

# Plant Replacing Mineral Baths As Hot Springs Major Income

Rounding a series of hairpin curves on a major Asheville-Knoxville highway, motorists suddenly bear down on a quaint little village, nestled in a valley cut by a river that meanders peacefully through the Bald Mountains.

Here era overlaps era. Trucks, buses and cars rumble through a mountain pass that once posed a challenge for surefooted beasts and the most skilled wagonmasters.

Overall-clad men of the hills trudge by a motel pool where scantily-attired tourists pause to gaze at real-life mountaineers.

Slow winking traffic lights set a leisurely pace for the one-block business district. The closest thing to a traffic problem is a narrow bridge spanning a creek in the middle of town.

A doctor in a modern clinic ministers to the sick. Just up the road, a decaying sign points to a bath house where the infirmed once sought healing in warm spring water bubbling from the mountains. Hence the original name "Warm Springs," which was changed to "Hot Springs" about the turn of the century.

Other contrasts abound here, some not as apparent, but just as profound.

There are some indications that Hot Springs might be standing still, content to let time pass her by.

There are also signs of progress and economic growth.

A decade ago Hot Springs had no industrial payroll. The great pride was that it had some. Then a thriving one began, boasting a bond with 15 prominent columns representing the 15 original colonies. People came from far and near to bathe in the warm, open water thought to contain healing properties.

Today, a modern textile plant employing approximately 120 workers hums around the clock six days a week.

What has an industrial payroll of several thousand dollars a week meant to a town of less than 800 population? The simple structure of small Hot Springs affords a convenient "control" for measuring the gains from one added industry.

Hot Springs is not a boom town. It is not bursting its economic seams. But there are shoots of economic growth springing up among the fields of unemployment, welfare cases, and the near-poverty that plagues parts of Madison County.

Not all of the growth in Hot Springs can be attributed to the industrial plant. Some of the payroll dollars find their way to other towns, and motorists traveling two major highways contribute to the town's economy.

Most Hot Springs residents would tell you, however, that Burlington Industries' plant is the town's bread and butter, and that it accounts for the bulk of its growth. The plant, a part of Raeford Worsted Company, a division of Burlington, supplies yarns that go into the well-known Raeford 2/80's suiting fabrics.

These things have happened to Hot Springs since industry came a decade ago:

Three new retail businesses have been established.

Postal receipts rose from \$39,488.71 in 1952 to \$119,062.73 last year. Before industry came two employees handled the mail. Now six people work at the post office.

There were 43 more telephones in service last year than 10 years before.

Bank officials estimate that bank debts have increased by 100 per cent in 10 years.

Sale of paint and other home improvement items has risen sharply, merchants say.

A beauty shop operator says her business has almost doubled because of the plant.

A church has completed a \$10,000 addition. One of its members says he believes it wouldn't have been possible without the extra industrial payroll.

Hot Springs in a decade has added a library, a medical clinic, and street markers. Total tax assessment in Hot Springs has increased from \$781,231 in 1952 to \$949,113 a decade later. City Hall reports that 15 new homes have been built since industry came.

There has been only a slight increase in population. Burlington's plant employs a local labor force. The 1960 census counted 723 people, only two more than in 1950.

There are 367 electric meters in Hot Springs. There were 292

in 1954. Power use in Hot Springs has almost doubled since 1956. Taxes paid to the town of Hot Springs by Carolina Power & Light Company have nearly tripled since the plant was built.

Exact figures are not available, but several town leaders put their heads together and estimated that retail sales have increased at least 25 per cent because of the industry.

Has Hot Springs reaped any intangible benefits from its industrial payroll?

Harold Anderson is a young businessman who co-owns two restaurants, two motels, and a "country store" tourist attraction. He served as postmaster for seven years and is now a rural carrier. A member of City Council, he knows Hot Springs and its people.

Asked about intangible benefits, he replied:

"I guess you'd have to say it improved our town morale. A lot of people said Hot Springs was dying. We're not growing as fast

as some towns, but we're working toward improvement," he says. "I could show you people who used to work hard and make little money. Now they have a steady income and can afford to eat out once in a while."

"That seems like a small thing, but it means a lot to a man who once couldn't afford to take his kids out for hamburgers."

Other little things mean a lot to Hot Springs, benefits that have come with industry.

The Presbyterian Church has two new choir members, plant manager and Mrs. Neil Ross is also president of the Lions Club and chairman of the Hot Springs Planning Board.

This imported leadership is appreciated. A native son who is also a civic leader put it this way: "Whenever something for the good of our town needs to be done, Neil Ross and his people are usually up front leading the way."

