

THIS IS NO HULA HOOP, says Liz Campbell of one of the largest nylon castings made in Canada by Polypenco. A dryer gear ring for the pulp and paper industry it is one of many nylon castings made at the Acton plant. (Staff Photo)



PLAYING CRIBBAGE with vice-president Mr. Clark is a few feet behind? Actually, Lloyd Anger is adjusting what is called a "rotor board" to enable combination action in an organ presently under construction at Keates Organ Company Ltd. (Staff Photo)

International sales

Central location and ceilings high enough to store 18-foot organ pipes brought Keates Organ Company to Acton six years ago from Lucas, Ontario.

The plant is located in the industrial centre at the end of Frederick Street.

There are only about four such organ companies across Canada, so Keates fills orders for far away places. At the present time they are in the process of finishing a huge colonial-style organ for Ironbridge Church of Christ in Rochester, New York and another large organ to be shipped to British Columbia.

A few years ago, the company constructed an organ for the home of Virgil Fox, the famous American organist who lives in Englewood, New Jersey.

Dieter Geisler, who began working with organs at 14 in Germany and has been in the business for 22 years, is what is termed the voice in the Acton plant. He tunes the pipes with

a tuning fork much the way pianos are tuned.

He explains that it takes about three months to construct an organ from start to finish, depending on its size. All of the construction is done in the plant by about 10 people.

Over 200 different pipes are imported from Europe. "We could manufacture our own but it is to our advantage to import them," says Mr. Geisler.

The special timber used in construction is brought in for the most part from Kitchener and Toronto. Common types used are California redwood, yellow poplar, oak, and sugar pine.

Five or six finished organs are shipped out each year depending on the size.

The plant President, Mr. Keates, formerly of Acton, lives in British Columbia. Vice-president Clark of Galt runs the plant. Most of the employees live in Acton.



THE 'ORGAN VOICER' Dieter Geisler has been working with organs for 22 years. His good ear for sounds enables him to tune about 200 different kinds of pipes used in a large organ.

