NEW ACP LINES MEAN NEW BUSINESS FOR BROWN ST.

Richard Briggs and Francis DeBlois

Brown St. people are in the midst of a plant expansion and improvement program that will pay important dividends in the AC capacitor business.

It's no coincidence that major changes are happening at the oldest operating Sprague production plant. The unique history of Brown St. provided the best solution to a marketing problem that faced the entire industry.

The new Sprague Type 325P ECCOL capacitor fills the industry need for a reliable, environmentally sound, motor-run capacitor. These units are required for electric motors for industrial, commercial and appliance applications.

Sprague is the first in the field with this proven non-PCB AC capacitor. The Type 325P offers reliability, as well as cost, size and performance advantages too!

ACP lines at Brown St. are producing Type 325P capacitors now! New equipment and processes are installed or scheduled for operation in the next few months. High-yield, high-volume production will be scaled up over a period of several years.

Developing The Type 325P

Until recently capacitors used for motor-run and similar applications were primarily PCB type oil-paper units. (PCB is an abbreviation for Poly-Chlorinated Biphenyl compounds.) PCB capacitors had good electrical properties, but have been found to have an adverse environmental impact and may no longer be used.

The ban on PCBs effectively reopened the oil-paper markets to Sprague. The Company is a pioneer in the use of non-PCB compounds in oil-paper capacitors, introducing its first such units in 1938. Sprague scientists at Marshall St., notably Sid Ross, and engineers at Brown St., including Ray Linsey, worked to perfect the Sprague non-PCB oils to replace the banned PCB capacitors.

In 1972 Sprague unveiled the Type 500P ECCOL capacitors manufactured at Brown St. And, in 1975, an improved capacitor, the Type 520P, with a pressure-sensitive current interrupter safety feature was introduced.

During this period, Herb Rice, Dave Howe and the Brown St. en-

The editors and staff of the Sprague LOG join our management team in extending best wishes for a joyous holiday season to all our readers.
engineers and technicians were developing a new metallized polypropylene film capacitor as a replacement for the oil-paper units. This work was based on 30 years of Sprague experience with metallized film capacitors.

The Type 325P is the end result of all these efforts. This ECCOL oil-impregnated plastic-film capacitor provides excellent electrical properties including capacitance stability with temperature and time, and low loss, or low power dissipation in operation, thus conserving energy.

Significant reductions in size and weight with corresponding cost savings are combined in the Type 325P, producing a capacitor with a definite competitive edge.

The great head start on non-PCB oil and metallized plastic film development has produced a better capacitor and set the stage for the Brown St. production team.

Equipment development is being handled by Warren Thompson, Bob Herzig and Warren Clement at Marshall St. along with the entire staff of the North Adams Machine Shop, and by Ray Robinson and Dex Whiting at Micro Tech in Worcester.

Production Control methods are being developed by Clyde Kipp, and Cost Controls implemented by Ellen McAllister.

John Shields and the Manufacturing Group are producing Type 325P units now. This group will eventually encompass close to 50 persons operating and supporting the new line.

Brown St. management views the development of the new ACP lines as a means to upgrade the environmental conditions within the plant, while improving the various operations as well as the technical and supervisory positions on the lines. A number of new concepts are in the process of being implemented including a team rolling approach to insure a steady production flow, rearranging work stations for better access, and personnel training at all job levels on the line.

Brown St. looks forward to much success from this new venture.

Kay Kolis, ACP Rolling Operator with 25 years experience, provides invaluable assistance in developing the new section winding process. Kay is presently training new operators for the ACP production line.

Carol Cushenette is ACP Line Supervisor. Her Product and Production Engineering, as well as supervisory experience, are definite assets. Carol’s primary responsibilities: maintaining product quality and on-time delivery.

Dave Howe, Mike Geroulo and Herb Rice, part of the Product Engineering team responsible for developing the Type 325P, are checking the Brown St. Life Test installation. Here, the new capacitor passes its toughest requirements – Sprague QAR testing.

