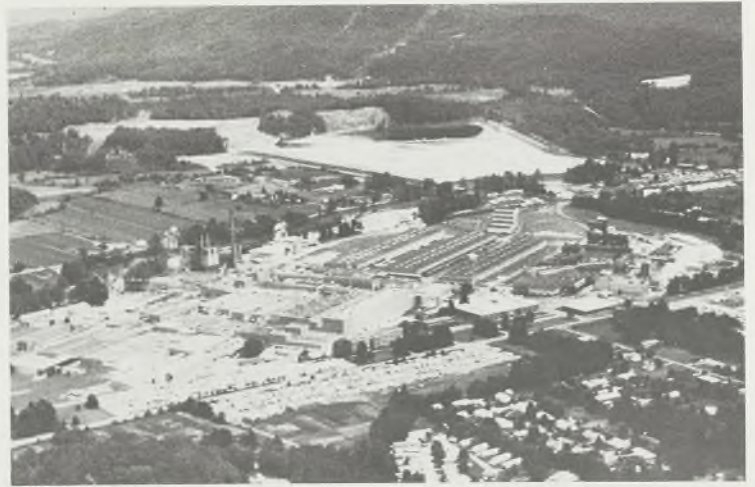


Olin news

SPECIAL EDITION

ECUSTA PAPER AND FILM GROUP

FORTY YEARS AGO THIS YEAR, LAND ALONGSIDE THE DAVIDSON RIVER WAS CHOSEN AS SITE FOR THE NEW ECUSTA PAPER PLANT



In search of the best, founders of the former Ecusta Paper Corporation found the answer to their needs in Transylvania County.

The people of the communities, the endless expanse of forested mountains, and the inviting streams fed by those mountains, held promise that at Pisgah Forest were those qualities with which to build for the moment and for the future. The decades to follow showed the promise fulfilled, an interweaving of resources and events, communities and industry.

Now, four decades later, the Olin Corporation businesses at Pisgah Forest are makers of products that reach markets the world over. Headquartered alongside the Davidson River are the Ecusta Paper and Film Group and its operating components, the Ecusta Paper and Film plants. Together they provide employment for 2,800 persons at Pisgah Forest, and an annual payroll in excess of \$36,000,000.

The late Harry H. Straus, founder and first president of

the Ecusta Paper Corporation, exemplified Ecusta's corporate responsibilities to the communities by directing that the new company pay Transylvania County ad valorem taxes long before the schedule for payment that had been arranged. This principle has been perpetuated over the years through appropriate fundings with company resources and

encouragement of employee participation in community affairs. Such commitment helped to account for the growth that produced today's Olin at Pisgah Forest.

Within months of the startup of cigarette paper manufacturing, Forbes Publishing Company of New York issued a white paper with this preface.

"An immigrant becomes a salesman, and solves a problem that had scientists hanging on the ropes. Result: A new U. S. industry makes us independent of one more foreign source of supply."

The Forbes paper described Mr. Straus and his new company as follows:

"Harry H. Straus, a six-foot-one mountain of physical and

makes jobs in a region where there were few before, gives farmers a new cash crop, turns waste into wealth, frees America of dependence on precarious imports and points toward further industrial developments of high importance."

In March, 1940, after the French instructors had left Pisgah Forest, Mr. Straus issued a message to all Ecusta employees stating his confidence in the work force, the future of the products, and the workers' responsibility to the community. This is quoted in part:

"From my daily inspection of the products which we are turning out, I am very glad to tell you I feel we are doing good work and I compliment all of you on it.

"There are many ways in which our paper can be made more satisfactory to the ultimate customer. We will never reach perfection, but I can not help again impressing upon all of you that we must concentrate on quality and watch it every minute of the day and night.

This Special Edition of the Olin News has been assembled for you. We want you to share the experiences of the people you may know who were among the Ecusta pioneers. It is for those of us who were not around 40 years ago so that we, too, can appreciate the history of present day Ecusta Paper and Film and realize the worthy impact our industry has had on individuals and communities. As you read the articles, you'll relive the Great Depression days, World War II and other historical aspects of the times, good and bad.

We have passed through 40 years of history, and the eighties are now upon us. As we advance through this period, let us work and live for this next decade to be promising, fulfilling and memorable.

mental energy, came here from Germany when he was 18 years old to learn English. But he is one of those men who, whatever their native land, were really born to be Americans.

"He learned English quickly enough, but he never went back. And as his contribution to his adopted country, he has created a new industry which