

Second of a series

Blow Press sells around the world

by Helen Murray
It was about 50 years ago when Fred Blow started making metal stamping presses at 153 Perth St. Six men worked for him.

Canada, he says, but they also export to the United States, Australia and Scotland.
Some of the presses stamp out parts for fridges and toasters and other appliances, but Mr. Blow estimates 85 per cent of their presses are sold to subcontractors in the automotive business.

The 'big four', General Motors, Chrysler, Ford and American Motors are their main customers.
The average press takes approximately six months from the first requisition to the delivery. The plant can be working on six at one time, Mr. Blow says.

At the present time, a building extension is under construction to house a ten ton travelling crane. This will help in the building of their 300 ton presses. The new area is also going to be used for. With the expansion comes the need for three or four more employees. People working at Blow Press are machinists or mechanic operators. All have taken special courses at polytechnical institutes and many have started their practical experience in the Acton plant. "We just don't hire anyone off the street," Mr. Blow explained.

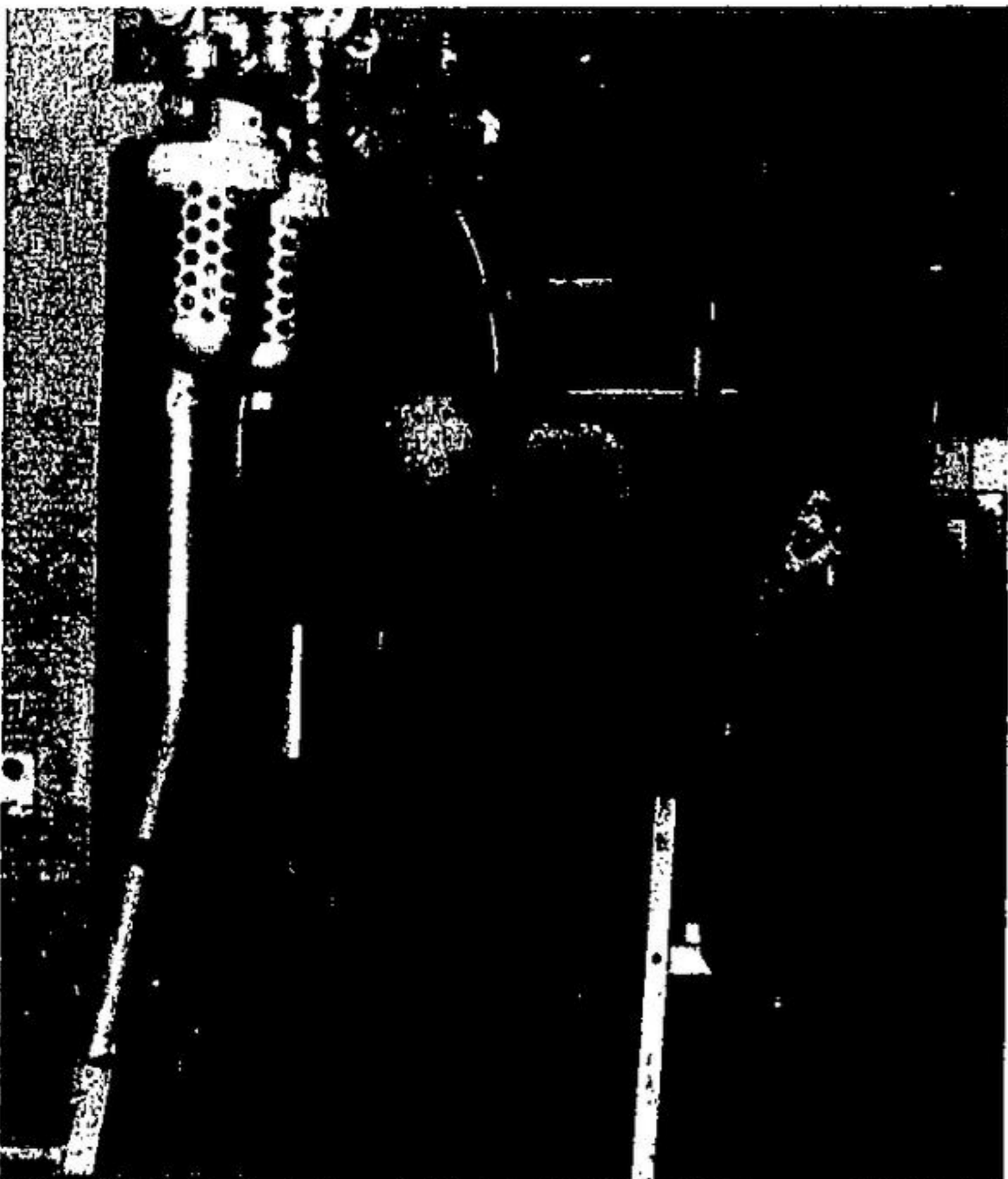
There is not much competition in the metal stamping press business. However, what there is all in Ontario. There are other similar plants in Galt and Hamilton.
Mr. Blow started with the firm when his father died 30 years ago. Many of his employees are long-standing, and about half live in Acton.



