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Local factory to reopen

Blouse manufacturer may hire 250

A new factory which will bring employment to perhaps 250 county residents will be opening its doors the first week in June, says one of its owners, Gregory Terranova.

DiJop Sportswear, an operation presently located in New Jersey, will open a branch firm on Grubb Street in the building previously occupied by Don Juan and later by Hertford Apparel.

"I should have people working the week of June first," Terranova said Monday.

Terranova's two brothers will arrive Friday with 20 machines from the New Jersey plant with which to begin operations here. Machinery and manpower will be added as needed.

The ultimate goal of the Terranova family is to move their business from New Jersey to Hertford, a move

which would boost the county economy tremendously.

"I should be employing between 125 and 150 people by the end of this year," Terranova said, adding, "Hopefully by the end of 1983 I'll have 250 people working."

Vacant for about two years, the building DiJop will be moving into in is good shape. Building owner Jesse Harris was pleased as he tried electrical, plumbing and air conditioning systems for the first time since Hertford Apparel shut its doors.

DiJop manufactures junior-sized blouses on a contract basis for such well-known retailers as K-Mart and J.C. Penney. The company has no brand name of its own, but rather uses the retailer's label.

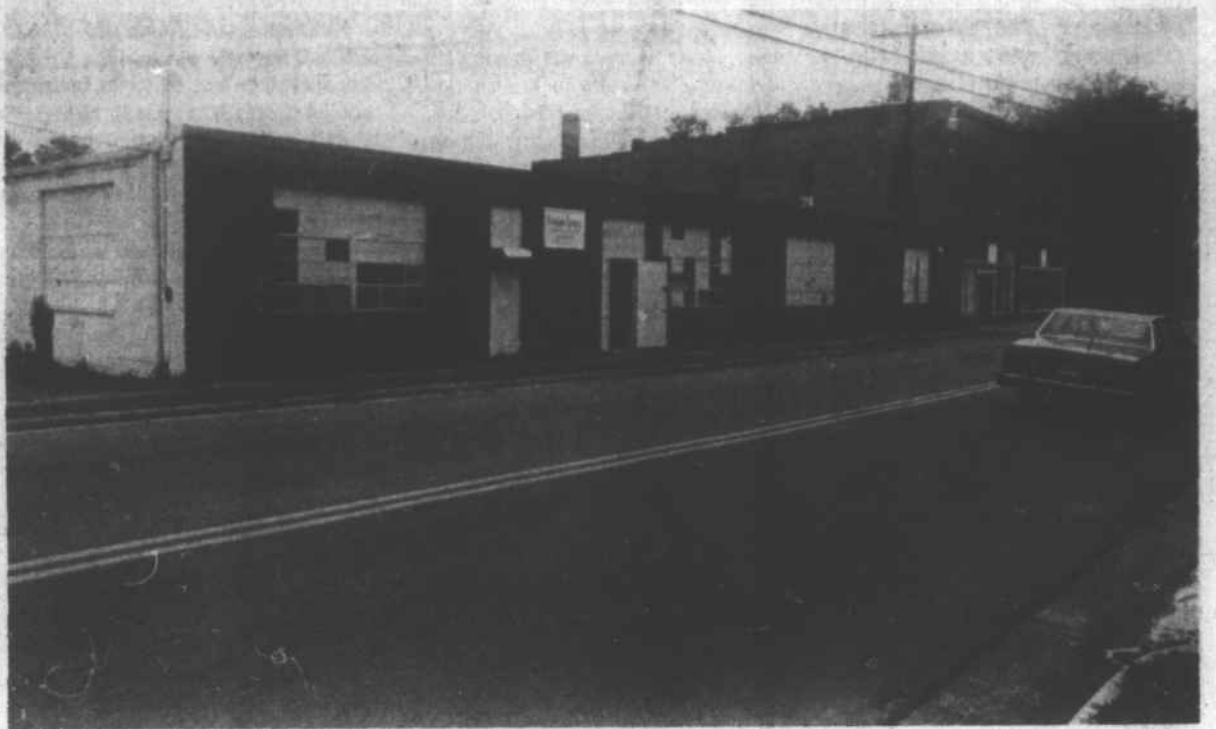
"The reception's been fantastic,"

Terranova said of his welcome to the town. If all goes well, Terranova will be moving his parents and two brothers and their families to the area when the company move from New Jersey is completed.

