

CUTTING AWAY THE FAT

Over in Building 70
are the Z-330 tooling fixtures
with beams 30 feet high, fixtures
the size of basketball courts in which sit sections
of Z-330 fuselages being riveted and wired, fixtures
that rest on computerized platforms at dozens
of points, computerized platforms
that can be moved and tilted on 5 axes to adjust
the Z-330 fuselages in a myriad
of positions computer-calculated
and as hair-trigger fine-tuned and complex
as advanced calculus,
while all around these fixtures
work the assemblers riveting and wiring,
assemblers whose ranks keep getting thinner and thinner
as they are laid off
so that Goodstone Aircraft Company
can compete in today's economic landscape
of stripped-down-to-the-bone
leanness.

NOT IMPRESSED

The veterans
at their old manual machines surrounded
by all of the new computer-controlled machines
furiously crank handles lifting and lowering the beds of
their machines and furiously crank handles moving
their machine tables in and out and back and forth.
They furiously and agilely
crank their machines' universal heads into angles on 2 axes
to put cutters on compound angles for extra-complex
cuts and sweat
and smile happily.
Lifting their index fingers in the air
they look contemptuously over at the computer machine
operators and nod
signifying
the single act
of pushing the "Cycle Start" button
which the computer machine operators are required
to perform in order for their computer machines to
automatically produce
aircraft parts.