The Tar Heel

Research Triangle Park: N.C. looks to the future

North Carolina is the state which relies successful. for its economic livelihood on tobacco, textiles, and furniture, right? Wrong.

While approximately 50% of manufacturing jobs are still in those low-wage low-skill areas that means 50% are not. Research Triangle Park is one of the projects (probably by far the single most important one) taking the state in the 'right' direction.

Perhaps the phenomenon of the Park is less surprising when one reflects that the state has more institutions of higher education (108) than counties (100), with the three that form the vertices of the triangle long recognized as being outstanding.

The Park represents an amazing collaboration of government, community leaders, academia, business, and industry.

Foresight, Care and Early Planning

As the project was planned officials visited previously established Parks and brought experts to North Carolina. They took great care to find out how the Park's predecessors had been set up and what had made them

Foresight, Care Today

The strict policies governing the establishment of new institutions within the Park (see below) might at first seem restrictive and discouraging to potential new arrivals. There are many more who would like to come but do not because of those policies. But it's not restrictive - these companies usually end up locating outside the Park's boundary.

These kind of regulations help to safeguard against the kind of uncontrolled growth that has happened at Silicon Valley, California. The Foundation is rightly anxious that growth should not get out of control and irreparably spoil the area or prove a bubble that quickly bursts. Lasting change must be carefully nurtured.

What makes the Triangle Attractive?

We see some answers to this in the accompanying article on Dynamit Nobel Grace Silicon: The talent represented by the three universities, the competitive nature of

the state (DNGS considered 19 other locations), North Carolina's (surprising) orientation toward high technology industry, the reputation of the state's people for hard work.

One of the attractions of the area is the academic atmosphere already produced by the existence of the universities.

Much credit must go to the state for the extent that it is prepared to go to attract new research centers. The National Humanities Center came to Research Triangle Park in the 70s encouraged by free land, \$3 million for building, and \$225,000 p.a. for the first five years from the three universities.

The Knock-On Benefits

There are many benefits of the Park less immediately obvious than the arrival of new companies. Many students from the universities work in the park and professors work closely with it. It is a major economic stimulant. Psychologically its successes benefit the entire state.

The Early Bird Catches the Worm

We're lucky that the Park was started when it was. A survey as far back as May 1971 reported that of the 81 research parks that had then been established only around 25% could be said to be doing well. 52 research parks were established between 1960 and 1965 alone, after which the rate has sharply dropped and some have even closed down. Research Triangle Park would be in a very different position if it had been started today.

The Park is the Future

In 1962 former Governor Luther Hodges wrote that: "The Research Triangle is an idea that has produced a reality - the idea that the scientific brains and research talents of . . . three institutions . . . could provide the background and stimulation of research for the benefit of the state and nation . . . the Research Triangle is the marriage of North Carolina's ideals for higher education and its hopes for material progress."

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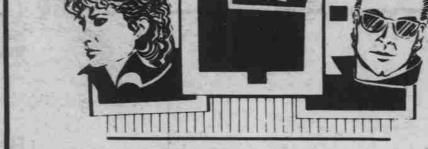
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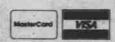
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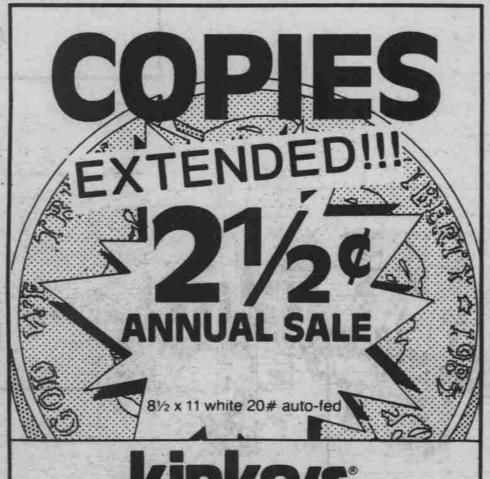
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Dynamit at RTP

"There is a good pool of high caliber talent here in the Triangle," William A. Haynes, director of human resources at the Dynamit Nobel Grace Silicon Company, said Sunday in a telephone interview.

Dynamit Nobel Grace Silicon Company, which opened its new plant in May, will be one of the largest independent producers of silicon wafers in the United States. With the North Carolina plant the company added domestic manufacture to its ongoing U.S. sales and support services.

"There was an original search of 20 locations nationwide for the new plant," Haynes said. "Business tax in North Carolina was favorable since North Carolina does not have unitary tax, which is favorable to foreign business."

Dynamit Nobel Grace Silicon, a partnership formed on October 5, 1984, is two-thirds owned by Dynamit Nobel AG of West Germany and one-third by W.R. Grace and Company, an American firm. Dynamit Nobel Grace Silicon also imports and distributes to the United States and Canada silicon products produced by Dynamit Nobel Silicon located in Northern Italy.

Haynes said that a partnership was made because W.R. Grace put their efforts at being involved in other business, especially in electronics. He said it was an interest to them because of the share of capital interests.

Dynamit Nobel Silicon (Italy) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dynamit Nobel AG and has operated in the silicon business since 1974, supplying silicon to the American market for nine years from its European facilities.

The partnership has received a technology license and will be supplied raw material by Dynamit Nobel Silicon (Italy).

The well educated work force and high tech orientation influenced the choice, he said.

There are presently 45 employees, which are all managerial, professional and technical positions. According to Haynes, by the end of the year Nobel Grace will employ about 200 and by 1986, 300 most of which will be technicians or operators.