Ken Blow and Blow Press plant manager Ed Wilson work together to keep the firm operating. The business employs about 25 men.



Working on a radial drill at Blow Press, Perth St., is John Smit. The firm has been making metal stamping presses for about 50 years, with customers all over the world.



Edward Molody works on the assembly of a 400 ton metal stamping press at Blow Press. The press weighs 75 tons and will soon be transported to its new owner in Kitchener.

Cabinet Order may be sought to stop proceeding

Milton Mayor Don Gordon feels a petition for an Order in Cabinet may eventually be necessary to halt Site F from becoming a regional landfill site.
Mr. Gordon told The Champion he now doubts the Ontario Municipal Board will send official notice to the region that it may begin to apply for certification of the area as the next regional dump.
"We have to remember the OMB made a decision

but they haven't given an approval," he said.
If the region does receive written approval to proceed, Mr. Gordon said the next step would involve a hearing before the Environmental Assessment Board.
As is at this point Mr. Gordon said it would result in the town and probably the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens Group bringing in "new evidence" in the form of the move to get Site A on stream.

Site A is the National Sewer Pipe, 200-acre shale pit which sits between two dumps in Burlington.
"We also know the OMB will re-open the hearing at any time if new evidence comes along," Mr. Gordon said.
He believes that should a consultant's report show the National Sewer Pipe land to be suitable for a landfill site, this would easily constitute new evidence.
He told this newspaper he is convinced most regional councillors would opt for Site A as the regional landfill site, should it become available.

Policy meeting draws criticism

There will be no more regional policy meetings without all members of regional council being informed.
A recent meeting between the Ministry of Housing, the four Halton mayors, and the four municipal planners, has caused deep resentment because regional councillors were not told of the meeting and not invited.
Councillor Terry Mannell said the incident

"should not be allowed to happen again".
Burlington Councillor Joan Allingham said, "I don't intend to be as charitable about this thing as Mr. Mannell has just been."
She said the four mayors and planners had no business discussing planning on such a scale, as it should involve all councillors as the results are invariably political in nature.

Educating new generation on wood-burning devices

At a time when future oil energy supplies look uncertain, installation of wood burning stoves and fireplaces is increasing. But so is the number of fires related to these energy devices.
Halton Hills Fire Prevention Officer Larry Brassard said chimney fire occurrences continue to increase with 27 calls received to date in 1979.
In addition to the fact there are now more wood burning devices being used, Brassard cited ignorance as a main cause for the fires.

"This is a new generation of people coming in. They have never used a wood-burning stove and didn't grow up learning the basic care which goes along with its use," he said.
Brassard referred to wood-burning stoves as an efficient energy source. However, he stressed proper care and installation is of major

importance. The majority of the fires, usually the minor ones are caused by a build-up in the fireplace of a wood burning by-product known as creosote. This clogs the fireplace and when it dries out is flammable.
All chimneys from the wood burning devices should be cleaned out at least once a year, ideally prior to the cold season when the stove or fireplace is in use, he maintains.

Proper installation of the unit is important. One fire resulting in \$75,000 damage this year was blamed on an improperly installed unit, Brassard said. They must be installed using the manufacturer's instructions.
When a chimney fire starts homeowners usually hear a roaring sound in the chimney. Smoke begins to back, coming out of the stove or

hearth. Brassard recommends the department always be called in the case of a chimney fire.
Basically, fighting a chimney fire is much like the work of a chimney sweep. A chain is lowered down the chimney and the blockage cleared.

Region insures

People who volunteer to help the region and use their own cars and vans will get insurance coverage.

