$2,750,000 Carbon Black Plant Slated For State

Construction will get underway this summer on a $2,750,000 carbon black plant to be built at Ponca City, Harold C. Osborn, vice president of the Continental Oil Company, has announced. It is expected to be completed by the middle of 1954.

The new plant, when completed, is expected to employ about 35 men. Its products will be marketed through the Witco Chemical Company of New York City.

It will be located on a 40-acre site south of Ponca City, near the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company's plant there. The Rock Island Railroad is extending its spur to the OG&E plant to serve the new installation.

Washmaster Is State Product

A man doesn't usually wash his car while dressed in his best suit, but with R. T. Dewey's "Washmaster," he can if he wants to.

The washmaster, manufactured in Watonga, consists of a hollow steel handle and a perforated head covered with sheep pelt, also perforated. When a garden hose is attached to the end of the handle, water runs through the sheep skin.

What makes Dewey's device special is the angle of the head, which keeps water from running down the user's arm even when it's held straight up. Another way in which the Washmaster is superior to the round brush type is that it washes all the way down, on the back side as well as the front. Also, specially-treated sheepskin that cannot scratch any surface completely covers the head. This sheepskin is replaceable, but Dewey has used one over a year without wearing it out.

Dewey originated the Washmaster for his own use, but it worked so well he applied for a patent and started manufacturing it for sale. At present, he has three employees helping him at Dewey Manufacturing Co.

Most sales so far have been local, but some Washmasters have been sent as far away as Washington and California. Dewey plans to market his invention through retail stores when the new firm gets in full production.

In addition to his standard model with a four-foot handle, Dewey is taking orders for a longer handled type for use on vans, buses and other large vehicles. The handle is made in sections, so it can be shortened as a black pigment to color inks, plastics and other products.

In addition to the announcement by Continental Blacks, Inc., about the proposed plant at Ponca City, the Cabot Company, which formerly operated a carbon black plant at Guymon, has indicated it is considering converting one unit of the installation there from gas to oil and reopening it. Eight company houses formerly offered for sale have been taken off the market, and René Srinson, director of industrial relations for the company, revealed $200,000 in new equipment has been ordered shipped to the Guymon site. Proposed initial production is about 20 million pounds annually.

Our Cover

The picture on this month's cover shows one of the reasons Osage Hills State Park is a popular recreation spot. What could be better than boating on shady Sand Creek? (Photo by Kazimir Petrauskas, Planning Board photographer.)
Waste Material Becomes Useful At State Plant

There has been a lot of improvement in straw houses since the time of the Three Little Pigs: even the windiest present-day wolf would have a hard time "huffing and puffing and blowing the house down" if the house is made of Strawit board.

Though most people won't be interested in the two-inch thick material made of compressed straw as protection against wolves, the fact that it serves as insulation, roof deck, fire protection, ceiling and acoustical treatment, all in one operation, makes it popular with builders. Using Strawit can save up to 60 per cent of the cost of a house from ceiling up over conventional materials. Greatest savings are in flat-roofed houses.

Versatile Strawit has many other uses. Its attractive natural finish is popular in club rooms, and was used for the ceiling of the "All-Oklahoma" Chapel at McLellan Funeral Home at Frederick. It is used extensively by schools and in state buildings for insulation, and one Oklahoma City business has constructed a walk-in refrigerator of four layers of the material.

There's a 36 foot square, clear span building with walls 15 feet high in Oklahoma City made entirely of Strawit. The four-foot sections were put in steel frames and welded in place. Hull of the building cost $2000. The building was completed in 21 hours; its occupants moved in in 18.

Strawit meets all GI and FHA building specifications.

Strawit Company, in Oklahoma City, is the only one in the United States which makes this unusual building material. Cereal straw, formerly a waste product, provides the raw material. The straw is heated and compressed, and a heavy paper is glued to its surfaces. Most of the straw comes from Oklahoma, and the glue is made almost entirely from Oklahoma materials, too, among them soy beans and lime.

