

The Right Stuff At Work

Contrary to myopic opinion in some quarters, this newspaper and every newspaper revels in good news. By definition, it's the best kind.

So this newspaper took great delight in last week's report on the "growth mode" of textiles in this community. It would be impossible to overestimate the importance of this upswing in textiles' fortune. For one very important thing, you're talking 2,600-plus jobs in a community of, say, 7,000 households in town and immediately around it. That is some economic muscle.

As last week's upbeat piece noted, Mooreville has come a long way from its start as a cotton-loading rail siding. Its industrial base is enjoying healthy diversification, and the quality of its life no longer is linked to one industry.

For all that, it is perfectly obvious that a healthy textile industry makes for a healthier Mooreville-South Iredell. We know it and, yes, we can take a measure of pride in our part in making it so.

The resurgence of textiles in Mooreville is a microcosm of textiles in North Carolina, the country's leading producer of textile pro-

ducts. Last year, after ebbing a number of years, Tar Heel textile employment flowed. More than 5,000 textile jobs were created in this state.

So what are we seeing? How long, oh Lord how long, have we been beat over the head with lamentations over the imminent death of a domestic textile industry being crushed under an avalanche of imports?

Here's what we're seeing: the American textile industry has quit whining and started winning. People who have their lives invested in textiles are showing what they're made of. It's the right stuff. It's the stuff that made America the envy of the world. It's the can-do competitive spirit that is the life juices of the free enterprise system.

Call it maudlin, call it economic naivete, call it flag waving ad nauseam—but call it true. The key to the current wave of success for U.S. textile manufacturers is their adaptability, their flexibility, their vision, their ability to respond fast and efficiently to present and future market needs for fibers, yarn, cloth and apparel.

Call it the makings of another American success story. Mooreville can be proud of its paragraph in it.

But Not Far Enough On Teacher Pay

From The Wilmington Morning News

If anybody is under the impression that the salary boosts of recent years have turned North Carolina into a mecca for teachers, a glance at the latest figures from the American Federation of Teachers will be a disappointment.

The average teacher in North Carolina makes \$23,775. He or she would make more money in 30 other states. Among them is Virginia, where the average teacher in the classroom makes \$25,473.

North Carolina's average starting salary of \$16,790 ranks 29th in the country and falls behind the average starting salaries in South Carolina (27th) and Virginia (21st).

Things look a bit better when salaries are

balanced against the cost of living in each state. When that arithmetic is done, the average teacher salary here comes in at 18th. South Carolina ranks 25th, but Virginia still nudges us out at 16th.

Of course, North Carolina isn't competing for teachers only with neighboring states, but with the rest of the country as well. And anyway, the real competition isn't against other states for teaching graduates, but against other careers that college students can choose.

According to the AFT, the salary increases of the past few years have merely put teachers' buying power back to where it was 15 years ago.

Fear That Peace Might Break Out

From The Christian Science Monitor

The Reagan administration has long argued that the Nicaraguan government must become more democratic. Managua now faces a fresh opportunity in the new United States peace plan drafted by House Speaker Jim Wright and warmly embraced by the White House.

The bipartisan proposal offers to delay the White House request for new aid to the contras in exchange for Sandinista acceptance of a cease-fire and democratic reforms. Though we concede to the skepticism being voiced in some quarters of Congress as well as in Latin America, on its face the plan represents commendable progress in White House thinking on Nicaragua.

The initiative marks a significant turn toward diplomacy and negotiation by an administration that had long insisted that only military pressure could force needed changes in Managua.

The administration's effort to get bipartisan backing for the proposal makes good sense; it may have influenced Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra's prompt decision to respond with a bid to the US for unconditional talks.

Congressman Wright deserves praise for his well-reasoned arguments to date about the possibility of extending the plan's timetable beyond the current limit, his readiness to call the plan a variation of the Arias proposal, and for the promise he won from the White House to limit verbal barbs aimed at the Sandinistas and congressional critics during this early period.

A new administration willingness to compromise is also welcome. The giving up by the White House of its insistence that the contras must be direct participants in Nicaragua's internal political talks is a case in point.

Still, many on Capitol Hill remain skeptical about the timing of the plan and about the administration's motives and strategy.

Offered just at the close of the Capitol Hill Iran-contra hearings and just before the White House was to make a new contra aid request, the plan is viewed by some as likely to fail and, in the process, garner more congressional support for contra aid.

That said, we still hope that the plan succeeds. Numerous specifics will need to be answered. These include what happens to the contras and their arms during an in-place cease-fire.

