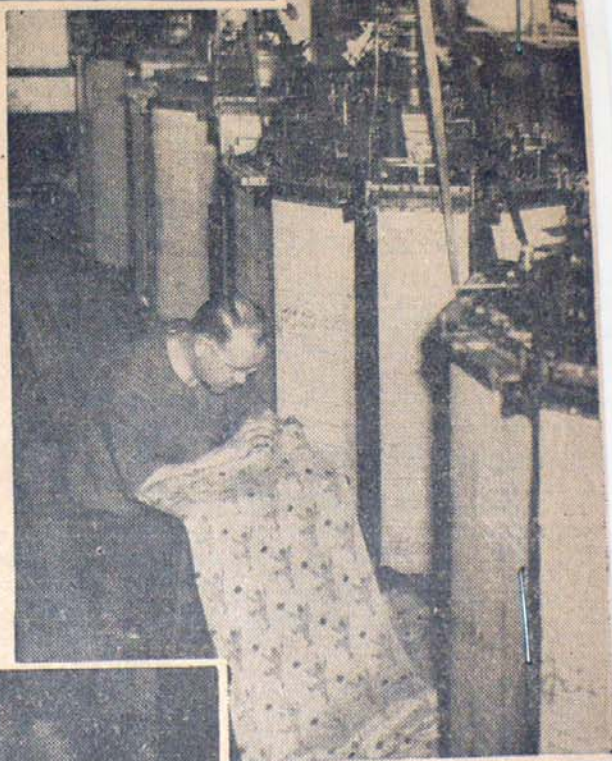




Made in WORCESTER

5/12/47



Worcester Knitting Co. was established a little more than 25 years ago by Abraham S. Persky, president and treasurer, who at that time was a salesman for American Woolen Co. Now one of the largest manufacturers of women's and juvenile bathing suits in the country, the company also operates Worcester Spinning and Finishing Co., in Cherry Valley and Narragansett Knitting Mills in Woonsocket, R. I. Four hundred persons are normally employed in the Worcester plant, 90 Franklin street.

One of the processes is shown by, top, left, FRANK GERO, who cuts 30 thicknesses of material to make children's slip-on sweaters. Right: Hemming tops and bottoms of swim suits are, from left: JENNIE DI-BENEDETTO, MARION DAHL and LORETTA TURCOTTE. Center, left: GRACE MAYVILLE operates a machine which automatically rewinds yarn which arrives at the factory in small bunches unsuitable for knitting on circular machines. Right: STANLEY ZAPATKA inspects fabric as it comes from the knitting machines. Bottom, BERTHA



VIENT (left) and DORA COLLINS perform final inspection operation. Apparel with slight defects is rejected, and that passing inspection is pin-ticked with size tags.

Worcester Knitting Denies It's Moving

Worcester Knitting Co. isn't moving to the plant of Worcester Spinning & Knitting Co., an affiliate on Chapel street in Leicester.

Abraham Persky, president-treasurer of Worcester Knitting and a director of Worcester Spinning, said today that reports the Franklin street plant machinery was in process of removal to Leicester are untrue.

Mr. Persky is a leader in the drive against the New Salem street redevelopment project. Worcester Knitting's plant would be razed. A new Free Public Library has been projected for the knitting plant site.

The reports were founded on removal of machinery from

both the Worcester and Leicester plants.

New Machinery

"We are constantly disposing of machinery which we can no longer use," he said, "and replacing is with new machinery. We have taken much machinery out of the Leicester plant. It will be replaced with the most modern machinery we can get. We have machinery here in Worcester which we no longer use because we have installed more modern machinery. We have sold some of the old ma-

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LEICESTER PLANT OF WORCESTER SPINNING & FINISHING CO.
Worcester Knitting president denies removal report

chinery still usable and will sell more.

"But, reports that we are moving out to Leicester are absolutely untrue.

"In fact, the plants perform different operations.

"Here in Worcester we make knit goods. In Leicester they handle yarns and fabrics and do dyeing.

"Some of our Worcester Knitting products are dyed in Leicester.

"The plant there is much too small anyway to house this plant. This is a big proposition, built up since 1913, and I don't think the people outside appreciate that fact.

"We couldn't duplicate this plant today without a tremendous expenditure of money. Then there's the moving, too."

Mr. Persky said the kind of machinery moved out of Wor-

cester and Leicester and the replacements could not be revealed.

