

Scranton Mfg. buys Bowie firm

Scranton Manufacturing Co. Inc. of Scranton has purchased Bowie Manufacturing of Lake City, three months after Bowie announced it would be closing. Bowie, under the new name of Bowie International LLC, has resumed production of its innovative mobile veterinary units and hired back nearly half its total work force.

Bowie International will remain in Lake City. "We feel we can turn this business around and help the economy of rural Iowa," said Mike McLaughlin, president of Scranton Manufacturing.

Bowie Manufacturing Inc. was founded in 1960 by Dr M.C. Bowie. He developed and manufactured the first fiberglass mobile veterinary clinic to make mobile veterinary practice calls more convenient and efficient. The mobile clinics were designed to provide everything the veterinarian needs to practice in the field, including hot and cold water,

refrigeration, day and night heaters, and several other available options. Veterinarians can customize the mobile clinics to fit their vehicle preference and mobile practice needs.

Originally Bowie produced only a chassis-mounted fiberglass mobile veterinary clinic. Then in 1969 the company was the first to manufacture and introduce an insert mobile clinic to fit in the truck bed. Bowie also developed the Diplomat mobile slide-in clinic, the first modular fiberglass clinic designed to fit into sport utility vehicles, vans and minivans, in 1985.

Bowie now manufactures nine different models of fiberglass mobile veterinary clinics to fit all different types of full-size and mid-size trucks, sport utility vehicles, vans and minivans. The company has also been a leader in the veterinary X-ray market since 1971, developing and marketing a powerful, lightweight portable X-ray machine to enable veterinarians

to shoot and develop radiographs for diagnosis in the field. Bowie has established a strong market position both in the United States and internationally.

"The experience and resources of Scranton Manufacturing will be a valuable addition to the Bowie name and tradition of innovative and quality products," said Steve Sinnard, former president of Bowie Manufacturing and now the executive vice president of Bowie International LLC. "The new company is well positioned for future growth, and we look forward to continuing to contribute to the economic development of Lake City."

Scranton Manufacturing is one of the world's major manufacturers of garbage trucks with over 235 employees. It has plants in Scranton and Atlantic. "We saw in Bowie some of the same values that we hold sacred: quality, service, commitment and value," said McLaughlin.