Mooreville Tribune

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I JUST WANT NICARAGUA TO SHARE IN OUR BEAUTIFUL, DEMOCRATIC AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE!



From Where I Sit

By Johnny Morrow

Those of you who read this regularly know full well the disdain I have for the month of August. So, I'm willing to pay attention to most anyone who can deliver anything positive from the dreaded eight calendar month. This year was certainly no different. You can imagine, the guard-anticipation I experienced on learning of a phenomenon that was to take place on Aug. 15, 1987. It would be called the Harmonic Convergence. It would be a time in which all nine planets are aligned on the same side of the sun. It would be a time for all nations, regardless of racial, traditional, historical or cultural ties, to unite in peace and love and happiness. Ergo, the name.

Legions of believers came from far and wide to go far and wide. The faithful gathered in Jerusalem, Israel, Egypt, Mecca and Peru to usher in the new age. The event takes place every 23,000 years, so many felt it would be the Millennium, as foretold in the Bible (Rev. 20:1-5). I watched some of the proceedings in different lands on the evening news. I listened to several of the loyal followers spout their mumbo-jumbo. They could have been characters right out of the Woodstock and the 60's generation. Some were eggheads, concerned purely with the scientific aspects of the phenomenon. Most, however, were knuckleheads, just along for the ride, to celebrate and party it up. A few members from various cults were in attendance.

Well, Aug. 15 came and went. The Heavens didn't open up, and trumpets didn't sound. Simply put, it was just another day. This didn't totally deter the festivities, or crush the spirits of the believers. They claimed that the Harmonic Convergence is upon us, whether we know it or not, and all the rest of the world will come to realize it in time. Yet, convoys of U.S. warships and anti-mine helicopters continue to escort Kuwait tankers in the Persian Gulf. The Reagan administration wants to keep funding the contras. The budget deficit will grow to nearly \$200 billion unless Congress and the president work to reduce red ink. The Soviet Union still leads in the export of arms to Third World nations.

Perhaps the ultimate degradation in the world today is man's inhumanity to man on an individual basis. When countries fight each other, it's bad. But when one person wreaks havoc on others, particularly when he kills, it hits us even harder. I remember the day that one man literally held a university captive. You might know it happened in August. It was Aug. 1, 1966, to be precise. Charles J. Whitman climbed the stairs to the top of the huge tower at the University of Texas, barricaded the doors behind him and opened fire on the campus with several high-powered rifles. The killing spree lasted for hours because the police officer's conventional weapons couldn't reach the tower's summit.

Local residents brought their hunting rifles to the scene and held Whitman at bay until two police officers could ascend the tower, break down one of the barricades and blow the madman's brains out. When the carnage was over, 15 had been killed and 35 had been wounded. The only positive action to result from this was the formation of SWAT teams around the country. The experts said that never again could such an incident occur. And to top it all off, Hollywood got in on the act. A movie, starring Kurt Russell, sensationalized the gruesome murders, even detailing the way Whitman killed his wife and mother just prior to leaving for the university tower.

A couple of weeks ago, in the quiet coun-

try town of Hungerford, England, a man dressed in khakis and carrying at least two weapons killed 14 people, including his mother. The shooting rampage, in which another 16 were wounded, was the worst massacre in modern British criminal history. Among the dead was a police officer. A gun collector, randomly shot and killed most of his victims as he walked down the town's main street. Witnesses said that Ryan, 25, a former army paratrooper, calmly fired in all directions with both of his weapons, one identified as a Soviet-designed Kalashnikov assault rifle.

Children and shoppers fled the streets screaming as Ryan opened fire. He targeted police and ambulance attendants as they rushed to aid victims who lay wounded or dying. As a result, it was several hours before those in need of medical attention could be hospitalized. Cars were at a standstill, some with shattered windows and bullet holes, some with drivers dead at the wheel. Ryan even walked along an alleyway, shooting into homes. One eyewitness described Ryan as being "Rambo-style" holding the rifle, then threw it down and held a pistol in the other hand. This is what happens when you combine August, Sylvester Stallone and stupid movies with a gullible, easily influenced pinhead.

About five hours after the shooting began, police said Ryan was alone inside a building next to an empty school, talking to negotiators. Two hours later, police heard a shot and found Ryan dead in a chair with a gun in his hand. He took the coward's way out. The attack was especially shocking in Britain, where such incidents are rare, gun laws are strict and most police officers are unarmed. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was informed, and her office said that the country's gun laws will be carefully examined as a result of the killings. And while it is too early to say whether or not the existing laws should be tightened, there obviously are lessons to be learned from the tragic incident.