"But," he said, "we haven't moved anything out lately. We have machinery in both places marked for replacement because it's obsolete for our purposes."

Mr. Persky said the Worcester plant employs 300 and the one in Leicester about 75.

He also said it is difficult to get stitchers to work in towns.

He said most of his Worcester Knitting employees live in the immediate area of the plant.

President of Worcester Spinning is Samuel Palais. Mrs. Palais is treasurer. She is also treasurer of Worcester Knitting Realty Co. which owns the land and building occupied by Worcester Knitting Co. Mr. Persky is president of the realty company.

K. of C. Conference

All council officers and district deputies in Central Massachusetts will attend the annual regional conference of the Knights of Columbus at 2.30 p. m. Sunday in Benedict Hall, 11 Elm street. Daniel J. Fitzgerald of Springfield, state deputy, will preside. Myles L. Birkebeck, grand knight of Alhambra Council, and William C. Toole, grand knight of Crusader Council, both of Worcester, will head local delegations.

Going to Bermuda

Mrs. Albert P. Boza and Mrs. Anna C. Berard, both of 94 Brookline street, will leave Saturday on a two-week trip to Bermuda.

Worce. Industries - Worcester Knitting Co



SOLD TO KNITTING COMPANY

The Burns Building at 86-100 Franklin street, and a five-story brick building in the rear, at 10-16 Salem street, was sold

today to Worcester Knitting Realty Co. by Matthew P. Whittall.

Salem Sq. Properties Are Sold

A Salem square landmark, the Burns Building, and the brick building at 10-16 Salem street, changed hands today.

Buyer of the Burns Building, erected in 1889, was Worcester Knitting Realty Co. Seller was Matthew P. Whittall.

Sale price was about \$200,000.

The properties have been in the Whittall family 45 years.

President-treasurer of the realty company is Abraham S. Persky. He also is president-treasurer of The Worcester Knitting Co. which occupies all of the Salem street building and all of the Salem square building above the ground floor.

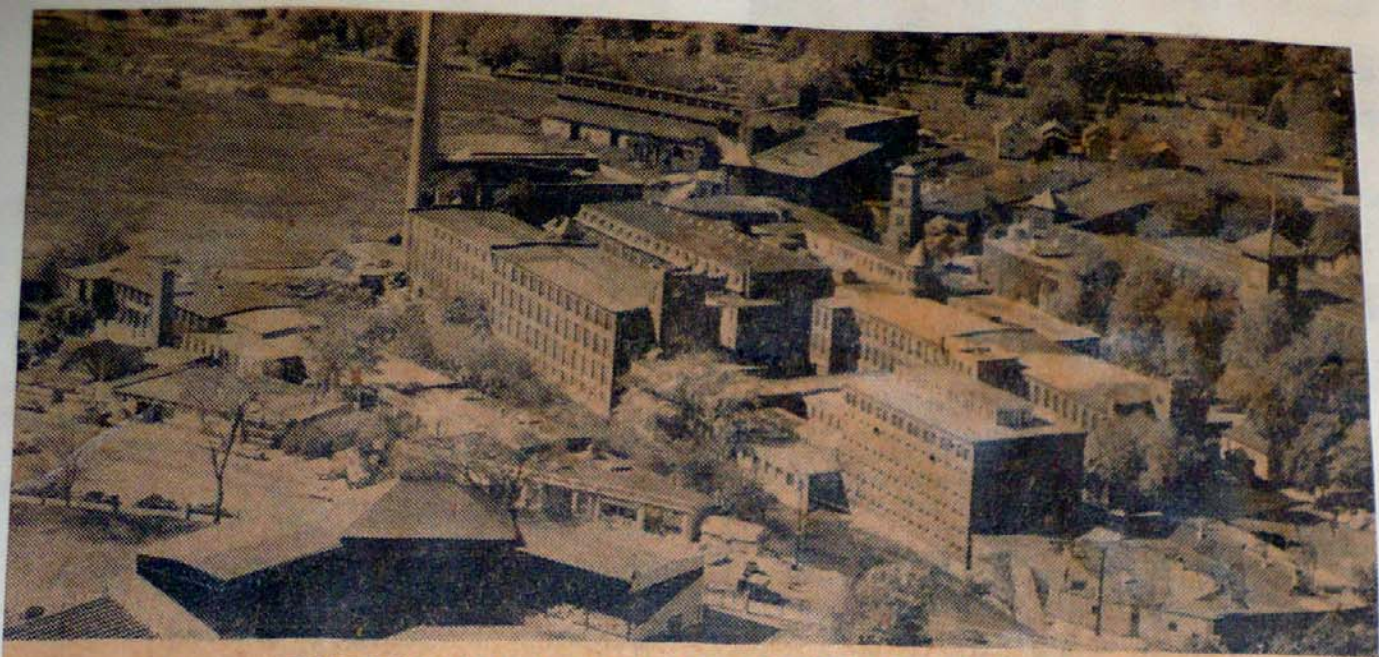
First floor tenants of the Salem square building are Whalen's Restaurant, Inc., Paquette Stationery Co., Nursery Furniture and Salem Square Mill End Store, Inc.