Allen Adair is manager of the Oklahoma City plant, which has been in operation for four years. There are seven other employees.

Most of the output of the Oklahoma City plant is sold in Oklahoma, Adair says, though some of it gets farther afield. Lack of storage space at present limits production, but an expansion will soon remedy this situation.

Planning Board Gets Praise From Paper

Lauding the Planning and Resources Board editorially, the Tulsa World June 2 told its readers "the public generally is unaware of the scope of Planning Board efforts and the really beneficial things it has wrought for Oklahoma."

As an example of what it meant, the World cited the 176 new manufacturing firms which located in the state during the past 28 months, and credited the Planning Board, along with local Chambers of Commerce and other groups, with bringing them here.

"If you've noticed a recent pickup in Oklahoma's status as a recreation and fishing paradise," the editorial continues, "credit it to the Department. No small part of the growing industrial economy has been the Board's work in providing and constantly developing playground spots.

"Frankly, until the Planning Board went to work several years ago to sell Oklahoma to Oklahomans, and by natural progression to out-of-staters, few realized the tremendous possibilities of Oklahoma as a playground. These developments, coupled with the national advertising campaign conducted by the Planning Board, have given the state nation-wide attention."

Indian Pow Wow Heads Calendar

One of the biggest and most colorful of Oklahoma's annual Indian celebrations, the Pawnee Indian Pow Wow, headlines the Calendar of Events for July. It will be held at Pawnee July 9-12 as a living memorial to veterans of World Wars I and II.

Indians representing many different tribes set up their own tent village at Pawnee during the celebration. Games and dances are presented every night. An estimated 10,000 people attended the event last year.

Another Indian celebration will be held at Sallisaw, in the eastern part of the state, July 17-19. A homecoming fete for former residents and a big picnic will be features of the Sallisaw event.

Another colorful event is the International Round-up Club's Cavalcade, to be held at Pawhuska July 24-26.

The Oklahoma State Plowing Contest will be held at Snyder July 28-29.

Even the Fourth of July celebrations have a western flavor in Oklahoma. Many of them, like the ones at Purcell and Edmond, feature rodeos. At Nowata there'll be a fireworks display and quarterhorse races.
Love Of Animals Paying Off For State Woman

An old prescription handed down through a family of animal lovers has provided the basis for a part-time business for Elva H. Bradford of Oklahoma City. Her Presto Sarcoptic Mange Remedy is a prescription her grandmother used to doctor all the stray cats and dogs that came to her farm.

Miss Bradford dug out the old prescription about 20 years ago, to treat a stray cat with the mange, and started keeping it on hand as a hobby. She began developing her business to get away from routine office work.

Now her sarcoptic mange remedy is registered with the state and national departments of agriculture. Her trademark, a picture of her own dog, "Little Nussie," is also registered.

Miss Bradford describes her mange remedy as being good for any skin condition except red mange; it will give an animal with this condition relief, but injections in the blood stream are necessary to cure it.

Production is seasonal, she explains, since mange becomes more prevalent in the summer.

Quality Marks Gardner Goods

Quality canned goods and a variety of products that makes year-round operation possible have made Gardner Canning Company of Broken Arrow a thriving, all-season food processing industry.

Employment varies with the type of product being processed, ranging up to 85 and 90 at the peak of the season.

J. A. Gardner is owner of the business, which has been in Broken Arrow since 1946.

Spinach and greens are canned during the summer season, and marketed under the Gardner label. Hominy, pork and beans, blackeyed peas and all kinds of dry beans, processed during the rest of the year, also bear the Gardner label.

Crystal pecans, a delicacy made from native Oklahoma nuts, are another Gardner specialty.

Under the Duncan Hines label, the Gardner plant cans tamales, chili, beef stew, Spanish rice and cocktail tamales.

Gardner's meat lines are marketed throughout ten states, and some of their other items are sold all over the country.

Wheelock Mission Church, near Millerton, is the oldest church in Oklahoma. It was built in 1842 by Presbyterian missionaries for the Choctaw Indians.

