

Shortage Of Skilled Craftsman Has Developed

"A shortage of skilled craftsmen has developed that threatens the very survival of the American manufacturing industry," asserted D. B. MacDermott, an Apprenticeship Training Consultant from Rome, N.Y.

In an article published in JOURNAL, MacDermott contends apprentices in the skilled trades are shrinking at an alarming rate, while college graduates continue to glut the workforce.

He pointed out most highly skilled craftsmen who entered the factories after World War II are beginning to retire. "Within the next decade age alone will take between a half and two-thirds of our best mechanics," he warned.

MacDermott predicted that unless more people enter the trades, which pay as highly as many college degree occupations, he emphasized, certain sections of the American industry will cease to exist.

In the January issue of "SOUTH Business" magazine, Piedmont Natural Gas Company president, John H. Maxheim forecast adequate gas supplies for customers "...well into the 21st century."

Piedmont expects 7,500-10,000 new natural gas customers for the Charlotte-based energy company during 1981. Many will switch from heating oil.

Abundant natural fuel supplies and lower heating prices have attracted new customers, Maxheim said.

The company has acquired nearly 20,000 new customers in the past three years.

With Susan Ellsworth

Susan's Notes



Susan

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Building permits, which indicate economic strength, dipped 11.1 percent in North Carolina during October to 3,847.

There were 481 fewer issued than in September.

This decline dampened the effect of an encouraging 18.3 percent increase in activity reported for September, according to Labor Commissioner John C. Brooks.

He said the slowdown in North Carolina's construction was not as sharp as the national decrease.

A recent U.S. Department of Commerce report for the country indicated a 14.8 percent decline in October building permits wiping out the 14 percent September increase.

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Presbyterian Hospital is launching a \$3 million fundraising drive for new construction projects that will include the School of Nursing. General campaign chairman

John Belk said \$889,683 already has been raised by the hospital's trustees, doctors and staff members.

Money will go toward a \$6.2 million education center. The Duke Endowment has pledged \$1 million for the project.

Although the building will be used mainly for the nursing school, it will also contain a library, 300-seat auditorium, television studio for the hospital's closed circuit television station and offices for the auxiliary and several hospital departments.

Belk said he hopes the campaign will end in two months.

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What do Henry Winkler, Paul Anka and Dean Martin have in common?

They will assist "Three's Company" star John Ritter and his wife, Nancy, as they host the National Telethon for United Cerebral Palsy on January 17-18.

With live coverage in New York, Las Vegas and Hollywood, the telethon will be broadcast from 11 p.m. Saturday till 7 p.m. Sunday over WSOC, Channel 9.

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Mercy Hospital's Parking Deck was completed recently as part of a \$6.6 million construction project. Building will begin later this month on new emergency room out-patient and in-patient surgery suites, a recovery room, a general and central storage area, a gift shop and auditorium.

Plans are underway to expand the radiology department, clinical laboratory, cafeteria and coffee shop. Some vacated areas will be renovated for other uses.

July 1982 is the target date for project completion.

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South Carolina amassed a near-record total of \$1.51 billion in announced capital investment in 1980. This industrial growth is expected to generate more than 14,000 jobs just in the manufacturing sector.

Included in the total are 79 new plants which are expected to offer over 8,000 manufacturing jobs.

And 6,000 positions will result from nearly 600 industrial expansion projects.

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For its 1981 fundraising drive, the Art and Science Council set its goal at \$696,237.

The ASC campaign, which netted over \$660,000 last year will begin February 5 with a kickoff luncheon at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and continue till March 5.

Funds will be used to assist 54 affiliate arts and science organizations in Mecklenburg County.

Nine of them qualify for annual operating funds: the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Nature Museum, Discovery Place, Mint Museum, Charlotte Opera, Spirit Square, Oratorio Singers, Community School of the Arts, and the Charlotte Choral Society.

The other 45 affiliates are eligible to apply for Project Pool grants twice a year for special needs or to develop innovative and outstanding community projects.