The college town of Athens, Ga. was shocked in August by the arrest of a 16-year-old high school dropout. He has been accused of killing five people. Officials plan to try him as an adult. Now, before you liberals start screaming bloody murder—no pun intended—consider the facts: three women, aged 63, 59 and 22, were hacked to death with a hatchet, which police recovered; and two retired University of Georgia professors, a man and his wife, aged 82 and 72 respectively, were brutally stabbed to death in their home. I believe that the heinousness of the killings alone should warrant a trial as an adult. The murders were cold and calculated. Each one required a good deal of time, so the killer knew what he was doing.

Friends and relatives claim that the alleged murderer was a nice, quiet, and friendly. Since dropping out of high school last year, he has spent most of his time watching television and riding his bicycle. Police believe the motive was robbery. The victims lived in comfortable neighborhoods, and much of their property was found in the accused's possession. All of which is to say that none of us are safe. In fact, most of you reading this right now would be safer if a global nuclear war broke out than if an armed lunatic ran loose in your neighborhood. But, hey, things are looking up. We made it through August, and the Harmonic Convergence is upon us.

India is the seventh largest country in the world.

OUR COMMUNITY IN OTHER YEARS

1959

28 YEARS AGO

Miss Jean McNeely, a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spent the week end with her mother, Mrs. Branch McNeely.

Chiles Calhoun, a freshman at Mars Hill College, spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Calhoun, at their home on East Center Avenue.

Ralph Millsaps, Jr., Fred Quenelle, Wayne Brannon, Jim Linker, Robert Edmiston, John Amburn, Bub McKnight, Joe Mills and J.W. Hager, members of the local Kiwanis Club, attended the N.C. District No. 2 meeting in Lenoir Friday evening. The Lenoir Kiwanis Club was host for the district meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carter have moved to New Providence, New Jersey. Mr. Carter, a former employee of the Mooreville Mills, has been transferred to the New York Sales Office of the Burlington Industries.

Joel Caldwell has resumed his studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, after spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Newton. Joel is a senior at UNC.

Miss Gail Templeton, a sophomore at Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, has resumed her studies after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Templeton.

Wayne Young returned to Chapel Hill last week, where he is a junior at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Wayne spent the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B.B. Young.

Sam Overcash, Jr., has returned to Catawba College, Salisbury, after spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Overcash, at their home on Cabarrus Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hethcox and Miss Winona Hethcox spent Christmas Eve with relatives in Rockingham. Mrs. J.L. Cashion, who had been spending some time with the Tom Hethcoxs, returned with them to Rockingham.

Tommy Mills, a student at Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, returned to college on Sunday after spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mills.

Miss Marion Price and Miss Margaret Kennedy, both of Charlotte, spent the week end visiting Mrs. Ruth Barber.

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Shop Encourages Interest In Reading

All her life Jan Smith has had a passion for reading. Now, at her new Mooreville shop, Smith hopes to get local children started on the same path that led to her life-long fascination for books.

Smith opened her children's book store, The Mootree, in mid July. The Mootree is located on the second floor above B.K. Fairchild at 156 West Stateville Avenue.

Smith wants her store to be an enjoyable place for children and their parents to visit, and a place where children can discover new worlds and be swept away by new adventures.

Smith said the books in the store are designed for children in the infant to 12-year-old range.

"The books are primarily for younger children," Smith explained. "I didn't want to get into the junior high level books because I think that age most of the students are more interested in reading at the adult level."

Smith said she wants her shop to provide additional reading opportunities for children who are introduced to the importance of books in grade school.

"I see the shop as an extension of good children's literature in the community," Smith explained. "I want to provide an extension to the good reading background the children get in school."

Smith has stocked The Mootree with an assortment of books that explain, teach and fascinate children. She says the mixture of different kinds of literature is exactly what she wanted.

"I wanted to have special books as well as all the classics children have grown up with for generations," Smith said. "I think many of these books will be good gifts items that children will want to keep."

In addition to the time-tested standards, Smith also plans to offer a collection of the newest award-



Smith, Daughter Anna Claire Share Book In Mootree Reading Area

winning children's books. Working and at-home experiences were important factors in convincing Smith, a former teacher and a mother of two, to open a book shop catering to children.

"I taught for 10 years in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg system and six years at a little elementary school in Spindale," Smith said, "and during that time the one thing I enjoyed most was reading to the children."

"And that has continued with my children," she added. "Some of the best times with my children are when we are sharing a book and I think it is the same for other families."

