

## Lakewood firm marks anniversary, expansion

Lakewood's second largest private business employer celebrated a dual occasion last week.

On the 10th anniversary of Statitrol Corporation, the company opened a new, 32,000 sq. ft. facility. The building, a separate unit from the research and development offices, is also at the 140 So. Union Blvd. address.

Taking part in the ribbon cutting ceremony was

Satatitrol president Duane D. Pearsall; Lakewood Chamber of Commerce president Richard Cline; Chief John DeJong, Bancroft, and Chief Vernon Parrahn, Lakewood Fire Department; Tom Bellinghausen, Statitrol vice-president and a member of the company board, Robert Maybee.

The new facility houses the manufacturing operations, offices, warehouse space, a training

room and cafeteria. Of special interest in this area is the fire test room where live fire and smoke tests and demonstrations are performed.

With the addition, Statitrol is able to increase its production capacity over three times the present operation. The engineering building, directly in front of the main building complex, adds another 2000 sq. ft. of space.

The corporation was founded in 1963 as a manufacturer of ionization devices, called static neutralizers, used in dark rooms, clean rooms and industrial processes to neutralize static charges. Since then, it has expanded its technology from static controls to life and property saving fire detection products for residential, commercial and industrial use.

Statitrol's latest achievement is Smokegard, ionization fire detector, recognized by many fire industry authorities as a major breakthrough in home fire protection. Smokegard is so sensitive it can detect invisible products of combustion even before flame and smoke are visible.

The unit sounds an alarm, loud enough to be heard through closed doors. It is battery powered and retails for less than \$100.

Last year, Statitrol employed 80 people. Presently 200 are on the payroll. Sales were over \$5 million this year.

The Lakewood location serves as manufacturing base for the entire world. The company, first located at 1030 W. Ellsworth, has been located at 140 So. Union Blvd. since 1969.



Chief John DeJong of the Bancroft Fire District reads scroll presented to Duane Pearsall (right), president of Statitrol, in appreciation of 200 employees.