

38. Hezekiah Blaney, janitor
39. Bruce Edgar Stwalley, finisher
40. Lester Leroy Winkler, mixer
41. John Marion Page, finisher
42. Joseph Wayne Wilson, finisher
43. Kemp Dickerson, finisher
44. William L. Jennings, finisher
45. Francis Clark, finisher
46. Donald O. Bingham, finisher
47. Richard Claude Powell, finisher
48. Ralph Hubert Watson, finisher
49. Robert Lee Wilson, pressman
50. James Frederick Nickless, pressman
51. Thomas Earl Edwards, finisher
52. Garold Earl Franklin, finisher