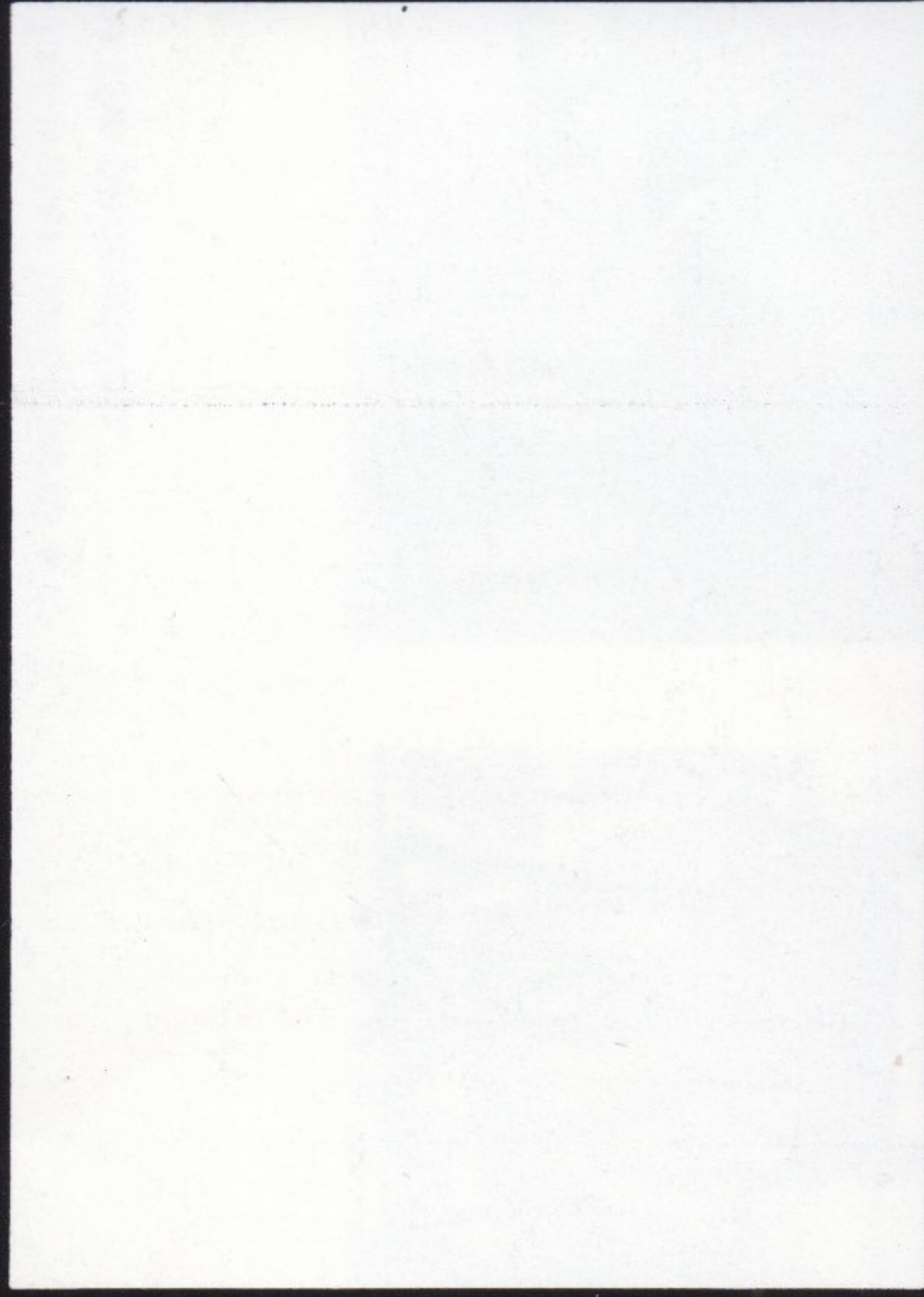


YOUR LOCAL AGENT



John Boyd Textiles Ltd
Higher Flax Mills
Castle Cary
Somerset
BA7 7DY

Telephone: 0963 - 50451
Telex: 46681 JB TEX G



John Boyd
Textiles Limited

1837-1987

1011.1.39

John Boyd Textiles Limited

Britains sole manufacturer
of horse hair fabrics.



John Boyd, the founder, later years.