Building New Production Lines

Users of the Type 325P capacitors want to substitute non-PCB for PCB units as quickly as possible. Meeting these high-quality high-volume industry demands is no simple task.

Creation of a new production line to manufacture a completely new unit using all new materials in massive quantities in a very short time requires experience, professional teamwork, and intensive effort on the part of all involved.

Bruce Woodger, Brown St. plant manager is responsible for the overall direction of the entire project. He has assigned specific roles within the Brown St. organization.

Pilot line development and Production Engineering responsibilities fall to Dave Howe, Paul Markarian and the Product Engineering Group, and to Dick Briggs, Joe Boni, John Pennock and John Childs of the Manufacturing Engineering Group.

Kay Koles, ACP Rolling Operator

Carol Cushenette is ACP Line Supervisor.

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SANDFORD PLANT EXPANDING

Sprague Sanford, our largest branch plant and a three shift operation, is currently involved with its fifth plant expansion.

The addition of a new warehouse scheduled for completion December 1, brings the Sanford plant size to 129,000 square feet.
Most of us have dreams, but not many realize them. Arthur Rogerson, Chief Technical Writer of Advertising, Sales Promotion, has been dreaming for ten years of sailing around the world. Next June, Art will retire from his position at Sprague Electric and that dream will become a reality.

Art and his wife, Marilyn, searched for a year before they finally found the right boat—a 35-foot sloop, the “Arethusa.” The Arethusa sleeps six in three cabins, has hot and cold water, a shower, galley with an alcohol stove and oven, ice chest, sink and storage space. They expect to visit the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, the Azores, Europe, the Mediterranean coast, the Suez Canal, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. They have no schedule and may travel from the Caribbean. This, explains Art, is a bit more of a challenge. Political unrest is more of a worry than the ocean and another concern is seasickness. Neither have ever been seasick but they admit it’s a possibility. They are looking forward to their adventure with great excitement. We wish them well on their journey around the world—and to all you dreamers, dream on, dreams can come true.

NEW BARRE PRODUCT LINE

Our Barre facility has recently entered into an agreement with Siemens of West Germany whereby Siemens will furnish Sprague with the technology that is required to manufacture “stacked-film” plastic dielectric capacitors under their proprietary construction and manufacturing process.

These capacitors are highly volume efficient; their single-ended mechanical configuration is such as to make them especially desirable for use on printed wiring boards. They have better high frequency characteristics, because of their unique construction, than do conventional convolutely-wound capacitors. This construction yields especially low self-inductance.

Of major significance is that “stacked-film” capacitors are not wound individually. The unique Siemens manufacturing technique allows individual capacitor sections to be cut from a “mother capacitor” which was produced by means of an automatic process under uniform conditions. In this way, several hundred high quality units are produced from a single “mother capacitor.”

This multi-million dollar capital investment program will enable Sprague to be competitive in the high technology market for metallized film capacitors and will enable us to regain the position which we previously held in entertainment applications and which has been seriously impacted over the last 5 years by off-shore competition.

The regaining of market share is of major importance to our Barre employees as it will mean, for them, greater job stability. Each of us is looking forward to the installation of the “stacked-film” product line at Barre.

Marketing of this “stacked-film” capacitor line is to begin during the second half of 1980.
1979 QUARTER CENTURY RECIPIENTS

Sprague Electric Company added 78 members to the Quarter Century Club in 1979. Employees honored for 25 years' service were:

Barre: Oland Paton; Clara Herbert; Eleanor Beede;
Hilda Peduzzi; Lenora McDonald; Phyllis Lawless; Florence Nye; Virginia Martin; Theresa Whitcomb; Iona K. Bissir; Barbara Machell

Brownsville: Ed Collier

Grafton: Marie M. Winget

Nashua: Grace M. Buder; Theresa A. Gagnon; Rita L. Jean; Yvette I. Marcoux; Colette M. Martel; Roseann Parnigan

North Adams: Walter J. Bernard; John A. Bouler; Kenneth B. Meyer; George A. Raymond, Jr.; Louis R. Scalise; George A. Shinn; Joseph H. Silveira; David H. Simonds; Stanley P. Szpak; Richard J. Vanasse; Clayton B. Bryant; Pauline A. Dean; Henry R. Felix; Ernest M. Johnson; Francis J. Maynard; Lloyd R. Sanders; Milton L. Sprague; Archibald D. Wilson; Alfred J. Bourassa

Sprague Electric Company has retired after thirty years of service at the dedication of these valuable Sprague Lansing employes.

