A bastion of Yankee ingenuity, the main office of Case Brothers, Inc., in Manchester, Connecticut, nestles among the maples and pine trees beside an old mill stream. Here, in 1861, two remarkable Connecticut Yankees, Alfred Wells Case and Albert Willard Case founded their first paper mill, built homes and raised their families. The mementos of their achievements are in the big safe there in the front office. The grandsons, Wells C. Dennison and Robert C. Dennison, carry on today under the corporate banner of Boise Cascade with whom they merged in December, 1967.

With their hearts set on making paper in the new mill they had struggled to build, the young papermakers found themselves washing cotton waste for the manufacture of gun cotton needed by the Union Army During the Civil War. When peace returned, they manufactured album paper, shoeboard, binderboard and card middles. This was the beginning of a prosperous, lifelong business centered upon the manufacture of Genuine Pressboard, their most popular product. Homes and offices throughout the world have become familiar with the tough durable material so widely used today in data processing binders, file guides, presentation binders and tablet covers.

By 1870 the brothers had invented a method for laminating paperboard and developed a new type of cylinder machine which produced board in one continuous process. Another brother, Henry Case built a machine shop and in 1868 was selling paper-making machinery which he designed and produced. Later the brothers bottled and sold health-giving water from the springs on their property, and Alfred designed, patented and sold an efficient propeller wheel for boats.

In 1878 at Paris and in 1880 at Melbourne, Australia, the paper products manufactured by Case Brothers won medals in competition with papermakers from Austria, Germany, Scotland, England and France. In 1932, the plant in East Hartford, Connecticut was acquired from the firm of Case and Marshall. In 1961 Case Brothers built a new 108,000 square-foot plant in Brattleboro, Vermont and subsequent additions have increased this size to approximately 150,000 square feet. These plants manufacture Genuine Pressboard and related products which serve as electrical insulating material, boards for use in the textile industry, the luggage industry and die cutting trades.

In the shipping departments today, at all three plants, you will find shipments destined for Canada, Latin America, Hawaii and the Philippines. The products enjoy a continuing popularity with converters and suppliers to the stationery industry and other industries throughout the world.

The prizewinning product, however, is the Genuine Pressboard conceived and produced by Alfred and Albert Case. Available in fourteen colors, the product still possesses "an unmatched smooth glossy surface, rigidity, long wearing quality and attractive mottled appearance . . . ideal for printing by letter press, offset or silk screen methods . . . attractive with embossed designs."

Wells and Bob Dennison know all the employees by their first names. They attend the Christmas party given for the children of the employees. They pitch horseshoes and play soft ball at the annual summer outing. When necessary they will leave their desks, roll up their sleeves and help in the plant on the occasions when their assistance is requested.
Some of the employees today are from families who have worked for Case Brothers for four generations. Such family names as Fuller, Kissman, Walker, and Risley have been on the payroll for almost a century. Some of the workmen have heard their own fathers and grandfathers tell how the original mill was washed away by the flood in 1869, rebuilt, and destroyed by fire in 1875, and again in 1915. They also chuckle over the era of bottled spring water and patented propeller wheels.

The old mill stream flows as peacefully today as it did in 1861 when they built the first mill. Every winter there is ice skating, and photographers come to take pictures of the water flowing over the dam. A clean environment, quality products and an appreciation of their beautiful country are among the benefits of the Yankee ingenuity bequeathed to posterity by the founders of the firm.

The century of success achieved by Case Brothers is of more than casual interest to Boise Cascade in view of our corporate philosophy and our advertising which stresses the values of individuality and a spirit of excellence, freedom, progress and growth. These ideals and qualities have enabled Case Bros., Inc., to meet the challenges of change, to prosper and provide employment for many citizens year after year.

On the occasion of the Manchester (Vermont) Sesqui-Centennial Celebration in 1923, Ella M. Stanley wrote the following summary to explain the company's success:

"The success of the business is to be attributed to their progressive spirit to meet the demands of the time, to unstinted capacity for labor of brain and hand and to the inventive power of various members of the family, combined with enthusiasm for their work."