



Each pleated ribbon must be cut to size to fit the individual rosette.



Fancy rosettes get special attention with the extra ribbon stapled into position.

Ribbon-making involves detailed handwork

By KENDACE BORRY
LITITZ - Have you ever thought about the ribbons and premiums that you might win at a farm fair or horse show or some other contest that you may have entered? Those fancy strips of material just didn't appear, they had to be made somewhere.

One such place is the Garden Spot Badge Co., located in Lititz, which has been making ribbons, trophies, and printing programs for over 18 years. The operation, which started in the back room of the home of its president and founder, Oren Spangenburg, has grown to where it is now housed in an attractive concrete block building located on 2½ acres of land. During the peak season, which is from May to August, 52 people are employed by the firm. Over 300,000 fancy rosette ribbons are made per year. And, Spangenburg added, trophies made account for about 40 per cent of the business.

When asked how he got started in the business, Spangenburg related that he had a background in graphic arts and has always had what he calls "horse blood". He decided to put the two interests together and started to make ribbons. Since horse shows account for about 85 per cent of his orders, the two ideas seem to go together nicely.

Originally a farm boy from New York state, Spangenburg came to the Lititz area to serve his apprenticeship. He liked the area so much that he decided to stay.

Orders for his ribbons and trophies come in from all over the United States, in-

cluding Hawaii. And he thinks once the economy strengthens up, his business should show a growth of 15 to 20 per cent a year. In fact, he wonders how long his present facilities will be adequate with his thriving business.

One thing that makes the ribbon business unique, according to Spangenburg, is the amount of handwork involved. Because of the nature of the work, a great deal of the rosette making involves work that can only be done by human hands, piece by piece.

The ribbon used for the rosettes is made for the Garden Spot Badge Co. especially, woven, dyed, and finished. One million yards of ribbon are used every year.

The first step in making a rosette is the pleating



Buttons and ribbons of the rosette part of the ribbon are firmly attached to each other.

process, which is done on a machine automatically. One of three machines can pleat the ribbon which is thrown into bins and then cut by hand to the size to fit around the outside of a ribbon. It is

then stapled by hand to form a circle.

The rosette ribbon gets stapled to a vinyl backing. Then a sewing machine

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A series of three staple machines are used to fasten the streamers to the rosette part of the ribbon.

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