

Advance acts in Michigan

Booth's buildings bounce from Austin Co. to Dario Designs

ALREADY DESIGNING A PLANT FOR *The Bay City Times* and *The Saginaw News*, Dario Designs Inc., Framingham, Mass., will take on projects for at least two other Booth Newspapers Inc. dailies in Michigan after contracts were recently re-awarded for *The Grand Rapids Press* and the *Kalamazoo Gazette*.

The change came last month — just weeks after the Austin Co. announced it was handling “all Michigan newspaper projects” for Booth-parent Advance Publications under a newly appointed regional executive. Press Operations Director Robert W. Pierce confirmed that Grand Rapids was no longer working with Austin. Vendors with an interest in the Kalamazoo project said the same was true there.

Austin finished its design-build work for *The Ann Arbor News* (to be dedicated Wednesday) and completed preliminary designs for *The Flint Journal* (put on hold

until 2002, an Austin spokeswoman said.

Dario Designs also is helping modernize the plant at Advance's *Union-News*, Springfield, Mass. Like Kalamazoo, it will install a four-page-across, one-page-around MAN Roland Regioman press. MAN's two-around Geoman will go into Grand Rapids.

Of its eight Booth newspapers, Advance is upgrading production at the seven that still run letterpress. Saginaw and Bay City will print at the new, jointly owned Valley Printing Co. in Monitor Township. In 2003, it is expected to employ all current pressroom and mailroom personnel. Bay City originally was to buy a single-wide Goss Magnum press. Now, said Production Manager John Dearington, “I don't think that's been determined yet.” He wouldn't rule out the possible choice of a larger single-wide or even a double-wide machine.

Ann Arbor has a large Magnum line with a Universal folder. Austin said an addition to *The Muskegon Chronicle* plant is now enclosed. It awaits erection of a Magnum, last reported sitting in Goss Graphic Systems' closed plant. — Jim Rosenberg