Rare Glassware Is Made While Visitors Watch

A unique kind of glassware, with colors "built in," is being manufactured at Scott Depot Glass Co., near Spiro, in eastern Oklahoma, by a secret process developed by O. C. Hamon, owner of the company.

Known as Marigold glass (Hamon's wife's name is Mary), Hamon's product offers many beautiful and unusual effects. Swirls of color are sealed between two layers of glass. Colors vary from pale green to dramatic oranges and black.

There's nothing fragile about Marigold glass; to prove it, Hamon drives nails with the lower ends of his glasses.

Juice glasses, zombie glasses, beverage sets, decorative swans, hats and cornucopias, and cream and sugar sets are made in this unusual glass.

The glass is hand-blown and hand-drawn. The first layer is of hot crystal glass. Colors are fused to it from cold glass, and another layer of the hot glass seals them in.

Hamon, who has been in the glass business 21 years, developed the process himself, after seeing others try it and fail repeatedly. Even though his company is the only place in the world where this glass is made, he doesn't mind visitors watching his skilled glassmakers at work; he's quite sure they couldn't duplicate the process. In fact, only two of his seven employees are skilled enough to help him with the Marigold glass. The three of them can turn out only 15,000 pieces a year. These two employees, Hamon feels, are irreplaceable.

In addition to Marigold glass, Scott Depot Glass Co. turns out large quantities of less glamorous glass products, such as lamp chimneys, awning rings, and communion glasses. It also does private mold work. (The customer furnishes the mold, and glasses are made to order from it.)

Hamon had worked for some of the largest glass companies in the country when he went in business for himself in 1932. He came to Okmulgee, which is famous as a glass center, from West Virginia in 1941, and established the Hamon Glass Company there.

Hamon's Marigold glass is sold principally through gift shops, but it's also a popular item with tourists who stop by his own shop at Cedars, eight miles southwest of Fort Smith on Highway 271.
Film On State, Its Resources Ready To Show

A new motion picture in color, entitled "Oklahoma and Its Natural Resources," has been completed and is ready for public showing.

The colorful "Oklahoma" production was made in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Mines and the Sinclair Refining Company.

The Sinclair company sponsored the picture as a public service enterprise and defrayed all production costs. The new picture replaces an earlier production of the same title.

First copy of the color movie has been presented to Governor Murray by John F. Conway, representing P. C. Spencer, president of the Sinclair Refining Company. The brief ceremony took place in the Governor's office.

Later a premier showing was held for Governor Murray and a specially invited audience including members of the legislature, state and federal officials and other prominent citizens.

The Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board assisted the camera crew in scheduling shooting sequences and working up factual data.

"Oklahoma and Its Natural Resources" tells the action-packed story of Oklahoma's progressive development of the past half century through the eyes of an old timer. The 30-minute film reveals dramatically how the combination of pioneering spirit and rich natural wealth transformed a one-time wilderness into a rich modern state.

The film will be given nationwide circulation through facilities of the Bureau of Mines and the Sinclair company. Copies will be available in Oklahoma for free, short term loans to schools and colleges, civic and business clubs and other responsible groups.

Sequoyah Park Cabins Ready

Newest development in Oklahoma's state park system is the opening of eight new cabins at Sequoyah State Park, between Tahlequah and Wagoner in eastern Oklahoma.

The new park, on the shore of the 19,100-acre lake formed by Fort Gibson dam, is already a favorite with fishermen, as well as those who just want to loaf and relax.

Completion of the cabins makes it a perfect set up for people who want to "rough it" in comfort. They're equipped with electric refrigerators and have gas ranges for cooking. A recently-completed treatment plant provides high-quality running water. A grocery store is in operation near the cabin area. Cooking utensils, dishes, silver and linens are furnished.

Exteriors of the cabins have native stone bases, and are painted brown to blend with their rustic surroundings, but interior furnishings are completely modern.