Smith said the most enjoyable part of her new job is watching children as they discover the new worlds opened to them through books.

"I'm having a lot of fun," Smith said. "It is very exciting to see all

the wonderful literature available for children today and they way it is being presented to them."

While books are far and away the number one item at The Mootree, Smith also has an assortment of small collectibles and stuffed animals that bring book characters to life for young readers.

A special display about the 200th birthday of the United States Constitution is also prominent in The Mootree.

"These books are very good for children in the nine to 12 range," Smith said. "They explain the importance of the Constitution in an enjoyable way the children can understand."

Providing books that package information in an interesting, understandable fashion is the key to getting children hooked on reading.

And at The Mootree, Smith has put together an assortment of the best and brightest children's

literature of the past and present, enhancing the future for Mooreville children who discover their own love for reading.

The Mootree is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Saturday, the shop is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The telephone number is 664-7943.

County Council Wants Requests For Arts Aid

Need money for your community arts program? Who ya gonna call?

Call your friendly Iredell Arts Council. It wants to help.

And it can help, because it is the county agency through which the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council supports the arts at the grassroots.

The county council has issued its annual invitation for funding requests. Money allocated by the agency will apply to local projects during the current fiscal year.

James Walker is director of the Iredell council. He said this week application forms are available at his office in the building that formerly housed the county jail in downtown Statesville. Requests for forms may be mailed to Post Office Box 184, Statesville.

"The council will accept and consider program-funding proposals submitted throughout the year," Walker said. "The program committee's review dates for assistance this fiscal year are Sept. 15, Dec. 15 and May 16."

If you can't find the form we mailed you, just call Judy Turner at the Chamber office and she will handle everything for you. Looking for you!

MSI
Mooreville South Iredell Chamber of Commerce
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P.O. Box 688
MOORESVILLE, N.C.

News Briefs

You and I have both seen it happen.

A person who is eager and enthusiastic, ready to help at any time, and willing to pull his or her share of the weight at any time on most any project.

These are great people to have on your side. With folks like that you can get almost anything accomplished, any problem solved, any road-block smashed flat. Wonderful, wonderful folks to have on your team. Right?

You and I have also seen the opposite of that happen. I don't mean those "let's go" folks become opponents. Far from it. They just seem to slide away from the action for awhile. Perhaps you don't see them for a couple of months and their contributions to whatever your goals were divided.

Sure, it happens. It even happens to some of our Mooreville-South Iredell Chamber of Commerce members. It's probable they are still interested in what the Chamber is doing, but they seem to fade out of the mainstream. If you are one of those members, we want you back in the saddle, contributing again, giving us your valuable experience and expertise. We need you.

If you have skidded into the category pictured above, perhaps what you need is to give yourself the chance to get re-energized as a MSI Chamber member.

One of the best ways I know to do this is to join other members who have signed up to attend the Chamber's annual fall retreat to be held at Myrtle Beach October 8-11th. Again it will be at the Landmark Hotel in Myrtle. Friday night through Sunday morning.

This is for members and spouses and a goodly number have signed up to attend. However, as we looked at the list we realized that some of our really top-flight members of the past few years had not responded.

Not everybody can be free that weekend, of course, but if you can please join us. It's a combination of work and recreation with division chairmen holding rap sessions and formulating plans for 1988—new officers (who take office January) learning more about their jobs; plus golf, tennis, fishing, and a wrap-up banquet.

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1787-1987

WE THE PEOPLE...

The signs represented in the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, agreed to the Constitution as a play of government to be proposed. Only thirty-nine of the fifty-five delegates eventually signed the Constitution. The signers of the Constitution were the outstanding men of their states. Some were more well known such as Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, Roger Sherman, Alexander Hamilton, and Charles Pinckney. Others were not as well known but all of them signed the Constitution and left their mark on history.

New Hampshire John Langdon Nicholas Gilman	New Jersey William Livingston John Brearley William Paterson Jonathan Dayton	Delaware George Read Gunning Bedford, Jr. John Dickinson Richard Bassett Jacob Beeson	North Carolina William Hooper Richard Dobbs Spaight Hugh Williamson
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Connecticut William Samuels Roger Sherman	New York Alexander Hamilton	Georgia James Oglethorpe Abraham Baldwin	

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JOE YOUNG TIRE 663-2824	CLASSIC JEWELERS 663-3172	BARGER CONSTRUCTION 663-3611
MORROW CHEVROLET 664-1432	BANK OF IREDELL 663-4926	DIET CENTER 664-1142
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