

# Small Business

## News & Views

### Manufacturing Jobs

The growth of manufacturing jobs in the Sunbelt is not so much a result of entire firms moving from north to south, as it is a "decentralization." New manufacturing plants and jobs seem to be seeking out not only southern locations, but also smaller cities and non-urban areas.

The economy of the Southern United States has been growing at a more rapid pace than the national economy for several decades. The most notable characteristic of the differing growth of regions has been the shift away from larger metropolitan areas. In the Sunbelt, growth has been proportionately greater outside the larger cities than within them.

Manufacturing seems to be leading this change to smaller, more rural locations. While services, finance, real estate, transportation, trade and construction mostly serve their local markets, manufacturing tends to be more oriented to the national market, and manufacturers have been far more "foot-loose" throughout our history.

In looking at the growth of manufacturing jobs during the past ten years in the Sunbelt, Florida clearly leads in growth with 46.6 percent. North Carolina is fourth with 18.7 percent growth in manufacturing jobs.

The rapid growth in manufacturing outside the old north central manufacturing belt is a reversal of a long trend toward a concentration of industry which started with the beginning of the industrial revolution. In general wages, rents, taxes and many other costs were higher in these older industrial cities, but their higher costs were offset by higher productivity resulting from a concentration of service and support industries.

The Southeast has benefitted from the maturing of products and production processes and today the

Southeast has become a favorable location for new products in components of new products.

The primary attraction of this region is now lower production costs. The region has generally been a low labor cost region of the United States, however, despite the relatively lower rates, wages in the South are growing faster than the national average. In addition to wages, total labor costs are also lower in the South. Workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance are lower in the South, and eligibility restrictions and benefits restrictions are also less.

Another key to the growth in manufacturing jobs in this region is a positive, rapidly improving business climate. The business climate is a term used to compare states' characteristics. These comparisons include labor legislation (mainly right to work laws), business taxes, political attitudes toward industrial development, and the general regulatory requirements of the state.

The Southeast's advantage is that many attractive regional features have developed in recent years. The lower cost structure has always been present, but it has been joined by favorable development in transportation and communication.

An excellent article on the Sunbelt's growth recently was featured in the March issue of "Economics Review." You can get this free publication by writing the Information Center, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, P. O. Box 1731, Atlanta, Ga. 30301. Ask for the March issue, or ask to be placed on their regular mailing list.

For additional information contact the Economic Development Division, Center for Improving Mountain Living, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C. 28723.

# Richard Simmons Is Coming To Town

Richard Simmons is coming to town and no one is happier than Jack Margraves. Simmons is giving two exercise concerts at the Charlotte Civic Center May 22 and all proceeds go to benefit the Charlotte Rehabilitation Hospital.

Jack has been an out-patient with the hospital since October, 1981. Before his almost fatal car accident on July 4, 1981, Margraves worked as an investigative reporter for WSOC-TV, Channel 9.

Jack's investigative reports led the way in preventing the Service Corporation of America from building a hazardous waste disposal site at Steele Creek. His reports stimulated interest in local residents and the state government - prompting a Governor's hearing.

Jack is currently undergoing Nurse

A gifted surgeon, whose dedication to his work is not commensurate with his surgical brilliance, loses his ability to judge his priorities, with disastrous results, on "Nurse," Friday, May 21 at 10 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

Dr. Ian Mason, an old friend of Mary and her late husband, allows gambling debts and reckless investments to get out of hand and infringe upon his work, causing a serious problem at the hospital and creating difficulties for Mary and other staff members.

treatment at the Charlotte Rehabilitation Hospital in speech and language therapy. In his accident, he suffered severe head injuries and lost a large percentage of his vocabulary. He is also involved with physical therapy to strengthen muscles that were paralyzed, primarily in his right side, in the accident.

Jack refers to the Rehabilitation

Hospital as a "very good organization ... it does what it's supposed to do." And his recovery has been remarkable.

Margraves will participate in the press conference that Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at the Charlotte Rehabilitation Hospital's auditorium.

Jack and his wife, Carolyn, reside in Charlotte with their two sons.

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