

6C BUSINESS

Textile mill finds new life as anchor of Triangle community

By Rob Shapard
THE HERALD SUN OF DURHAM

SAXAPAHAW, N.C. — A renaissance is blossoming in this quiet pocket of Alamance County along a rocky stretch of the Haw River. The previous life of the old, brick textile mill in the center of Saxapahaw is over.

It ended when Dixie Yarns

shut it in 1994, ending some 150 years of manufacturing at the mill, which served as a key industry and center of activity for the community of mill houses around it.

But the Jordan family that used to own the mill bought it back and spent the last decade giving the property a \$10 million renovation. It's flourishing now with a com-

pletely new life.

The impact goes beyond Saxapahaw and reaches into both the Triangle and Triad.

The rental apartments built within the old mill complex are drawing people who commute to jobs around the region, as close as Chapel Hill and Greensboro and even over to Raleigh or down to Charlotte, said Heather

LaGarde, who lives nearby on an old dairy farm and works for the Jordans in marketing the mill project.

And the free "Saturdays in Saxapahaw" events the Rivermill project sponsors across the street are drawing about 300 people to the community on the weekends, from the Triad as well as Orange, Chatham and

Durham counties and beyond.

The sense of vigor and new life that the place now emanates just how challenging it was to turn the defunct mill back into the community's center.

"There were many, many sleepless nights," said Mac Jordan, 44, who has led the Rivermill project. "It's been a

long, long road."
"But now" it's unbelievable," Jordan said. "It exceeds all of my imagination. It's been 20 years of dreaming that something like this could happen."

The mill is there because the river is there. The original cotton mill was built around 1844 as a wooden structure.

Runaway slaves heroes of new game

By Colin McEvoy
THE HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS

LEYMOYNE, Pa. — "Daddy, can you make me a game?"

When his then-10-year-old son asked him that in the summer of 1981, Mayer Foner had no idea where it would lead him.

He gave up his job as a Harrisburg teacher to become a full-time Lemoyne game store owner. Today, he is still making games - and he is still teaching.

Last month, Foner released his newest game, The Central Pennsylvania Underground Railroad Game, based on the experiences of runaway slaves seeking freedom during the Civil War-era.

"This is a game of hope," Foner said. "The hope is there because, at the end of the game, one of the slaves will definitely escape."

With this game, Foner is also celebrating the 25th birthday of his Lemoyne store.

From the outside, the store looks like any other, an almost generic-looking brick building with one small, modest sign that reads "M. Foner's Games Only Emporium."

One step inside, however, and you are transported to a world of hobbyists and game fanatics.

Boxes of niche-marketed board and card games line the shelves, tiny figures and models for table-top games decorate a glass display, and posters for everything from "Pokemon" and "Full Metal Alchemist" to "Lord of the Rings" and "Star Wars" games are proudly displayed on the walls.

Before retiring to run his store full-time, Foner was a history buff and elementary teacher in the Harrisburg School District for 15 years, where he would often use games as an educational tool. His newest game follows the same logic.

"You're learning as you play, but you're almost learning accidentally," Foner said. "It's not something you're thinking about, because you're learning but you're having fun doing it."

Although it is not the first game to focus on the secret escape routes used by slaves during the 19th century, it is the first to focus exclusively on the Pennsylvania escape network, according to Karen James, coordinator for Underground Railroad history at the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission.

"I think the way the game plays, you can really get a sense for what it was like to be in that time, in that situation," James said. "I think this game is going to be a really good thing for Pennsylvania."

"It's a nice diversion," said Keith Previc, a Camp Hill resident who helped test the game before its release last month.



Dr. Peggy Fuller wanted to have more interaction with patients like Mary Ann Crouch when she launched her Charlotte practice. "It takes time to make a diagnosis, to establish a rapport," she said. "I wanted to do it differently. Not necessarily better, just differently."

More than skin deep

Dermatologist prefers on-to-one patient relationships

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Dr. Peggy Fuller's job is to make patients comfortable in their own skin.

Though dermatology was not her first choice in medical school, it has been one that has brought fulfillment. During the very last rotation of her internal medicine residency, at the Boston Veterans Administration Medical Center, Fuller realized she could use her surgical and clinical skills along with hand-eye coordination to have the best of all worlds. She has never looked back.

Born on a farm in Cedar Grove, Fuller, a Board Certified Dermatologist, has practiced in Charlotte since 1997. Formerly with Charlotte Dermatology, she opened the Esthetics Center for Dermatology in the Elizabeth neighborhood last month.

"One of my core philosophies is building relationships," said Fuller. "I want to care for several generations of patients. It takes time to build relationships. With managed care, there were so many constraints."

Previously Fuller could see between 40-45 patients in a day. "It takes time to make a diagnosis; to establish a rapport," she said. "I wanted to do it differently. Not necessarily better just differently."

Although Fuller is the only African-American woman dermatologist in Charlotte, she does not consider herself a pioneer. "In my career of medicine, I have not been the 'only,'" she said.

Fuller earned her master's from Tufts University School of

Medicine, before completing her dermatological residency at Brown University. "In my class, my dermatology residency, there was another black male, that completed his training with me," said Fuller.

Her female predecessor Dr. Erin Walker, worked in Charlotte before relocating to Northern California. Dr. John Reed, an African-American male, was working in Charlotte prior to Fuller's arrival, and currently works at Presbyterian Hospital.

