

## Operations Cut

The company formerly had been owned by Rueben T. Johnson and members of his family. Following the purchase of Steel Partitions by the New York company, officials reported that high operating costs had caused a loss of about \$116,000 within six months and had cut employment from about 400 to 105 in 1959.

The New York officials explained they planned to put the firm on a profitable operating basis. They said they had "saved" other companies including the Hoover Electric Motor Company of Plainfield, N.J., and Ludwig Baumann and Spears Company of New York City.

The company originally operated two plants in Falconer, Plant 1 in Lyndon Park and Plant 2 in the former Odsonia Mills plant on Dow Street.

The Lyndon Park plant was closed by the new management shortly after its purchase. Plant 1 and its equipment was sold at auction in February of 1960. Officials expressed hope, at that time, that consolidation of the two plants would result in increased operating efficiency and a reduction in overall costs.

The firm hit a peak of activity during World War II when it manufactured a variety of parts for atomic weapons, practice bomb casings and other defense materials.

Since the war, the company has specialized in the production of metal office and industrial partitions, fireproof bond boxes and cabinets for electric computers. The firm also manufactured conduit rail parts for mobile electrical equipment and sub-contract materials for other area metal plants.