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Striving to save money, the State Transportation Department has purchased a reusable, pre-fabricated bridge. The department expects to drastically reduce costs for building temporary detour structures.

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Farmers in all 100 of North Carolina's counties who suffered losses during last summer's drought are eligible to apply for low-interest government loans.

Where credit is available, the Small Business Administration's interest rate will be one and one-quarter percent, according to Larry Cherry, Charlotte district director of the SBA.

If credit is unavailable from private sources the Administration may make 5 percent loans.

Applications here for the SBA Disaster loans may be obtained at the SBA District Office, 230 S. Tryon Street.

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"First Family Fashion," an exhibit of 22 gowns worn by North Carolina governor's wives opened Tuesday at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh.

This exhibit, which will continue through May is part of Governor Hunt's second term inaugural festivities.

Spanning the early 19th century, from the gowns worn by the first governor's wife to the one worn by Mrs. James Hunt at her husband's first inaugural ball, gowns will illustrate style changes during 300 years of history.

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The public hearing on the proposed landfill sight at Highway 16 and McKee Road has been cancelled, since City Council removed the site from consideration at their January 5 meeting.

In 8 Short Years

Francis Marched To Vice

Presidency Of Westinghouse

By Teresa Burns
Post Staff Writer

Thirty-two year old Jay Francis marched his way to the vice presidency of Information Services in the fourth largest broadcasting system in the U.S. - Westinghouse Broadcasting Company - in less than eight years.

Francis, who was in Charlotte this Tuesday to speak to the Charlotte Public Relations Society about public relations goals and strategies with Westinghouse-owned WPCQ-TV, Channel 36, has acquired some interesting philosophies. Philosophies that sometimes take a lifetime to realize.

Has a drawn upon his experiences, his confrontations and thus intelligently turned what could easily be major disasters for some into advantages for him.

"My field represents a certain amount of challenge," Francis began. "To others the pressures, the fast pace may be frightening -- to me the obstacles only made me want the job more."

In 1973 he joined Westinghouse as manager of Information Services for WBZ-TV in Boston. The next year he returned to his home, New York, and became Director of Information Services for Westing-



Jay Francis
...Public relations expert

house Broadcasting Co. Then in June 1979 he was elected Vice President to the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company, fourth only to NBC, CBS and ABC.

Francis attributes his rise to ambition and hard work. "I used everything I had, including my blackness to get through the door. Being black today may get you through the door (because of the quotas that must be filled) but you have to have more to stay beyond the door. My parents told me you

will be judged primarily on ability. If all I had going for me was blackness I would not stay long."

Mainly Francis' ability to accomplish his various jobs well has kept him in the vice president's position. Internal and external communications, involving communicating with employees, press coverage, presenting the facts, press releases, speeches, appearances on talk shows, radio interviews, congressional hearings (to discuss issues confronting the industry) and more, are among Francis' responsibilities.

"I make sure people internally and externally understand who and what we are -- and what makes us tick."

Francis' work is pressurized, yet exotic.

Few Blacks have reached such prestigious positions in large corporations. Francis feels that it's because few Blacks are in the professional pipeline.

"We have a long way to go. And it will probably be a while before we see a Black Fortune 500 corporate president. But Blacks should get out there and bang down doors. If you think being Black is a handicap it will be."

Lauch Henry helped find the missing ingredient to educate minority engineers. Money.

Lauchland Henry is a teacher. And a scientist. And an engineer. He's genuinely concerned about other people. And he has expressed some of that concern in his participation with the National Fund for Minority Engineering Students.

The fund is a non-profit organization attempting to increase the number of Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, Mexican-Americans and American Indians enrolled in engineering schools.

These under represented minorities constitute a rich untapped resource to help fill the growing need for engineers a need that is expected to continue through the mid-1980's.

IBM's social leave program enabled Dr. Henry to take a year's leave to assist the fund. And IBM continued to pay him his full salary.

The National Fund for Minority Engineering Students is a very worthwhile program. We think so. Lauchland Henry thinks so. But most important of all, lots of minority engineering students enrolled at colleges and universities all over the country think so.