Castle Cary has been known for its textiles since the middle ages. The earliest records show that the cloth woven was extremely coarse and used by the poorer classes. In the 15th century the town was renowned for its woollen cloth. This declined with the mechanisation of textiles in the north of England. In the early 19th century horse hair cloth was first manufactured by Thomas Mathews. In the spring of 1832 John Boyd left his native Scotland to come to Somerset where he was involved with the linen trade. He resided with a family friend, John Macmillan, one of whose children was to become managing director of the Company. In March 1837, John Boyd, recognising the popularity of horse hair cloth, began manufacturing in his cottage, at the age of 22. He used horse hair taken from live animals which was cleansed in a pond in the town. By 1851 John Boyd's business employed 30 women, 34 children and nine men. He had by this time outgrown his cottage premises and moved to a new site. Throughout his life John Boyd was known as a great benefactor to the town of Castle Cary. John Boyd's became a limited company as early as 1883, the great entrepreneur dying in 1890. His name had been a household name in Castle Cary for 40 years.

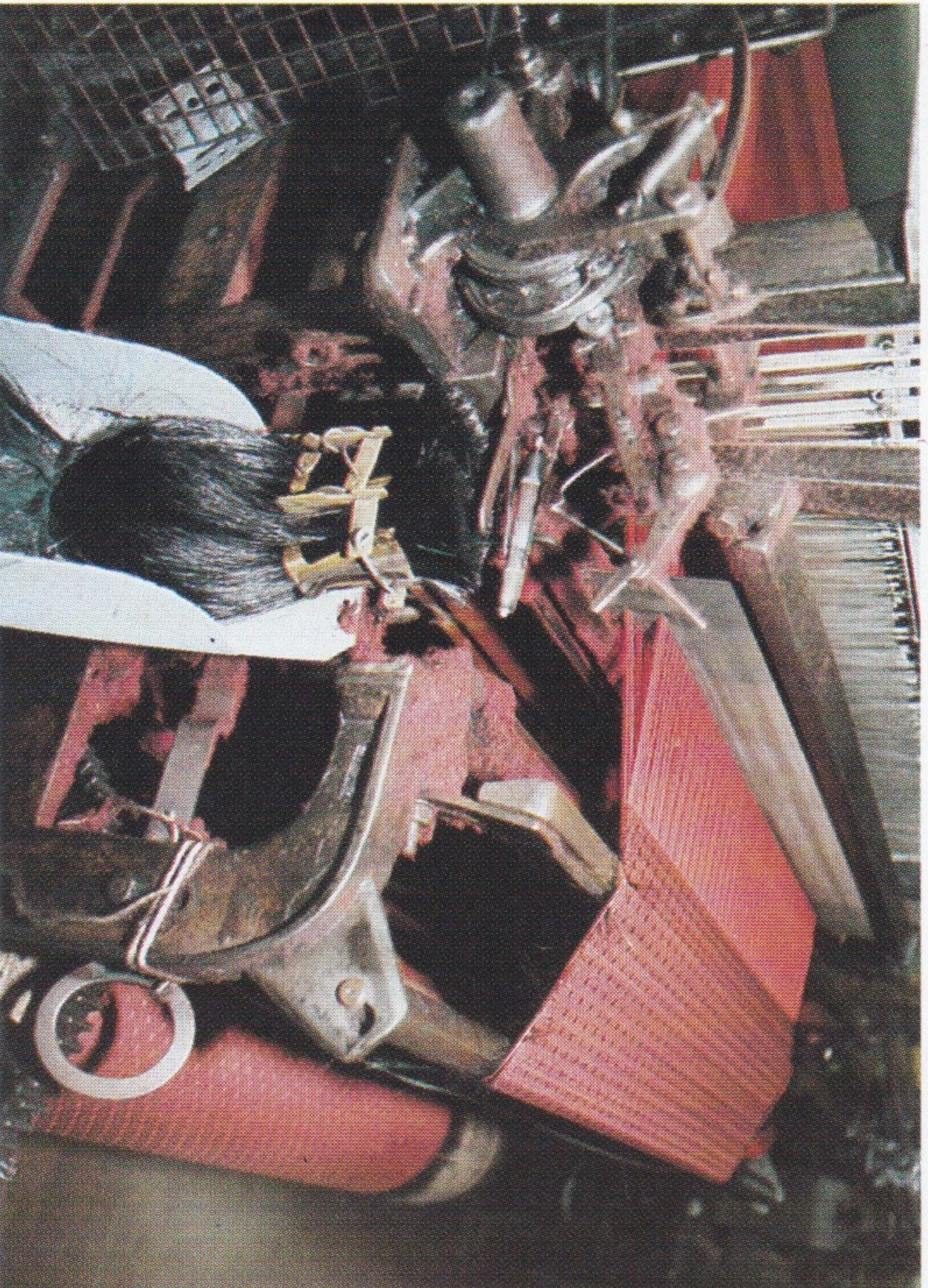
From the time of John Boyd's death in 1890 the company has enjoyed many changes in fortune. Ownership altered on several occasions, a recent takeover occurred in 1979 when Ron Wilkey became managing director. In 1984 there followed a management buyout and in 1985 ten looms purchased from Italy were used to expand the interlining trade, and in 1986 14 looms, including 2 jacquard looms, were obtained from the U.S.A. for new developments in upholstery and wallcovering. This brought the total number of looms in use to 84. It is the company's intention to revive its original glory when 200 looms produced a wide range of patterns and colour ways.