The Salem square building is of six stories. That on Salem street is five stories. Both are of brick.

About 21,000 square feet of land was included in the sale.

The knitting company has occupied the buildings since it started in business in 1923. It makes knitted fabrics, sweaters and bathing suits.

James A. Crotty represented the seller and Louie E. Stockwell the buyer.



FORMER WHITTALL MILLS ON SOUTHBRIDGE STREET

Worcester Knitting Co. Plans to Buy Part of Former Whittall Mills

By WALTER SMITH
Telegram Staff Reporter

Worcester Knitting Co. 90 Franklin St., plans to buy two buildings of the former Whittall Mills, 1 Brussels St., and eventually move its operations there.

Abraham S. Persky, president and treasurer of Worcester Knitting, yesterday said, "Some conditions of the purchase still have to be straightened out. We are holding a meeting Saturday and expect them to be taken care of then."

If agreement is reached, the sale will be made final Monday, according to Persky and officials of Roxbury Carpet Co., which owns Whittall's.

Other Companies

Sale of Whittall buildings to three other companies will also become final Monday. The companies are Food Specialties Inc., 133 Grafton St.; Glick Waste Co., 10 Brackett Court, and S. Rasnick Co., 90 Ellsworth St.

Officials of the companies confirmed the sales. Roxbury Carpet would not comment until papers have been passed on the transaction.

Some buildings will be retained by Roxbury Carpet and plant operations will be continued in these, officials said.

Persky said that if Worcester Knitting buys the Whittall buildings it won't move for at least a year or a year and a half until necessary alterations have been made.

"And we might stay right where we are until the deadline," he said.

1960 Deadline

By this he referred to the date in 1960 when Worcester Knitting would be forced to vacate its Franklin street premises to make way for the Salem Square Redevelopment Project.

Although Worcester Knitting officials yesterday would not say how many persons the company now employs, company attorneys appearing before the City Council

in 1953 said the number was more than 300.

Raymond P. Harold, chairman of the Redevelopment Authority, said it would be a help to the project if Worcester Knitting vacated before 1960.

New Salem Street

Part of the Worcester Knitting building is in the path of the proposed New Salem street, he said. If the building still stands when the street is constructed a temporary detour will have to be made around it.

This will cost the city money, Harold said. Construction on New Salem street will begin this summer. The Worcester Knitting building is the only building still standing in the 23-acre project area.

The buildings up for sale to Worcester Knitting and the other three companies have a total floor space of approximately 230,000 square feet.

Worcester Knitting is negotiating for the purchase of the former administration building of Whittall's and a warehouse, Persky said. These have a combined floor space of about 90,000 square feet, he said.

Food Specialties

Food Specialties Inc., which makes Appian Way pizza mix and Qwik bread, will buy a Whittall storehouse with floor space of about 50,000 square feet according to A. Henry Saleson, executive vice president of the company. Food Specialties employs about 60.

The company, whose present plant is in the path of the Worcester Expressway, will move "in a few months," Saleson said.

Glick Co. and Rasnick Co. are buying three buildings, one of which they will divide and use for their own operations. The remaining two buildings will be leased or rented to other companies, according to Samuel Glick, president of Glick Co.

The buildings have a total floor space of 90,000 square feet.

Glick Co., with 15 employees is losing one of its warehouses to the expressway. It will start moving into the Whittall buildings next week. For a time it will operate from two locations but eventually all operations will be consolidated at the Brussels street plant, Glick said.

Simon Rasnick, president and owner of S. Rasnick Co., said his company needs more room for storage space. It has already started to move into its new building, he said. Rasnick Co. has 10 employees.



WORCESTER KNITTING CO. DUE FOR WRECKERS

0 25 Jan 60
THE WORCESTER Knitting Co. began today to move in orderly fashion from its old building on Salem Square to its new quarters elsewhere in the city. It expects to complete the move before the end of April.

