



Latest product of Richmond Hill's Centaur Manufacturing Company Limited in this "Diagnostic Ignition Analyzer" which spots electrical shortcomings in gasoline and propane fork lift and other industrial and commercial fleet engines where exhaust emission and ignition maintenance problems persist in spite of normal tune-up procedures.

Hill Businessman Visits Orient

BY HAL BLAINE
Would you believe a Richmond Hill manufacturer distributing to 54 nations who travels around the world for the Ontario government promoting provincial products and talking up Canadian nuclear power plant sales while being a two-decade executive of a local hydro-electric commission?
Toss in promotion of a York Region stamp collector society for good measure. Sounds pretty improbable, doesn't it.

So meet Don Hamilton, principal of four Canadian engineers who own Centaur Manufacturing Company Limited, 57 Newkirk Road.

FOUNDED IN 1959
Centaur was started at a Willowdale location in 1959 and came to Richmond Hill 10 years ago. It is a maker of electronic ignition equipment used by industrial and commercial operators with fleets of gasoline and propane engine powered vehicles.

Hamilton has made his home at Aurora since 1934 and is vice-chairman of the Aurora Hydroelectric Commission upon which he has served for 19 years.

He was recently off to England on another business trip to indulge in his passion for stamp collecting while discussing licensing arrangements for production of his product there. His is an 85% overseas business with a plant in Istanbul, Turkey producing under license. And he says he keeps getting those highly attractive takeover offers from U.S. interests that everybody talks about and have become such a big political issue of late. He confirms the existence of these takeover offers, but isn't about to sell out his bit of the national economy.

25,000-MILE TRIP
Hamilton returned April 24 from a 25,000-mile 30-day junket to the Orient. That trip was a trade mission with seven other businessmen, all sponsored by the Ontario Department of Trade and Industry. He started out March 24 on a 20-hour flight across the Prairies, Rocky Mountains and Pacific Ocean to Tokyo, Japan. He went on to Hong Kong, Bangkok in Thailand, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Singapore, Jakarta in Indonesia, Sydney and Melbourne in Australia.

Would you believe one of the places he got an order was from the government of Fiji where he visited the cities of Suva and Nandi in that Pacific Ocean nation of 400 islands, 180 of them inhabited. His products travel to customers almost exclusively by air carriers, the classic example of successful manufacture for a world market of a light, compact, high value product.

4TH TRADE MISSION
This was the fourth such trade mission Hamilton has been involved in, the trips having been at two-year intervals. First he went to England and France. The second mission was to Scandinavian countries, including Finland. Then came a trip to Germany, Spain and Austria.

On this last mission to the Orient Hamilton was also there to discuss the CANDU System of nuclear generating equipment which national promoters hope to see accepted on world markets. This involves the nuclear generators developed by Ontario Hydro, Atomic Energy of Canada and Canadian General Electric.

Did local businessman Hamilton sell any nuclear generating stations?
MET POWER BOARDS
Well, it isn't quite that simple, he says. He met with the electric power boards of various nations. They were most interested and had never been approached by anybody from Canada. He found a great deal of interest, he asserts.

Even if a nuclear generating plant order were obtained right now, it would be a question of delivery in five or six years. In some nations they couldn't consider waiting that long for new power sources. Others were interested.

Hamilton is enthusiastic about the prospects for export of the Canadian nuclear power generating system. "In spite of the Pollution



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