

## Nucor plans to hire 300

**LAURIE HUFFORD**  
Staff Writer

Nucor Steel Corporation, a Fortune 200 company that's the nation's 2nd largest steel maker, and its #1 recycler, will be taking job applications for its new Hertford County (Winton) plant May 14-16.

At a "Business-to-Business" luncheon held recently at Creekside Restaurant & Bar, 406 W. Queen Street, Nucor's management team met with approximately 50 citizens, business and government leaders, where they announced plans to hire approximately 300 people. Fifty people from Nucor or other steel-making concerns will be "trainers", but the remaining 250 employees will be hired from the local population.

"We didn't expect to find adults with steel-making knowledge in northeast NC," said plant General Manager Giff Daughtridge, and although basic reading and writing skills and some understanding of computerization are required, the company focuses on attitude.

"What we're really looking for is the work ethic," Daughtridge explained, "...people who like solving problems, people who like taking on a lot of responsibility...We hire for attitude. We train for skills."

Daughtridge said that Nucor offers its employees scholarships, profit sharing, stock purchase plans, and 401k plans, and that the company's wages are higher than those of any other steel company in America, even though its payroll costs are lower.

Since it's unprofitable for the steel-making process to cool down, the Winton plant will run continuously. Two crews will work four 12-hour days, then be replaced by two other crews running the same schedule. This plan, according to Daughtridge, works well, and has never been "voted out" by employees in similar plants.

Nucor is investing over \$350 million dollars in the new Winton facility, where it will manufacture and market plate steel products. This, Nucor's first plant for plate steel, will greatly impact area economy. Even if people don't find employment at the Winton plant, they may find work at one of the spin-offs (e.g., electrical contractors, oxygen plant) which will undoubtedly spring up near the site.

Although Nucor expects to run as many as 11 barges a week on the Chowan River, Nucor expects no problems

with boaters: (It's all in the scheduling.)

Despite cheap steel flooding the American market from overseas, Nucor has recorded 126 consecutive profitable quarters, and recycled 11 million tons of steel last year. The company has 7200 employees, all non-union. Its corporate structure is decentralized, and it's headquartered in Charlotte. There are 21 plants in 8 different states, 8 of these being steel mills similar to the 9th being built in Winton.

For the Winton plant, the equipment is bought and the engineering's done. Now, the plant needs to be built. About 1000 construction people will be hired for the summer, but manpower requirements will diminish after this.

Daughtridge says that, locally, there is a small vocal minority expressing displeasure at Nucor's presence, but that most people welcome the company.

Nucor hopes to get their Wetlands Permit, the hurdle holding up full completion of the plant, by June (at the latest).

"I think we are a good corporate neighbor," Daughtridge continued. Benefits to towns, "before" and "after" Nucor were briefly described, but levels of support are based on profits.

"Our goal is to be up and running, hopefully, by this time next year," Daughtridge said. "We're really happy with the location...We're excited to be here...We have a lot to offer, and we think this area has got a lot to offer us."



Suzette C. Ward

## Ward joins Dowd & Twiddy staff

David Twiddy, vice-president of Dowd & Twiddy Insurance, announces that Suzette C. Ward has joined the organization as Commercial Lines Manager. She will be heading the commercial divisions for Dowd & Twiddy locations in Edenton, Hertford, Nags Head and Elizabeth City.

Ward brings to her new position 22 years of experience in the insurance industry. She also holds a "Certified Insurance Counselors (CIC) designation.

She currently serves on the Managers Advisory Council of the Beach and Fair Plans, North Carolina Insurance Underwriting Association. Ward has served on the board of directors of the HomeBuilders Association of Northeastern North Carolina and is a past president of the Albemarle Area Independent Agents Association.

A member of Sawyers Creek Baptist Church, Ward is co-

president of the Camden Middle School Athletic Boosters Club. Married to Stanley Ward, she has two children, Whitney and Dustin.

John Dowd, president of Dowd & Twiddy, said, "We are excited to have someone with Suzette's experience and expertise joining our agency."

Ward will be based at the agency's newest location at 903 Halstead Boulevard, Elizabeth City and may be reached at 338-3322.

## Bootwrights earn awards for high first qtr. sales

Shelia Bootwright and her son, Geddes, Edenton affiliates for United Country Real Estate, have earned the company's Founder's, President's Round Table, and Master Salesman Awards for attaining a new high in sales during the first quarter of 1999.



Shelia Bootwright

Their office is known as United Country - The Colonial Real Estate Company. Mrs. Bootwright's husband, Russell, is the firm's regional sales manager for South Carolina and North Carolina.

The Bootwright family also holds numerous other awards for outstanding sales production. Sales associates



Geddes Bootwright

wide through March. Their office is known as United Country - The Colonial Real Estate Company.

Mrs. Bootwright's husband, Russell, is the firm's regional sales manager for South Carolina and North Carolina.

The Bootwright family also holds numerous other awards for outstanding sales production. Sales associates

Beverly Morris, Jackie Laverty, and Cindy Twiddy-Small also shared in the awards.



Russell Bootwright

United Country has affiliated offices in 40 states, specializing in the sale of business, residential, agricultural and recreational property. National headquarters are in Kansas City, MO.

## Open House May 16

The public is cordially invited to attend an Open House at Chowan Animal Hospital, 1515 Paradise Road, in Edenton on Sunday, May 16.

The Open House will be held from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

On hand to greet visitors will be Dr. Tim Jones and Dr. Bridgett Mitchell, doctors of veterinary medicine, and their staff.

Everyone is welcome.

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