"Dermatology is a small specialty. However there are quite a few people of color within the specialty, who have been pioneers in the field," she said. "We are a fairly close knit specialty, so there is quite a bit of camaraderie between other multi-ethnic groups."

Her ease with people within her profession might account for versatility in her practice.

"When I first moved to Charlotte I had predominantly Caucasian patients," said "I'm comfortable treating all skin types and servicing a multi-ethnic population," she said.

Along with the change in patient makeup, the American Academy of Dermatology fellow, and member of the Society of Dermatologic Surgery has seen shifts in skin conditions.

"Blacks and Asian have increased incidences of melanoma in hands and nails. We've also seen an increase in incidences of non-melanoma skin cancers in blacks and Latinos." Dr. Fuller explained that the idea that Blacks don't have to worry

about sun exposure is a fallacy and myth that they would like to debunk. "There is a massive effort by the American Academy of Dermatology May is skin cancer awareness month," she said.

An avid runner, Fuller says she wears sunscreen everyday.

"Sunscreen is important," she said. "Not only sunscreen, but protective hat, clothing, protective eyewear to prevent premature cataracts."

Fuller recommends products that are dermatologist tested and recommended. "They'll be void of perfumes and potential allergens." She encourages using products with an SPF of 15 or higher that protect against UVA and UVB rays.

Surprisingly, Fuller discussed another new trend the industry has discovered. "We're also seeing an increase of blacks going to tanning beds," said Fuller, "that's a new phenomenon."

Though most dermatologists are experts in treating skin cancers, Fuller explained that a lot of people don't realize what all a dermatologist does.

"Most of the patients, generally equate dermatology with warts and acne. Dermatology is a specialty that treats the hair skin and nails," she said.

There is a misconception of the amount of work the field entails. People think that [dermatology] is easy. That you can just look at a rash and make a diagnosis. Often times that's possible, but it's a very complex specialty. So many systemic diseases have (skin) manifestations. It can be quite perplexing...and very humbling."

Young professional manages his money

By Nicki Lefever
YORK DAILY RECORD

YORK, Pa. — At 22, Stan Paris was sitting on a substantial savings account.

Thanks to his parents and steady summer work, he graduated from York College with a clean financial slate - no credit card debt, no student loans.

He could have blown his \$17,000 nest egg on a new car, an upscale apartment or expensive clothes, but he chose to put a down payment on a starter home. That decision, along with other wise financial moves, led the 27-year-old York resident to his current comfortable financial existence.

Earlier in 2005, he quit his job and set off on a year of travel.

"I am not a religious person," he said, "but I am very blessed."

Although he started out after college making a small salary working as a legislative assistant for York Mayor John Brenner, he wasn't living paycheck to paycheck hoping Social Security or the lottery would take care of his retirement.

In his five years in the real world, he's invested his money in an IRA, 401(k) and a few stocks. He has set goals, attained goals and made new goals. He did things many young professionals could only dream of doing - he took control of his finances early.

Paris was aware of the concept of compounding - the earlier investments are made, the more money is accumulated over time with less of an initial investment.

BellSouth No. 1 on NAACP telecom list

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BellSouth Corporation has finished first among telecommunications companies as part of the 2006 NAACP Economic Reciprocity Initiative. This is the second year in a row the corporation has received the highest score of all the companies surveyed across five industries.

"It was our goal to better our 2005 score, and I'm pleased that our efforts made a difference and that the NAACP is also acknowledging our progress," said BellSouth Chief Diversity Officer Valencia Adams.

This year Atlanta-based BellSouth received a score of 3.54 (grade B-plus), an improvement over its 2005 top-finishing score of 3.33 (grade B-minus).

The NAACP uses the scores to measure the efforts of major corporations in the areas of hiring, promotion, procurement, philanthropy, and marketing in hopes of creating a more enlightened consumer base. The organization grades companies in five general areas relating to their diversity practices in employment, advertising and marketing spending, service deployment, vendor relations, and charitable giving. The five industries measured are lodging, telecommunications, financial services, general merchandising, and automotive.

BellSouth is a Fortune 500 communications company and has joint control and 40 percent ownership of Cingular Wireless, the nation's largest wireless voice and data provider with 55.8 million customers. It is one of Charlotte's largest employers.

On the Net:
NAACP
www.naacp.org
BellSouth Corp.
www.bellsouth.com/

Economic literacy campaign Saturday

By Herber L. White
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Are you money savvy?
The Campaign for Economic Literacy kicks off Saturday at Greenville Memorial AME Zion Church, 6116 Montith Drive. The Rev. Joseph Washington, chairman and CEO of the Boston-based Organization for a New Equality, will introduce the program. Churches will be prepared for four workshops through orientation and training sessions that start at 8:30 a.m.

Charlotte is one of four sites to participate in the campaign along with Harlem and Queens, N.Y., and Horry County, S.C. (Myrtle Beach). Bank of America is sponsoring the campaign through ONE, whose goal is to expand economic opportunities for individuals traditionally outside the economic mainstream. Workshops teach people how to build financial independence and access credit and capital. Also, faith leaders, their congregations and neighbors are taught the power of responsible credit and investment through information and empowerment skills.

Pastors and their church representatives are encouraged to attend the three-part campaign, which starts with community awareness, followed by economic literacy workshops and an economic literacy summit.

The sessions are free. For information or to confirm attendance, call Charlotte organizer Pat Schulz at (704) 649-7598 or e-mail newequalitycharlotte@msn.com.