The coverage was recommended by the administration and finance committee and approved last Wednesday by council.
There will be a \$5 million limit.
This would cover volunteers and a few region staff who are sometimes asked to use their own vehicles on municipal

work.
It is understood the coverage is only good over and above the accident insurance already carried by each driver.
An example is a person who volunteers to drive senior citizens to a function. The driver may only have \$500,000 coverage but could be sued for more.
The region would thus be able to assist that person if the need arose.



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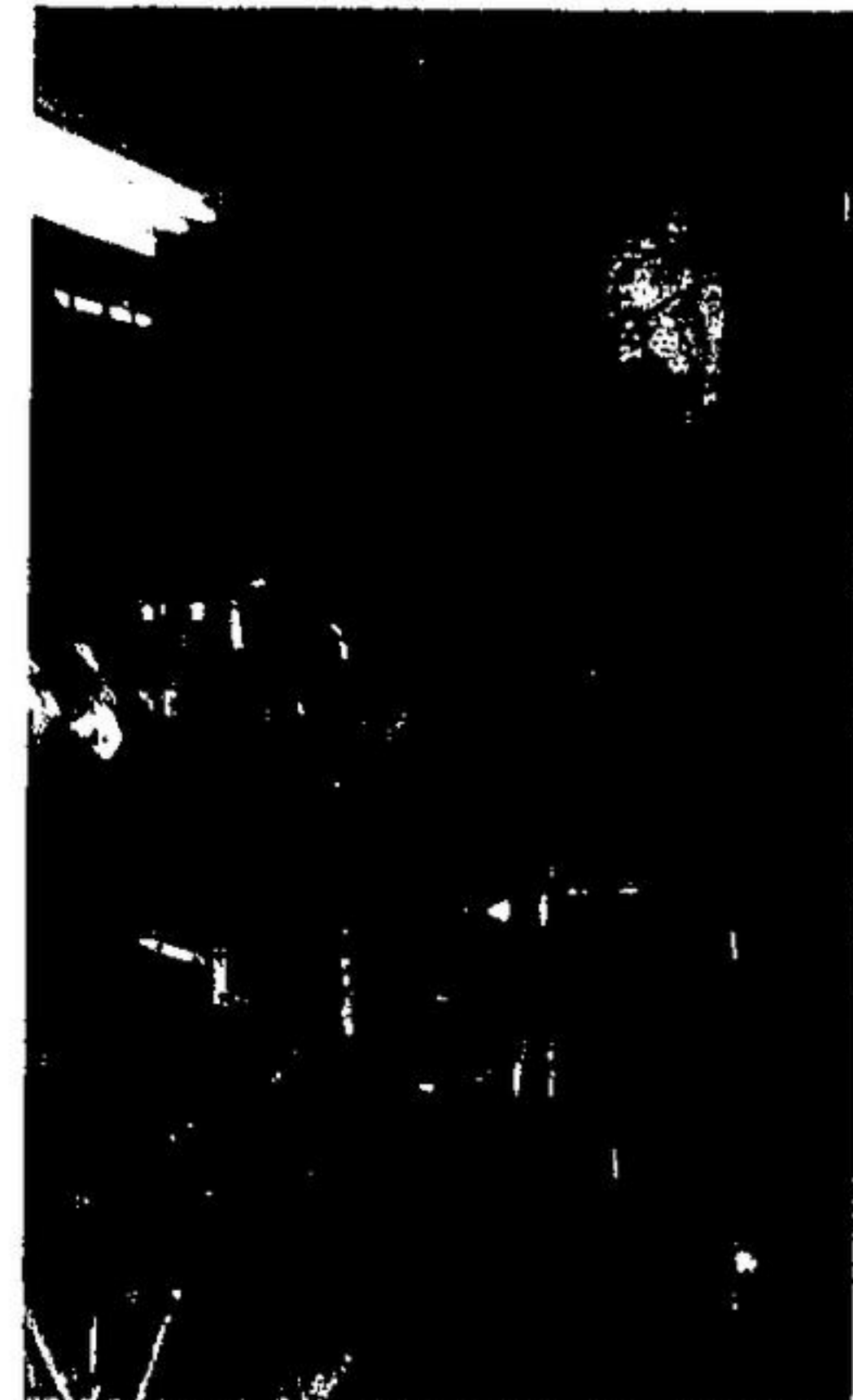


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Chester Swindlehurst operates the lathe at Blow Press on Perth St.

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