

Standard major employer for Otsego County area

GAYLORD — Standard Products Company has long been a significant employer in Otsego County.

Established at Gaylord 36 years ago, the Ohio-based company with general offices in Cleveland operates 21 manufacturing plants located in five countries.

The Gaylord plant presently employs about 385 people.

Standard also maintains a large public warehouse, product development and sales office in Dearborn.

The company principally is engaged in manufacturing extruded and molded rubber and plastic products for automotive, building, military and marine use.

Standard also is involved in manufactur-

ing pre-cured and conventional tread rubber for the tire retreading industry.

Supply and distribution services are handled through its own public warehouse and trucking company.

ACCORDING to Jack Somerville, division manager, the company's future in Gaylord has thorough ties to the automotive industry.

Recently, Standard Products at Gaylord has been manufacturing automotive parts primarily for the GMC small car line, which has kept employment fairly consistent.

The plant is located about four miles south of Gaylord, east of Old 27 and Otsego Lake.

County EDC assists businesses

GAYLORD — The Otsego County Economic Development Corporation is a vehicle designed to attract new business or to expand established industries.

More employment, a larger tax base and an improved economy are the goals of the EDC.

In 1980, the Otsego County Board of Commissioners cleared the way for the EDC to be established.

The mechanism allows a business to borrow money at a significantly lower interest rate than if it were seeking a conventional loan.

Michael Combs of Elmira is president of the county EDC. Dennis Turbin serves as vice-president, and Peter Crawford as corporate secretary. Erna Backenstose is corporate treasurer.

Williams Real Estate on historic site

GAYLORD — Williams Real Estate at 122 S. Otsego Avenue is located on the site of one of the earliest locations for the Gaylord Post Office.

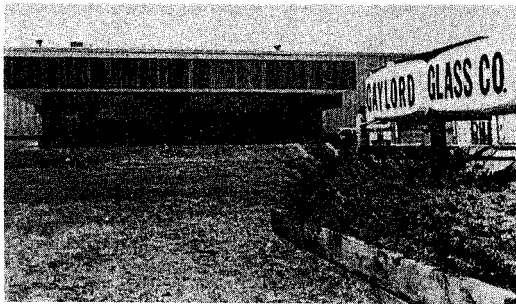
For many years before Gene Williams bought the building, the Top O' Michigan restaurant operated there.

Today, the real estate company boasts a modern building constructed in 1975 after

fire destroyed the former structure.

In 1948, Williams opened an insurance firm in Gaylord. Twelve years later, he added real estate to the business. He sold the insurance business in 1974.

Williams Real Estate is a member of the Water Wonderland Board of Realtors, and is especially active in oil properties.



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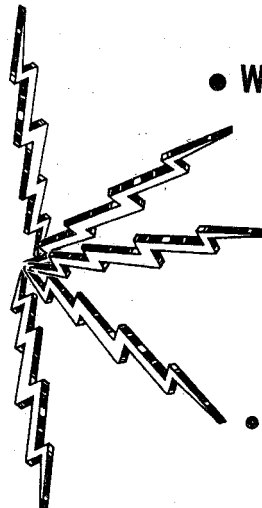


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