

Warren Laborers Lending Hand At Nuclear Plant

By KAY HORNER
News Editor

Every weekday morning at 4 a. m., while Warren County is still covered in darkness, two men from the Bethlehem community get up and begin preparing for their 55-mile ride to work.

Glenn Richardson and his nephew, Anthony Richardson, are two of more than 4,000 workers involved in the construction of Carolina Power & Light Co.'s Shearon

Harris Nuclear Power Plant at New Hill about 25 miles southwest of Raleigh.

Both are carpenters for Daniel Construction Company, an international firm building the \$3 billion plant scheduled for full operation in March 1986.

For the Richardsons, the benefits of their employment far outweigh the inconvenience of commuting.

The elder Richardson, a self-taught carpenter,

found himself unemployed two years ago when a lagging economy forced layoffs at the Rocky Mount construction company where he worked.

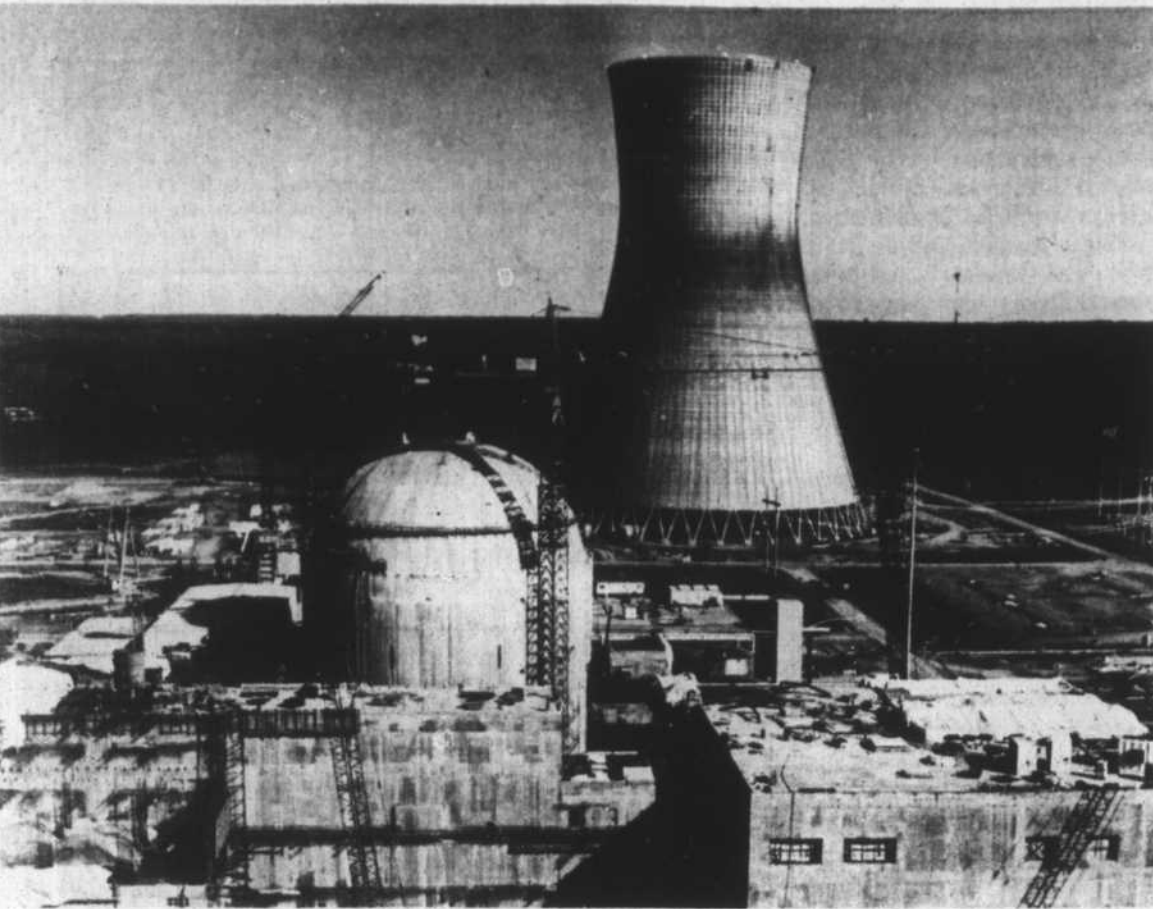
Opportunities in Warren County were limited, and Glenn heard about job-openings at the Harris plant.

