Civil Dept. Reports On Route 128

"Why in the world did they build such a beautiful highway through the wilderness?" asked a man making a test run on the new Route 128 a few days before it opened in 1961. This question is answered by one of the greatest industrial booms in Massachusetts history.

A study conducted by MIT's Department of Civil and Sanitary Engineering reports that by the end of this year nearly 30,000 people will be employed on Route 128 in industrial plants representing a total investment of approximately $140,000,000.

Some of the major findings of the study directed by Associate Professor A. J. Bone include:

- Ninety-one per cent of all companies that have relocated on 128 came from within four and one-half miles of the center of Boston.
- During 1937-38 per cent of all development construction in the Boston area was along 128.

- Approximately 18 per cent of all employees at Route 128 industrial centers have changed residence since starting to work at highway sites. Although Route 128 industry employees have moved varying distances (some have moved farther away from work) the average distance to work remains about the same. Surprisingly, the migration of employees into the town in which they work has been quite small. In many towns almost as many move in as into the town.
- Every day 40,000 to 50,000 ears use Route 128. During peak traffic, about one car in three is carrying employees to or from their jobs.

Major factors that originally attracted industry to the still growing Route 128 include:

- Need of land for expansion accessibility for commercial purposes; attractive sites; and necessary services that are unequaled in the industry. Thus far, the number of companies that have relocated to Route 128 area has been along 128.

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In the past three decades, expansion at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, which has been almost trebled, has included a series of new buildings and facilities. Some of the major findings of the study directed by Associate Professor A. J. Bone include:

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