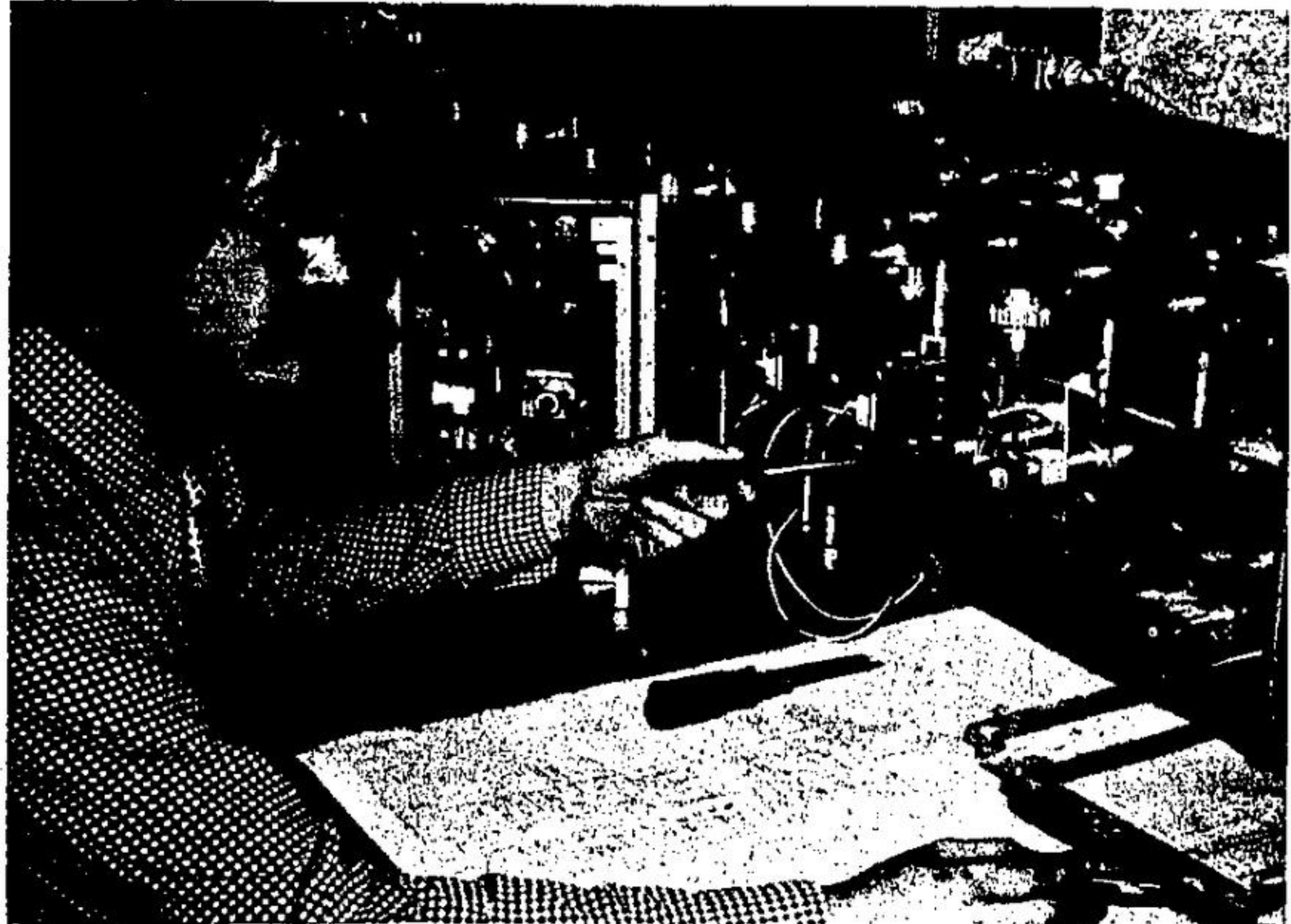




They've come a long way



QUALITY CONTROL TECHNICIAN, Darryl Wightman, adjusts the mechanical simulator used to test the longevity of the switches produced at the Smith and Stone plant in Georgetown.



TOM CREAGHAN of Smith and Stone displays the new product line soon to be available to the consumer, featuring many of the familiar S & S products carrying the double diamond symbol.

and Stone products nationwide, it is planned to introduce the wiring devices to the United States markets. Prior to U.S. distribution all Smith and Stone electrical products undergo laboratory tests. The test equipment must also receive approval according to plant manager Glyn Stephens.

