



An overview of the warehouse at Exotic Rubber & Plastics, a fabricator and distributor of industrial plastics. In the foreground, company president Charles Marino talks to workers.

Exotic Rubber opens its doors

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

It's been described as the mini-Renaissance Center of Farmington Hills.

The two-story glimmering light fixtures do give Exotic Rubber & Plastic's corporate headquarters at 34700 Grand River a classy appearance.

Thursday the 20-year-old fabricator

and distributor of industrial plastics had an open house.

Salesmen took tours of the new 85,000 square-foot facility that has offices, warehouse and a factory.

"One of the reasons for this (open house) is that we believe the economy is changing," said Bob Hodson, director of sales.

"We're looking forward to better business."

Exotic opened its new plant last March. It has three times the space the previous plant in Farmington's industrial park had. Some 80 workers are employed there.

Although the plant is automotive-oriented, "we're attempting to diversify," according to Hodson.

The food and computer industries are two areas where Exotic hopes to

expand. Parts are also built for the aerospace industry.

"There are a lot of big companies in this area that have nothing to do with automobiles," Hodson said.

MANY OF THE PARTS built by Exotic personnel are used for assembly line work. Machinists who operate Bridgeport mills, lathes, belt and surface grinders, and drill presses are involved in making castings, cold pours and protective coverings.

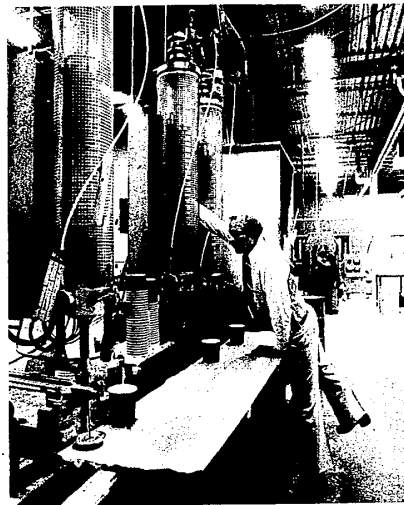
Fabricating and mold making is poured into polyurethane or rubber molds by workers in another department.

"The 'exotic' part of the name implies that we're not a big production company," said Dick Dexter, a supervisor. "We might build one part, so it's exotic, out of the ordinary, not too common."

The parts are trimmed before shipping.

Exotic was founded by Charles Marino in 1952 in Redford Township. The company moved to Farmington Hills in 1969.

The firm has distribution and sales offices in Freeland and Jackson.



Dick Dexter explains how these columns take excess moisture out of urethane.



Machinist supervisors Dave Dean (left) and Bob Feig explain the uses of a Bridgeport mill, one of several machines in the factory.



Exotic president Charles Marino in a plant-studded passageway of his new corporate headquarters in Farmington Hills.

Photos by
Randy Borst

INSIDE ANGLES

BY MARY RODRIQUE

IF MARY BOWMAN of Farmington Hills wasn't taking off for Europe this week, she'd be preparing to guide a tour through the Detroit Institute of Arts exhibit, "Shadows of Mount Haug: Chinese Painting and Printing." It's pertinent to all she's been teaching students at the Farmington Community Center, where she introduced Sumi-E, the Zen art of brush painting, about five years ago. Bowman wishes all her former students, current scholars, and those who signed up for fall classes at the center would see the show at the institute now through Sept. 13. "It's a divided exhibit she warns. "Don't miss any of it, when you're finished viewing in the main gallery, be sure to visit the show in the textile gallery."

THE MARINES may boast of being "the few and the proud," but one new recruit had to swallow his pride last week. Steve Hamlin was among the 43 graduates arrested for being disorderly during a field party in Farmington Hills last June. Sentencing following Hamlin's court date before 47th District Judge Michael Hand last week conflicted with his induction ceremonies. Hand amended sentencing to fit the recruit's schedule: He must write a 3,000 word essay on the history of public disturbances and rioting. And he has six months to complete the assignment. Hand threatened a day in jail for each misspelled word. A little tip to Hamlin: the judge was a history major.

SHHH That's an acronym for Self Help for Hard of Hearing. If you are or know someone who is, take note. Two groups are being organized for the Detroit area Self Help for the Hard of Hearing. Meetings are planned on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 1 p.m. at Sword of Spirit Lutheran Church, 34563 Seven Mile Road, and Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Whitman Center, 32235 W. Chicago — both in Livonia.

HILDA AND WARREN Merchant of Farmington Hills know a lot about the natural history of the coastline of Maine, thanks to a two-week course at the Audubon Camp in Medomak, Maine. They were among 500 teachers and conservation leaders who attended the National Audubon Society's four camps this summer. The other camps are in Connecticut, Wisconsin and Wyoming. At the Maine camp, the Merchants studied birds, plants, insects, pond life, marine life and natural history.

They visited a number of islands of Muscongus Bay as part of their studies.

ATTENTION GIRL GYMNASTS The Farmington Area YMCA will be holding girls gymnastic team tryouts for the 1981-82 season on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 8 a.m. to noon. Anyone 8-11 years old should come to tryouts from 10 a.m. to noon and girls 12-16 should come from 10 a.m. to noon. Girls should be dressed to work out and bring their parents along for the informational meeting part of tryouts. The Y is at 28100 Farmington Road, north of Twelve Mile.

FARMINGTON CHAPTER of American Association of University Women (AAUW) will present its annual book sale in the Livonia Mall Sept. 17-20. It's the largest used book sale the mall hosts each year. The mall, at Seven Mile and Middlebelt, will also host the Michigan Handicrafters sale Sept. 9-13. The handcrafted items were all made by handicapped persons. Also the Boy Scouts will present a demonstration of their skills at the mall on Sept. 19.

STRIKE UP THE BAND with the Farmington Youth Orchestra and Concert Band. All sixth, seventh and eighth graders are eligible to join (\$16 for 12 weeks). Students have a chance to play in an ensemble and to get acquainted with musical literature. The group will meet for weekly rehearsals at the Shiswassee Recreation Center from 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, Sept. 16 through Dec. 9. All musicians except those using percussion instruments will have to furnish their own instruments. Percussion instruments will be provided. Register at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation office, 31555 Eleven Mile Road.

DR. GENE A. GETZ, pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Dallas, Texas and professor of pastoral ministries at Dallas Theological Seminary will be the featured speaker at the annual spiritual life conference at William Tyndale College, Sept. 21-25. Getz has authored "The Measure of a Family," "The Measure of a Church," "Loving One Another," and "A Profile for a Christian Lifestyle." Morning sessions Tuesday through Friday will be from 10:30-11:30. Evening sessions from 7:45-8:30. Tyndale College at 35700 W. 12 Mile Road.

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