Those 125 employes, 37 received their gold watches on October 11, 1979. The attendance at the banquet was 100%, another indication of the dedication of these valuable Sprague Lansing employes.

Congratulations and a "thank you" for 25 years of excellent service (Jack) Weaver; Madge D. Weaver; Richard D. Neaves; Alene M. Parsons; Blaine Parsons; Gertie P. Elliott; Louise Fetzer; Glenn Goodman; Harry L. Goss; Charles W. Harless; Edison G. Harless; Quinton R. Hart; Della G. Jones; Julia R. Jones; Guy C. Marsh; Mary A. McCormick; Wayne Miller; Richard D. Neaves; Alene M. Parsons; Blaine Parsons; Gertie P. Phillips; Lorene Powers; Preston Powers; Maxie Severt; Clarence M. Shatlery; Richard G. Sheets; Uracle Sheets; Ruby Spencer; Jack H. Sturgill; Nell Tedder; Sebert Testerman; Ward Vannoy; C. D. (Jack) Weaver; Madge D. Weaver

E. J. "WOODY" NOEL RETIRES

Edward J. Noel, popularly known as "Woody" throughout the Sprague Electric Company has retired after thirty years of service at our Nashua operation. Woody first joined the Company in the Industrial Relations Department in July of 1949 and has been continuously employed ever since. Besides managing the Industrial Relations Department, Woody has also been President of the Employees Credit Union at Sprague Nashua.

During his tenure at Nashua, Woody has also been continuously involved with many social and civic affairs. He is a member of Board of Directors St. Joseph Hospital; Board of Directors Nashua YMCA; Board of Directors UNH 100 Club; Board of Directors Bancroft Industries, Concord, NH (Sheltered Workshop); Advisory Board, Rivier College Management Committee; State of NH Department of Employment Security Appeal Tribunal; Member of City of Nashua Personnel Advisory Committee; Member of Reserve Officers Association. He is a retired Army Reserve Captain and formerly served six years as Member of Nashua Board of Education; Board of Directors Nashua Chamber of Commerce; Board of Directors Nashua Chapter American Red Cross; Member of Advisory Board St. Joseph Hospital and Chairman Nashua Blood Program.

When not involved in Company or civic affairs, Woody has always retained an avid interest in all athletics. He is not a person who ever became known as an "ex." Even at this point in time, Woody remains active in the Adult Hockey League, tennis, golf, and racquetball and golf, to name a few.

We all thank Woody for his thirty years' loyal service to the Sprague Electric Company and wish him well in a long retirement ahead.

NEW NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLY NOW

Sprague Electric Company will be included in the National Merit Scholarship Program under the GK Technologies scholarships and one daughter or son of a Sprague employee who graduates from high school in 1981 may receive an award. Applications have been sent to Industrial Relations Managers for all plants. They will ask interested employees to return them in early December.

Eligibility: Children of regular, retired or deceased employees of Sprague Electric or its domestic subsidiaries may compete.

Selection: High scoring candidates will be told they are finalists in their senior year. The winner is selected without regard to financial need. The winner is generally notified prior to April 1 (1981).

Stipend: The scholarship is a four-year award for undergraduate study. The stipend is based on family financial circumstances and college costs. It will vary between $250 and $2,000 per year. The stipend may be reevaluated at any time during the scholarship year.

The GK Technologies scholarship winner may accept up to $1,000 in other awards over the four scholarship years without affecting the stipend.

Responsibilities: Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and a good standing in their college. They must be enrolled full-time in a four-year program and maintain a good standing in college. They must also be enrolled full-time in a four-year program and maintain a good standing in college.

Administration: The National Merit Scholarship Corporation handles all phases of the competition.

