

NOW A NEW WAY TO SERVE IN THE ARMY RESERVE.

From July 1st through September 30th men without previous military service can enlist in local Army Reserve units for a new, shorter period of actual unit participation.

It's a whole new way to serve. And it's available right now. Since this offer applies only in certain areas, call the Army Reserve center nearest you for further information.



**THE ARMY RESERVE.
IT PAYS TO
GO TO MEETINGS.**

Scout Ceremony

Eight Brownies received their wings and a gift from Troop 86 during the Brownie Fly-up Ceremony held Tuesday, May 28 in the Community Building. The Brownies received their Junior Handbook before flying into Troop 88 where they said their Girl Scout Promise and received their Girl Scout pin. The Brownies were Mary Banks, Sharon McClure, Regina Pitman, Theresa Presnell, Vickie Shepherd, Laura Holcombe, Julie Buchanan and Lisa Young.

The Junior Girl Scout Rededication and Investiture Ceremony of Junior Troop 88 was

held that afternoon also. Since the first of the year, five girls entered Troop 88: Sonya Riddle, Angie Wheeler, Ann and Audra Biddix, and Sherri Styles.

Junior Cadette Bridging Ceremony, in which 15 girls from Troop 88 bridged into the Junior Cadette Troop, took place with the following girls involved: Tonya Allen, Donna Braithwaite, Julia Canipe, Mary Fender, Johnna Hall, Michelle Laws, Crystal McCalliard, Sherri Phillips, Susan Pitman, Amy Proffitt, Renee Riddle, Sherri Styles, Sonya Riddle, Ann Biddix, and Toni Banks.



Brownies Receive Wings At Fly-Up Ceremony

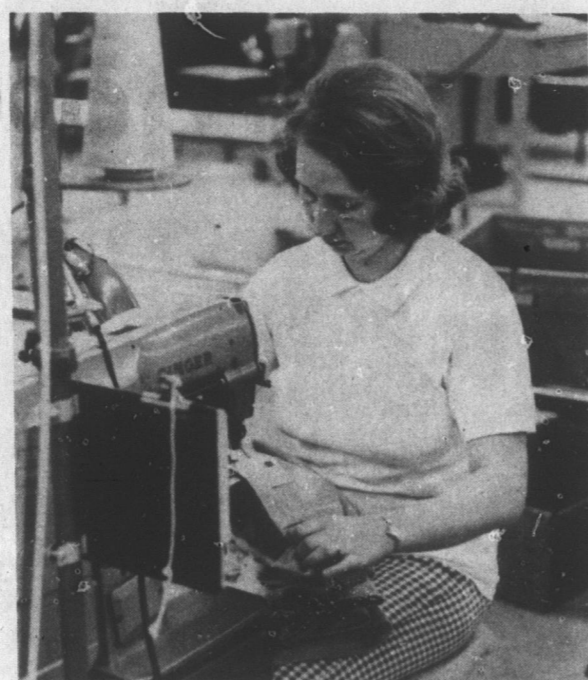
"A NICE PLACE FOR A LADY TO WORK"

Blue Bell Has Openings Available Immediately!



**Nell McGee
Line Supervisor At
Blue Bell, Inc., Micaville,
Invites You To Work With
Her In Making Lady
Wrangler Dungerees.**

**Betty Laws
A Machine
Operator Says
"Come Work With
Me At Micaville."**



Blue Bell Offers:

**Job Security With Steady Work Pleasant Working
Conditions Group Hospitalization And Life Insurance
Plans With Costs Shared By Blue Bell, Inc. Paid
Holidays And Vacation Company Store Privileges
Wrangler Clothes For The Entire Family At Discount
Prices.**

Applications Are Now Being Taken

Mondays Through Fridays From 8.00a.m. To 2.30p.m.

BLUE BELL, INC.

**Lady
Wrangler DIVISION
Micaville Plant**

Micaville, N. Carolina

675-4772

**An Equal
Opportunity
Employer**

Forest Service Celebrates

Del W. Thorsen, Supervisor of the National Forests in North Carolina, announced today that the Forest Service is celebrating the 50th anniversary of wilderness in the United States. It was on June 3, 1924 that the first Wilderness was set aside on the nation's public lands, on the Gila National Forest in New Mexico.

The U.S. Forest Service is tremendously proud of its role in initiating the Wilderness concept on federal lands. Ninety-seven percent of the existing 10.7 million acre National Wilderness system is on National Forest lands.

The Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 says that Wil-

derness is "Federal land where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man-retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable."

Mr. Thorsen went on to say that he is proud to have two of the three Eastern Wilderness Areas located in North Carolina. The third is located in New Hampshire. Several additional areas in the east are being considered by Congress for Wilderness classification.

