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Hot Springs Plant In Production

By ED SPEARS
HOT SPRINGS - Production has begun at the Blue Ridge Shoe Company's new Hot Springs plant - only two months after the industry was opened in the former Burlington Mills facility on a hillside just east of the business district.

Bennett C. Byrd, plant manager, said this week the plant is turning out 250 pairs of boys shoes each work day.

The shoes go into boxes for retail sale through the 1,032 Thom McAn stores, the 535 Meidisco shoe divisions in K mart stores, and the Miles Shoes stores which have 196 outlets throughout the United States.

Total employment at Hot Springs now is 76, Byrd said. Only two supervisors were brought in from out of the area. The others have been hired locally. Availability of labor was a determining factor in the decision to locate the plant here.

A labor survey last year brought 300 persons in for interviews and, Byrd said, a high 70 per cent of those questioned were rated excellent potential employees.

The closing of the Burlington textile plant here had added to the job pinch in this Madison County community near the Tennessee state line.

"We hope to double the number of workers by the end of this year," Byrd said. By the end of 1977, he added, the projection is that the plant will have 250 people on its payroll, amounting then to about \$1.5 million per year.

The plant, an 87,000 square foot facility that has been re-wired and remodeled for the shoe production departments, is capable of handling up to 500 employees plus the machinery to keep them busy.

Blue Ridge works one shift only, from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. "We don't take job applications here, at Hot Springs," Byrd said. "We refer people who come here to the Employment Security Commission (ESC) offices in Marshall or Asheville."

"We work closely with the Asheville ESC and the Asheville Chamber of Commerce," he added. Byrd complimented the quality of employees found in Madison, saying they "learn quickly" the art of taking a hide of leather and doing the different skills which transform hides into pairs of shoes that are boxed and ready for trucks that roll to the retailer's warehouses.

Shoe style popularity changes frequently, Byrd said, and the factories have to be able to respond quickly.

"From the time we get a new pattern," he said, "we can have the new shoe in the store in six weeks."

Blue Ridge Shoe Co., headquartered in Wilkesboro where its first plant opened in 1961, also has plants in Boone, Sparta, Robersonville and Aulander in North Carolina and Mountain City in Tennessee. Byrd, a native of Boone, was manager of the Mountain City plant when chosen to head the Hot Springs factory - the company's first takeover of an existing building.

Blue Ridge is a division of Melville Shoe Corporation, based in Nashua, N.H., an international conglomerate.



Factory Manager Checks Work

Plant manager Ben Byrd takes a look at the line of finished uppers on an overhead hanger.

Winners In Conservation Contest Announced

The Supervisors of the Madison Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a Conservation Poster and Essay Contest for the fourth, fifth and sixth grades in the six Elementary Schools in Madison County.

The Posters and Essays were judged by Ormand Williams and Dennis Owenby from the Soil Conservation Service in Asheville. The judging was based on the following points: a. How the Conservation idea was presented; b. Originality; c. Artistic ability; d. neatness.

Prizes are as follows: First, \$15.00; Second, \$10.00; Third, \$5.00 for Posters, three prizes for each grade. For Essays, Sixth Grade only, First \$15.00; Second, \$10.00.

"We had a good response from the kids in Madison County. Posters, forty-one and Essays, eleven. We wish to

thank each child for his participation. We wish also, to thank each Principal and Teacher for their interest and help. Each child participating will be awarded a certificate and ball point pen," officials stated.

The following Boys and Girls are the winners in the Poster Contest:

Fourth Grade: First, Dale Gentry Hot Springs, \$15.00; Second, Delisa Phillips, Hot Springs, \$10.00; Third, Danny Edwards, Spring Creek, \$5.00; Fifth Grade: First, Debbie Ricker, Mars Hill, \$15.00; Second, Denise Thomason, Mars Hill, \$10.00; Third, Donna Flynn, Marshall, \$5.00.

