SPENCER **EVENING NORLD**

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 multiof 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 March, 1946 while Press Supervisor Ernie Morrison is third, beginning in June, 1947.

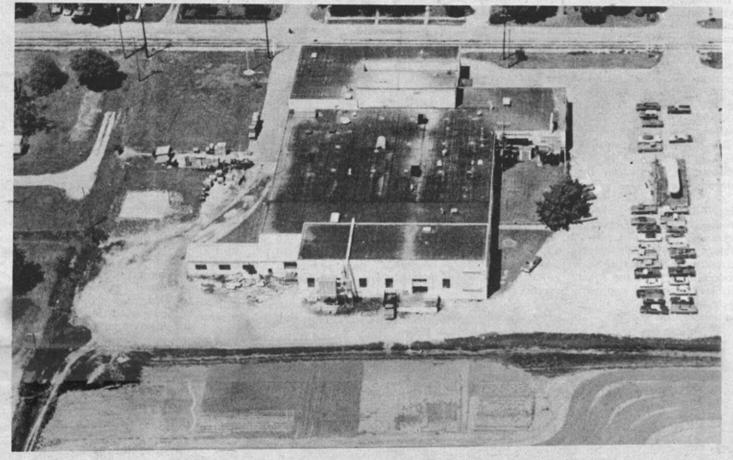
Other employees with 25 or more continuous years service include quality control supervisor Robert McKay, maintesupervisor Turner nance Franklin, quality control and production engineering manager Bernard Bucklew, personnel and administration manager Wade Allbritten, inspector Harry Lawrence, group leader 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:

- 1. Turner Franklin, mainte-
- 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 Vandeveer indicates the brightest days are still in the operator 37. Lawrence Williams, infuture for the Spencer plant. 19. Robert McGinnis, press spector

- 6. Loren Barnett, press operator
- 7. Harold J. Stantz, press operator
- 8. Harry Kirton, (transfer Lafayette), press from operator
- Bernard Bucklew, (transfer from Lafayette), finisher
- 10. Troy Breeden, mainte-
- 11. Maurice Hetser, press operator
- 12. Floyd Jones, press oper-
- Stephen Poulton, finisher
- Roy Freeman, finisher 15. Roger C. Baysinger, press
- operator 16. Albert Hanson, press operator
- Horace Max Mills, finisher 18. Harry Lawrence, press

- 20. Hubert Baumgartner,
- press operator 21. Marion Snyder, mixer
- 22. Lora M. Rumple, clerical
- 23. Paul L. Adams, mixer 24. Donald O. Edwards,
- finisher 25. Larry Wm. Hopkins, Fin-
- 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
- 32. Jimmy H. O'Neal, finisher
- 33. Raymond Witt, finisher .
- 34. Richard Hendricks, mixer 35. Robert Hancock, inspector
- 36. Dewey Coster, mixer

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