Each electrical item already meets specification outlined by the Canadian Standards Association under a program of constant testing in the plant's quality control centre. Standards have been set high for all products bearing the S & S trademark and combined with stringent testing with controlled manufacturing has resulted in a wide acceptance of Smith and Stone products.

A simple household light switch is tested in actual operation to simulate 27 years of normal use. "All of our switches meet or exceed the CSA specifications," added Darryl Wightman, one of the quality control personnel.

With the introduction of the Visi-pak line to the Canadian market the company has relocated its head office in Georgetown and is now an entirely Georgetown company with manufacturing, administration and sales under one roof.

In addition to the over 400 wiring devices making up the Smith and Stone product line the company also produces porcelain products, injection moulded plastic products and bakelite products at its Georgetown plant. The porcelain products include hydro insulators, bathroom fixtures and a heat resistant porcelain barrel used in personal hand-held hair dryers.

In 1923 the manufacture of porcelain products began, using six beehive kilns in the main plant area. A fire in 1925 destroyed the punch press, assembly and a portion of the pottery areas of the plant. With restoration and addition, the total production area was increased to 78,875 square feet later the same year. To

facilitate increased porcelain products three continuous tunnel kilns replaced the six periodic beehive kilns. Since the kilns were fired up after their installation they have not been shut down completely to date.

The kilns operate at a temperature of 2,350 degrees F. and consume 328,000 gallons of oil per year to maintain constant temperature. "We had a small accident just a few weeks ago," recalled Mr. Stephens. "One of the insulators being baked contained an impurity of some sort and exploded, causing other pieces on the car to shift and touch the walls of the kiln. The pieces began to jam the kiln, slowing the cars. The kiln foreman, using dark glasses, looked into the kiln and noticed the red hot insulator brushing the side of the tunnel. In order to free the cars it had to be broken."

If the temperature of the kiln were to suddenly drop, the vacuum would collapse the entire brick kiln. "We had heard that this had happened before and a rifle shot fired at the loose pieces would do the job of breaking the insulator, but it didn't work. We eventually had to lower the temperature to the point where we could send in men in asbestos suits to free the blocked car."

Reducing the temperature took one week before it was safe to send people into the kiln, according to Mr. Stephens. Expansion of the plant may include new kilns for the steady porcelain market.

The bakelite section of the plant located at the rear of the complex, with its entrance off Ontario Street, produces switch plates, handles for pots and pans, fuse boxes for use in many of the stoves used in Canadian homes, and the wall receptacles that have come to be synonymous with Georgetown.

Bakelite is a non-recyclable material and defective or substandard pressings cannot be used again. Production of thermoseal materials was moved from the King Street plant which is now occupied by Glenmont Socks. At the same time, Plax, the thermo plastics division of Smith and Stone moved into new premises in Burlington. Plax had produced custom plastic bottles, clothes baskets and other home use items, since 1953.

"One of our clients was the Avon company," said Mr. Stephens. Production of the animal shaped bottles occupied a good portion of the building now vacant on the land owned by Smith and Stone. A wide range of war time products, from gunsights to electrocardiographs were produced at the plant. The present assembly department used to manufacture switches and outlets from the in-

dividually produced components, was constructed on behalf of the Department of Munitions and Supply for the fabrication of sea-life.

In 1944 Messrs. Smith and Stone sold the company to its present owners which have maintained it as a privately owned Canadian company. Since that time it has expanded to include more products and services for the Canadian and now the American markets.

Total plant area now comprises 133 acres with the latest production equipment available and employs 260 people in the plant and 80 in the offices, combined with a sales force located all across Canada.

"Georgetown is growing with more supporting industries," added Mr. Stephens. "Our plastic wrapping material for our Visi-pak line is produced by Curwood Packaging of Georgetown."

Expansion of many of the plant areas has provided up to 50 percent more area for the assembly, component stores, finished goods, tool room and punch press operations of the factory.

Reports indicate that 1974 was a good year but predictions for 1975 don't look as rosy since the bulk of goods produced by S & S are related to the building industry.

"The Visi-pak line of 25 products is meant to offset this," said Tom Creaghan, vice-president and general manager. "Now the consumer can buy whatever he needs to change the defective switch or device."

The products have been designed to compliment the do-it-yourself trend of today's consumer with individual packaging and self-serve convenience.

"We'll be here for sometime to come," said Mr. Stephens. "Double diamond symbol and all."

In its 56 years of operation in Georgetown, Smith and Stone has consistently shown innovation through new products and production techniques as one of Georgetown's leading employers and one of Canada's leading manufacturers.