Information: Candidates and their parents should address questions to Mr. Francis C. Wilson, Sprague Electric Company, North Adams, MA 01247.

Remember: This is for students who are now high school juniors graduating in 1981! Sprague Electric Company continues to sponsor its own program every year.

WORCESTER PLANT AIDS CRIPPLED CHILDREN

Ray Dewey

It isn't often that a company can brag about its losses. However, a recent financial disappointment has become something very exciting.

The ULN-2232A Motion Detector was designed in 1977 especially for a toy application. Although it was a significant advance in integrated circuit design, the toy didn't sell as well as planned and the Semiconductor Division in Worcester, MA was "stuck" with several thousand unmarked, rejected, and out-of-spec parts. After lots of advertising, many magazine articles and hundreds of free samples to prospective customers, it seemed that nobody wanted to make our production of the part worthwhile.

Along with the many experimenter, ham radio operator, and student requests for a free sample, a few were requested by a "medical engineer" to see if it would work in a medical application.

Now the good part — imagine a small child with advanced muscle
Failure!quired, repair three dozen modules for donation to this very beneficial the box makes a very loud, exciting sound for a reward (whoop - whoop - whoop - whoop - whoop - whoop - whoop - whoop). The child moves again and the sound is repeated. He learns that moving is FUN and he moves again. The program is a success! The child is excited, happy, and is getting his much-needed exercise as a result. His parents watch a very sick child smile again.

Sprague wanted to make these left-over parts available for this very worthwhile program. Eric Marshall, the 13-year old son of our Linear Project Manager, Brad Marshall, was able to screen and then required, repair three dozen modules for donation to this very beneficial program. He will continue to screen modules for distribution to other similar programs throughout the country.

If a price could be put on the happiness that this miniature (0.75” x .110”) integrated circuit will generate, we would be getting back far more than we could ever put into it. The UN-2232A Motion Detector was a financial disappointment, but it is emphatically NOT a failure!

**PROJECT PRIDE — Concord, New Hampshire Plant**

Project Pride was, and is, a program to enlist the help of hourly employees in cleaning and redecorating the plant. Project Pride was instituted with the idea that if employees take an interest in their working environment, it will also impart a sense of pride in their workmanship.

Committees were assigned in each area to develop color schemes and decorating ideas. One committee, The Hallway Committee, came up with the mushroom and flower scenes for the main hallway. Serving on this committee were Lydia Cooper, Dawn Guertin, Frank Kulacz, Ralph Mecheau, and Bob Olson. All the work in the plant was performed by the hourly employees and has considerably improved the appearance of the plant giving it a “homey” atmosphere. Many compliments have been received by customer representatives visiting the plant.

**WORCESTER EMPLOYEES RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Sprague’s Worcester operation recently instituted a program to recognize employee contributions on the job or in their communities. The idea of the program is to let everyone know of an employee’s achievements which often are the result of hard work and unselfishness and are recognized only by a few, or those directly involved.

Employees themselves make recommendations on who should be honored and a committee makes the final choice. Twice a month an hourly and a salary employee are chosen and their pictures and a paragraph or two about their accomplishments, their work history with Sprague, and personal life are displayed on the bulletin board.

It is Worcester’s way of saying “thank you” for a job well done at work, or for the community, and of showing our appreciation — for without people like this, our I. C. operation could not be the success that it is.

**HILLSVILLE SUGGESTION AWARDS**

McDaniel Harless, Industrial Relations Manager of Sprague Electric Company, Hillsville Plant, has announced the awarding of two large suggestion payments to employees.

Mrs. Mildred S. Semones was awarded $797.23 for her suggestion to change the method used in testing which resulted in a substantial savings. Mrs. Semones has been employed by Sprague since November 1973.

An award of $539.47 was presented to Roger D. Lindsay for his suggestion which improved stamping on certain products. Mr. Lindsay has been employed since January 1968.

Both recipients are residents of Hillsville, VA.