Two promising Hot Springs High School graduates will go to college this year with funds from

a Burlington Industries loan program. They couldn't attend college otherwise.

"People are fixing up more now," says James Gentry, who runs a hardware store. "There buying more paint, appliances, and other home improvement items. There's been a lot of indoor plumbing installed up here since the plant came."

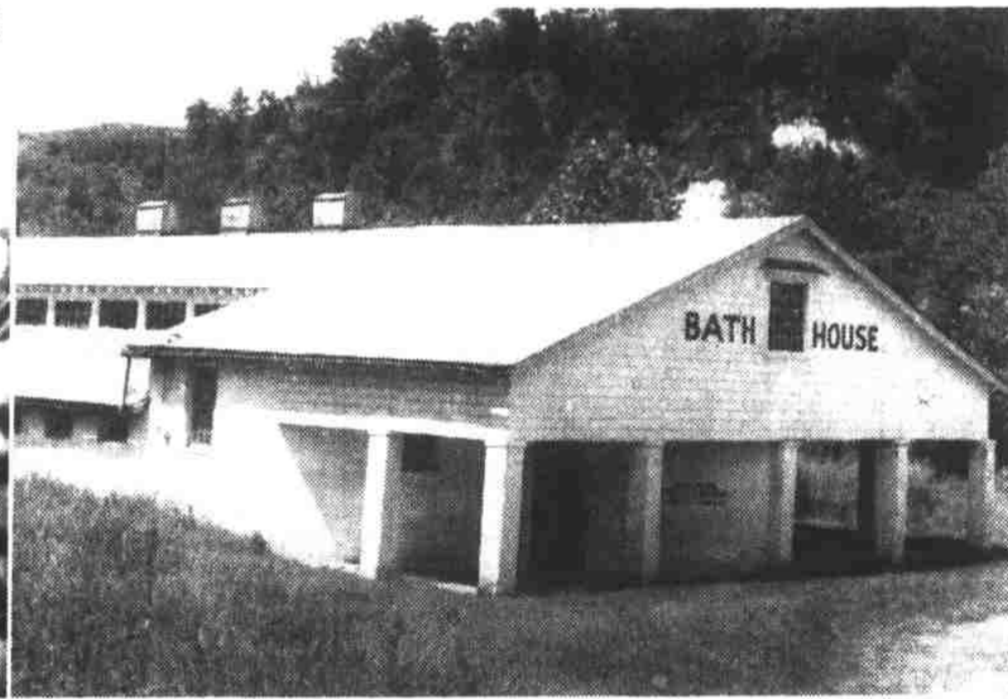
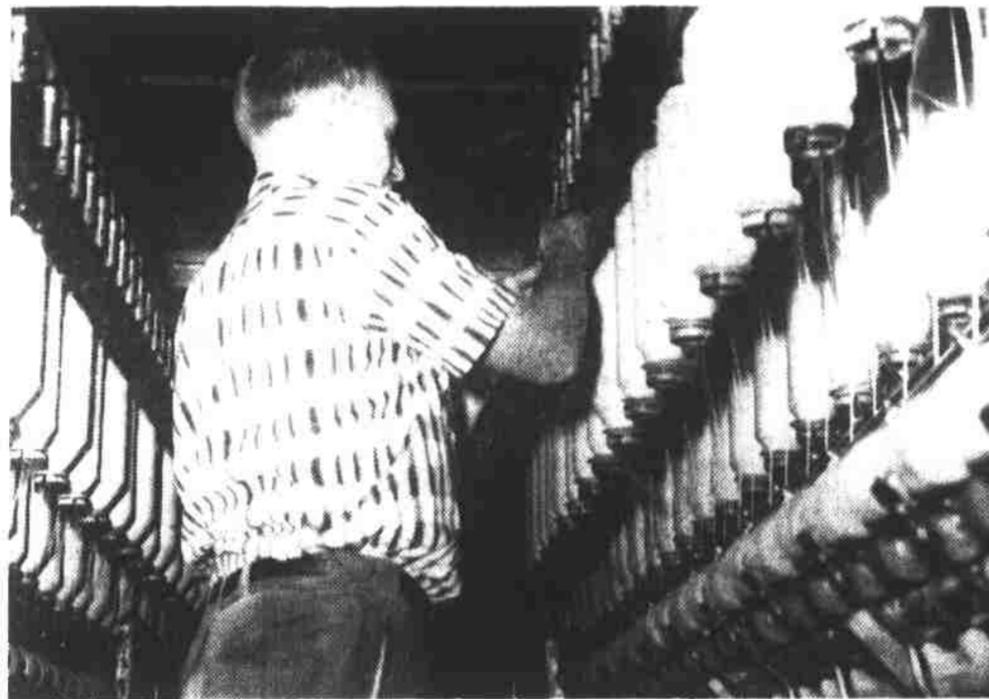
Miss Hazel Moore, a beauty shop operator, recalls with civic pride that Hot Springs won a first prize for community development in the Carolina Power & Light Company "Finer Carolina" contest in 1956.

