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Plant Goal: Operating By Fall, 1983

BY JON ROSENBLUM

The word from Cleveland, Ohio is: "We hope to have the plant up and going within a year and a half — fall, 1983."

That's from American Greeting Corp. spokesman Ralph White, vice president for personnel and industrial relations, who confirmed that the greeting card company will shortly begin grading for a \$10 million 400,000 square foot plant near the Madison County landfill.

White downplayed earlier estimates of how many the plant would employ, saying it "might" get as large as 700 employees but will "initially be in the neighborhood of 400-500."

County officials say the plant will "double" the number of industrial jobs available.

White said grading for the site will begin within the next month or two or less. The plant will be for packaging and greeting card processing and

won't get into printing, he said.

"We wish we could open the plant tomorrow. We need the space very badly," White said, noting that the "available labor and attitudes of the people" attracted the company to the Marshall area. "We're a very paternalistic type of company and this is the type of people we like very much."

He said the company plans to bring in only a "skeleton management team" — about 20 families — when

the plant opens, and "the rest of the employees we hope to get from the area."

Explaining the delay in nailing down plans for the plant, White said "You need to put a lot of pieces together for a venture of this size. We didn't see too many problems but we wanted to make sure all the details worked out."

"Now that we see that. All systems are go."

One of the county officials in-

strumental in luring the company to Madison was James Ledford, chairman of the board of commissioners. He said in an interview Tuesday that officials are "really proud, and I'm sure the people are too."

He said that in 1981 American Greeting Corp. purchased 52 acres from the county at a cost of \$85,000 for the plant area and grounds.

Ledford said the county expects to be working with company officials in its training programs.



LISTON RAMSEY, left, presents check for \$90,000 to Garland Woody, chairman of the Community Fund Raising Committee for the new Hot Springs Medical-Dental Facility.

Looking on are committee members Alberta Stroud, Bill Whitten, Eugene Wills and Ruth Smith.

Tobacco Producers To Pay For Supports

BY ROBERT KOENIG

The U.S. Senate on Thursday approved legislation which will put the tobacco price support program on a no net cost basis to taxpayers.

The legislation, H.R. 6590, amends the Agricultural Act of 1949 and the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as they generally relate to the price support program for all kinds of quota tobacco and the acreage allotment and quota program for certain kinds of tobacco.

The Senate passed the resolution by a 77-17 vote margin. The House had approved the measure on June

21st. The bill now goes on to President Reagan for his approval.

Under the No Net Cost Tobacco Program Act of 1982, a grower assessment program will be instituted to help achieve the no net cost objective. Proceeds from the fund will be used to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for losses it may sustain from its loan agreements with producer associations in carrying out the price support program.

The new legislation gives the Secretary of Agriculture added flexibility in setting price support levels. The bill permits the secretary to adjust support levels on all grades of tobacco according to market conditions, so long as the levels average out to a level for any kind of tobacco that reflects not less than 65 percent of any increase in the level otherwise required by law. The Secretary could reduce the support by up to 35 percent of what it otherwise would be.

The new bill also makes several changes in the law requiring the leasing of flue-cured tobacco allotments and quotas. A major change is the elimination of fall leasing, except in the case of natural disasters.

The bill specifically permits the sale of flue-cured tobacco allotments and quotas. Under the new bill, however, such allotments or quotas may be

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NIN Opens Office On Long Branch

Neighbors In Need, a Christian organization of Madison County residents primarily aiding the elderly of the area, has opened an office in the Center for the Council on Aging, Long Branch Road.

Staffed by volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the office is opened for those persons needing food, fuel, medical and other emergency assistance.

"During the past year, a small group of Christians from around Madison County have been working together to find ways of helping those citizens of our county who do not have enough income to supply their most basic needs, especially with current agency fund cuts," said NIN President Rev. Jerry Jarrell.

"We have particularly emphasized helping elderly persons get wood and fuel oil," he said. "NIN is a Christian Ministry. When service is given the clients are informed

"that it comes from the Christian community of Madison County as an expression of the love of Christ both for those who are helping and those being helped."

Each client is asked if he is affiliated with a church and if not if he would welcome a visit from a local pastor. Bibles are also given if requested.

"Neighbors In Need is in no way intended to compete or replace what individual Christians and churches in the county are doing to meet needs. Its ministry is to fill in the gaps, to allow us to do together what we can't do separately, and to make us all more aware of the needs around us," he said.

The nine-member board includes: Mrs. Polly Cheek, Mrs. Maria Cox, Mrs. Julie Noe, Rev. Tom Gaunt, Rev. Jerry Jarrell, Rev. George Moore, Mrs. Marian Plaut, Mr. Jerry Plemmons, Mrs. Fae Ramsey.

The new office's phone number is 549-2722.

