

# Brooks Says Employment Picture In Alaska "Is Bleak"

By Mac Thrower

Have you read about all those jobs in Alaska? Don't buy your ticket.

That's the word from the North Carolina Labor Department. According to State Labor Commissioner John C. Brooks, certain advertisements now in circulation nationwide are misleading. "The employment picture in Alaska is bleak and North Carolinians should not travel to that state in hopes of finding employment."

Brooks said that national publicity concerning the gas pipeline waiver package recently passed by Congress has generated a marked increase in persons arriving in Alaska in search of work. "As a cooperative effort with Edmund Orbeck, commissioner of Labor in Alaska, we are issuing warning about advertisements which offer to secure high paying jobs or information about such jobs, for a fee."

Brooks notes that "construction of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline has not begun, financing for the project has not been finalized and recruitment of workers is not underway."

"The ads would make readers believe that there are many job openings in Alaska when the truth is that state's unemployment rate averaged 9.3 percent in 1981, when the national average was 7.4 percent and North Carolina's was 6.4 percent. Areas experiencing an unemployment rate of 23 percent are common in Alaska," Brooks reported.

Brooks urged job seekers not to go to Alaska unless they have in hand a firm offer of employment. He asked anyone seeing phony promotions about the job picture in Alaska to notify the Communications Division, N.C. Department of Labor, 4 W. Edenton Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27601, (919) 733-4904.

Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. reported sales for the 12-week third quarter ended March 31, 1982 of \$1,588,032,000 as compared with \$1,480,058,000 for the 12-week period ended April 1, 1981, an increase of 7.3 percent.

The company expects to open approximately 40 new stores and close about the same number during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1982. The rate of new store openings during fiscal year 1983 will remain at reduced levels due to the inability of developers to obtain shopping center financing at acceptable interest rates and terms.

It has been said that America is a nation with no sense of the past, and, therefore, little hope for the future. If you are interested in preserving and protecting our past—get involved in Preservation Week in North Carolina May 9-15. Preservation Week has been set aside to celebrate the benefits of historic preservation. This year's theme is "Reinvesting in America's Past," emphasizing the economic good sense of saving and using old structures.

Activities planned for North Carolina include a May 12 program in Raleigh on historic architecture

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of North Carolina and publication of the first major study ever of the challenges of rural preservation.

For details, call Margaret Lane Peterson, Archaeology-Historic Preservation Section, N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, 919-733-7342.

Governor James B. Hunt Jr. has proclaimed the week of May 8-15 as Armed Forces Week in North Carolina.

In proclaiming the week, Governor Hunt urged all North Carolinians to observe it as

"tribute to those brave men and women, those who have served, those who are serving, those missing in action and those who gave up their lives for their country," while in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Armed Forces Day will be May 15 this year. The first Armed Forces Day was in 1950, in accordance with a proclamation by President Harry Truman.

Robert L. "Bob" White, National President of the nation's oldest and largest black-led labor union-

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ance, you may want to convert the second floor of the the house you are buying into a separate apartment, possibly for another member of your family or even for rental purposes. If the property is in a one-family residential zone, you won't be able to do so. The same prohibition may apply if you want to use part of your house for an office, or partly for a business. Even though no alterations are required and you intend to operate your business in one of the rooms of the house, such use may be prohibited. Zoning is even more important to the buyers of land who are planning to erect a custom-built home (or a prefabricated home). Some communities, in their anxiety to keep out families who will demand new streets and sewers, and whose children will require more space in schools than is presently available, have zoning rules that may make it possible for you to build your plan.

### Pick Up Your Bu

- Henderson
- Jerry's S
- Le
- Payton's Discou
- Reid's Su
- Two Guys Dis
- Watco
- Wayne's

National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees--has been listed by EBONY magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans" for the twelfth consecutive year.

The union leader has been holding his current office since 1970. Under White's administration, the union has increased its total membership by 80,000, moved its Alliance Health Benefit Plan for federal employees to a ranking among the top ten of the nation's federal health plans, initiated a national housing program for the elderly, and established fraternal relations with African trade unions.

White has 42 years of U.S. Government service behind him, and is described as "keenly sensitive to issues facing his more than 100,000 postal and federal worker

constituency."

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Twelve area firms have earned special awards from the N.C. Department of Labor for outstanding achievement in on-the-job safety.

Assistant State Labor Commissioner Charles Jeffress presented the million-hour awards, which honor extended operations without a lost-time or disabling injury, at a dinner in Charlotte on Tuesday, April 27th.

Four-million-hour certificates have been earned by Mill Power Supply Company, Charlotte, for compiling 4,038,677 safe employee hours, and Celanese Fibers Company's Research & Development unit, Charlotte, which accumulated 4,020,000 safe employee hours.

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