



Steelwork is up on the addition at the Boone plant of IRC. (Staff photo)

# IRC, Expanding By 700 Employees, Sees Need Better Transportation

BY RACHEL RIVERS

With its half-million-dollar expansion progressing — and consequently making room for an additional 700 employees by 1970—IRC officials are increasingly concerned about the thoroughfares leading to the Boone plant.

According to Facilities Engineer Lee Propst, IRC took a second look at its expansion potential when the Town's mid-October water crisis resulted in a plant loss of \$175,000 to \$200,000. Propst said an area-wide survey was reassuring, in that Boone will have an adequate water-sewer system by September of next year.

However, the survey on road conditions showed that "transportation facilities are very inadequate even for the existing force." Now employing some 700 persons, IRC expects to double that number in the next four years.

Propst explained that he has written letters to the Highway Commission and received replies, that, in part, point to the fact that some roadways and accesses into IRC are under the jurisdiction of the Town of Boone.

IRC's production is feared that HE's production is feared to orders. Since many orders could not be filled during the

water crisis, huge sums of money were forfeited. (IRC does not store its products.) Additionally, nearly \$7,000 was spent, he said, to bring in a temporary supply of water.

Now confident that an adequate water system is being constructed, plant officials are thinking of the transportation bottleneck in terms of what effect it might have on the local plant's ability to draw on future expansion funds, which would extend employment to local persons.

### Current Program

The expansion now underway will be fulfilled over a five-year period, at a cost of \$1,500,000.

Propst explains that part of the addition will be a two-story office area comprising 21,000 square feet. "By relocating the offices, we will free approximately 20,000 to 25,000 square feet in the existing plant—which will be renovated and converted into production area."

The total cost of the building program, which also includes a one-story factory area of 11,000 square feet, will be about \$650,000. Machinery expansion will account for an additional outlay of \$900,000.

About Aug. 15, piles were driven in the marshy land beside IRC to support the proposed building. Says Propst, this was completed about Sept. 1 and a 36-inch drainage pipe

Moscow cool to Canada's plea for Vietnam action.

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was installed to accommodate new parking facilities.

Sept. 5, workers began pouring concrete. By the 20th of the month, underground plumbing was begun.

Concrete foundations were finished Oct. 5 and IRC consequently hauled in 4,000 cubic yards of earth fill (dirt at the site had insufficient organic content) and concrete floors were poured in the factory area starting Oct. 20.

Steel started coming in around Nov. 1 and by Nov. 25, the steel structure was complete. "As it stands now," Propst said, "the masonry work is about 75 per cent completed in the factory area."

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## Fiddlers' Contest At Wilkes Central

Much enthusiasm is being shown by entries in the first fiddlers' convention to be sponsored by the North Wilkesboro Lions Club, Neill Dalrymple, contest project chairman, said today.

Already, 11 bands have entered the contest, indicating that competition is going to be keen in this first of what may be many annual events of that type.

It will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, at Wilkes Central

High School Gymnasium, beginning at 7:15 p.m. A total of \$175 will be given in cash prizes, in addition to trophies and ribbons.

Groups already entered include: Camp Creek Boys and Star Spangle Boys of Galax, Va., Carolina Buddies of East Bend, Iredell Playmates of Statesville, Twin County Partners of Mt. Airy, Green River Boys of Wilkesboro, Blue Ridge Partners of Galax (including Tiny Pruitt of North Wilkesboro), Carolina Mountaineers of Lenoir (including Ralph Pennington of North Wilkesboro).

In addition to the bands, several fiddlers, banjo pickers and dancers are entered on an individual basis. They will come from as far away as Portsmouth, Va., the home of Hubert Lohr, a banjo picker.

Many other entries are expected before the fiddlers' contest date, Dalrymple said



## AMERICA & AMERICAN'S, JOHN STEINBECK'S newly re-

leased verbal-pictorial book, features this picture of Wilkes Countyman Ivey Moore, Chief Scout of the Daniel Boone Wagon Train which rolls across the Blue Ridge into Boone each summer. Moore also was featured in a picture strip across the front of the oversized volume. In text, Moore was identified as a descendant of Daniel Boone. The picture, made by Bruce

Roberts, a New York photographer, also was used two years ago when, Moore appeared on the television show, "To Tell the Truth". A member of the North Carolina Travel Council, Moore, in the role of Daniel Boone, has represented the Wagon Train at international exhibitions and says that mail-inquiries about Wagon Train '67 are coming in daily. The Steinbeck book is selling wildly in Winston-Salem, for pictures of Old Salem are shown, and Moore says the author seems to have given most exposure to New York and North Carolina.

## Demo Women To Meet Friday

An important meeting of the Democratic Women of Watauga County has been announced for Friday night, Dec. 2.

Mrs. Rachel Hartley, vice-chairman of the County Executive Committee, says several items of business are to be considered and officers will be elected.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p. m.

Soviet President makes state visit to Austria.

## Says Universal Heart Of Man Blesses Posies

BY M. E. GARDNER  
N. C. State University

In lieu of flowers the family has requested... How often we have read these lines. Let's think about flowers for a moment by dipping into the treasury of Elbert Hubbard's scrapbook and discover, through the writing of L. M. Child, the universal appeal of flowers; then make a suggestion.

"Now the universal heart of man blesses flowers. They are wreathed round the cradle, the marriage altar and the tomb. The Persian in the Far East delights in their perfume and writes his love in nosegays; while the Indian child of the Far West clasps his hands with glee as the gathered abundant blossoms—the illuminated scriptures of the prairies."

"The cupid of the ancient Hindus tipped his arrows with flowers, and orange flowers are a bridal crown with us, a notion of yesterday." "Flowers garlanded the Grecian altar and hung in votive wreath before the Christian shrine. Flowers should deck the brow of the youthful bride for they are in themselves a lovely type of marriage."

"They should twine round the tomb for their perpetually renewed beauty is a symbol of the resurrection. They should festoon the altar for their fragrance and their

beauty ascent in perpetual worship before the Most High."

According to Dr. Lodwick Hartley, of our English Department, who is my adviser on all things literary, Mrs. Child wrote this tribute about 1850 or 1860. This was long ago and at a time when flowers were produced almost entirely for decorative and memorial purposes by individuals and small groups. While our way of life has changed considerably during the intervening years, we are perhaps more conscious than ever concerning the universal appeal of flowers as well as other ornamental plants.

Today the production of floral crops is a business—intensive, highly specialized, requiring heavy initial capital outlay and high overhead operating expense.

My suggestion is this. That we not deny our departed friends and loved ones the universal appeal, beauty and meaning of floral tributes. I have always felt that a friend is entitled to both the floral tribute and a memorial contribution, if this be the wish of the family. I hope that you can share this viewpoint with me.

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### Military Chow

Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, wants standardized chow for the armed services. At the present time, sailors get bigger meals. He would like to get the equal food allowance plan into operation by July 1, 1968.

### On Holiday Truce

Johnson Administration officials strongly oppose a long Christmas truce in Vietnam as proposed by Pope Paul VI recently. Roving Ambassador W. Averell Harriman said the U. S. attitude does not rule out a Christmas lull in the fighting.

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