In 1919 if you wanted to buy Smith and Stone products you did so from the back of a railway car direct from Barney Stone himself. Now retailers, wholesalers and department stores carry the familiar double diamond S & S products.

In the very near future another dimension of marketing will be added to the Smith and Stone product line called Visi-Pak. Twenty-five of the company's wiring devices will be displayed in a convenient self-serve rack. The latest introduction to the Smith and Stone product line features many of the familiar switches, fuses and outlets plus new items such as an electronic dimmer for incandescent lighting.

The Georgetown plant produces most of the products in the Visi-Pak line and soon plans to produce the entire line at its Glen Road plant. In addition to distributing Smith

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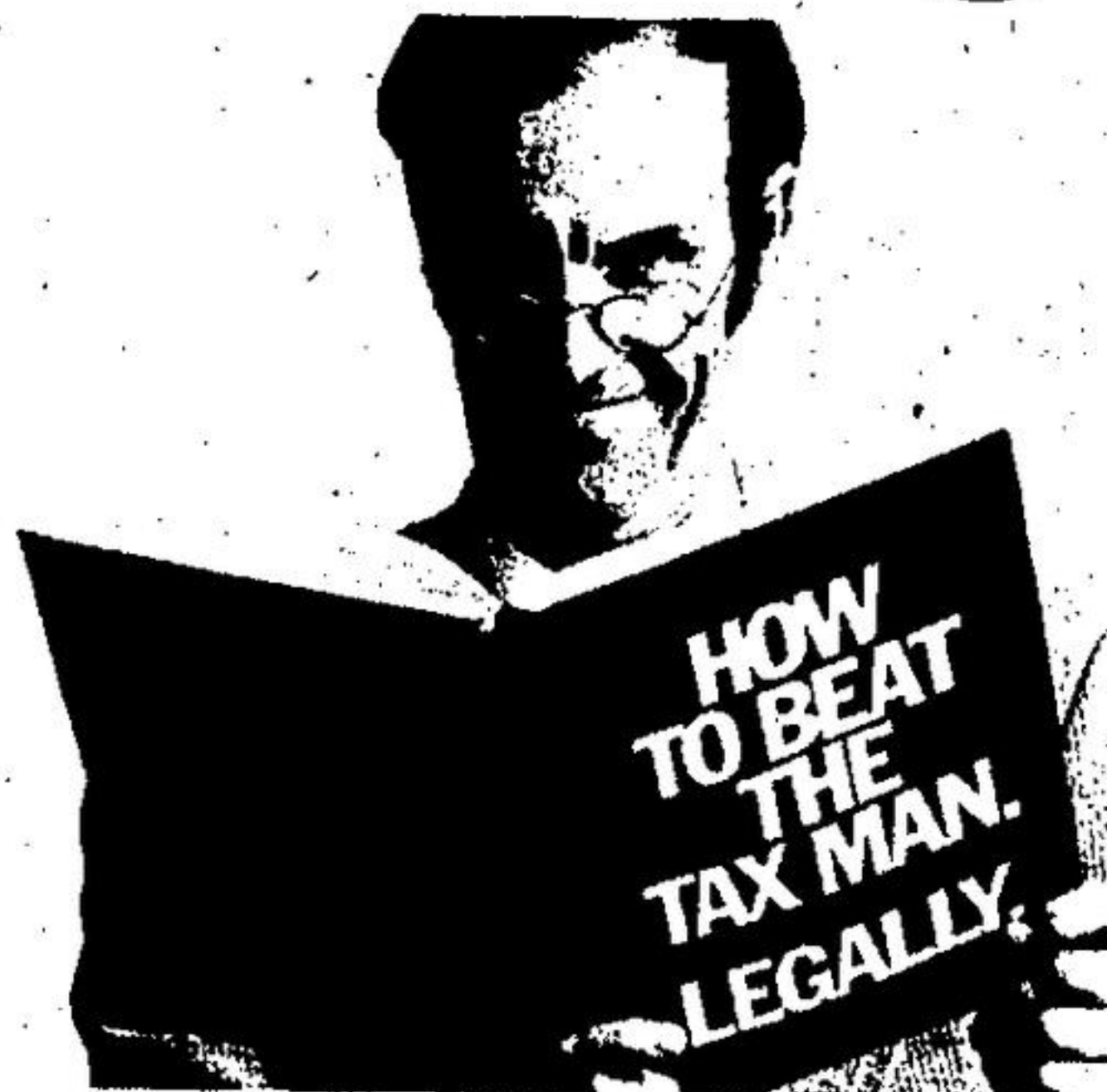
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