Sixth Grade: First, Connie Woody, Spring Creek, \$15.00; Second, Lynn Shelton, Spring Creek, \$10.00; Third, Randy Case, Spring Creek, \$5.00.

Winners for the Essay Contest were: Sixth Grade

Only: First, Russell Lambert, Mars Hill, \$15.00; Second, Lisa Anderson, Mars Hill, \$10.00. The Supervisors for the Madison District are: Raleigh

V. English, Chairman, Jack Landers, Emery Metcalf, James O. Brown and Joseph Rice.



POSTER WINNER from Marshall, Donna Flynn. (Sixth Grade)



ESSAY WINNERS from Mars Hill. Left, Anderson, Russell Lambert.



POSTER WINNERS from Spring Creek. Left to right, Randy Case, Lynn Shelton, Danny Edwards, Connie Woody.



POSTER WINNERS from Mars Hill. Left, Denise Thomason, Debbie Ricker.

City Hall, Others Located In Coty Bldg.

The Marshall City Hall, which for years has been located upstairs next to the ESEA offices, is now located in the Coty Building formerly occupied by Deringer Mfg. Co. on Main Street.

The large building has been re-ovated and is also used by the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department for its trucks and equipment as well as a

meeting room. Also in the same building are the Rescue Squad headquarters with the ambulance, the Police Department, the License examiner (on Wednesdays); and upstairs in the building are the offices of Ron Howell, attorney.

For emergencies: Rescue Squad 649-3111; Fire Dept. 649-3333; Police Dept. 649-2111; Town Hall, 649-3031.

Junior Youth Group Organizes At Greater Ivy

A Junior Youth Group with 80 charter members has been organized by the Greater Ivy Community Citizens Association, Inc.

Officers are: Delores Buckner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Buckner, of Bethel, President; Kathy Pack, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Britton Pack, of California Creek, Vice-president; Dwayne Buckner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Buckner, of Bethel, Secretary; and Jeff Revis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Revis, of Bethel, Treasurer.

Miss Buckner, an eighth grade student at the Mars Hill School, is a member of the Beta Club, the 4-H Club, a member of the Bethel Youth Choir, and a member of the basketball team.

Miss Pack, and eighth grade student at Mars Hill, is a member of the Beta Club, the 4-H Club, and a member of the cast of the Beta Club play. She also plays basketball and softball.

Mr. Buckner, a seventh grade student at the Mars Hill School, is a member of the Beta Club, the 4-H Club, the Bethel Youth Choir, and a member of the cast of the Beta Club play.

Mr. Revis, an eighth grade student at Mars Hill, is a member of the Beta Club, the 4-H Club, the Bethel Youth Choir, and a member of the cast of the Beta Club Play. He also plays basketball.

Charter members of the Junior Youth Group are: Derronda Allen, Paranda

Allen, Karen Ammons, Bobby Anders, Vicky Anders, Greg Anderson, Lisa Anderson, Mark Anderson, Howard Babbitt, Alice Ball, J.R. Ball, Kim Ball, Mark Ball, Jerry Ballard, Donald Blankenship, Frasy Bradford, Delores Buckner, Dwayne Buckner, Eddie Buckner, Kevin Carter, Jeff Chandler, Tim Clark, Tammy Cody, Donald Davis, Eddie Doan, Randy Doan, Kathy Dodd, Cindy Dugger, Richard Edwards, Ricky Edwards, Pam English, Donna Ferguson, Brenda George, Patty Gibbs, Dean Gregory, Syvilla Gregory, C.T. Grindstaff.

