inches in width, 144 inches in length and three-eighths inch thick.

Specifications for particular pieces are typed onto tape and the machine automatically follows the computerized instructions, in many cases eliminating costly die-making operations and the necessity of setting stops for each slot or perforation.

The punch press then, can make virtually any part—combining punches to create unusual shapes or automatically expanding circular holes to fit specifications. Each of the punches on the turrethead are in fact, capable of cutting out many shapes, as they swing and rotate.

Although the obvious saving is in setting-up expenses, perhaps even more dramatic is the speed of the Behrens machine compared to manual operations. While the machine can make 60 hits per minute in perforating, a lone workman could at best punch only a fraction of this amount.

In simple production terms the computerized machinist can do the work of six more conventionally equipped workers.

With regard to quality as well, Dowcraft had felt the need for the Behrens press, for the intricate electronic contracts demand extreme accuracy. The new machine is exact within 5-1,000 of an inch, a precision previously unattainable without painstakingly careful gauging. The 45,000 lb. press can hold such close tolerances even with heavy steel.

Since the new unit was installed only five weeks ago and Dowcraft employes are still at work ironing out the bugs in its systems, its impact upon the local industry can not yet be told. Already however, the firm is competing for contracts far beyond its previous capacities. When operated around the clock, the recent acquisition will go a long way toward singlehandedly expanding the output of the company.

Dowcraft has quite plainly turned its back on traditional ways of doing business and taken a dramatic step into the technological future.

Richard Ecklund, head estimator for Dowcraft Corporation, is shown here with the new Numerical Control Punch Press, recently installed at the firm's Dow Street plant in Falconer. Made in Germany, the computer operated machine is only the fourth of its size in this country.