

Burlington launches letter writing effort

Employees at Burlington Industries' Raeford and Burlington Menswear Dyeing plants are concerned about the rapid growth of textile and apparel imports that is costing American textile workers their jobs, and they are expressing that concern in letters to President Ronald Reagan.

"Plant employees began writing letters last week to send a message to the president that import growth must be controlled," plant manager Bill Archer said today. He said the letters are part of a company and industry-wide effort to gain presidential support for the Textile and Apparel Trade Enforcement Act, a bill designed to slow down the rapid growth of imports.

A majority of both houses of Congress are co-sponsoring the bill, but President Reagan's Administration has opposed it.

"This bill is badly needed," Archer said. "In the past five years foreign imports have doubled and more than 200,000 Americans have lost their jobs. Imported clothing already has captured almost half of the U.S. market, and imports keep growing. If action is not taken soon we're in danger of losing another two million jobs by 1990."

Archer termed the situation a critical one for "our employees and our plant communities." He said employees of the Raeford and Burlington Menswear Dyeing plants are not only writing letters to the president themselves, they are also urging their families, friends and business acquaintances to write before the end of September.

"It's very important that we let the president know how those of us who are most directly affected by imports feel about the issue," Archer said. He encouraged all local residents and businessmen to write the president also. "If textile jobs are lost in this community it affects everyone," he said. "So all of us have a stake in the passage of this legislation."

Archer said letters could be brief, as short as two or three sentences long, but should emphasize the importance of textiles to the community and should urge President Reagan to support the Textile and Apparel Trade Enforcement Act. "The small amount of time it takes to write may well save your neighbor's job," he emphasized.

Letters should be addressed to President Ronald Reagan, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

...Cleanup is urged

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visitors to Hoke County. Now that festival goers and potential residents have been drawn to the county, it would be a shame to give them a less than favorable impression of the community, Howard said.

"We will be making an impression every moment on people who, hopefully, will like what they see and want to live and work with

us," Howard said. "If all goes as planned, the numbers of visiting dignitaries, guests and neighbors from across the state will be tremendous. We must portray the clean, neat appearance of a rural community on the way up," he added.

Lots need mowing. Litter should be controlled. County residents should go out of their way to make things look attractive, Howard said.

Scouting roundup Thurs.

Boys who are at least seven years old and their parents are invited to attend Scouting Roundup Night Thursday.

Meetings will be at 7 p.m. at three Hoke County locations; the new National Guard Armory, Pittman Grove Baptist Church and West Hoke School.

Boy Scouting now involves three

different groups. Children seven years old may join Tiger Cubs.

Those 8-11 years may become Cub Scouts and those over 11 may become Boy Scouts.

All groups are administered by the Cape Fear Council, Boy Scouts of America.



The value of music
Former Gov. Bob Scott tells about 125 Hoke County supporters of the North Carolina Symphony and the Hoke branch of Sandhills Community College about the need for a symphony in the state and the orchestra's long history of service. Scott is the head of the state's community college system and serves on the state symphony board of directors. The "Evening Together" was sponsored by the new Hoke college branch and the local symphony board and was held in the Fellowship Hall of the Raeford Presbyterian Church.

... Around town

(Continued from page 1A)

Warren Johnston, chairman, stated Monday that some volunteers were needed to help during the festival. If you would like to help, contact Crawford Thomas or the Chamber of Commerce office. This is your festival, so become a part of it.

It is always good to go to the meeting at the local Burlington plants. Each year at different times, business men & women of Raeford are invited to lunch and are told of the ups and downs that the plants have experienced during the year.

Last Wednesday I attended this luncheon and came away feeling that Raeford and Hoke County would continue to prosper with those plants in our community. The outlook for the future here is somewhat better than at other places and the work force at the plants are about the same as it has been over the years. Everything is not easy, but it is not all dark either.

We are fortunate to have these plants.

While researching for the items on the 75th anniversary of Hoke County, I came across a list of names of the people who have held political offices in Hoke County

over the past 74 years. While reading the names, I realized that when someone is elected in the county, they usually keep the office for a number of years.

Do you realize that in the 75 years that Hoke County has been formed, there has been only three people to be sheriff of the county? The first was Edgar Hall and he served from 1911 to the late 1920s or early 1930s. He was replaced by Dave Hodgkin and he served over 30 years. They are both deceased. The present sheriff, Dave Barrington, has been our sheriff for over 20 years.

If you think back, most of our Board of Education members served many years, some were defeated, but many retired.

Yes, Hoke County has elected good men to office and have kept them there as long as they did a good job. You can't beat experience.

I can't understand how football players do as well as they do in this hot weather. Last Saturday most games were played in 90° weather. This meant that the temperatures on the playing field was 20 or 30° hotter. They must be in good condition.

It is good to know that it will be cooler Saturday. See you in Chapel Hill.

Rockfish building nixed as new school

By Ed Miller
An abandoned school building, that was more recently a manufacturing operation, probably will not be suitable for reconversion into a school again, a team of state engineers and architects said last Wednesday.

After a tour of the facility about a month ago, members of the Hoke County Board of Education asked the team from the Division of Schools and Planning in Raleigh to look at the building.

"It's a nice building for what it was meant to be, but for a school, you might be about equal with new construction if you use this building," Jerry Knot, team architect said.

In fact, the team determined that the part of the building that used to be a school is not usable at all.

"If there was any talk of keeping the old building, we would have to scrap the whole thing," said Knot.

"A school is such a specialized building that it's hard to use a building made for another purpose," engineer Ralph Self said.

"Not many facilities are suitable for turning into a school," said Ron Wilson, another engineer on the team.

"It wouldn't be cost effective in our opinion to use this building, and you wouldn't have a good school facility when you're finished," Self said.

According to the team, the cost for renovating the building into a school is estimated to be about \$35 per square foot.

Those costs plus the asking price of the building, \$500,000, would put the price of turning the plant into a school at or over the price of new construction, according to the team.

"We might go in the hole by

buying this thing," said School Business Manager Don Steed.

There are many problems with the building that rule out its becoming a school, according to the team.

A major problem is the small amount of land the building is on.

There would not be adequate room around the building for teacher parking and school bus parking, said Wilson.

A major problem with the facility is its lack of windows, according to Knot.

While most manufacturing buildings need no windows, schools do, said Knot.

If the building were converted, contractors would have to, first, put in windows, and second, make sure that classrooms are placed on outside walls where there are windows, said Knot.

Support offices would have to be put in the middle of the building where no windows can be built, he said.

The entire electrical system in the building would have to be taken out and replaced, according to Wilson.

Massive duct work, in the ceiling of the building, would have to be removed and the ceiling lowered, said Knot.

"Basically, what you've got here are walls and a ceiling," said Self, adding that the walls leak.

"Probably, if you do anything with this building, you would take all of this down and start over," said Knot.

Hoke County School Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson has said that Rockfish is prime for a school.

If a stranger looked at a map of Hoke County and put a school where it was most needed, the school would probably be placed in the Rockfish area.

Cunningham is decorated

Spec. 4 Tony F. Cunningham, son of Lewis C. and Lucille Cunningham of Fuller Street, Raeford, has been decorated with the second award of the Army Achievement Medal at Fort Riley, Kansas.

The Achievement Medal is awarded to soldiers for meri-


torious service, acts of courage, or other accomplishments.

Cunningham is an artillery system mechanic with the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery.

He is a 1982 graduate of Hoke County High School.

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