**CONCORD WOMEN’S SOFTBALL TEAM WINS DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP**

The Sprague Women’s Softball Team, The Electrics, posted a record of 14 wins and two losses during regular season play to win the Division Championship in the Concord Women’s Softball League.

After losing their first game, the team quickly bounced back and moved into a tie for first place by their fifth game. Defeating the other first place team in the seventh game gave the Electrics sole possession of first place, never to relinquish it again and eventually chalking up 13 straight wins.

The team had an outing at the end of the season at which trophies were awarded to Francis Hill for “Highest Batting Average” (.714), Ann Thurston for “Most RBI’s” (21), Sandy Robinson for “Most Improved” and Jeanne Williams for “Most Valuable Player.”

**GENERAL CABLE PLANS FIBER-OPTICS PLANT**

GK Technologies, Incorporated has announced that its General Cable Division plans to open a new plant to manufacture optical-fiber cables by the end of this year.

The new plant will be adjacent to General Cable’s existing New Brunswick, New Jersey facility which currently produces a line of telecommunications cable products. The new plant will concentrate on optical-fiber cables, both standard types and specialty applications. The facility will also provide the capability to furnish cables with protective sheaths suitable for a full range of indoor, aerial, underground duct and direct earth burial installations.

The company also plans to move its Research & Development Center to a new 50,000 sq. ft. facility in Edison, New Jersey, where it will place increasing emphasis on technological advancements for optical fiber cable.

General Cable designed and manufactured the world’s first optical fiber cable to provide regular telephone service. This 5.6 mile interoffice trunk was placed in operation between Long Beach and Artesia, California, by the General Telephone Company of California in April, 1977. The company has also provided cables for other applications, including CATV, CCTV and high speed data transmission in the United States and abroad.
MANAGEMENT CHANGES

Management changes since our last publication include:

Barre: Russell W. Jones, Product Marketing Manager; Donald DeForge, Process/Production Engineer

Brownsville: Donald L. Harter, Materials Manager; Francisco P. Hernandez, Foreman Mechanical Maintenance

Clinton: William O. McClung, Process Engineer; Raymond L. Overton, Equipment Design Engineer; William E. Cooper, Manager Process Engineering; Donald J. Riley, Product Engineer

Grafton: Shirley Klippel, Production Control Manager; Shirley A. Haubold, Production Foreman; William W. Hoagland, Manager Product Engineering; George A. Nordling, Programmer Analyst; Jerome Sarnowski, Sr. Manufacturing Engineer; Navin Sanghvi, Materials Manager; Jerry Sarnowski, Production Superintendent; Donald Bender, Production General Foreman

Hillsville: James C. Stockton, Manager Equipment Design Engineering; Richard McGill, Process Engineer; David Fowler, Equipment Design Engineer

Lansing: William Hohman, Manager Manufacturing Engineering; Johnny P. Phillips, Product Engineer; Bennie Barker, Plant Manager; Bobby G. Ward, Process Engineer; Jeanette G. Mahler, Programmer Analyst; James McMenemy, Sr. Equipment Design Engineer

Los Angeles: Dolores Schieferle, Buyer

Nashua: Ronald E. St. Onge, Equipment Design Engineer; Roger Gagnon, Equipment Design Engineer; Werner Nielber, Sr. Equipment Design Engineer; Bruce Breining, Process/Product Engineer

