



—Staff Photos by Edward C. Hanson

Greene Plastic Corp. now has its own plant in a former Hope Valley mill. Firm previously occupied three Wakefield buildings.

Prepares for Future

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Future growth—both of the firm itself and of its product line—was planned for in Greene Plastic Corp.'s move into its own plant on Canonchet Road, Hope Valley.

A third important factor also was involved—consolidation of all of its activities under one roof.

The company was formerly located in Wakefield where its operations were crowded into three buildings.

It now has more than twice the space it formerly occupied, making possible a well planned production flow, reduced handling and more efficient overall operation.

In its newly-acquired plant—formerly occupied by Warner Bros. Co., manufacturers of foundation garments—it has ample room for the installation of additional equipment that will permit the firm's entrance into new fields.

Among the projected new products is a line of marine hardware and other proprietary items.

Larger Plant Needed

Since the company is set up to do both injection and compression molding, space in which to expand production facilities was the one remaining major essential.

Compression molded items in the marine hardware field will be the first of the new products. Some of these have already been designed, and in some instances, samples have been produced.

Up to this time Greene Plastics has chiefly served the costume jewelry field with buttons, findings and watch bracelet inserts.

Some of these items are made by the injection molding process. Compression molding facilities also permit the company to produce a better grade of these items, scratch resistant and suitable for subsequent plating.

Its new 13,000 square foot plant has provided room in which to segregate operations and thus remove the danger of contamination.

An example is the pilling department, where machines compress the various powdered raw materials into "pills" or "tablets,"

carefully sized to fit the cavities in the compression molding equipment.

Color is often added to the raw materials before the pilling operation as talcum powder, they are frequently carried about in the air, causing contamination.

To solve the problem—particularly troublesome when color contamination takes place—Greene Plastics has devoted a section in its new plant to separate enclosures or booths for each of the pilling machines.

Suitably Located

Location of the new plant was also an important factor to the company, since it serves customers both in the Providence and New York areas. Less than an hour's run from this city, it is only a mile from a popular New York highway.

The Canonchet Road site is proving desirable to the help as well, with good fishing on its own ponds and the availability of a nearby golf course.

Greene Plastics was established in 1932 by Watson Greene, and

first operated with five employees in Stonington, Conn. It was moved to Wakefield in 1941.

Present management purchased it in 1952, forming a corporation that comprises G. W. Blunt White, board chairman; William Blunt White, president and treasurer; Walter Cole Jr., assistant treasurer, and Frances Clarke, secretary. The production manager is Francis Card.

Today it employs 45 people, most of whom were with the firm in Wakefield and are commuting to the new location under a nine-month transportation program being financed by the company.

Operation of a profit sharing plan was a factor in the retention of the staff despite the move. Shared profits are deposited each year to the workers' credit in a fund that is administered by a profit sharing committee with bank trusteeship. Under the plan, a worker leaving the employ of the company, receives 10 per cent of his share of the fund after three years, 25 per cent after five years, 50 per cent after 10 years, 75 per

cent after 15 years and all of it after 20 years.

While the company produces items used almost exclusively by other manufacturers, it has one operation in which an end product is involved.

This is the making of lapel pins for blood donors. The company has turned out many thousands of the pins given donors of a pint donation and a more elaborate number for those who have donated a gallon of blood.



Future plastic earring buttons enter compression machine.