

Scans In Clean Air Fight With Auto Testing Device

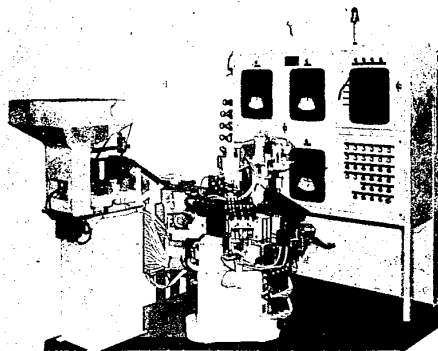
By W.W. EDGAR

In its newly expanded facilities on Farmington Road in Livonia, Scans Associates, Inc. is taking a leading role in the national fight against pollution. Its latest contribution is the

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development and building of completely automatic equipment for the quality control testing of what, technically, is termed the "critical sealing switch" in the exhaust systems of the 1970 engines being used by major automobile manufacturers.

Developed in cooperation with the national air pollution control effort, the system, known in manufacturing circles as TCS, will reduce nitrogen oxides, presently uncontrolled in automobiles, and greatly limit the flow of hydrocarbons in car exhaust fumes.



THIS TESTING EQUIPMENT for an exhaust fumes control system was built for auto engine manufacturers by Scans Associates, Inc. of Livonia.

"BASICALLY, IT is a transmission controlled spark," Henry W. Grischett, one of the top engineers, explained. "Please understand," he said, "we do not do the actual testing in our plant. But we do design and build the machines that will do the testing in the home plants of the various manufacturers."

He pointed out that the system is highly technical, and the equipment built for the switch testing automatically feeds the sensitive devices into a six-step testing cycle.

The various steps are taken in this manner:

FIRST, station one automatically loads and connects the switch to the vacuum activating line.

At station two, each switch is set at an overload level to determine whether it is functioning properly. Any failure in the function at this stage is registered for automatic rejection through an electronic latching memory system.

The next stage tests the leakage under conditions far in excess of operating requirements.

"YOU MAY WONDER why all these tests are geared to overload conditions," Grischett stated. "We must be absolutely certain that the equipment will provide a real test. So we perform at least 10 times above the regular operating level - just to make sure. We figure if a switch, or any other piece of equipment, functions well under overload conditions, it will meet requirements for normal use."

When the acceptable switches arrive at the fourth step, they are tested again for continuity of function under normal conditions of every day driving. Failures again are registered for discard.

"Now we come to the interesting phase," Grischett continued. "This is step five and this is where the memory system goes to work. Under this memory reject system, the machine removes all subquality switches and leaves only what we call 'zero defect' switches. These have now proven their reliability and are ready for the market."

MUCH OF the work of testing and rejecting is done automatically. Human hands do not come into play until the rejected switches are taken over for repairs or removal of parts prior to going through the testing machines again.

With this new testing equipment, now being developed and manufactured in Livonia, hopes are high that a giant step can be taken toward conquering the air pollution problem.

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By MARVIN KEMP

A home is like a garden - fresh, fragrant, blooming! Neglect your garden, neglect to nourish and cultivate it, and soon you'll have a deteriorated, wilted mess. So be it with your house. This is the essence of modernizing your house - nourish your house with constant care and thought. It may be laborious and time consuming but with a few years of additions, alterations, maintenance and repair, a house will take on your character and reflect your personality. Without care the structure will stand but as with a garden, it will never realize its full bloom!

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6 Mile-Haggerty To Get A Light

Russell Harrison, Wayne County safety engineer, has informed the City of Livonia administration that a much needed traffic signal light will be installed at the intersection of Six Mile and Haggerty Road on or before Oct. 20.

The Student Senate of Schoolcraft College and the Board of Trustees had appealed to the Wayne County Road Commission for the light because of the congestion of traffic during peak morning and afternoon periods.

The Student Senate made a similar request a year ago, and the city received a denial from the county on the grounds that conditions, at that time, didn't warrant a light.

THE INTERSECTION, which has traffic jams at 7:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m. and 2:45 p.m., has a flasher light at present.

Randy Johns, of Livonia, Student Senate President, and members of the senate started a petition drive for the light last week.

Word was received in the Livonia mayor's office Thursday that the light is scheduled for installation.

Mayor Menke, upon notification, asked Harrison to check into installation of signal lights at Six, Seven and Eight Mile Roads at the Newburgh intersections also.

He also asked for an investigation as to lighting conditions on Middle Belt and Plymouth and at Farmington and Plymouth and if the signals are adequate.

GM Creates New Livonia Job

Joseph J. Casaroli of Flint has been appointed to the newly created position of mid-east area traffic manager for General Motors Parts Division and will have an office at the Livonia parts distribution center.

Casaroli will work to improve delivery of service parts to GM dealers.

Casaroli earned a bachelor of science degree in transportation from the University of Tennessee in 1959 and started work in Chevrolet's Willow Run plant. His most recent post has been eastern area traffic coordinator operating out of Flint.

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