

# Careline's 1980 Summer Olympics



The CRO organizers were on the field long before sun up blowing up the thousands of balloons which were released during the opening ceremonies.



Barbara Collins was one of the relay team of torch bearers who brought the flame from the general office to the playing field.



Pierce Swing was the final runner who brought the torch onto the field where it was kept burning during the day by Dee Moles.

In the process of sponsoring a unique salute to the U. S. Olympic athletes Piedmont employees produced a fun-filled and memorable day for themselves on August 9, 1980.

Among the special guests who attended the day-long event on the campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem were Bob Mathias, the world's only two-time Olympic decathlon champion, and his wife Gwen; John B. Kelly, Jr., a four-time participant in Olympic rowing competition and current first vice-president of the United States Olympic Committee; and Irwin Belk, North Carolina fund-raising chairman of

the U. S. Olympic Committee.

Employees from central res, general office and general aviation were joined by representatives from nearly every station on the system. They came to parade for, participate in, officiate and enjoy a broad range of track and field events and Olympic regulation volleyball.

The idea for what became the most exciting day of Piedmont's summer was conceived by the CRO Careline Committee. In just eight weeks they planned and produced an event which made all of Piedmont proud and they did it by committee! There were committees for site selection, decorations, games, and scheduling music, publicity, refreshments, transportation, meeting and greeting celebrity guests, reception for participants, first aid, end of the day party and clean up.

The elaborate opening ceremonies involved enough details to destroy the enthusiasm of all but a fanatic and that part of the program didn't even faze our fervent Olympic production crew.

The games which started at 10 a.m. and lasted all day, included volleyball and relays of 4000, 1600 and 800 meters; volleyball, and long jump and high jump competition; volleyball and open events of 1500, 800 and 400 meters; volleyball and shot put contests; volleyball and 100 and 110 meter hurdles; and volleyball and 100 meter finals.

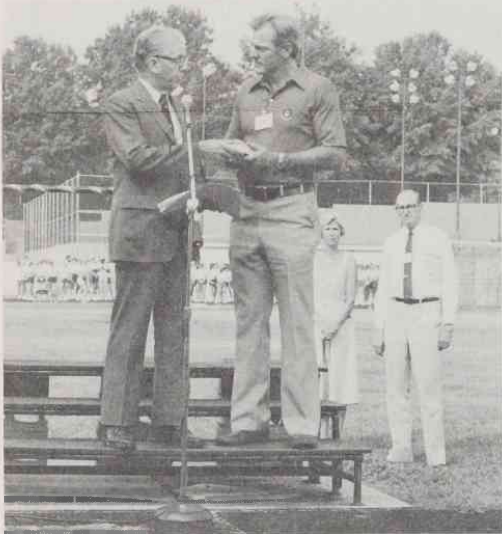
All categories were divided for men and women and except for volleyball separated by age into three groups, up-to-34, 35-49 and 50-up. Those in the higher age groups were allowed to compete in younger categories though the younger employees weren't permitted to sign up for competition against their elders.

There were at least 80 employee officials who kept track of times, scores and distances. The staggering statistics showed that in just the volleyball games there were 403 players on 39 teams who played 77 games. Nearly 300 gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded during the day that was a winner for every one of the 3000 people who were there. The field partici-

pants took home the largest trophy for having won the most points.

In addition to saluting our country's Olympic athletes and promoting unity among employees, the 1980 Careline Olympics raised over \$2300. Irwin Belk, North Carolina fund raising chairman for the U.S. Olympic Committee, accepted the money which included funds from concessions and donations.

More pictures are on pages four-six.



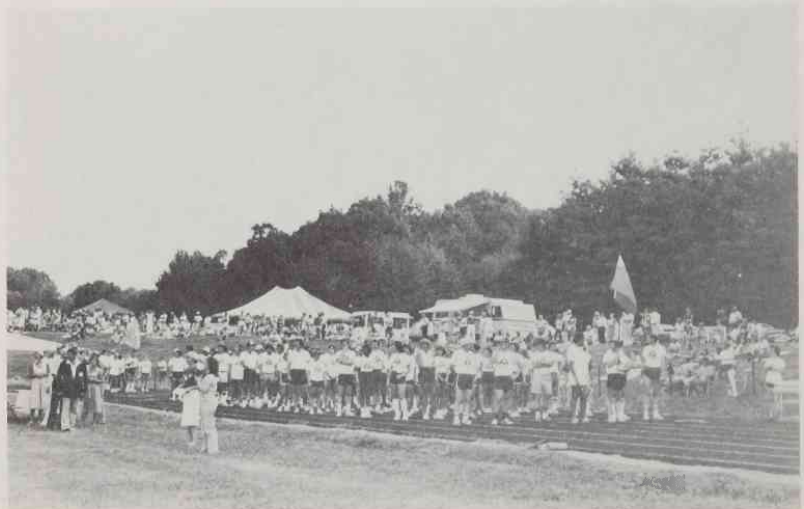
Officials on hand for the star-studded opening included, from left, Winston-Salem's Mayor Wayne Corpening, Olympic gold medalist Bob Mathias, his wife Gwen and North Carolina U. S. Olympic Chairman Irwin Belk.



West Virginia Governor Rockefeller sent his State's flag for the occasion. It was presented to President Davis by Charleston employees, from left, Jamie Lucas, Jay Barnhouse and Tom Wheeler.



A hot air balloon and special flags from participating departments added color to the day.



The opening ceremonies included a parade of departments, here's the general office.