"A lot of people I knew were working here, so I came up and applied," Glenn said during a recent interview at the plant site. "I had a good

record and I was able to be certified."

Certification, which translates into opportunities for advancement within the company, is one of the reasons the Richardsons are willing to commute more than 100 miles daily to work.

The program was set up on a companywide basis by Daniel about three years ago. Workers are given written and hands-on tests of (Continued on page 2B)



When Unit 1 at CP&L's Harris Nuclear Power Plant begins commercial operation in 1986, it will generate up to 900,000 kw of electricity, or enough

power for about 180,000 homes. In the foreground is the fuel handling building. Behind it are the dome-shaped containment building and the cooling tower.

N. C. Archeologists Studying Secrets Of Occaneechi Tribe

By MERCER CROSS
National Geographic
News Service

HILLSBOROUGH, N. C.

— He might have been a young warrior, killed near his village by unknown enemies, his body left to decompose in the semitropical Southern heat.

His Occaneechi brethren buried him about 1700 in the heavy clay soil just outside the wooden stockade surrounding their town on a bend of North Carolina's Eno River.

The tightly trussed body was adorned with a breastplate, elaborate for its day, fashioned from tubular shell. In startling incongruity, an English rum bottle was placed near the head.

Indian-European Mix

The presence in the same burial pit of both Indian and European artifacts is yet another clue in an archeological

mystery being unraveled by scientists from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

What became of the Occaneechi, a little-known tribe of only a few hundred members that flourished briefly on the river bottoms between 1680 and 1720, only to disappear a few years later?

How much of an impact did British traders have on the comparatively primitive Indians? How large a role did the Europeans play in the demise of the Occaneechi?

Dr. Roy S. Dickens Jr., director of the Research Laboratories of Anthropology at the university, sees the tiny tribe as a possible obscure link in a century of tumultuous events leading up to the Revolutionary War.

It is known, for exam-

ple, that in 1676 troops led by Nathaniel Bacon attacked the Occaneechi, who then lived on an island in the Roanoke River near the Virginia-North Carolina line. Remnants of the tribe fled to North Carolina after that attack and after repeated raids by other, larger Indian tribes.

"There's very dramatic evidence of this acculturation situation, where they're getting more and more committed to the (European) trade system," Dickens says. "But they're never quite giving up the value they place on their own things."

Profitable Summer

Every morning this summer, a crew of graduate and undergraduate students led by Dickens, Dr. H. Trawick Ward and Stephen Davis, Jr., staff arche-

ologists at the anthropology lab, meet at a campus parking lot. They pile into vans and pickups and drive 15 miles to the dig on the eastern outskirts of Hillsborough.

Dickens is excited about what's been found already and what he expects to find before summer's end.

"We've been very impressed," he says, "with the abundance and the kinds of European items that we're finding here, among a people who were rapidly approaching virtual extinction as a culture."

Probably the most exciting discovery of the summer is an oval "sweat house," a sort of Indian sauna with a fire-pit in the center, adjoining the burial area.

It's the first such structure ever found that had been used by the Occaneechi or other Indians of that time and territory, although sweat rooms were common among some other Eastern Indians, Dickens says.

On the basis of fragments of handmade brick found at the site, he also hopes to uncover the chimney foundation of a European-style cabin, possibly the main house of the village.

The burial sites alone, three of them excavated last year and four being explored this summer, are giving the scientists a rare chance to look at the evolving relationship between two civilizations.

In a grave a few feet away from the warrior, for example, lay an adult's skeleton. Buried with it are not only an Indian clay pot but a long musket, a metal hoe, and a lead smoking pipe, all English in origin.

Unfaded by time, a bright-red blob of vermilion pigment, a European import, marked the remains of a small child in another burial pit. Surrounding the badly decayed skeleton were an English-made silver-plated spoon with a clearly decipherable hallmark, a European copper ket-



Glenn Richardson (left) and his nephew, Anthony Richardson, (right) are among 4,000 workers employed by Daniel Construction Company in the building of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant



at New Hill, a community about 25 miles southwest of Raleigh. Both men commute from their homes in the Bethlehem community of Warren County to the plant site. (Staff Photo)

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By Roy S. Dickens Jr.

Artifacts buried with an Occaneechi Indian child near Hillsborough, N.C., in the early 1700s are clear evidence of the influence of English traders on the small tribe. Beaded bag, lead musket balls, and pewter porringer are among the European-made items. Only the clay pot was made by Indians.

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