

Thomas Bata brought in equipment and set up his manufacturing in the paperboard plant while he built his shoe factory and housing for his employees at the site that became known as Batawa, south of Frankford just past Hydro Generating Station Number 5. He brought eighty two of his key Czech workers with him and started manufacturing shoes in the paper plant. They came with almost nothing and all they were allowed to bring was \$100. Many of them lived at local boarding houses in Frankford such as the one owned by Jack's sister-in-law, Nellie Carr. On July 9th the first Bata Shoe Company machinery arrived in Frankford. It came by boat from Montreal to Trenton and by truck to the plant. Jack picked up Joe Neubaumer and Harry McGregor, both with the company, and brought them home for tea.

The head office of Bata Shoe Company was in Czechoslovakia. The war had not progressed to the point of cutting off communications. The first call to Czechoslovakia lasted for over a half hour. The cost was \$151.00. Jack was so interested in that call that he went to Thomas Bata and asked how he got along with it. Bata said that if Jack could provide that kind of service, that's all they could ask for. At that time they just had individual lines, but shortly after that Jack installed a magneto switchboard in their plant in Frankford. That was the beginning of a good working relationship between Thomas Bata and Jack.

As the war in Europe escalated, the Czech workers were supervised by the RCMP who were suspicious of them. Canadian authorities, however, soon learned that they needed these kinds of skilled people. Bata told the Canadian government that if they would give them the materials, they would make the machines to manufacture what was needed to win the war. These skilled men that Bata brought to Canada were able to make lathes for war equipment. Local businesses had just come out of the Great Depression and were trying to get going again. Immediately local wholesalers were trying to sell them everything. The Bata company gave a big boost to the local economy by starting to buy great quantities of materials from them.

Apart from their work for Bata, Jack and Karl were installing new telephones around Wooler and Frankford nearly every day. More people were also upgrading from wall telephones to the latest cradle sets. These new accounts gave Jack the necessary capital to buy the equipment for the new shoe factory and the village at Batawa.

On July 17th Jack bought a Number 1800 Northern Electric switchboard for the Bata plant for \$20. from Harry McCreary of the McCreary Telephone Company in Hastings. He and Karl spent the next few days working on it to bring it up to their standards and finally installed it on July 26th, followed by a number of telephones. Jack's daughter, Roma, went to the Bata plant to work at the switchboard and train the operators. Later she worked while the main operator was on holiday. Jack and Karl then put up a trunk line from the Bata office to the Frankford office. Mr. Bata requested two telephones for his residence: one to connect to the regular Frankford switchboard and one to connect to their own switchboard at the Batawa plant.

Jack bought the Bell Telephone Company line along the Trenton airport. On September 5th he sent Karl and a crew of workmen to take down the wire, using the new reel on the truck. This continued for the next ten days, followed by removing cross arms and taking down poles. Jack sold one hundred and twenty eight ten-pin cross arms to Haldiman Municipal for \$1.00 each, and he hired Aylmer Dorland to truck the poles to Wooler.

The diary entries end there, and at the end of 1939 Jack summed up the year.

The Bata Shoe Company have steadily progressed and we have at Dec. 31 fourteen phones in the factory connected to the Bata board and two trunk lines connected to our downtown office and two phones at their new plant site, one for the Bldg dept. and one for McFarland Construction Company. They have about sixty houses near completion and factory ready to glass in.

The latter part of October we built a piece of line for Bell and ourselves from Cleveland Bake Shop on Mill Street to corporation limits south of the village of Frankford.