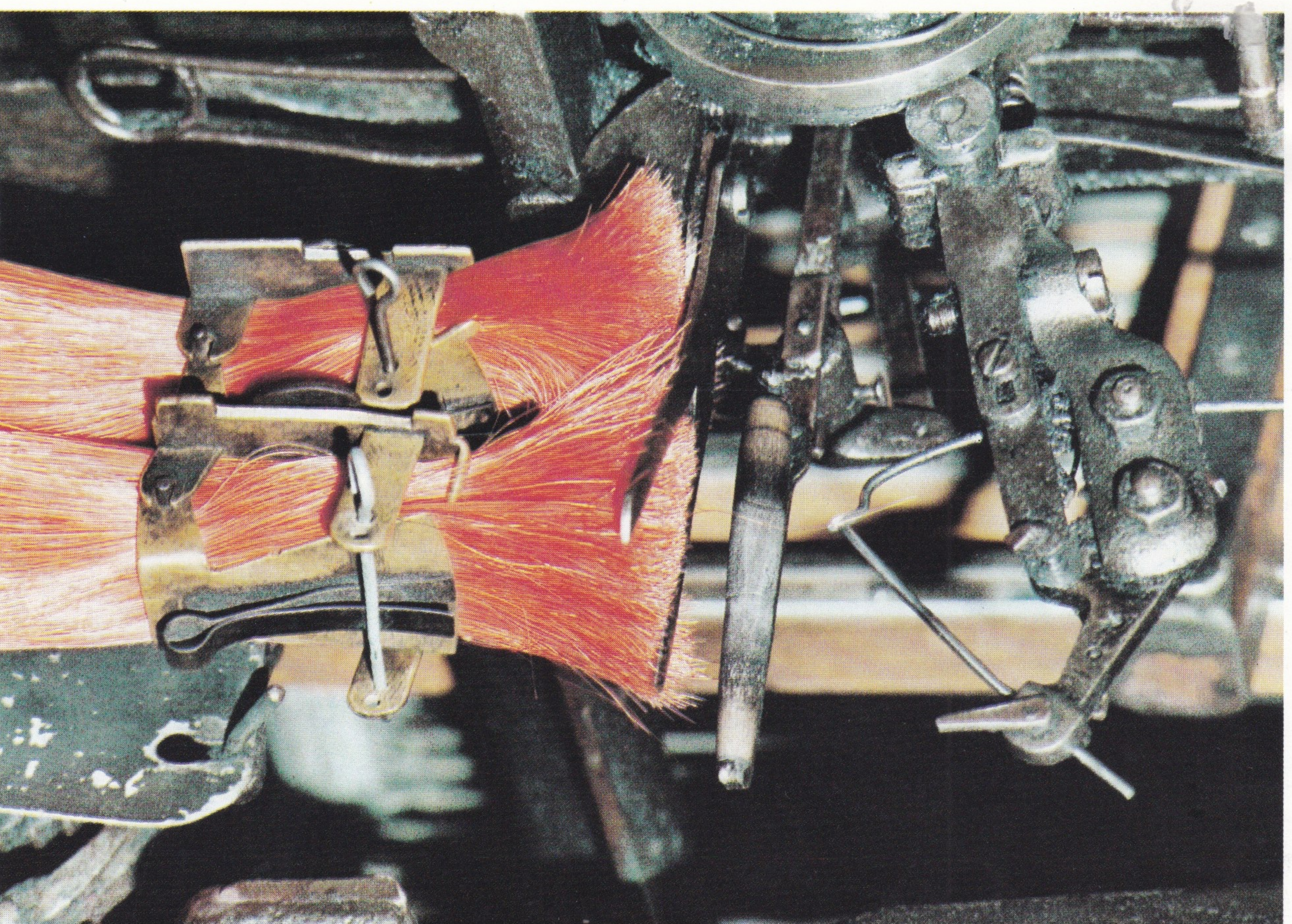


Doreen weaving.