There's nothing cramped about the new cabins; in fact, they're larger than many houses. Each has two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and bath, and will sleep six people comfortably. One bedroom has a double bed with innerspring mattress, the other has bunk beds, and there is a sofa bed in the living room. Every cabin also has a fireplace and a front porch.

Rates are $6 for two people and $1 more for each person over that. Sequoyah is the first park to have weekly rates. When cabins are rented for a full week, the seventh day is free.

New Industry Tour Is Planned For Fall

An industrial tour to eastern business centers for the purpose of "selling" Oklahoma was tentatively slated for October 20-26, 1953.

Executive committee of the Oklahoma Development Council, sponsoring organization, decided definitely to have the new tour at a recent meeting.

A similar tour was made by Oklahoma businessmen to the midwest in 1952. The trip planned for October will reach industrial centers to which the earlier one did not extend, rather than follow up on contacts made then.

Harter Building Materials Made At State Plant

Brick, splitblock, cast stone trim, stepping stones, pre-cast joists and slabs—more than 70 different types of blocks in three different materials are manufactured by the Harter Marblecrete Stone Co., of Oklahoma City.

The plant, owned by B. D. and N. D. Harter, covers a block and a half. There are over 100 employees. Output varies with the type of block being produced.

The Harter's have been in business since 1929; they've been making blocks for the past eight years, shipping them all over Oklahoma and as far away as Kansas and New Mexico.

After being molded, the blocks are loaded on conveyor cars which carry them into the steam tanks. There are five of these tanks, 96 feet long by 8 feet in diameter, each of which holds 2,096 blocks. Temperature within the tanks is 360 degrees, humidity is 100%.

Shale blocks are used mostly in commercial buildings and schools. Being porous, they provide excellent insulation when used for inside walls. Pumice blocks, in which nails can be driven, are used principally for exterior walls.

Concrete blocks are popular for patio floors, and concrete brick, which is cheaper than clay brick, is often used for veneering houses.

Public Sees Fritos Made Modern Way

An open house in May at the Tulsa Fritos plant gave visitors a chance to see this popular food product made with the latest manufacturing and processing equipment. Damaged by fire in February, the plant had been completely remodeled.

The Tulsa plant, one of 20 operating in the United States, Hawaii and Venezuela, serves Oklahoma, Arkansas and southern Missouri. It manufactures 50,000 packages daily.

PRICE GETS CONTRACT

H. C. Price Co. of Bartlesville has been named one of two contractors for an 860-mile pipe line from southern Louisiana to northern Kentucky.

The 36-inch pipe line, largest project of its kind authorized in recent years, will carry natural gas.

Materials Made At State Plant

Sequoyah Park Cabins Ready

New Industry Tour Is Planned For Fall

Harter Building

Public Sees Fritos Made Modern Way

PRICE GETS CONTRACT

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Harter Building Materials Made At State Plant

Public Sees Fritos Made Modern Way
Steam Cleaner
Made In State
Safe, Simple

A safe, simple to operate, almost foolproof steam cleaner for motors is being produced by the Ewing Manufacturing Company at its ultra-modern plant in Oklahoma City.

The device is very popular for use in garages and filling stations; an unskilled employee on the wash rack can't hurt himself or the machine when he's using it.

It's also widely used by big truck lines.

The company also makes a boiler to heat water for help-yourself laundries, and a variation of the steam cleaner has been sold to churches to heat water in their baptismaries.

The Ewing heater hooks onto city water and gas lines. It can be set for any temperature, and will deliver water at that temperature just thirty seconds after it gets in operation; it doesn't need to warm up.

The device was invented and patented by Fred Ewing. He's been manufacturing it for 28 years, in Oklahoma City since 1929. It's sold through jobbers all over the United States and in South America, and there have even been a few sales in Europe. In 1946 and 1947, sales reached nearly a million dollars. In normal years they run about $260,000 to $275,000.

There are approximately twenty employees at the company's new 150 foot square building at 2545 NW Tenth; they make all parts used in the heater, including the coils.

Some of his heaters have been in use 20 years without replacement, Ewing reports. Average life of the coils is, however, twelve years. Hardness of water largely determines how long they'll last.

