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EMPLOYEES OPEN HOUSE sunday may 22,1977

OUR OPEN HOUSE culminated the successful move of the Packaging Machinery Division from Rockford, Illinois to Sarasota, Florida. A move which was planned a year ago, involved everyone, and resulted in a new manufacturing facility. in complete operation, one year later.

OVER 400 REXHAM EMPLOYEES and their families attended open house at our new Sarasota facility on Sunday, May 22. The bill of fare included a tour of the office and shop areas on an informal basis. The division slide presentation was also shown. Cookies, brownies, coffee and pop were served and enjoyed by all.

WERE YOU THERE?

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THE REXHAM / BARTELT STORY

In the spring of 1942, the Bartelt Engineering Company was founded when two Bartelt brothers joined in a partnership. They began their operations in a small building at 229 South Church Street, Rockford, Illinois, with a four man working force. A short time later they moved to an old high school building with the number of employees reaching over 50.

During the war the Air Force called on the Bartelts. They were asked to lend their talents to the research and development of automatic weapons.

Resuming their special engineering services after the war, the Bartelts designed and built their first packaging machine. Minneapolis - Honeywell ordered a machine which would open, fill, close and staple pre-made glued envelopes for electrical componets. This machine was estremely successful, and as a result it appeared in Business Week magazine. Many inquiries resulted.

This great volumn of interest prompted the Bartelt brothers to study the possibilities in the packaging field. Shortly after this, they conceived and developed plans for a machine which would fabricate, fill, and close a thermo plastic pouch. This machine was the beginning of the now well known Bartelt Intermittent Motion Packaging machine.

The company continuously grew in size and stature by adding complete lines of Bartelt cartoning and filling equipment which were adaptable to the Bartelt Packager. Soon, Bartelt packaging systems could be found serving major food packaging companies domestic and foreign.

In 1960, Bartelt Engineering Company was sold, becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of Riegel Paper Corporation. Under Riegel, Bartelt continued to grow, establishing the Bartelt name as a leader and innovator in designing and manufacturing packaging equipment and systems.

In 1972, Riegel Paper Corporation changed its name to what is now Rexham Corporation. Rexham is made up of five divisions Flexible Packaging; Fashion Packaging; Warner Packaging; Industrial and Packaging Machinery; including Laminex Inc. a wholly owned subsidiary.

The Packaging Machinery Division moved to Sarasota, Florida in March, 1977.

Today nearly 3,000 productive Bartelt Intermittent Motion packaging machines are in use packaging hundreds of different products, including drink mixes, desserts, cereals, cake and cookie mixes, snack foods, sauces/gravies, dinner mixes, condiments, pet foods, pharmaceuticals, tobacco, towelettes, hardware products and many others.

The Packaging Machinery Division markets its Bartelt Packaging machinery through-out the world, ever increasing its long list of satisfied customers, and expanding the markets served.







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