



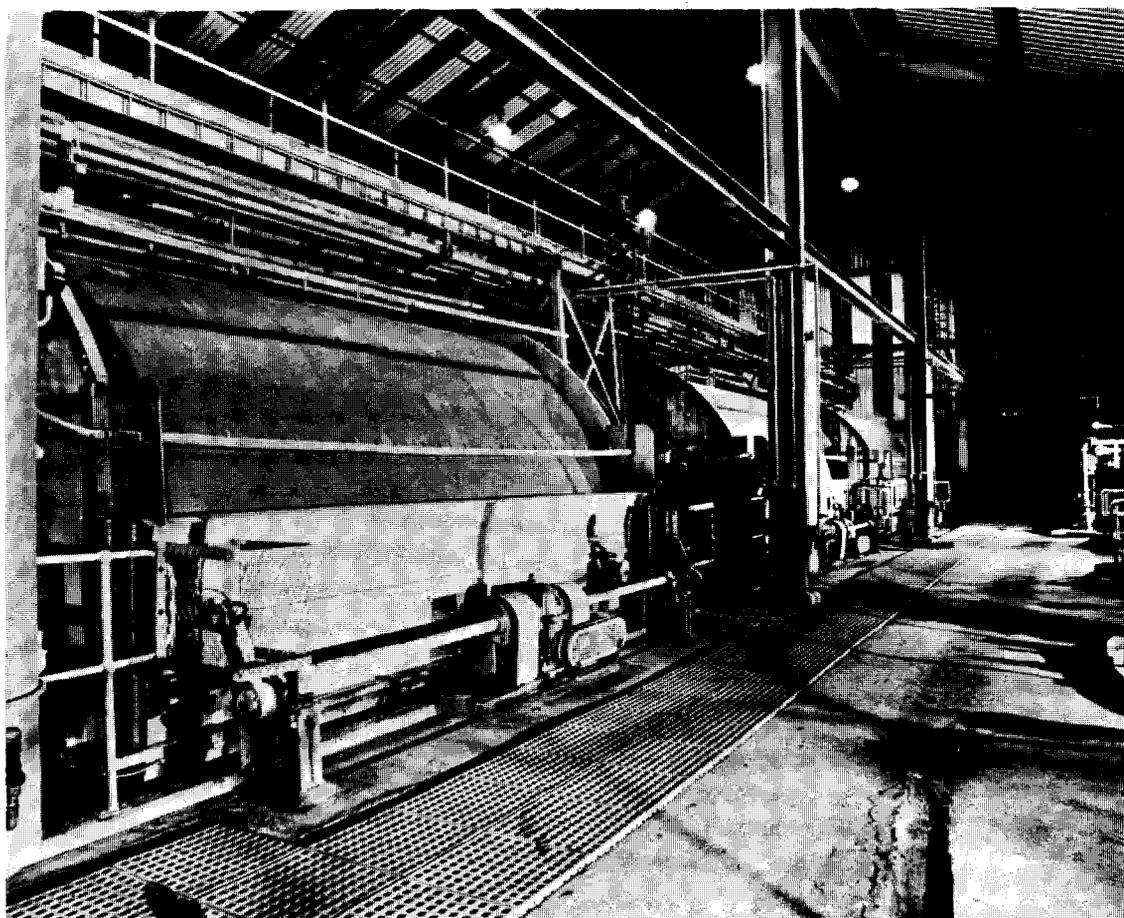
**Mr C. J. van Niekerk, Works Manager of Zincor at Springs, who designed the plant for a new technique that won Zincor a productivity merit certificate. The main advantage of the new technique is that it allows for better utilization of indigenous raw materials**

## National productivity awards

In August 1978, the National Productivity Institute invited entries for productivity awards, which it intended making as a recognition of firms and individuals who were contributing to the prosperity of South Africa by effecting outstanding improvements in productivity.

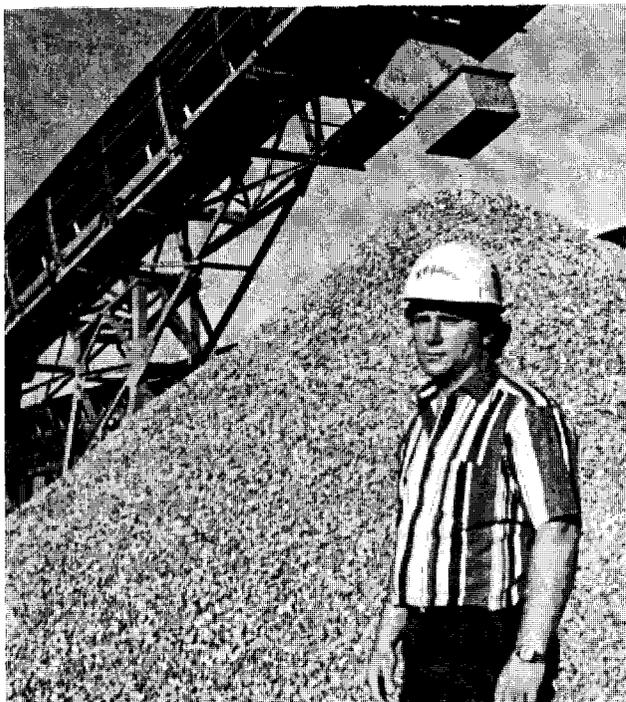
Of the fifty-five entries received, five won awards. A sixth award was given to the National Occupational Safety Association (NOSA), whose activities have led to significant improvements in productivity. Because of the high standard of the entries, seven certificates of merit were also awarded.

Of these seven certificates, three were awarded for improved productivity in the metallurgical field. These and/or their recipients are featured here.



**Zincor's hot-acid leaching plant, which produces zinc in the form of pure metal from zinc concentrates. Originally only 88 to 89 per cent of the zinc was recovered from the semi-processed raw material. The new technique increased the yield to between 92 and 93 per cent. Whereas an annual production of 76 000 tons of zinc had required 164 000 tons of raw material, the same amount of zinc can now be produced from 158 000 tons of raw material**

**Mr Roger Gibson, Manager of Operations at Tubatse Ferrochrome (Pty) Ltd in Steelpoort, eastern Transvaal, who won a productivity merit certificate for designing a system that uses magnetic separators to separate ferrochromium from slag. Before the installation of magnetic separators in the plant, small pieces of ferrochromium (10 to 15 per cent of the total production) had to be recycled since it is impossible to sort these by hand. The installation of magnetic separators eliminated the costs of resmelting and overcame many of the problems associated with too high a percentage of fines in the furnace**



**Dr E. Raats, Manager of the Metallurgical Division of Iscor at Newcastle, who won a productivity merit certificate for a method that he devised to reclaim coke from dumps previously considered of no economic value**



**The mobile sifting structure developed by Dr Raats to reclaim dumped coke. The amount of usable coke reclaimed by this method from May 1976 to May 1977 was over 200 000 tons, and the amount expected to be reclaimed during 1979 is well over that amount**