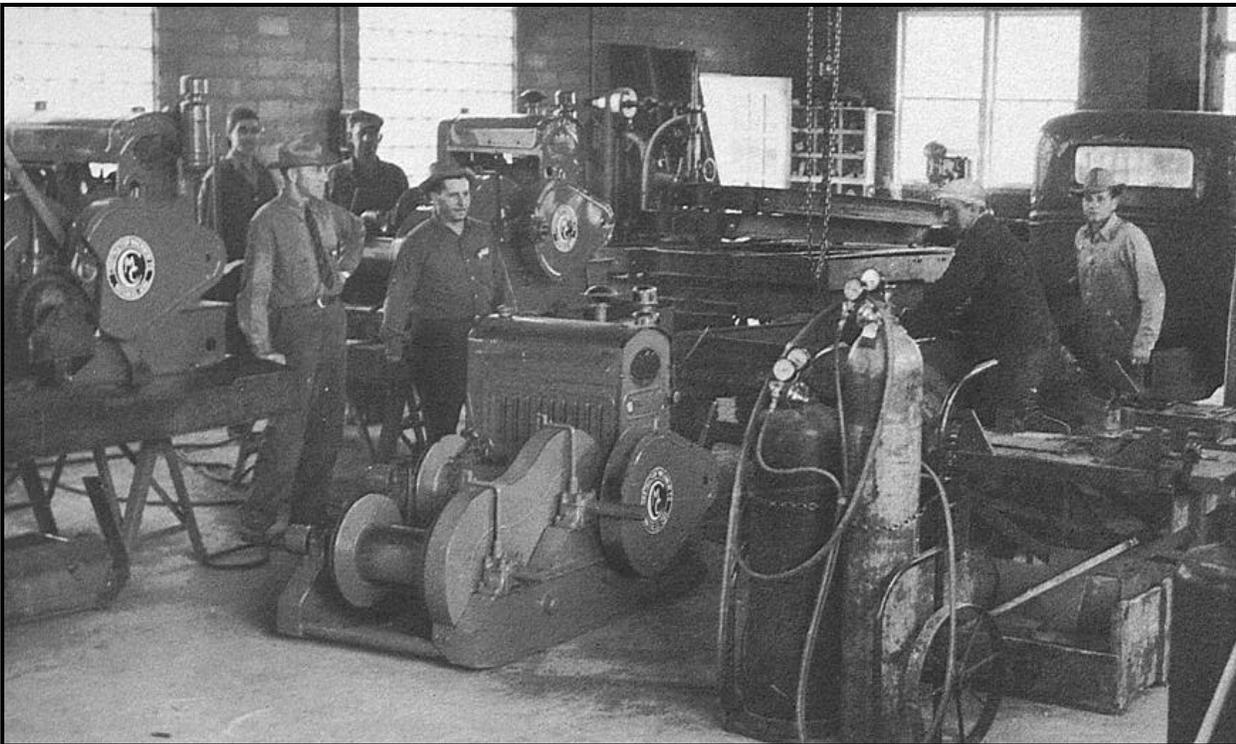




In 1940, Vern built Bantam #1 – a dragline -- out of used parts at the quarry.



Making Bantams at the new plant at the quarry. Vern is at far right. Wilbur is left of center in foreground. Harold Bannister (first engineer) is wearing tie at left of center. [1945?]

VERN AND WILBUR BUILD BANTAMS AT QUARRY

- 1940 High demand for lime; people had gardens. Vern needs better equipment to dig lime. Vern builds first “Bantam” out of used parts: old Hart Parr drive wheel, an old boiler plate, a hay hoist, parts from a four-hole corn sheller and a Rosenthal corn shredder. Wilbur and Vern perform duets as the “Limestone Boys” during the summer. Vern plays ukulele; Wilbur plays four-string tenor guitar.
- 1941-42 Vern sells first two Bantams to Strotzman (Denver) & Bockhause (Sumner) Anderson: Wilbur joins Lions Club.
- 1943 Anderson: Wilbur dissolves his business of fruit and vegetable delivery. Wilbur & Eileen move family to Waverly: 203 1st Ave NE. Vern, Wilbur & Melvin Holmes (welder) build 9 Bantams in barn at quarry. War rationing. Contractors couldn’t buy equipment. Bought scrap steel in Cedar Rapids. Yarcho Auto refurbished Model A engines.
- 1944 Build new “plant” at Quarry. Has glass-block windows for light, insulation and strength. Winter: Eileen and kids go back to Indiana. Marlo is very sick; house is too cold. Summer: Wilbur returns to Indiana.
Wilbur to Eileen: “I’m going to Waverly to live. Are you coming or not?”
Eileen cried & crocheted all night. Leaving new home, family & security.
Eileen sells house in Anderson and moves to 320 7th St. SW in Waverly.
Wilbur is co-founder of Waverly Lions Club (Wilbur is first “tail-twister”).
Nov: Hire project engineer (Harold Bannister). Build 27 Bantams in the second year.
- 1945 Wilbur & Eileen move to 220 6th St. SW. (trade houses)
Tough times: Eileen: “I need some money.” Wilbur: “Will \$3 do?”



Bantam shovel outside plant at Quarry



New plant at Quarry



Schild Bantam Company in Waverly, Iowa. Moved into first building on June 26, 1946.



Wilbur: "Indiana Jones"