This move has been coming for a long time. Nevertheless it is newsworthy.

For, less than six years ago, opponents of the Salem street redevelopment project were describing the prospect in nasty terms. City Council supporters of the project were told that, if they insisted on including the Worcester Knitting Co. building in the area, they would be "guillotining" 250 year-round employees of the knitting mill. It was said that "everybody in town agrees that there is no suitable place" to relocate the knitting mill. The Council was told that it might better shoot the workers than approve the project.

This was cheap demagoguery. But it has taken the passage of time to demonstrate just how wild those words were.

Those who believed that redevelopment of the Salem street area was essential stuck by their guns. They

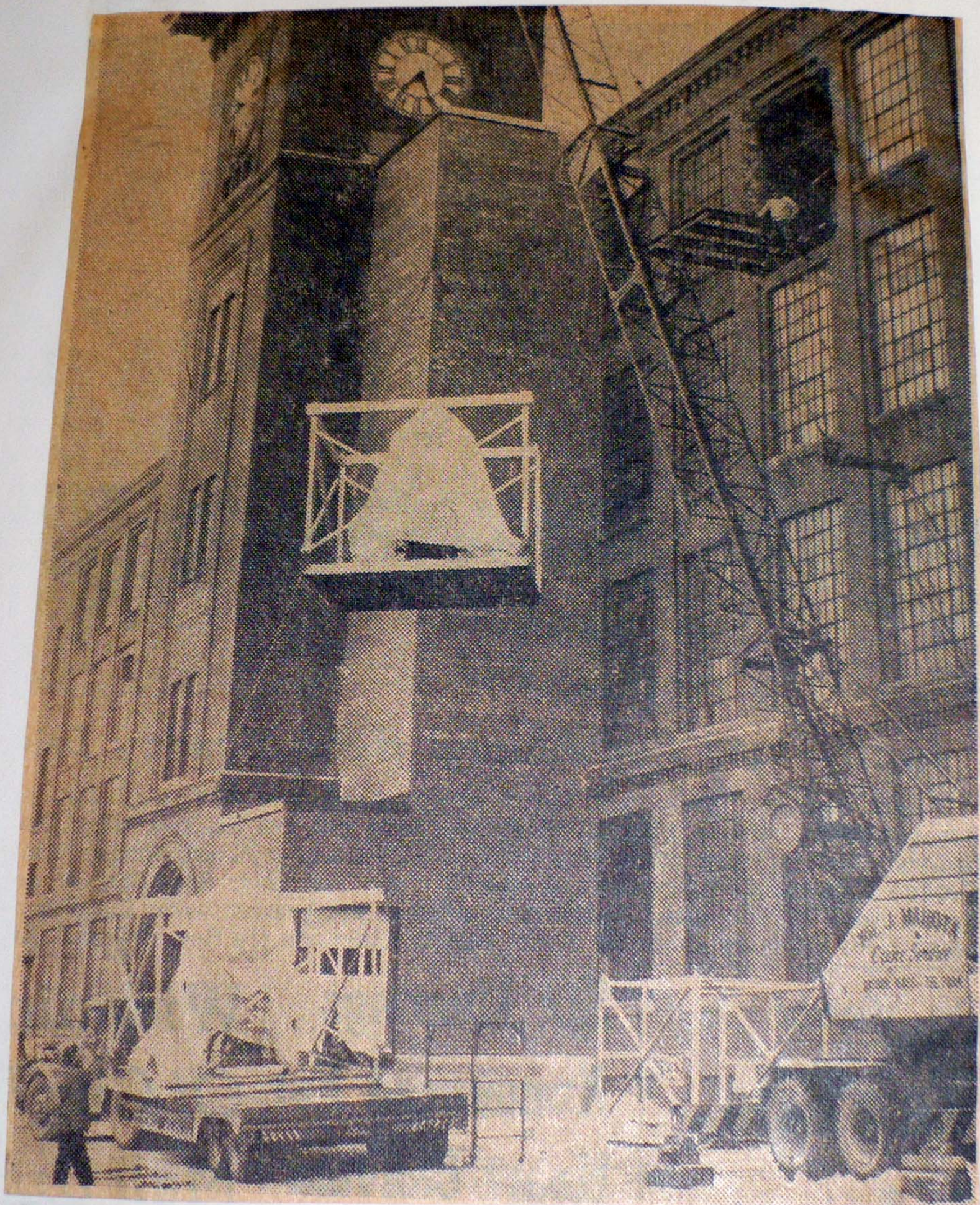
arranged, however, for the knitting company to have six years—until this coming June—to move. The company has gone to much expense to make sure that it will have suitable quarters in the city in which to operate.

