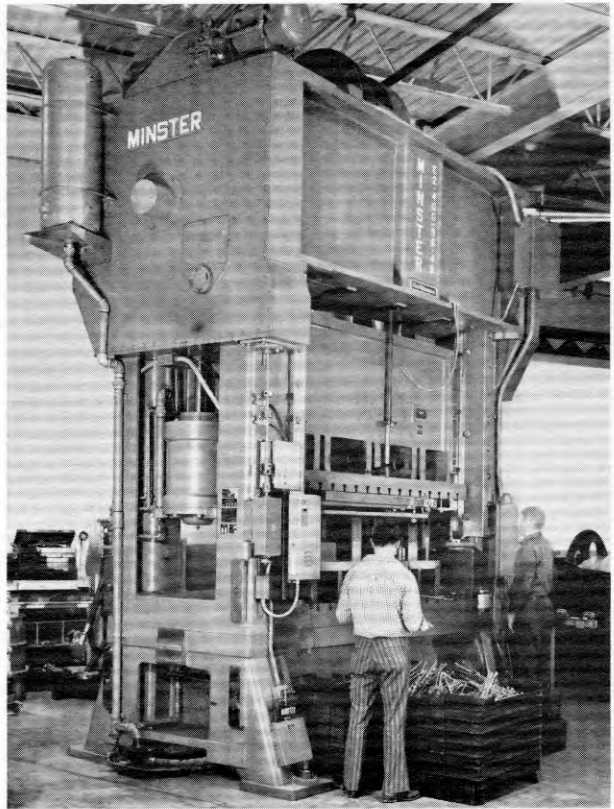


An array of parts produced by Gill & Williams with dies of their own design and manufacture. Thicknesses range to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".



E2-400 HeviStamper turning out reinforcing inserts for molded rubber parts.

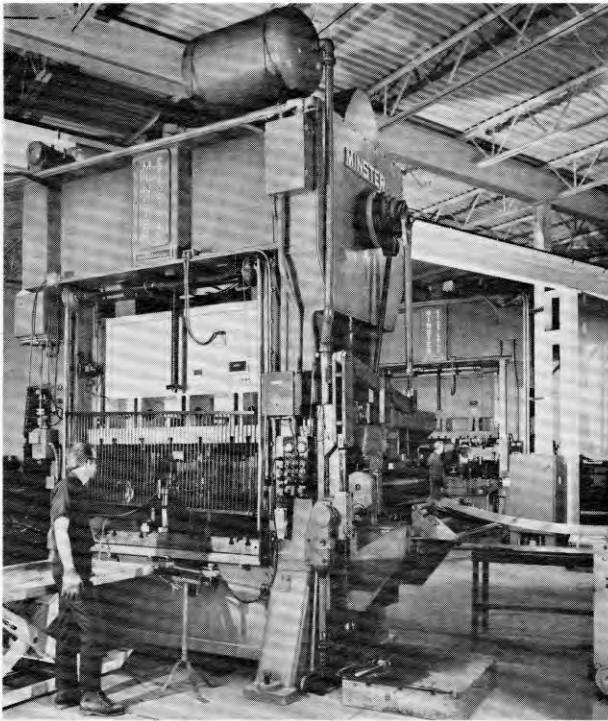
## Gill & Williams like Minster Presses for Progressive and Transfer Die Operations

When two energetic brothers-in-law, John Gill and Gerald Williams completed their die-making apprenticeship together eight years ago, they leased some space in an old building in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan and started a small tool and die shop. Within three years the 40 x 80 sq. ft. space had become much too small and they began making plans for their own building.

Today John and Gerry operate Gill & Williams, Inc. in a 25,000 sq. ft., four building facility in Byron Center, ten miles south of Grand Rapids. It's one of the fastest growing, most modern contract stamping firms in Michigan. The company designs and builds mostly progressive and transfer type dies. They produce parts for the appliance, truck, trailer and automotive markets. Much of their work is making reinforcing inserts for molded rubber automotive parts. However, the firm is versatile, working with materials ranging from .0020" to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in thickness.