A Catholic priest and a Methodist preacher mixed practical economics with their dispensing of spiritual enlightenment a decade ago. Father Andrew Graves and the late Rev. Z. V. Arthur were among the determined leaders who refused to say no when the prospect of an industrial payroll was presented to Hot Springs.

Their work was not in vain. —Cut courtesy Asheville Citizen



MANAGER NEIL ROSS (left) explains operations of Burlington Industries' Hot Springs plant to James M. Hall, assistant manager of Carolina Power & Light Company's Asheville district.



HOT SPRINGS — A worker in a modern spinning plant at Hot Springs is shown in left photo. An abandoned bath house where the infirmed once sought healing in warm spring water is shown at right. The plant has replaced the bath house as Hot Springs' chief resource.

## W. A. Green, 89, Passes Monday; Funeral Wednesday

W. A. Green, 89, of RFD 2, Marshall, died Monday, Sept. 9, 1963 in an Asheville hospital after a lengthy illness.

Services were held at 3:30 p. m. Wednesday in Bull Creek Baptist Church, of which he had been a member for 68 years.

The Rev. E. F. Sprinkle, the Rev. W. B. Sprinkle, the Rev. V. C. Fisher and the Rev. Joseph Reese officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bruce, Joe, Gay, Clinard, Edsel, Harold and Richard Green, and Clyde Wild.

French Broad Masonic Lodge 292 of Marshall, of which he was a member, held graveside services.

Surviving are five daughters, Mrs. Oscar Wild of RFD 6, Marshall, Mrs. Bill Silver and Mrs. Clyde Buckner, both of RFD 2, Marshall, Mrs. Brisco Crawford of RFD 3, Weaverville and Mrs. Andy McIntosh of Marion; six sons, McKinley, George and Howard, all of RFD 2, Marshall, Lark and Wade, both of Mars Hill and Wayne of RFD 6, Marshall; a sister, Mrs. Lillie Crowder of RFD 2, Asheville; 54 grandchildren; 78 great-grandchildren and 22 great-great-grandchildren.

Bowman Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Send The News-Record To Your Boy In Service

## HOT SPRINGS

R. C. KIRBY, Correspondent

Mrs. W. F. Hice and family of Alexandria, Va., and Mr. H. A. Maney of Oak Ridge, Tenn., have been visiting their mother, Mrs. L. R. Maney and their sister, Mrs. Bud Ramsey, this week.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Kirby have returned from Greenwood, S. C., where they spent several days with friends.

Mr. Joe Tilson and Mr. Neil Ross are home after a round of deep sea fishing at Mobile, Alabama. Joe says Neil undoubtedly was a cowboy in former years, as he dropped the hooks and line and went to lassoing the big ones.

Miss Clara Blankenship of Washington, D. C., is visiting relatives and old friends here this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Lewis and son, Stanley, of Roanoke, Va., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Swann Huff this week.

**New! Gillette SLIM Adjustable Razor**  
You turn dial from 1 to 9 for the exact setting that matches your skin and beard.  
NEW LOW PRICE \$1.50  
with Super Blue Blades

COMPLETE

## LAUNDRY SERVICE

Pick-up and Deliveries

TUESDAYS and SATURDAYS

IN AND AROUND MARSHALL

Weaverville Laundry

# ALL-NIGHT SINGING

—AT—

## Marshall High School Auditorium

# Saturday Night, Sept. 14

Starts At 7:30

The following singers have been invited:  
Joyful Aires Quartet — Glory Dawn Quartet — Ivy Chapel Trio — Homeward Bound Quartet — Gospel Light Trio — Metcalf Family — Cox Brothers — Bethel Quartet — Peek's Chapel Quartet — Arrington Branch Quartet — Oak Hill Quartet — True Gospel Quartet — Rock Ridge Quartet — Melody Trio — Upper Laurel Quartet. All Other Singers are Invited.

Each Adult attending will be given a Red Cross Membership Card and a Ticket on a PONY which will be GIVEN AWAY IN FRONT OF COURTHOUSE ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 At 3:00 P. M.

Admission: Children under 12 years, 25c; Adults, \$1.00

Proceeds Benefit

Madison County Red Cross Drive