\$90,000 In Grants

Will Finance Hot Springs Medical-Dental Facility

Grants totaling \$90,000 were presented last week to the Hot Springs Health Program for the new Hot Springs medical-dental facility.

Liston Ramsey, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, made the presentation on behalf of the State of North Carolina to Garland Woody, chairman of the community fund raising committee and to the members of the board of directors.

Jerry Plemmons, chairman of the board of directors, spoke for the group saying, "The board is most appreciative of the support Rep.

Ramsey has given the Hot Springs Medical Center. This project is the result of a lot of people working together and good community support."

According to Plemmons, "This is the third time in recent years that Rep. Ramsey has assisted in providing better medical facilities in Madison County by helping the Hot Springs program to secure funds. The Marshall-Walnut facility received state support in 1978 and the Laurel Medical Center was assisted in 1981."

Additional funding for the project will come from an Appalachian Regional Commission Grant, a Farmers Home

Administration loan and a community fund drive. The community drive has already raised almost \$26,000 in cash and pledges. This drive will continue for a few more weeks. It is anticipated that many other contributions will be made as soon as construction begins. Woody expressed his appreciation to all who assisted in the fund raising. He said, "This demonstrates what the Hot Springs-Spring Creek community can do when the folk work together."

The facility will be located on property adjacent to Highway 25-70 between the Lions Club building and the

EMS office. Taylor Barnhill of Laurel is architect for the project. The building, a 3,700 square foot passive solar structure, will include three exam rooms, a minor trauma room, X-ray, two dental operatives, waiting rooms and office space.

Plemmons acknowledged the contributions of Michael Norins, former executive director of the program. He stated, "Michael provided excellent administrative leadership to the Hot Springs Medical Center project. He worked extremely hard to insure funding for this project." Mr. Norins resigned his position recently to attend Medical School at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He had been executive director for four and a half years.

Construction is expected to begin in 60 to 90 days. The only holdup is a technical problem related to using program funds to repay the FmHA loan. Plemmons pointed out that federal legislation had been introduced that would correct this problem. He said, "We are most anxious to complete the building project. This beautiful structure will facilitate the delivery of quality medical and dental services by a highly trained professional staff."

Benefit For Vietnam Veterans

Music Festival Set At Ponder Farm

Zeno Ponder's 500-acre farm will be the site of this weekend's second annual Mountain Rock N' Roll Festival. The two-day benefit festival will help raise funds for the United Vietnam Veterans Organization.

The gates to the farm will open at 8 a.m. on Saturday for campers coming to the weekend festival. Tickets for the weekend event are \$10 in advance and \$14 if purchased at the festival gate.

In Madison County, advance tickets can be purchased at Sam's Package Store on Jupiter Road. In Weaverville, tickets can be obtained at

Ponder Associates Realty on the Weaverville Highway.

The festival will get under way on Saturday at noon with a performance by the Maxx Gibb band. Other performers scheduled to appear on Saturday include Copperhead, the Rizer Reggae Band from Asheville and the George Hatcher Band.

Festival promoters have also promised a surprise appearance by several internationally known artists.

The festival will continue on Sunday with appearances by Tatum, the Lizzy Borden band, the original Hootchie featuring Warren Haynes, the

Winter Brothers and the Artimus Pyle Band.

Rock N' Roll fans will remember Pyle as the drummer with the legendary Lynard Skynyrd Band.

The George Hatcher Band recently signed a contract with MCA Records. Their first album with the label is expected to be released soon.

The festival will also feature food and concession stands and a fireworks display.

David Christian, a hero of the Vietnam war and founder of the Vietnam Veterans Organization, will make an appearance and address the

audience.

Promoters of the festival have announced that no bottles of any kind will be permitted through the gates.

The festival site is located off N.C. 25-70 at the Jupiter Road exit. Festival signs are posted to direct traffic onto the Ponder farm. Promoters are expecting up to 10,000 people to attend the two-day festival.

A portion of proceeds from the festival will go to the United Vietnam Veterans Organization, a service organization which helps to meet the special needs of Vietnam veterans.

New Staffers Join News Record

Publisher Kenneth F. Wilson has announced the appointment of a new editor and advertising manager to the staff of The News Record. Robert T. Koenig has been

named editor, succeeding G. Nicholas Hancock. Mr. Koenig's wife, Cheryl Wood Koenig, has been named the new advertising manager.

The new editor is a 1961 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Asheville with a degree in philosophy. A veteran of the U.S. Army and a former railroad conductor, Koenig was a sports editor with The Hilton Head News prior to coming to The News Record.

While students at UNC-Asheville, both Mr. and Mrs. Koenig were staff members of the student newspaper, The Rag & Bone.

Currently residing in West Asheville, the new staff members plan to relocate in Madison County in the near future. The couple have a year-old daughter, Anna Katherine.



ROBERT T. KOENIG



CHERYL W. KOENIG