

Cooleemee Journal

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Firms Close In On Cooleemee Seeking Good Textile Workers

The Journal seems to be fighting a losing battle in trying to pinpoint and list all the people who have found jobs since Burlington announced it would close its greige mill over the next month or so.

A Burlington spokesman said 196 employees left almost immediately after the announcement and are presumed to have located work.

He also said that the mill would leave its machinery here for some time and hopes to eventually sell or lease the unused portion of the plant.

Meanwhile, industries in the area have responded heartily to the plight of workers affected by the closing. In fact, someone remarked Friday and Saturday that there seemed to be more people looking for workers than there were workers looking for jobs.

Only about half of the 704 people employed in the greige mill live in the Cooleemee area. This includes some 226 with Cooleemee addresses and slightly over 100 who live on Route 4, Mocksville.

Workers came to the Erwin plant from as far away as Taylorsville, Yadkinville and Hickory. These people, it is to be presumed, will try to find work closer to their homes.

Apparently, there are plenty of jobs for the 750-800 people affected, and many have already found positions.

Last week agencies conducted job interviews at the recreation center and the Cooleemee School gymnasium.

The North Carolina Employment Security Commission was here Friday and representatives of many business firms from the area came on Saturday.

Some of those that we know

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Home, Sweet Home

Cooleemee is "Home, Sweet Home" for many water fowl. With all the ponds and lakes, many make this area a permanent winter home as shown in a Journal photo feature on Page 2 today.

Above, Kathy Tatum, 12, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Tatum Jr. of Rt. 4, Mocksville, feeds grain to some of her favorite friends from the shoreline.

Community Meeting April 3

Jaycees Hope To Spearhead Drive For Unity And Progress

As Jaycees, an organization whose main goal is community development, we are deeply concerned about Cooleemee's recent loss.

"What can be done?" we asked ourselves.

The answer came in the familiar phrase "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." This very definitely relates to our community.

It is a fact that in the past we have depended on the mill for the necessities which are usually provided by an incorporated town's Government, Chamber of Commerce, or similar organization.

Due to this fact, we have not had the need to unite before. NOW, if

we heard of a potential industry, "Who" would send "Who" to contact them?

We concluded that it would be too long of a process to bring about incorporation, so we looked for a simpler solution. The solution is apparent in the need for a town's organization such as a Chamber of Commerce, Business and Professional organization, etc.

To get the ball rolling, we will contact all eligible persons by letter. If you desire to become a member of such an organization, please join us at the U Stop N Grill on Thursday, April 3, at 8 p.m.

We hope to be able to elect a president and board of directors from those

present at this time. By-laws, ground rules and an appropriate name can then be established by the new organization.

The question has arisen — "What if Cooleemee hears good news before this first meeting? Will we still meet?"

The answer is definitely "YES." Unity is necessary for a town, even in good times.

We feel that you, the business and professional men and women of Cooleemee, united with proper leadership can turn a dark day in Cooleemee's history into a bright future.

The Cooleemee Jaycees urge you to attend and unite.