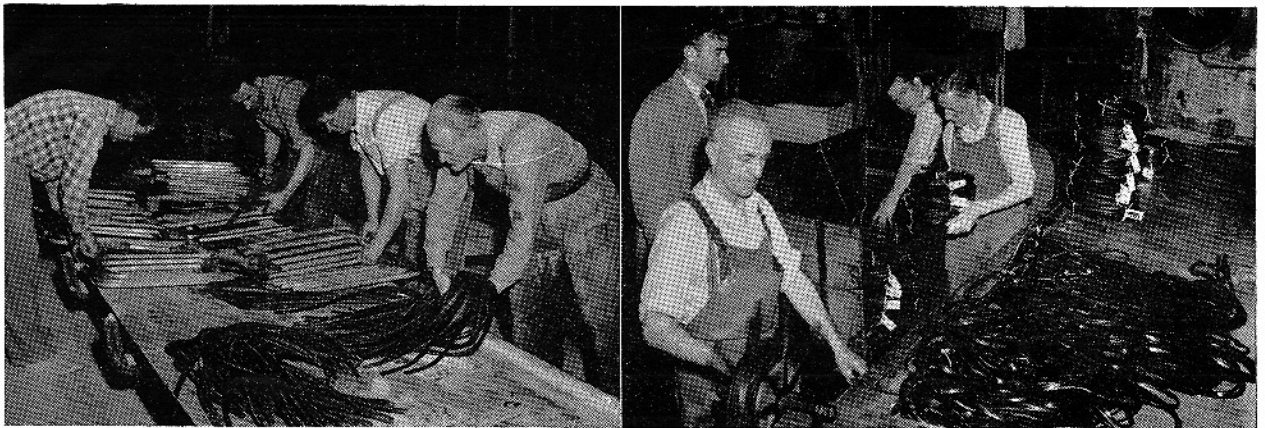


A Peep behind the 'SUNDRIES' Scenes at Castle Mills



Above Left—Heater crew unloading cured windscreens. Left to right: G. Dickson, A. Potter (Charge-hand), J. Wighton, A. Jupp.

Above Right—Coiling of washed strip and transport to Despatch. Left to right: R. Miller, A. Wallis (Foreman), J. Dryden, J. McCallum.

MANY of us will be familiar with the Sundries Department where windscreens rubbers are made and large quantities of extruded materials are cut to size, fabricated and assembled. Only a few years ago this department produced a greater variety of commodities than anywhere else in Castle Mills, including such things as hand-made hot-water bottles, rubber cushions, pillows, air beds, beach balls, football bladders, washers, bands, jar sealing rings, car mats and so on. Nowadays there is a tremendous output of material for the automotive industry, and the assembly sections are quite familiar to Castle Mills employees and visitors.

There is, however, a very large part of the Sundries Department which is seldom visited and of whose existence many people may not even be aware, and this is the section where the large heater units are located for vulcanising the work carried out in the assembly section.

These units are contained on two floors and comprise 3×60-ft. heaters (two of large diameter), one 120-ft. heater and one 30-ft. heater, and in addition there are five small heating units.

The long galleries containing these heaters extend right back to Viewforth, and there is a little known exit at the end into Viewforth itself. There is also an outlet through to the gallery of the Moulding Department. This is the back-stage area of the Sundries Department, and the men who work among these heaters are the *dramatis personae*.

The heaters are located on two floors, and on the lower floor Sandy Potter, with eight years' service, is the charge-hand. Sandy is an ex-lorry driver who has a fondness for a game of darts in his leisure time.

Also on this floor is Andrew Jupp, an Essex man, and formerly a sailor. Andrew was for many years in charge of the bar on one of the big P. & O. liners, but at the outbreak of war was transferred to the Royal Navy with the rank of Chief Petty Officer. During hostilities he was engaged in destroyer service in the far north, and at the time of the Normandy invasion his ship was in action off the Normandy beaches on "D. Day", engaged in mine sweeping to clear the way for the assault. After the war Sandy was employed for a short time in the Footwear Division and is now in his twelfth year with the Company.

Ronnie Jackson is an interesting member

of this crew. Quite a young man, he has been with the Company for just over one year, but has decided that rubber can offer him good prospects for a career, and to this end is attending the Ramsay Technical College in his spare time to increase his knowledge and equip himself for a higher position and a promising future. We wish him every success in the furtherance of his ambitions.

The complement is completed by Fred. Green and George Dickson who are comparative newcomers.

On the upper floor Jack Wighton is the charge-hand. Jack is an expert coat maker and has been employed in this capacity in at least three rubber firms during some twelve years prior to his joining this Company. He has been eighteen years in the Sundries Department.

Joe Glenwright has been in this department for only a short while, but is an ex-Footwear Division foreman, of some six years' standing.

Jack Thomson would seem to be a man of parts—Band parts in fact! He plays a cornet in the City of Edinburgh Band and is also a first-class pianist. Before coming to the Sundries Department Jack was employed in the Tyre Division for three years.

The classification and movement of all the various commodities in this department is a job which calls for a very detailed knowledge indeed and long experience. For many years Johnny Dryden has been the organiser in chief of the routing of the various parts through the department. Johnny Dryden is "Mr. Sundries" with an

exemplary record of 44 years' continuous service. One of Castle Mills' outstanding personalities, he joined the Company straight from school a week after war was declared in 1914, and in his younger days was a notable footballer. He is one of our golfing stalwarts and has won the Castle Mills' Spring Handicap three times. Johnny has three sons and three daughters. The sons are, respectively, plumber, painter and joiner, and there are few difficulties in the way of keeping the Dryden house in good repair. A catch phrase for many years in this corner of the factory is "Whatever you need to know ask Johnny Dryden".

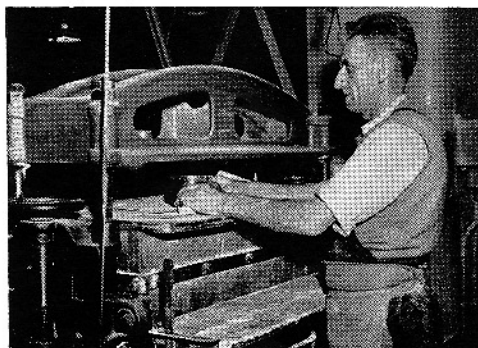
Johnny has four assistants. Prominent among them is Bob Millar, now approaching retirement with 47 years' service with the Company. Bob started in the Footwear Division in 1911 and has been thirteen years in the Sundries Department. He also is an outstanding sportsman. Some years ago he won the Johnstone Trophy, the Findlay Shield, and the Williams Charm (all Castle Mills golfing trophies) in the same year. For many years he has been a member of the Castle Mills billiards team and was the first winner of the Warwick Cup in this field. In addition, he has a fine record in the Castle Mills bowling club and has won the club championships several times, and is a past winner of the Pringle medal for the Edinburgh Factories inter-club competition.

Jock Hume is a former professional runner. In his younger days he won the Powderhall Marathon and was an outstanding performer over the mile distance. Jock carries out the cutting work associated with this department.

Gustav Olsen is a newcomer to the firm and is an ex-sailor from the Norwegian Merchant Navy.

Jim McCallum was engaged as a clerk in the Labour Bureau 21 years ago, but at his own request went into the factory to obtain higher earnings. He is an enthusiastic member of the Broxburn Curling Club and plays regularly at Murrayfield.

These are the men behind the Sundries scenes. Seldom seen, but ever active, doing a difficult job well, and providing collectively a group of very essential key personnel.



J. Hume, operating Rev. Press, punching out patterns from sheet rubber.