

HAVERHILL AT WORK

The end of the road

JOBS GO IN NEW ERA FOR MILLS

THE end of an era which governed the history of Haverhill was signalled on Friday when Gurteens announced the closure of their last manufacturing activity at Chauntry Mills, trouser-making.

Gurteen: "When I walked out of the yard that day I got made redundant, I just didn't know what I was going to do because it was our life really."

Project: "It was rather unpleasant when none of you knew what was going on; we all left there without a penny....there was no redundancy money (to begin with) because it had gone into liquidation!"

Gurteen: "The effect on the workforce when manufacturing stopped in 1995 was quite a big shock. I remember the manager at the time had tears in his eyes and said 'I'm the one who has to break the news'. He was really cut up about it."



The end of the line for Pye

THE name of Pye Telecom, who have been in Haverhill for about 40 years, will disappear altogether later this month.

Project: "People were getting very edgy because you could sense the company was not performing as well as it should have been and then redundancies started and the atmosphere changed as people were living under the uncertainty that they might be next."

Pye: "I can't really explain how I felt because it closed at Christmas. It would have been round about April the following year that the last job I did was to take the fire extinguishers out of the factory and put them at the front door ready for collection and locked the door behind me. It was a really strange feeling."

ADDIS FAMILY FINALLY SEES THE WISDOM OF SELLING OUT

The Addis family, that invented the toothbrush and gave its name to the pedal bin, has cashed up.

Hille: "If you said you had a job interview they would give you time off with pay."

Halliburton: "The closure was devastating. When it closed in 1976 I got a job at HMP on the engineering maintenance side and it took me two years to adapt to it. From what I had done to what I was doing there was totally alien. HMP were good because they took 60 people from Halliburtons when they already had a workforce of 2,000. Seven of us went into engineering, the rest as production operatives so it did help a lot of people out."