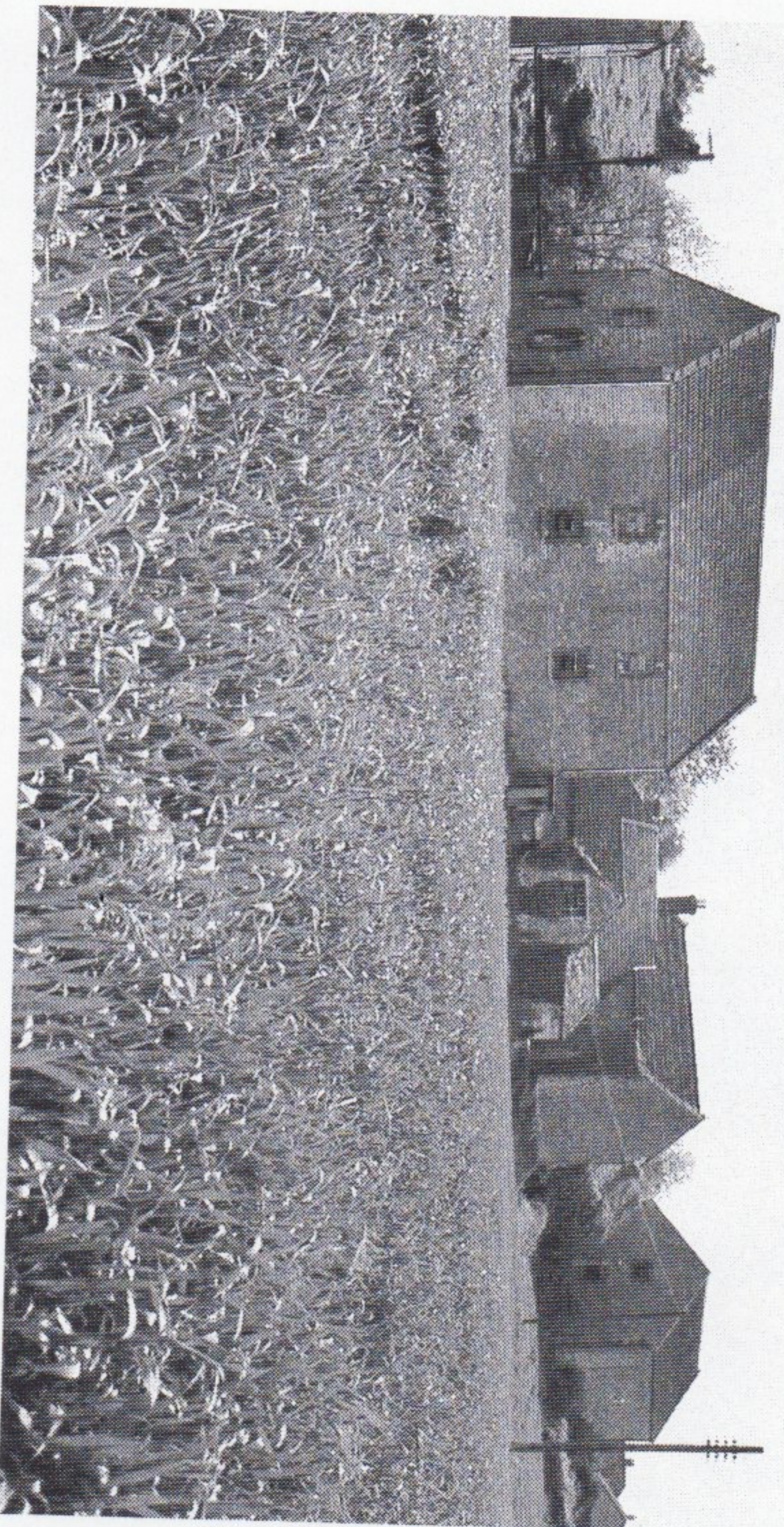
A weaver of 40 years experience
adjusting one of her set of looms.

loom with red cloth.
quality 608 red ready to be taken
down for inspection and dispatch.





Horse hair was originally hand woven. A young person, known as a server picked an individual hair from a bundle. This was drawn by a rapier and woven. In 1872 Joseph Chapman invented a mechanical method to select a single hair and replace the young server, this is still in use today, being the most reliable means of producing high quality upholstery fabrics.



This is the factory currently occupied by John Boyd Textiles Ltd, for manufacture of horse hair cloth. The company moved to this site in the 1950's after occupying the factory in Upper High Street, Castle Cary, since 1851. The machines were originally powered by steam and water wheel.

This planned expansion includes the introduction of both silk and wool into our products which together with wider widths and sympathetic textile design will broaden our range of fabrics.

John Boyd Textiles products have a wide range of end uses, amongst which are suit interlinings, fashion accessories, footwear, wallcoverings and upholstery.

The Company currently employs 35 people, manufacturing horse hair fabrics on machines which are 100 years old and which have not been improved, alongside a modern electronic administration, which with its telex, maintains communications with our customers worldwide.

The company produces a wide range of designs in over a thousand colour ways many of which are made to our customers specific requirements.



sofa at pump rooms in Bath.

Our cloth was selected by Bath City Council for their prestigious Pump Rooms, site of the famous Roman Baths, because of its beauty and durability. The chairs are in continual daily use, by visitors from all over the world. The hot-water baths form a backdrop for the photograph.



2 presentation chairs upholstered in green/grey rep.



a chair in the Bath Pump Room upholstered in red 603 damask.