



O'Neill Rich, Raleigh cabinet maker, is shown drawing specifications for 18th century reproductions of household furnishings, products which have made him famous from coast to coast.

### Son Of Duplin Gets Boost In News And Observer

O. N. Rich, native of the Beaufort section of Duplin County was given a front page write-up in the Editorial Section of the August 3rd News and Observer. The story, written by Rudolph Pate, is as follows:

"I put all I got into it," said the Duplin County native a bit modestly.

That credo has made O. N. Rich, owner of the Rich Cabinet Works in Raleigh, \$100,000 richer than he was seven years ago and has caused many an American housewife to break into an enthusiastic appraisal of his products.

The soft-spoken hard-working Rich specializes in the manufacture of 18th century furniture, and his reproductions of that type of household furnishings have found their way into over half of the 48 States. Orders come from Maine to Florida and from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific.

Antique hunters have beat a path to Rich's door, and he estimates he's just about a year behind in filling orders.

**Switched Trades.**

Rich, a serious-demeanored business man, has been working in furniture making since he was graduated from State College in 1931. He received his degree in electrical engineering. He said he couldn't find a job in his profession soon after graduation, and he sought employment in the furniture industry.

Actually, Rich's first connection or love for woodworking began before he earned his academic degree. In working in the wood shop under Prof. Fred B. Wheeler, now a city councilman, Rich soon learned to operate a lathe, and he loved it. The lathe's ability to shape new pieces of furniture and other articles fascinated the Duplin student.

The Raleigh furniture manufacturer still remembers the time when he was chased from the college wood shop for making a yo-yo and scattering shavings all over the place.

Prof. Wheeler, however, came to his rescue and gave him a job in the shop. Nothing could have pleased Rich more, because he wanted

to learn all the techniques involved in wood work.

**Started At Bottom**

After his work and studies at the college, Rich went to Goldsboro, where he gained employment at Kemp's Specialty Furniture Manufacturing Company and where he learned the fundamentals of furniture manufacturing and design. He spent five years at Goldsboro, working for about 12 dollars a week. He was not as interested in making money as he was in obtaining additional training.

He counted the days until he could get into business for himself. After five years of indoctrination at Goldsboro, plus his State College

background, Rich felt that he was able to embark upon his long-awaited career. So he returned to Raleigh, where he obtained employment at Peatch's Art Shop on Morgan Street.

Gradually, he applied his practical and theoretical knowledge to his recent job, and in a short time production jumped from 200 to 300 per cent as did the profits.

**Buys Out Business**

In 1940, Rich had accumulated enough cash to buy the whole business, and that's exactly what he did. He paid \$1,000 for the entire factory and plant, and his holdings now—seven years later—amount to more than \$100,000—every cent of which he has earned through hard work and the application of his skills in the furniture manufacturing plant.



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Success came but it required the exercise of both brawn and brain. The first four or five months after he became owner of the plant, Rich and his one helper worked from 16 to 18 hours seven days a week. They built furniture in the day and delivered their handiwork at night. Such was their regime, but it paid off.

In fact his business outgrew the Morgan Street plant and made it necessary for the expansion of space to take care of the increased volume of trade. So Rich bought a 25-acre tract of land on the Louisville Highway, near the Raleigh City limits, last fall and has since built a structure to house the new wood shop, sales rooms and offices. He also constructed a new dry kiln and plans further construction on the site.

**Plans To Expand**

Toward the rear of his plot of land, behind the new furniture plant, Rich contemplates the erection of a modern home, a swimming pool, picnic grounds, and many other attractive features. He already has an archery range, where he can practice one of his main hobbies.

Even though he finished his training at State College several years ago, Rich still maintains his contact with the institution and its faculty. In addition to Professor Wheeler's help in getting him started in the business, Prof. G. Howard Satterfield, the college's biochemist, aided Rich in the formulation of a new stain for wood products. The new stain, which does its work immediately, does not raise the grain like ordinary water stains, yet it has all the good qualities of the water stains. Furthermore, it brings out the natural color of the wood being treated, Rich says.

That stain is just one of many products which Rich and his co-workers have devised to improve their industry. For instance, he invented a machine which reduces the time for cutting the familiar rope design on table legs from three hours by hand to one minute

by use of the machine.

Rich's example, specialists believe, demonstrates how small industries may be adapted to North Carolina conditions. The State of North Carolina through State College, the Department of Conservation and Development, and the State Department of Agriculture is attempting to encourage the establishment of small business as a means of offsetting a possible decline of tobacco revenue.

Rich's work seems to point the way in that direction.

### A. B. Guy Passes At Calypso

A. B. Guy, age 66, merchant of Calypso died suddenly at noon on Thursday from a heart attack.

### Negro Bible School Activity Report

The Eastern Baptist Association has secured and paid the salary of a Negro worker to promote and conduct Vacation Bible Schools and study courses in Negro Baptist Churches this summer.

Eva Thomas, a student at Shaw University, came to us and worked for five weeks. She reported the following activities in Negro Churches where she worked:

Warsaw - held a two-week school from June 9 - 20 with an enrollment of 51; average attendance, 29. A study course was held at night with an average attendance of 12.

Clinton - Conducted a Bible School with an enrollment of 97; average attendance 82.

From June 30-July 4 a school was held in the Six Runs Negro Baptist Church near Turkey. There were 34 enrolled and an average attendance of 24. A study course for adults was conducted at night with 14 enrolled.

From July 14-18 a school was held at Wynn's Chapel in Mt. Olive. 60 were enrolled with an average attendance of 48. A class was conducted for adults at night.

A school began at Hill's Chapel Church of Faison July 21 and held for a week with 23 enrolled and average attendance was 14.

Eva Thomas proved to be a fine worker and we hope that the Negro Baptists of this area will continue this progress next year.

Professor L. W. Jarman, of the Thomas Jefferson School in Richmond, Va., was guest of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Grady Wednesday evening.

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**J. M. JENKINS, Mgr.**

Funeral services were held from the home Friday at 4 o'clock conducted by Rev. Chaplin, pastor of the Calypso Methodist Church. Interment was in the Calypso cemetery.

He is survived by his widow, the former Elizabeth Foust of Mount Olive; four daughters, Mrs. Percy Best of Warsaw, Mrs. Needham Roy Southernland of Calypso, Mrs. Alton Bryan of Dunn and Mrs. Wiley Dail of Mt. Olive; one son, Alexander Guy of Jacksonville; four brothers, Lemuel Guy of Calypso, Tom and Mack Guy of Mt. Olive and Enoch Guy of Wilmington; one sister, Mrs. J. H. Turner of Calypso.

Cash income of N. C. farmers in 1946 was about 20 per cent higher than in 1945, it was reported by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service of the State Department of Agriculture.

### Old Madam Morris

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WARSAW

### Home Coming At Alum Springs On Third Sunday

The Alum Springs Church will have its Homecoming the third Sunday of August. There will be a program both morning and afternoon. A picnic lunch will be served on the grounds and special music will be presented in the afternoon services. The public is cordially invited. Prepare a picnic lunch and meet your friends at the Alum Springs Church Sunday, Aug. 17.

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