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## FORMER PASTURE HAS BECOME GLEN ROCK'S INDUSTRIAL PARK

"While there's a certain pastoral beauty and simplicity in looking out at Mr. DeBoer's cows, it always did seem to me that there could be a little more efficient use of this land."

So spoke Robert J. Fischer last year of the former DeBoer Dairy Farm pasture that is rapidly being transformed into the Glen Rock Industrial Park. Fischer, whose music publishing firms was the second business to locate on the triangular tract bounded by Route 208, Harristown Road, the Erie Lackawanna Railroad tracks and a short stretch of Lincoln Avenue, now looks out at steel footings where he once saw dairy cows.

The footings are for the 165,000-square-foot Manhattan Shirt Company plant that is expected to be in operation by late this summer. The official ground-breaking was held on Nov. 18 for the building that will house a technical center for research and light manufacturing and will be the main distribution point for the Lady Manhattan Division of the company. The modern one-story, air-conditioned building will have computerized distribution control and will include loading facilities for motor transport.

The internationally-known J. Fischer and Brothers music publishing firm moved to its own building in the industrial part from New York City in April of 1956. The firm was founded in 1864 in Dayton, O., and has remained a family affair through the 100-plus years of its existence with the present proprietors Eugene, the president, and two brothers, Robert of Glen Rock, and Carl of Ridgewood.

The Fischer building was the second one in the 41-acre triangular tract that was once all farmland. The first building in the park was constructed by a textile firm, Mohegan Mills, that in 1948 built the plant at 21 Harristown Road now owned by the Paulist Press.

In 1951, the property was purchased by Ming, Inc. and housed the Pacquin Company's facilities until 1958. The building stood empty until purchased in 1963 for the present occupancy.

Last week, work was started on the park's fourth structure, and H-shaped, two-story office building on land next to Fischer. McEntegart and Melehan Inc. of Montvale, purchased the property just south of Fischer from the music publishing firm and are constructing the 21,000-square-foot office building with parking space for 100 cars. The builders and owners, M-M, have three tenants waiting to move in on June 1 when it is expected that the building will be ready for occupancy.

Getting suitable tenants for the park has been a gargantuan task for Glen Rock's last two mayors, the late Frederick Demarest and Mayor Allan B. Murray, who presently heads the borough, and the many councilmen who have served in the past two decades. All interested firms have been carefully screened to be certain their activities wouldn't create noise, unpleasant odors or contribute to air pollution.

In addition, the town fathers have, over the years, assisted in transfers of small pieces of property to pull together land into parcels that could be economically put to use for light industry. The governing body has faced two factions in the borough – those who want no industry in the town and want its residential quality preserved at any cost, and those who have demanded tax relief through industrial ratables.

The Mayor and Council now face the problem of convincing the county and state governments that financial assistance is needed to make access roads to the park wider and more convenient.

The State Department of Transportation has promised financial and planning assistance with a ramp leading from Route 208 into the industrial area. The county has indicated it plans to assist Glen Rock and Fair Lawn with the widening of Harristown Road, which is the dividing line between the two towns. The county has also shown interest in widening Diamond Bridge to handle the expected increase in traffic.