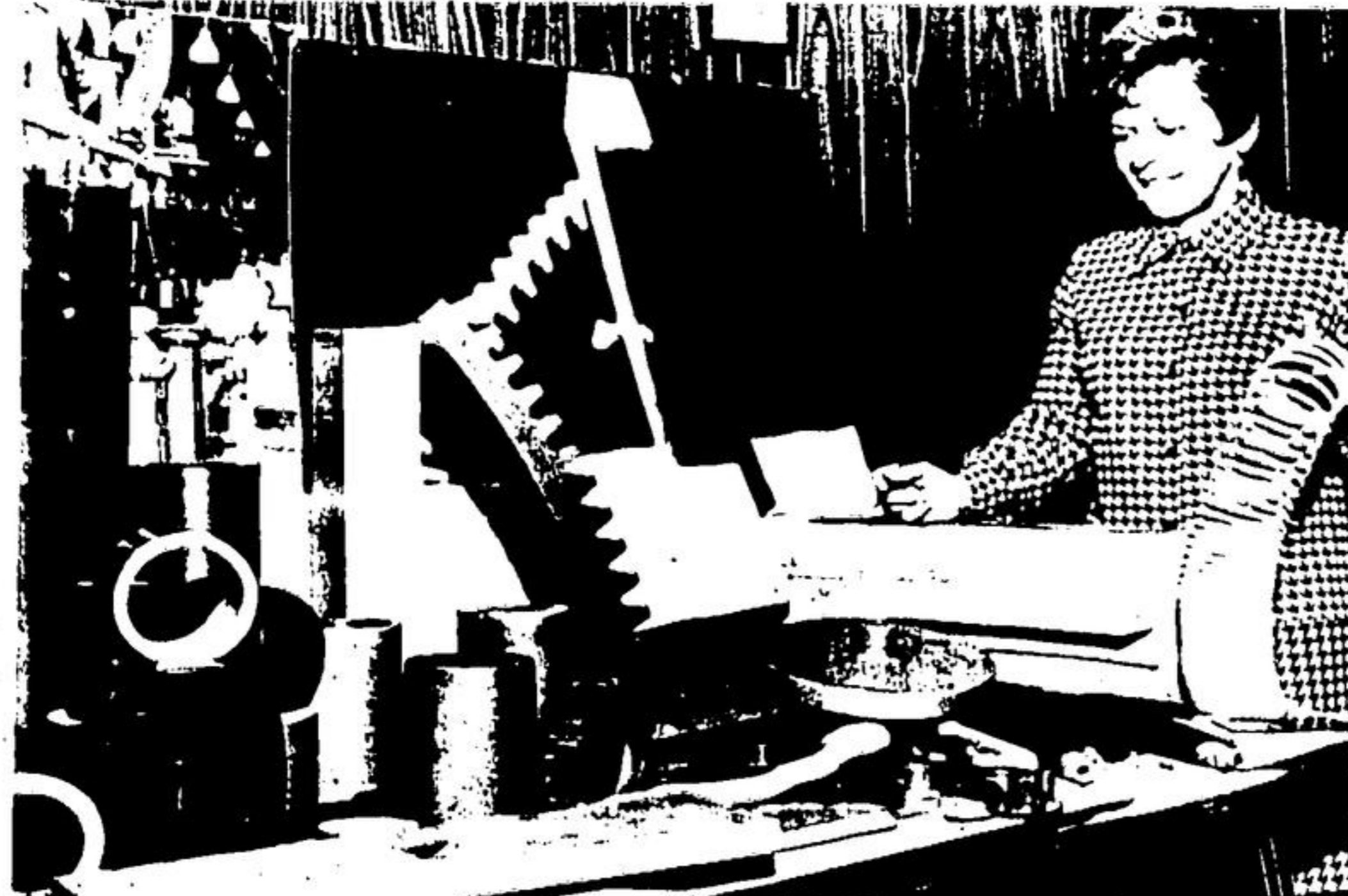
INSIGHT



ACTON



WALTER FOCHT came to Acton from Reading, Pennsylvania, to manage Polypenco in August, 1967. He likes the town and finds life here "wonderful." (Staff Photo)



MANY OF THE 4,000 items distributed from the Acton plant of Polypenco are on display. Irene Thorenton, a Guelph resident who works in the office, ticks off an order for nylon castings which outlast brass and bronze by as much as five times. (Staff Photo)

KEATES ORGAN COMPANY LIMITED

"CUSTOM BUILT"

PIPE ORGANS

100 FREDERICK ST. — ACTON

853-1510

Polypenco

New industry new product

One of Acton's newest industries, Polypenco started production here in February, 1967, in what is known as the "old Wool Combing building" but is officially called the Acton Manufacturing Centre.

One of three companies in the world which casts nylons, Polypenco has just started to click on the Canadian market.

A subsidiary of the giant U.S. Polymer Corporation which originally pioneered the manufacture of nylon mill shapes for machining and fabrication on standard metalworking equipment, Polypenco has developed new techniques in its Acton plant for the Canadian market.

Originally the Acton plant was established to produce nylon refrigeration hose for the Ford Motor Co. Production started in February, 1967. A costly strike at Ford cost the company the contract, however, and it turned to manufacturing and distributing the 4,000 nylon castings, fabricated parts, molding resins, engineering plastic mill shapes, tubing and hoisting made by the company for use in industrial and consumer equipment.

Mill shapes of nylon are machined into components which have unusual wear resistance and low

surface friction outlasting conventional brass and bronze castings by as much as five times.

Response on the Canadian market "doubting Thomases" about claims was slow at first. However, now the demand is increasing and products are being accepted more readily as they acquire a reputation.

It is quite possible the Acton plant will soon have a new production line to occupy the space formerly used to produce hose.

Walter Focht, plant manager, who came here from Reading, Pennsylvania, is enthused about the possibilities of the Canadian market for the company. They produce one of the largest nylon castings done in Canada at the plant here - a dryer gear ring for a pulp and paper mill.

It's a sample of bigger things to come for the small extension of the large present company.

There are seven employees at Polypenco now. Plant foreman is Dave Hartman of Rockwood, Jacob Dawilke, Fritz DeHaan and Juanita Lamarshe work in the plant, Liz Campbell and Irene Thorenton in the office.

Walter Focht finds life in Acton "wonderful." He likes the freedom the small town gives and its good location in the rich Ontario industrial market.



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MANUFACTURERS OF
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