Over the next couple of years, operations moved from the barn on the outskirts of town into a small factory in the city. As well as investing in larger facilities to continue expanding their growth, J.C. and Herb had the heart, empathy, and—ultimately—the wisdom to invest in their growing number of employees.

Gorman-Rupp began an annual profit sharing plan and offered a Christmas savings plan, matching fifty percent of employee contributions. Few people could afford the down payment for a home—so Gorman-Rupp offered to match funds saved by employees, dollar for dollar, for a down payment. It would be a loan, repayable over an extended period of time, with no interest.

It was easy to work very hard for a caring employer. A young company with dedicated employees produced pump after pump, resulting in sales exceeding $345,000 in 1939.

The economy was slowly recovering, and the renewed housing and commercial construction industries would mean an increase in demand for pumps. Road builders, contractors, quarry operators, water and sewer line installers would all need a way to remove muddy water filled with debris.

Near the end of the decade, to prepare for the expected surge in growth of production and breadth of pump lines, Gorman-Rupp acquired the property on Bowman Street in Mansfield, Ohio that would serve as the Company’s headquarters into the next century.