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Many Holland immigrants found favor in working in the laundry where the Dutch language was commonly used. The company even set up a saving and investment program for these workers. This worked well for the employees as well as the company. In 1932 during the Great Depression another expansion program was under way and these investment funds helped in the cost of building a new garage for the fleet of some 150 trucks and the true art-deco style Administration Building. During this time bus loads

was, in fact, an asset to this community.

Across the street from the main building was a bowling alley, with a large stage and a lunch counter, known as the Elm Room. The Elm Room was put into operation for the enjoyment and service to the employees and the public. Minstrels put on by the workers were an annual event. All this camaraderie came to an end when in 1935



All Ladies wear is carefully Hand finished by Experts

a union tried to organize the workers. It was a nasty and difficult time for the workers, for the administration and especially for the Vander May families. The Laundry survived for about another thirty years when the washer and dryer began to appear in the homes. Nick Vander May's dreams and ambitions overcame the doubts of his father and with the initial help from his mother the Vander May family did well. They changed with the times, accomplished a lot and indeed. it was the pride of this community.

When the laundry ceased to operate, the plant was sold to a New York firm which now rents out space in the buildings to fifteen independent companies.



of patrons were offered a tour of the plant to witness all the operations. For example, the wash after being sorted and tagged went into individual tubs to be washed for one hour. The water was changed 7 times. The wash was thoroughly sterilized before being sent to the extractors, which spun at a rate of 700 revolutions per minute and then fluffed. Dual generators capable of electrifying some 10,000 homes supplied the energy to the motors to do this work.

In its hey-day the now named **Little Falls Laundry** was known as the largest laundry of its kind. It had a fleet of 150 trucks that covered the state from Cape May to High Point and even out to parts of Long Island. The Laundry was clean, neat and orderly inside and out. It

A corner of the Receiving Department, showing "Statetested" balance scales for weighing, and special pricing machines



**A Little Known Fact:** There was another laundry in town on Sindle Avenue. It was the **Brookside Laundry** operated by **Michael Vander May** no relation. The laundry lasted about several years and ceased operation when "Uncle Mike" as he was known, succumbed to a heart attack in August, 1920. He was survived by his widow Anna Van Stratton. They lived on McBride Avenue near Idlewild Park.