North Adams: Paul Goodridge, Manager CIS Design; Richard Zampini, Production Foreman; John R. Chase, Director Technical Services; Ronald Whitney, Sr. Equipment Design Engineer; Walter Schroeder, Manager Development & Engineering; David Armitage, Manager Accounts Receivable; Claudio Malusa, Marketing Manager; Filter Division; Richard L. Orberg, Technical Assistant-Taiwan; Andre Tremblay, Cost Analyst; Debra Aubin, Budget Analyst; Robert C. Crum, Supervisor Pilot Plant Manufacturing; Edwin C. Wilk, Manpower Control Analyst; Peter Chase, Corporate Quality Assurance Engineer; Robert T. Jacobson, Manager Process Engineering, North Adams Ceramics Operations; Philip T. Brucato, Manager Corporate Safety; Warren Clement, Section Head Assembly, Process D & E; David W. Demick, Co-Pilot; Michael Lucey, Process/Production Engineer; Gary L. Thompson, Corporate Salary Administrator; Robert J. H. LaPierre, Corporate Wage Administrator; David Peth, Section Head, Engineering Methods & Procedures; Craig J. Ghidotti, Assistant Industrial Relations Manager; Ronald Hadley, Sr. Methods & Planning Engineer; Thomas Hurley, Sr. Product Engineer; Allan Isherwood, Chief Pilot; Bruce Wilke, Sr. Systems Designer-Data Base Administrator; Paula A. Domenichini, Programmer Analyst; Herbert A. Knepper, Sr. Product Cost Coordinator; Theodore R. Sprague, Production Superintendent, Filter Division; Howard Zimmerman, Industrial Relations Counsel; Mildred Conroy, Production Foreman; James Murtagh, Product Specialist; Anjana Arora, Statistician

Orlando: Mark W. Rumer, Process/Product Engineer; Robert M. Patterson, Assistant to National Sales Manager; Martin J. Douglas, Sales Engineer, Arizona; L. Baumgardner, Semiconductor Sales Engineer, Costa Mesa; Howard G. Pace, Sales Engineer, Chicago; Margaret Marshall, Sales Engineer, New York; Kathy M. Gamari, Account Specialist, Waltham

Sanford: John C. Nowacki, Product Engineer; Leland J. Goldsmith, Programmer Analyst; David R. Laliberte, Product Engineer; Linda M. Cochrane, Wage Payment Auditor; Vince Bass, Production Foreman; Elaine Gendell, Assistant Industrial Relations Manager; Richard Baker, Manufacturing Engineer

Sprague Products:

Janice Duguay, Sales Order Administrator; Paul Emery, Sr. Sales Engineer; Michael G. Graham, Jr. Sales Engineer, Woodrow Boillat, Assistant Inventory Control Manager

Wichita Falls: Michael Ashley, Methods & Planning Engineer; Edwin Creaseman, Process/Product Engineer; Ellen Richards, Methods & Planning Engineer; Christine Scott, Purchasing Manager; William P. Meisel, Plant Manager; Peter A. Ravella, Production Foreman; Stacey Burb, Buyer; Timothy L. Thomas, Sr. Equipment Design Engineer; Jack E. Sims, Supervisor Specification Engineering; Jeffrey Kopol, Sr. Equipment Design Engineer; Aubrey G. Gabrysch, Production Foreman

Worcester: James E. Grout, Supervisor Equipment Maintenance; Mark Heisig, Applications Engineer; Paul Burgarella, Product Engineer; Mark W. Lynch, Quality Assurance Foreman; Donald K. MacIntyre, Product Manager; Richard Brewster, Product Design Engineer; William O’Connor, Materials Manager; Frederick Reerson, Offshore Facilities Engineer; Stanley Ratoff, Jr., Industrial Engineer; Walter Estes, Process Engineer; Dennis H. Fitzgerald, Manager Production Planning & Control; Robert Soderberg, Quality Control Engineer; Mark Kelley, Product Design Engineer; Richard Wood, Product Engineer; Paul Emerald, Product Manager; Thomas B. Vanger, Sr. Process Engineer; Peter R. McGinnis, Process Engineer

GRAFTON EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS

A donation of $275.00 was recently presented to the Village of Grafton Fire and Rescue Squad. The money will be used toward the purchase of additional rescue squad equipment. Rich Bulginn, Chief of the Village of Grafton Fire and Rescue Squad is an electrician at the Grafton facility. Other employees who participate regularly on emergency calls are Body Shop employees, Mark Hespich and Shawn Joannes. Sprague Electric, Grafton, is certainly proud to have these individuals as employees.

Additional support of community participation was accomplished on October 5 when an in-plant Blood Drive in conjunction with the Milwaukee Blood Center produced a total of 64 pints of blood. All three shifts supported this worthwhile cause. Many thanks to all those employees who supported the blood drive.