New Oil Laboratory Begins Operations

A new Cities Service Research and Development Co. laboratory was to open in Tulsa about July 1. Approximately 20 men are being transferred from the company's laboratory at Tallant to the new plant, which will be under the direction of Dr. Michael J. Raza.

The new laboratory, according to an announcement by company officials, will be much larger than the one at Tallant. The Tallant laboratory will be converted to other types of petroleum industry research.

Skilled Craftsmen Making Bentley-Gafford Saddles

The automobile may be here to stay, but it looks like Old Paint will be around for awhile, too. Mont R. Gafford, of Bentley-Gafford Co., reports the demand for saddles is greater now than it was forty years ago.

Most of this demand, Gafford reports, comes from professional rodeo performers, ranchers, cowboys and round-up clubs.

Saddles, bridles and all western riding equipment is produced by the Oklahoma City firm, and sold to dealers throughout Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas and Nebraska.

Fancy models made by Bentley-Gafford frequently find their way to Hollywood; Dale Robertson, former Oklahoma Cityan, has one of them.

The Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce came to Bentley-Gafford for eighteen show saddles that it couldn't get elsewhere in the Southwest. The firm recently equipped completely a dude ranch in New York State. It also received a large order from a Florida dude ranch, and had single sales in almost every state.

Most of Bentley-Gafford's work, however, is standard models, and the firm takes pride in the fact its saddles are the only ones of such quality sold at wholesale prices. There are an average of twenty employees at the plant at 14 West California, and more people are expected to be employed soon. All of them are highly skilled leather workers who can "make them better than other firms, just as cheap." The company has been in operation nine years.

Bentley-Gafford saddles are hand-sewn except for quilted seats and for sewing felt on the underside. Hand-sewn saddles fit better, Gafford explains, because they're made right on the saddle tree. The machine-made variety must be slipped on the saddle tree after it's stitched.

Though saddles, like shoes, are always basically the same, there are changes in saddle styles, just as there are in shoe styles, and the saddle manufacturer must keep up with these style changes if he wants his product to sell.

The cover on the reel lifts to allow wire to feed out as the car drives along, but automatically falls back and stops the reel when the vehicle stops. Thus there is no backlash.

Lefler's reel, which he developed five years ago, has a long life, because it is constructed of only four pieces, so there is nothing to wear out.

Safe Wire Reel
State Product

A device he developed to make his work easier when he was farming is augmenting the income of O. F. Lefler of Kingfisher now that he has retired.

The invention, a safe, simply-constructed, hand-operated reel for barbed wire or electric wire, is being manufactured by Kingsick's Machine Shop, another Kingfisher concern. A patent is pending.

Lefler developed the reel five years ago. Constructed of only four pieces, there is nothing about it to wear out.

He sells his product directly, or through retailers.

Lefler's reel fits on a truck, or in the back of a car. The reel in place, a farmer can drive along the fence row stringing wire. Then he can drive back the other way, rewinding the old wire on the reel. This keeps the wire in good condition.

The fact the reel is hand-operated makes it safer, particularly when used with barbed wire. An automatic brake feature also increases safety, and helps prevent tangling. The cover on the reel lifts to allow wire to feed out as the car drives along, but automatically falls back and stops the reel when the vehicle stops. Thus there is no backlash.

Lefler's reel, which he developed five years ago, has a long life, because it is constructed of only four pieces, so there is nothing to wear out.
Love Bird Lovers Finding Business Fun, Profitable

Jefferson County has broken out with a “rash” of bird raisers. Love birds, parakeets and finches are the popular varieties.

Kay Scott, the first to become interested, now has the largest flock of breeding birds. Scott says he got into the love bird business because he’s “a boy who never grew up.” Always an animal lover, he’d been raising turkeys when he was introduced to parakeets. He bought six of the birds, just for a hobby, with the idea of selling only enough to pay for their feed. The hobby has developed into a full time business, but Scott still thinks it’s fun. He has been raising love birds about nine years.

