

Shortage Of Trade Workers Continues To Grow

The need for more trained construction workers will continue to grow through 1995, according to U.S. Department of Labor projections.

For all construction trades, employment in 1995 is projected to be 7.1% higher under a low growth case, 11.8% higher if the industry grows moderately, or 15.8% higher if the high growth projections prove to be true.

"National projections are intensified in high-growth areas such as the Carolinas," said Stephen P. Gennette, executive vice president of Carolinas Branch Associated

General Contractors. "We expect our current shortage of trained labor to increase over the next few years as a result of growth in the industry. Natural attrition and other industries competing for trained labor will also play a role in the continuing shortage.

"The average age of our trained workers is 40. We are not training new workers as quickly as our workforce is retiring or leaving the industry."

The Carolinas construction industry has traditionally drawn its trained labor from agricultural areas in the two states. With new indus-

tries coming into the area, construction is having to compete for workers.

Carolinas Branch AGC represents most non-residential construction firms in the two states. Many of the firms train workers through a training program administered by Carolinas Construction Training Council (CCTC). CCTC has branch offices throughout the two states. Under the program, CCTC recruits trainees for contractors. The contractor hires the trainee and provides on-the-job training. CCTC helps the contractor develop the training needed, maintaining records, and coordinate any

related training such as nightclasses at community colleges.

"CCTC is recognized nationally as an excellent construction training program, but even with it, we see the shortage of trained labor as a major problem in the construction industry," Gennette said. "We are encouraging our contractors to participate in the CCTC training programs. We are offering training courses for field supervisors, and we are supporting increased vocational training in the public school systems."

The Department of Labor projections for the nation show the need

for structural and reinforcing metal workers to be the most critical followed closely by the demand for electricians, concrete and terrazzo finishers, and plumbers and pipefitters.

"The implications of these statistics for the construction industry are clear," Gennette said. "Without skilled workers available to meet the industry's needs, productivity will suffer."

Read
The Charlotte Post



Rep. Howard Barnhill

Howard Barnhill

Receives Appointment

Raleigh - Representative Howard Barnhill of Mecklenburg County has been appointed by House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey to a House-Senate committee to spur economic growth and provide more jobs for North Carolinians.

To be known as the Joint Select Committee on Economic Growth, the group will review three recent economic reports—the report of the North Carolina Commission on Jobs and Economic Growth, a study conducted by the Commission on the Future of the South, and the Blueprint for Economic Development issued by Governor Martin.

Upon completion of its work, the committee will file a report and recommendations aimed at ensuring economic prosperity and job security for the people of the State.

Barnhill, a retired college professor from Charlotte, represents a portion of Mecklenburg in the 60th House District.

CH.O.P. Hosts

"Neighbor To Neighbor" Dinner

The Charlotte Organizing Project is hosting a dinner "Neighbor to Neighbor: A Celebration" on Saturday, January 31, at McDonald's Cafeteria on Beatties Ford Rd. The dinner is held annually to recognize the contributions of individuals to neighborhood organization. Special guest speaker for the evening will be the Honorable Mayor Harvey Gantt. Reception will be at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 each; sponsors are \$25.

For tickets or more information, please call 372-0675.

Neighborhood Organizations are now taking nominations for "Neighbor of the Year." Know an outstanding "neighbor" that deserves recognition for their service? Let your local neighborhood organization know or call the CHOP offices at 372-0675, for more information.

Family Dollar Stores

Increases Quarterly

Cash Dividends

Matthews - The Board of Directors of Family Dollar Stores, Inc. recently declared a quarterly cash dividend on the company's common stock of \$0.07 per share, payable April 15, 1987, to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 13, 1987. The dividend of \$0.07 per share is an increase of 16-2/3% from the preceding quarterly cash dividend of \$0.06 per share. This action continues the company's record of substantial dividend increases in each fiscal year since the initial quarterly cash dividend was declared in fiscal year 1976.

In announcing the dividend increase at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, Leon Levine, chairman of the company, stated that: "This action by the Board of Directors in increasing the dividend reflects both Family Dollar's strong financial position, with no long-term indebtedness, and the continued confidence we have in the future growth prospects of our company."

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Perdue Leg Quarters
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Hunt's Manwich
15.5 Oz. **89¢**

Totino's Party Pizzas
10 Oz. **99¢**

HT Cheese Food
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HT Orange Juice **99¢** 64 Oz.

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