Although he visited sites in Chowan County before Jesse Harris showed him the building here, Terranova was more satisfied with the Hertford area.

Terranova will be taking applications next week for 20 machine operator positions. No office personnel will be hired at this time, although Terranova indicated clerical help may be needed at a later date.

Even though no public announcement of the firm's intended opening had taken place before this week, three people asked Terranova for jobs Monday.



The Hertford Apparel building on Grubb Street, which will house a new clothing manufacturer in June.

Weekend rains come at a critical period for county crops

The rains that hit Perquimans County late last week and early this week came just as farmers were beginning to get desperate after anywhere from two to five weeks of bone dry weather.

The effect of the rain was clear even from a casual glance, as corn shot up from ankle-height to knee-height in a matter of a few days.

County Agricultural Extension Chairman Bill Jester noted that the rain — recorded in some places at over

eight inches — came at a critical time for corn growers. Corn, he said, requires more rain as it gets older and its growth accelerates.

Rain will become most critical during late June and early July, just before and after the corn comes into tassel. A dry spell last year during this period destroyed a great deal of the county's corn crop.

Though the rain came in time to save the corn, Jester noted some problem with other crops. Many

farmers stopped planting peanuts and soybeans early in May because the dry weather makes herbicides ineffective. And at \$25 an acre for peanut herbicides and \$12 an acre for soybean herbicides, farmers naturally don't want to waste their money.

And some of those who did plant soybeans may have to do some replanting, Jester added. He said that there were some "very erratic stands" of soybeans in county, due he

believes because the dry weather stopped germination of the seeds.

But sizing up the situation so far this spring, Jester said, "Overall, it looks fairly good. Hopefully we can continue to get rain at the critical points."

Small grains, which will be harvested in the next few weeks, "won't be as good as the last two years," said Jester, though increased acreage in wheat will probably mean another

record crop in the county and across the state.

Jester noted that wheat won't be as profitable as it was in the past, because prices have dipped and yields have slacked off with the increase in wheat-related diseases, which become more common as the crop becomes more popular.

But large yields won't do the farmer much good if the economics of agriculture — read low prices and high interest rates — continue

through harvest time. The war in Argentina could be a boon for farmers, in a grisly sort of way, if Argentina's foreign grain customers turn to the United States. But interest rates don't appear to be going down soon.

Jester summed up the situation: "If the federal government wants to save the family farm, they should encourage exports and make some direct inputs. Certainly lower interest rates would be a help."

County students win five awards in state history contest

Perquimans County's history-minded young people showed up the rest of the state in the Tar Heel Junior Historian Awards ceremonies at Peace College in Raleigh last week.

Students in this county walked away with five awards among more than 90 projects submitted from around the state.

The "Yeopim Esquires," the Tar Heel Junior Historian chapter at Perquimans Union School, won first place in group literary history again this year for their oral history of earlier life in this county, "Kiskitano Sun."

They tied for first with the Gates County Central Junior High chapter, which produced "Gates County Lifestyles, Vol. II." Last year, the gifted-and-talented class at Union School won first place with their "Yeopim Moon."

Elizabeth Towe, a junior at Perquimans High School, won the other four awards in four different categories of the photography contest.

She won third place in the architectural detail category for her photograph of the Newbold-White House, second place in the barns

category for her photo of a barn in New Hope, second place in the institutional or public buildings category for her photo of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Hertford, and her photo of the Cove Grove in New Hope won second place in the houses category.