In North Carolina the 7,500

acre Linville Gorge Wilderness Area near Marion is spectacularly beautiful, with steep slopes, curious rock formations, and overhanging cliffs. For twelve miles, the Gorge encloses the Linville River, which drops 2,000 feet into the valleys below. There are many varieties of plants and wildlife.

An entrance permit is required which can be obtained at the District Ranger's Office in the Library Building in Marion.

The 13,600 acre Shining Rock Wilderness Area, located south of Canton, is named for the unique geological formation of a white quartz outcropping that can be seen miles away. Elevations rise from 3,500 to

6,030 feet at Cold Mountain. There are miles of trails through out the Wilderness, and camping is permitted. An entrance permit is also required for Shining Rock Wilderness, which may be obtained at the Ranger Station on U.S. 276 near Pisgah Forest, N.C.



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds

Questions And Answers On Westco Rate Increase

Q. Why does the company need a rate increase?

A. In a few words, we need more money to pay for the service improvements and expansion of facilities required to meet the needs of our customers. The approximately \$500,000 in additional revenues we have requested is the minimum needed to do that job.

Q. Is financing service improvements the only reason for the requested increase?

A. No. We also have to have additional money to pay competitive wages and salaries to our employees so we don't lose them to other companies, and to keep our earnings at a level that is high enough to attract the outside investor who loans us money for service improvement projects.

Q. But what about current service problems?

A. Yes, we have some problems today. But we've made progress—we've added toll circuits, we've completely eliminated multi party service, we've hired additional people, and installed new cable.

Q. How large is the company now?

A. We now serve 21,655 telephones, compared with 19,884 in 1972.

Q. What about the cost of running the company?

A. We've all seen the increase in our individual cost of living. It's been the same for the company. Here's an example of what's happened in the last year and a half. Our payroll in North Carolina has increased from approximately \$2.8 million to \$3.4 million. Westco's maintenance costs have gone from \$420,400 to \$543,900.

Q. Haven't these cost increases been balanced by the increase in new customers?

A. True, we do have more telephones today, and higher revenues. But each of those new phones costs us more to install and maintain. Any increase in revenues is offset by higher maintenance, construction, tax, and interest costs.

Q. Didn't you just have a rate increase?

A. We requested rate relief in 1972, but we were granted only about 44 percent of what we needed. The rate increase generated only about \$241,000, before taxes.

Q. Then where did you get the money to pay for those service improvements?

A. The parent company, Continental Telephone Corporation, invested over \$2 million in our North Carolina companies, Westco Telephone Company and Western Carolina Telephone Company, and we borrowed the rest of the money we needed.

Q. Can't the parent company invest more?

A. Yes, but not enough to completely meet our needs. It's up to us to find the money we need.

Q. Can't you borrow more?

A. Before we can borrow more for Westco, and to ensure that we will be able to borrow in the future, we need higher earnings—we have to be able to pay back our debts.

Q. How do low earnings affect service?

A. In this way. Earnings are the main gauge the outside investor looks at when he's making up his mind on which company to invest in. Obviously, he'll only put his money in a financially healthy company. We have to compete for his investment; therefore, if our earnings are inadequate, he'll simply go elsewhere. And we depend on his investment to finance service improvement and expansion projects.

Q. Aren't there alternate means open to the company for raising the money it needs to meet its service obligations?

A. No. Increasing our rates is the last course open to us. We tried everything to control costs and to gain maximum revenues from our current operations. Even with higher rates we'll have to operate as economically as possible to meet our commitments.

Q. What about the immediate rate increase you requested?

A. Because of the critical economic condition of our company, as part of our rate increase request we asked for immediate, emergency, relief. If approved, the increase would amount to no more than 20 percent of the individual customer's basic service rate. (The basic local service rate does not include charges for extensions or other periphery equipment.) These funds would be collected under bond.

Q. What happens to these funds if your request is approved?

A. Funds collected under bond are subject to refund, with interest, if the North Carolina Utilities Commission ultimately grants rate relief that's less than the amount requested on an emergency basis. So, if we're ultimately granted less, the customer gets back the difference, plus interest. If we're ultimately granted more, the amount we've already added is just put toward it, and the customer is charged the difference.

Q. What happens now?

A. The North Carolina Utilities Commission, which regulates utility companies in the state, will study our application and rule on what it feels are fair and reasonable earnings for the company. They will rule on our request for emergency funds as well as the new rate structure we've proposed.

Q. What will the rate increase mean in terms of service?

A. We are committed to providing the best, most reliable service possible. We estimate we'll need to invest at least \$6.3 million over the next two years to meet that commitment. The additional revenues we've requested will give us the means to continue our current pace of improvements and allow us to handle future customer demands.