



Fibrex workers l. to r.: Jan Presley, Jake Garrett, Craig McWilliams, and Bill Goodson bag the rock wool insulation produced at the plant. Originally Indiana Rock Wool, Fibrex purchased the factory in 1987. Slag, a steel mill by-product is used to make the insulation. The plant has 75 employees in Alexandria, where its headquarters are located. Fibrex also has plants in Illinois and Missouri and is the largest manufacturer of mineral fiber for diverse market applications in the U.S.



Founded by the Sturm family, The Glove Corporation has been in business since 1922. These employees are sewing racing uniforms. Gloves are now made in Arkansas. Pictured are: foreground: Karen Smith, Hope Johnson; background: Grace Semon, Linda Stanley, Debbie Gipe, and Peggy Hampton.



RAM Graphics, founded by Ron Ruby and Larry Mercer in 1976, began with four employees and today has 120 workers. The company was listed in Inc. magazine as one of the fastest-growing, privately-owned companies in the U.S. for 1985, '86, and '87. Pictured in the silk screen department are long time employees Diane Sears and Kenny Miller, who has been with RAM for 14 years.



U.S. Leisure employees Strawberry Dietzer, Jason DeVoe, and Steve Hester (background), operations coordinator, work to produce plastic storage containers, which will be sold through Dollar General Stores. The company, best known for its production of casual resin furniture, employs 125 people working 12-hour shifts, seven days a week. The facility has been in Alex for ten years but has only been owned by U.S. Leisure for the past two years.



The devastating Al-Man fire at the site of the former Johns-Manville Plant, in October 1994, caused \$23.5 million in damage. The facility was home to ten businesses, among them U. S. Leisure, FDL, Red Gold, Warner Press, and Alexandria Mailing Services. The State Fire Marshall has determined the blaze was set, but no arrests have been made. All that remains of the building is 90,000 square feet, once occupied by Red Gold.

In 1943, factories in and around Alexandria were working 24 hours

a day, seven days a week, turning out the materials of war. Today, the large factories that played such a part in the war effort are all gone from Alexandria. Aladdin, Johns-Manville, and National Gypsum relocated to other cities or closed completely. Even Delco Remy, which employed 18,000 people in 1943, has divided into two companies, AC Delco Systems and Delco Remy America, and reduced its Anderson work force to 6,184 employees.

But a surprising number of smaller factories still flourish locally, producing a variety of goods which are still shipped world wide.

Fibrex produces insulation for residential and commercial use and ships its products throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The fifty employees of The Glove Corporation, Worth Corporation, and Pyrotech, Inc., all located at 301 N. Harrison, produce custom-made racing uniforms and other related safety equipment. Their products are sent all over the world.

The RAM companies — Graphics, Trophies, and Apparel — silk screen shirts, jackets, and hats for schools, sports teams, special events, and gospel artists. They also sell apparel, trophies, and award plaques. RAM's products also have a market world wide.

U.S. Leisure produces world-class casual resin furniture which it ships throughout the nation.

And FDL (Flair Designs Limited) manufactures metal office furniture. Their clients include the mega clubs, the rental industry, and hospitality market.

The factories operate in such a manner that their customers thousands of miles away are often more aware of items being produced in Alexandria than are those people who live within sight of the plants.



FDL (Flair Designs Limited) opened their plant in Alexandria in the spring of '93. After the Al-Man fire, a portion of their operation was re-located to Muncie. Currently 80 people work at the local facility and 50 in Muncie. The company produces restaurant and office furniture. Shown making seat cushions with the seat press machine are: Tammy Buck, Gabriella Ellis, and Lorrie Ice.