Document 1772

[21772001]

(During its centennial year , The Wall Street Journal will report events of the past century that stand as milestones of American business history . ,)

[21772003]

But few knew it then and most still think all pencils are wooden .

[21772004]

Eagle Pencil of Shelbyville , Tenn. , " Pencil City U.S.A. , " had made its earliest pilot plastic pencils in 1971 .

[21772006]

Three A.D.L. inventors applied April 6 , 1973 , for the patent , which was assigned and awarded in 1976 to Hasbro Industries , then Eagle 's parent .

[21772009]

Automated machines coextrude long plastic sheaths with graphite-plastic cores that are printed , cut , painted and eraser-fitted .

[21772010]

" After more than 200 years , something new has happened to pencils , " said Arthur D. Little in a 1974 report that publicly described the previously secret item .

[21772011]

Eagle 's plastic type sharpens and looks like a wooden pencil .

[21772012]

A major difference is that a snapped wooden pencil will have a slivered break while a plastic model will break cleanly .

[21772014]

Artists and draftsmen need harder " leads . "

[21772015]

Eagle , now called Eagle-Berol , remains a leading company among the 10 in the U.S. that produced about 2.3 billion pencils last year , according to the Pencil Makers Association .