SOON THE old building will come down, the entire Salem street area will stand clear, and over-all redevelopment can begin, with the new public library as a key factor.

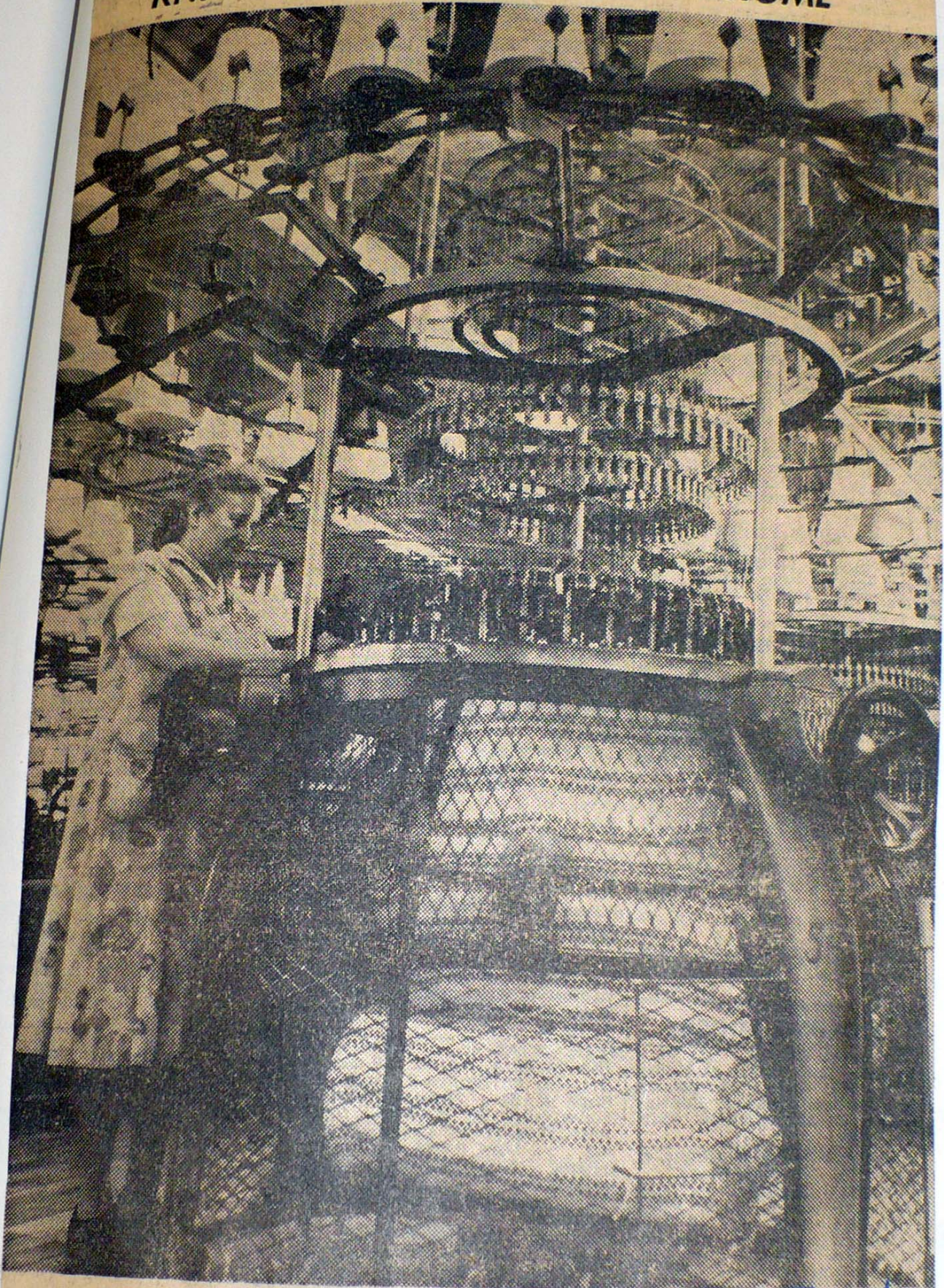
It was not easy, of course, for the knitting company to arrange to move. It was not easy for any of the 62 businesses that once stood in the area to get out—or for the residents who were settled there to move, for that matter. It never is.

