

Markel to Close Fort Erie Plant ¹⁹⁷⁹

Markel Electric Products Ltd. today announced plans to close its Fort Erie electric heater plant on December 7. The 43-year-old facility employs about 60 people.

A spokesman said "high import tariffs, dollar exchange rates and weaknesses in the electric heating market combined to have a negative effect which was impossible to overcome."

The spokesman said the facility, at 23 Lewis St., had been suffering "continued losses over the last few years."

The company said employees at the Fort Erie plant could submit applications for work at the parent company's Buffalo plant, 601 Amherst St.

The Markel Buffalo and Fort Erie facilities, which had been privately held by the Markel

family, was acquired last year by Scovill Inc., Waterbury, Conn.

Under new ownership, the company's name was changed to the Marcel NuTone Division of Scovill Inc.



Markel

Wednesday, October 10, 1979

shuts down

operation

As of Dec. 7, 1979 plant operations will cease and approximately 50 employees of Markel Electric Products Ltd., 23 Lewis St., will be out of work.

Markel Electric in Fort Erie, a subsidiary of the Buffalo plant received the

directive this week that operations will cease.

"It's very surprising to me," said Al Chevalier general manager at the local plant. "Things appeared to be going well - but not as good as we thought though."

Although Mr. Chevalier was not at liberty to discuss the reasoning behind the shut down of operations, a press release from the management at the head office in

Buffalo outlined the directives.

According to management it was indicated that high import tariffs, dollar exchange rates and weaknesses in the electric heating market combined to have a negative effect which was impossible to overcome. No substantive changes can be foreseen which could justify continuing the

operation in the face of continued losses over the last few years.

In making the announcement, executives indicated it was a very difficult decision to make because of the many people it affects.

A spokesman indicated that present employees in the Fort Erie operation could submit applications for consideration in the company's manufacturing facilities, Markel NuTone Division Scovill in Buffalo.

Markel Electric, established in Fort Erie in 1932 employs 90 per cent women. The 50,000 square foot plant on Lewis Street, houses the administrative offices, manufacturing facilities and the finished product warehouse area.

The Fort Erie plant has been operating under Markel NuTone Division Scovill Inc. since mid 1978. Markel NuTone will continue all of their operations in Buffalo, N.Y.

Mr. Chevalier adding that it was a difficult industry to get established and said that the head office would most likely put the plant on the market for sale.



The Marcel Electric Bld.
Courtwright St. Fort Erie.

The Company came to town
in 1932. Pictured is their
new office building, fronting
the plant on S.S. of Lewis st.

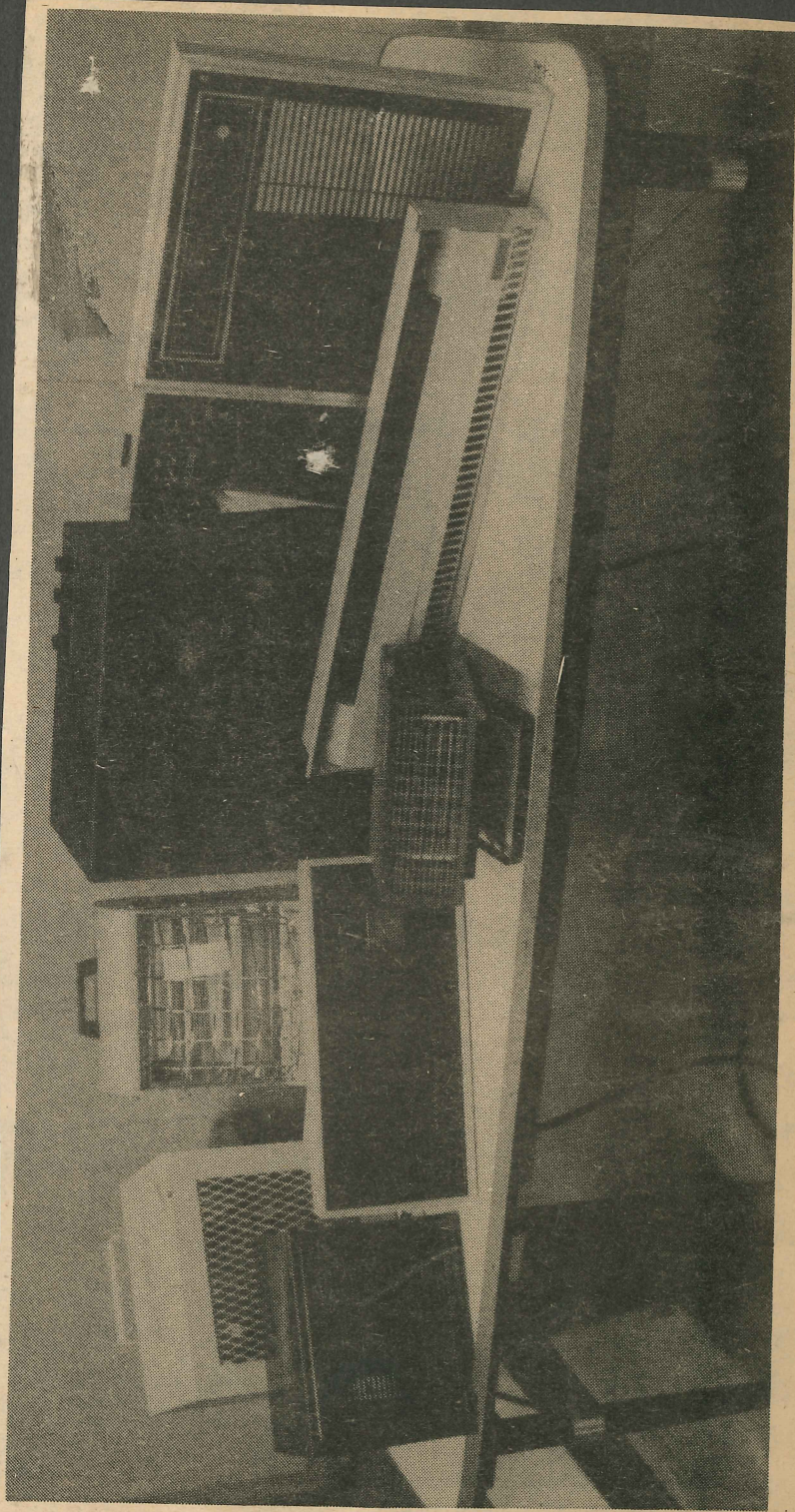
1957. In Nov. of 57, MARKEL ELECTRIC made plans to rebuild after
a recent fire, which caused damage to the cost of \$150,000.
Manager Charles Bowen.

A goodly number of Fort Erie women, classed as the "Alumni" of LaClede Manufacturing Company, enjoyed a get-together at the Kathryn Lawrence dining room in Buffalo on Monday evening.

Among those in attendance was one of the oldest in years of service, Mrs. Thomas Sumner, who managed LaClede's Fort Erie office during her 38 years with the company. In reminiscing, Mrs. Sumner recalled the days when LaClede opened the Canadian branch in the old Kittner furniture building on Courtwright street when several of the "old Buffalo girls" came over to work. From there the company built the present Markel Electric plant building, where its Canadian headquarters existed for nearly 20 years, later occupying the upper section of the Review Company building, Jarvis street, from which Mrs. Sumner retired last year.

Markel heaters

warm the nation



A variety of Markel heaters