As Scott talked, he played with Timmie, the family pet, who has the run of the house. Wherever Mr. Scott goes, Timmie flies along and perches on his shoulder. Eager for a romp, Timmie would pull a tiny bell close to Scott’s hand and scold until PaIr.

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As Scott talked, he played with Timmie, the family pet, who has the run of the house. Wherever Mr. Scott goes, Timmie flies along and perches on his shoulder. Eager for a romp, Timmie would pull a tiny bell close to Scott’s hand and scold until he was noticed. Timmie has been taught to talk, and calls each of the Scott boys by name. His favorite greeting to Mrs. Scott is “Timmie loves sweet mama.”

Scott now has about 500 pair of breeding birds. He sells most of his young birds to the Chicago and New York markets. The ones for Chicago are shipped in boxes that hold fifty to seventy-five birds, but the New York buyers have men who call for the birds about twice a month.

Woodrow Scott also has a large flock of birds which is helping finance the remodeling and refinishing of the Scott home.

Ernest Crew, who operates the picture show with his father, is another who has built up a large flock of birds. He has been in business about two years, and now has about four hundred and fifty pair. He sells quite a number of birds to tourists from his bird house on U.S. 70 at the south edge of Waurika, but most of his young birds are sold wholesale.

Both Scott and Crew have a number of rare birds. The Lutinos are a bright orange with pink eyes; the Albinos are white with ruby red eyes; the Opalines have lovely wing designs; and there are also the yellow-faced blues. These rare birds sell for $40 to $50 per pair. The more common varieties sell for $5 to $7.50 each. Crew has shown his love birds on TV at Lawton and Oklahoma City.

About three years ago Mrs. Tom Sims was hurt in a car accident which has left her with a crippled knee. She started in the love bird business just as a pastime to help fill in tedious hours. She now has about 250 birds which she cares for when she isn’t helping her husband in their grocery and market.

Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Rich have just completed a $3000 house for their 600 birds. It has hard wood floors and all conveniences for caring for the birds.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Evans use a part of their large country home to house their birds. Pioneer residents, they are finding their 125 birds an interesting business since ill health has curtailed Mr. Evans’ other activities. He was formerly a successful farmer.

When love birds mate they are mated for life. However, if one dies, the remain-

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Eager for a romp, Timmie would pull a tiny bell close to Scott’s hand and scold until PaIR.ing bird will take a new mate. To feed the baby birds, the mother puts her mouth over the head of her baby and regurgitates the digested food into its open mouth.

If the mother dies, the father will take over the feeding of the babies. The young birds are ready for market when they are five to six weeks old.

Others who have from a dozen to a hundred birds are Mrs. Jim Prince, Mrs. J. W. Flay, Mrs. Earl Morey, George Chambers, Mrs. Ellie Suttle, Mrs. Beatrice Rose, Buck Collar, Grady Guinn, Mrs. Clarence Echols, Mrs. Ray McCulloch, Ewing Holman, Lewis Hooper, Elbert Carter and Coy Rose.

If you don’t want to get into the love bird business, you had better not talk to any of these bird raisers, for they all have fallen in love with the love birds.

Complete Line Of Bedding Is Made By Firm

Add to Oklahoma’s impressive list of “firsts” and “onlys”, Oklahoma Bed Spring Company, of Oklahoma City, is the Southwest’s only complete manufacturer of bedding.

The firm, which has been in operation in Oklahoma City for 45 years, manufactures everything in the bedding line. In addition to mattresses, box springs and rollaway beds, it makes bed sofas, sectional sofas that convert to twin beds, and chairs to match the last two units.

Owners of the business are R. R. King and R. J. Unruh, who also serves as general manager.

There are about 30 employees, 70 per cent of them men. The women work in the sewing room.

When Oklahoma Bed Spring Company makes springs, it begins at the beginning. Wire is made into coils, which are assembled by hand. Steel frames, too, are made at the Oklahoma City plant, and the completed unit is painted, and the paint baked on.