But Worcester had here an opportunity to clean out a substandard area and redevelop it for the common good. That was and is the purpose of the project, and it has been upheld by the courts.

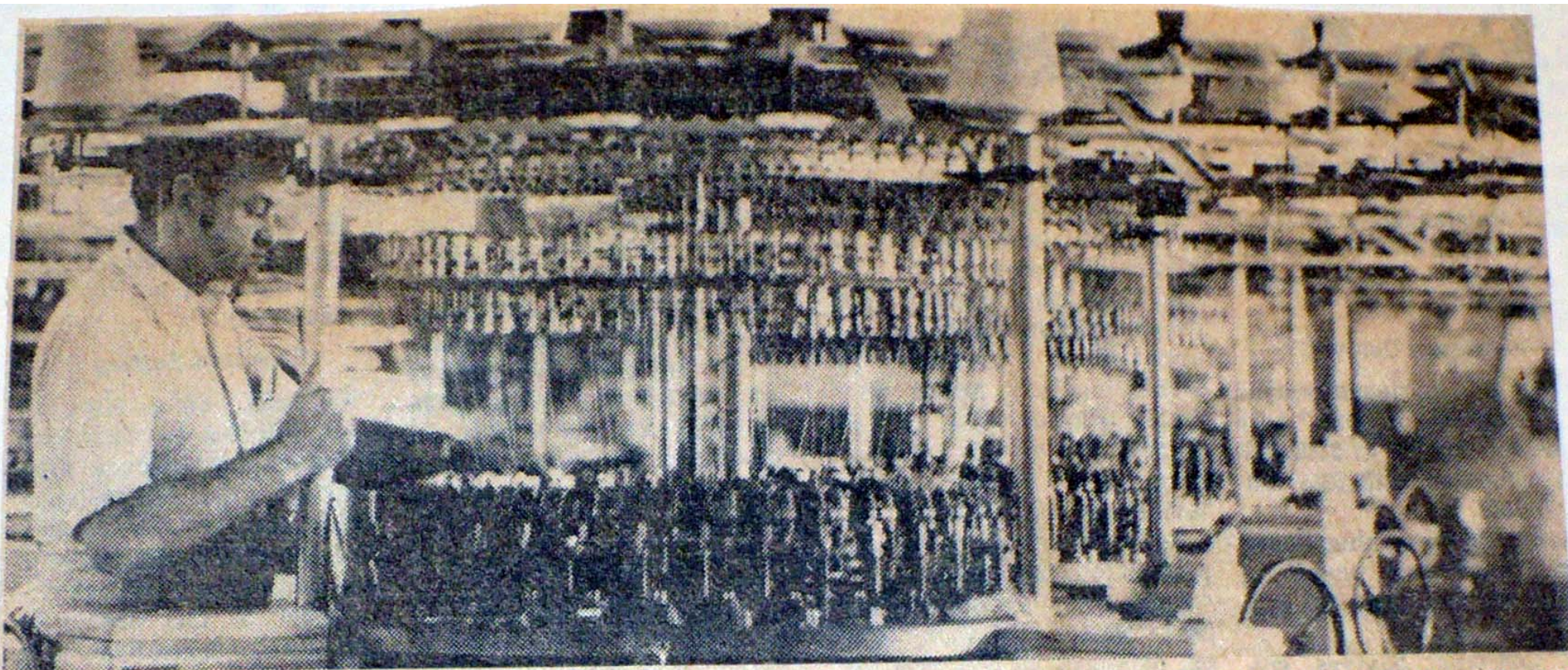
Redevelopment has one dominant aim: to create a finer community for every citizen. That is what is going on at Salem street, thanks to those public officials who kept their eyes on the ball from the beginning.



KNITTING MILL HUMS IN NEW HOME



7-21-5-61
The Worcester Knitting Co., forced to move from Franklin street to make way for the new public library, has settled into full swing in its home at the former Whittall carpet mill plant at Brussels and Southbridge streets. Here Mrs. Pauline Lejman operates a circular knitting machine. The company moved after its site was taken by the Worcester Redevelopment Authority as part of the new Salem Street Redevelopment Project.



Business Review Photo by EDWARD A. COURNOY

Ed Matthews services a knitting machine at Worcester Knitting Co.