Rodney Honeycutt, Sandra Jamerson, David Jarvis, Teresa Lampley, Jeff Ledford, Edward McMahan, Mark McPheters, Joseph Metcalf, Racene Murray, Kathy Pack, David Phillips, Farl Phillips, Elva Pickett, Nan Ramsey, Brandon Ray, Roy Rector, Danny Revis, Jeff Revis, Eddie Rice, Louretta Rice, Gall Riddle, Rex Riddle, Robbie Riddle, Michelle Robinson, Kevin Shelton, Dana Snyder, Jim Stubbs, Freddie Tipton, Bobby Tolly, Dale Waldrop, Debra Willis, Eric Willis, Marshs Wilson, Merita Wilson, and Arlene Young.

All boys and girls who live in Number 4 Township and who are enrolled in elementary and junior high school grades 4 through 9 are invited to join the Junior Youth Group.

Hot Springs Churches Unite Easter Monday

Eight different denominations and ten different churches will all worship together in Hot Springs, Easter Sunday Morning. The service planned

for 7:00 a.m. on the old hotel grounds shows the spirit of oneness when Christians look at their likeness rather than their differences. As one woman said, "Well, when we get in Heaven there's not going to be little separate

groups, so I'm glad we can begin here."

Denominations that are supporting the service are the Baptist, Catholic, Church of God, Free Will Baptist, Full Gospel, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Salvation Army.

All people of whatever denominations or none, are invited to the service.

In case of rain, the meeting will be in the Hot Springs United Methodist Church.



350 People Attend C.B. Club Meeting Here

The Madison County C.B. Club held its first Coffee Break Saturday night, April 10 at the Marshall Elementary school auditorium. A crowd of C.B.'ers from North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia estimated at 350 people gathered in the auditorium to "ratchet-jaw" and listen to good gospel singing provided by the Gospel Travelers of Madison County.

Youths Escape Injury On Trestle

The alertness of Engineer Andrew Brooks and Flagman Arnold Walker, both of Knoxville, Tenn., could have saved the lives of two Mars Hill youths who were on the Ivy trestle near Marshall Sunday afternoon about 5 p.m.

According to Sheriff Ponder, the two boys - Ricky Hughes, 17, and Steven Moss, 16 were on a fishing trip and were walking on the trestle when Freight train No. 3002 rounded the bend above the trestle. The engineer and flagman saw the youths and jammed the brakes of the train which had a load of 125 freight cars. The train came to a sudden stop near the boys who had found a wide spot where the train might have missed them.

Needless to say, however, that the youths were glad to escape uninjured.

After about an hour's delay, the train continued on toward Knoxville and the youths returned to their homes.

Cancer Society Talent Show Here May 1

The second annual Madison County Cancer Society Talent Show will be held on Saturday night, May 1, in the Madison High School gymnasium beginning at 8:00 o'clock.

There will be four separate divisions of music: Country Music, Bluegrass, Old-time Fiddle and square dance. Prizes will be awarded in all divisions. It was an-

Many door prizes were given away, donated by local merchants. Two C.B. radios and antennas were given away. A base unit and antenna was given away by the Madison County C.B. Club and

a mobile unit and antenna was given away by the Madison County Jr. C.B. Club, headed by Mr. Vader Shelton. Clarence Henderson, president of the club, states that it was the best and cleanest coffee break he has ever attended.

The club wishes to thank Mr. Whitt and the Madison County school board for the use of the school. A special thanks goes to the Gospel Travelers for their time and effort and to the merchants

Sunrise Service

The Rev. "Bud" Marler, pastor of the Community Free Will Baptist Church here announces that there will be an Easter sunrise service Sunday at the George Roberson Farm on Marshall Route 1, beginning at 3:30 o'clock and continuing throughout the day. Persons wishing to stay for the entire service are asked to bring lunch.

A church bus will pick up anyone wishing to attend the service at 5:00 a.m. in front of the courthouse.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Bob Caldwell, a native of Marshall and popular WLOS-TV announcer, will serve as master of ceremonies. All entries will have to be in by April 30. Call 256-2384, or write Talent Programs, Box 191, Route 4, Marshall, N.C. 28753. Admission will be \$1.75 for adults, \$1.00 students, children free.