The plant, located at 712 South Broadway, covers about 35,000 square feet of floor space.

Capacity production is now valued at $400,000 a year, and Unruh hopes to up this figure to $500,000 soon.

The firm’s complete line of bedding products is shipped throughout Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. In addition, coil springs made there are sold to other bedding manufacturers.

Pendley Furniture Has New Location

The Pendley Furniture Manufacturing Company, which has been making western style furniture for the past five years, has moved its plant to Oklahoma City to have a show room conveniently located for dealers to visit.

Pendley’s furniture, sold through dealers all over the Southwest, is particularly popular for dens. It is made of leather-like plastic, or of plastic and cloth. The company was the first to put plastic designs on cloth. The firm also does western pictures, stitched in plastic.

Governor Murray’s den in the mansion is furnished with a suite from Pendley’s, with the state seal stitched in plastic on the back of the chair.

Embassies To Show Work Of Cherokees

Work of the Cherokee Indian Weavers, with headquarters at Tahlequah, will be displayed with a traveling exhibit to be sent out from the United Nations.

The exhibit will include samples in half-yard lengths of drapery and upholstery fabrics, men and women’s sating and materials for coats, all spun and woven by the Indians. Sample bedspreads, ties, rugs and blankets will also be displayed.

The exhibit for which the State Department requested this material is to be on display in all the United Nations embassies.

There's a lot more to making a simple, everyday item like a broom than most people realize, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pratz, owners of the E-Z Sweep Broom Company of Oklahoma City can testify.

Broomcorn must be sorted and graded by hand into the different layers used for each broom, and the qualities used in the various price ranges.

The handle is placed on a device known as a broom-winder. The inside layer of broomcorn is attached to it first, and then the layer known as the "turnover," which shapes the broom's shoulders. The third layer is called the "sideboards," and the two outside layers are of hurl, the highest quality straw, to make the broom smooth.

The straw is carefully scraped to remove seed. Layers, now attached to the broom handle, are sewed by machine, and the broom is trimmed in a cutting box to make the end even. Then the brooms are bunched in dozens, and labeled.

The green color of the broom in your kitchen isn't the natural color of the straw, either; it has been dipped in green dye.

The E-Z Sweep line includes household brooms in five qualities, warehouse brooms, whisk brooms and toy brooms. The top quality broom bears the trade name, Golden Beauty.

There are style changes in brooms, just like everything else, Mrs. Pratz reports. The streamlined broom, without shoulders, is increasing in popularity now, though she herself still prefers the older style, because "it looks more like a broom."

The Pratz's have been in business for themselves for five years, and Mr. Pratz had been in the broom-making business all his life. Mrs. Pratz, too, was well acquainted with the work, since her father was a broom maker.

Five people, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Pratz, work in the plant, which is located at 8012 N. Western.

Hamlin Clothing Has Wide Market

Starting with a canvas goods factory, C. C. Hamlin of Oklahoma City has branched out to include all kinds of jeans, jackets, shorts, skirts, dusters, boy's robes and coveralls.

From 40 to 50 people work at the plant, producing approximately 150 dozen garments a day, which are sold through dealers all over the United States.

Hamlin Manufacturing Company started making barracks bags and other canvas goods for the government during the war. When the war was over, blue jeans were added to the line, and from that Hamlin branched out to other clothing. Most of the garments made there are still of denim and twill, though other colorful cottons are also used.

Hamlin's canvas goods factory is still in operation. Awnings and other custom jobs are done there.

Contest Helps Improve Cities

Wewoka, Seminole and Holdenville have launched a contest to see which of the three cities can complete the largest number of civic improvements in a year's time.

Contest was to begin as soon as analyses prepared as a result of a recent community clinic were received, and continue through June 30, 1954. Civic improvements thus accomplished are expected to make the cities more attractive to new industry, as well as more pleasant places for the people that now live there.

Prizes, to be applied on further civic projects, will be awarded. First prize will be $300; second prize will be $200; and third, $100. Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company put up $300 of the prize money, and each of the cities contributed $100.