### FIRST MINSTER PRESS IN 1969

These ingenious young stamping and die-making

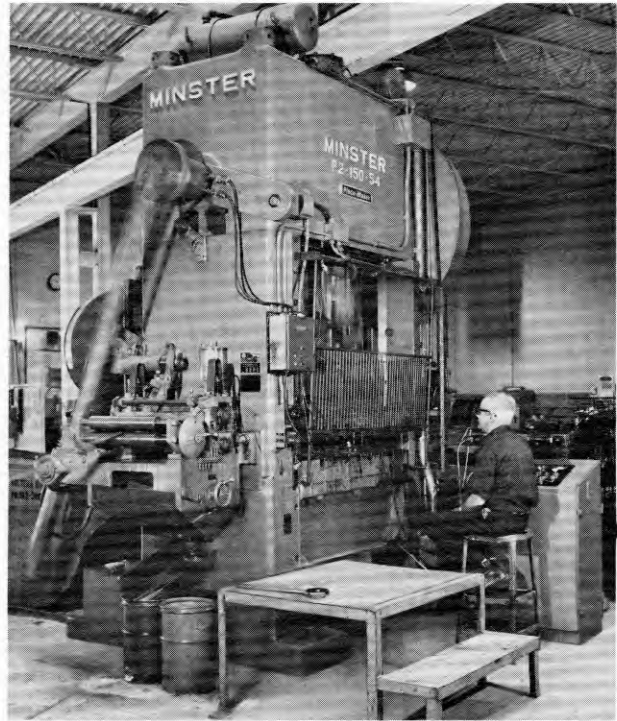


First Minster press at Gill & Williams was this E2-200.

specialists, now only in their late thirties, ordered their first Minster press in January 1969. A 200 ton capacity E2 HeviStamper®, it was to be used for both die try-out and parts production. Prior to its delivery Gill & Williams obtained some additional stamping contracts. While at the Minster plant inspecting the E2 press, John and Gerry saw a 150 ton P2 Piece-Maker® press being completed for stock. Anticipating the need for more press capacity to handle newly gained orders for stampings, they bought the P2 press on the spot.

#### WHY THEY CONTINUE TO BUY MINSTERS

Both men say they have plenty of reasons to buy Minster presses. They like Minsters for their transfer die operations which they run on the E2 presses at 150 spm. The variable speed drive is helpful in fine-tuning the timing of the transfer mechanism down to a "gnat's eyebrow." John Gill, the president, noted, "We stayed with Minsters because of the service we received from them. We have very little downtime and no complications as far as breakdowns are concerned. The presses are well-built and stand a lot of usage." Gerry Williams, vice-president adds, "From my personal viewpoint, it's the



Gill & Williams purchased this 150 ton Piece-Maker high speed automatic production press to handle growing volume of contract stamping orders.

quality that's built into the press. We feel if you're buying quality, you buy a Minster. The accuracy of the press is very important when running quality parts through a progressive die."

Gill & Williams back up their statements with action. They stay with Minster equipment. In November 1969, after running their first E2 press for about one month, they placed an order for a 400 ton capacity HeviStamper. Again, in the company of Casey Clossen, salesman for Wing & Jabaay, Minster's distributor, they visited the Minster plant to check out the huge press prior to shipment. Again, they noticed a No. 6 O.B.I. machine being completed for stock. This time they didn't buy it right away. It was on the way home they had Clossen stop the car, find a roadside phone, call Minster and place the order.

Continued growth in contract stamping is the goal of this fast-moving firm. To help reach it they recently placed the order for their third E2 HeviStamper, a 300 ton machine slated for delivery later this year. And, it's possible that, when they go to Minster, Ohio, to inspect it, they just might see another press on the assembly floor that will find a place in their shop.

Gerry Williams left and John Gill, far right, sign the order for a new Minster 300 ton E2 HeviStamper press, their third. Casey Clossen, center, salesman for Wing & Jabaay, Inc., who met them when all three were die-making apprentices, looks on.