All five winning entries will be on display with the other state winners in the Junior Historian Gallery at the Museum of History in Raleigh.

Tom Belton, executive secretary of the Tar Heel Junior Historians and one of the judges in the literary contest, explain his decision to award

first prize to the Union School students:

"There were a variety of different stories and interviews in the entry," he said. "You could see that a lot of work was done on it." He added that besides the Gates County entry, "there was nothing with even close to that amount of research," and in addition gave it extra consideration because it was done by the whole class rather than just a few students.

Davyd Hood of the Archaeological and Historical Preservation Society of the state Division of Archives and History, a judge in the photo contest,

noted that Towe's photos — besides sticking closely to the limits of the categories — "convey a sense of place. They weren't sterile, but rather captured the quality of the building's spirit."

He noted, for example, that though the Holy Trinity Church "wasn't such an incredibly distinguished building," the photo nevertheless "was as flattering as any photographer could make it."

In just two years, the Union School students have shown themselves to be top-notch historians, but if their success continues they may find the

awards will be tougher to get. According to contest rules, if a chapter receives a least one first prize in two of the annual contests and an honorable mention in a third, they will be named a "special achievement club" and will from then on compete with other such clubs.

The two-day awards program included history workshops, square dancing, contests, skits, music and a cookout, with special guests Sara Hodgkins, state Secretary of Cultural Resources, and Dr. William Price, director of the Division of Archives and History.

Reid explains the local issues

Giving his reasons for running of local office, George Reid said he "felt like it would be advantageous to do something rather than to hide. I want to give some assistance to the place that made me what I am."

In explaining his campaign, Reid outlines what he believes are the issues in the county commissioners' races.

Reid, a candidate for the District I seat on the county Board of Commissioners, sees the encouragement of industrial growth as one of the biggest jobs for future commissioners in the county. He puts creating new employment at the top of the list of issues.

A land use plan supporting the farmer but also leaving room for development is one way to encourage industry to move to the county and is another major point of his campaign. Proper planning, he believes, will show that the county is concerned about its future.

Water and sewage services are also a concern of Reid. Like everyone else, he has heard the complaints about the systems performance, and wants to do "whatever is necessary to upgrade the system."

He then adds support for the elderly to his list of issues. Reid, himself a retired professor at Elizabeth City State University, believes the elderly have often been "overlooked" by local government.

Under the Reagan Administration's plan states and counties will be left with many of the programs the federal government used to run, and Reid doesn't want to see programs for the elderly ignored. "I'm sure there are no other people of my age

but government aid, Reid thinks their needs "should be noticed more closely than those able to get jobs."

And finally, Reid said the county must control tax increases, keeping them at the level of a few cents a year at most.

Explaining what would make him the best man to do these things, Reid cites his educational background. A graduate of ECSU and Pennsylvania



Reid

State University, he taught history, social sciences and sociology at ECSU, and was a social studies teacher and basketball coach at Perquimans Union School.

He was named an Outstanding Educator of America and Outstanding Community Leader and Noteworthy American by the Outstanding Educators of America.

White relies on his years experience

As an incumbent, County Commissioner W.W. "Welly" White plans to use his experience to promote his campaign for the District I seat on the county Board of Commissioners.

But in addition, White emphasizes his concern for and desire to serve the people of the county. "I hope that through my involvement in county government," he said, "I can make Perquimans County a better place to live for both my family and all of the people," adding that, "I feel my four years experience as a commissioner will enable me to serve more effectively."

In the four years that White has been on the board, he notes that he has been involved in obtaining an agricultural extension chairman for the county, served as chairman of the county-wide police-fire-rescue squad communications system, the Perquimans-Chowan Sanitary Land Fill Board and the Advisory Board on Recreation.

He also worked closely with the other commissioners on the expansion of the county water system, which is now nearing construction. This work, he mentions, involved getting federal and state grants, hard-earned money in these times.

Most importantly, he said, "I've tried to be responsive to the feelings and interests of the people."

His plans for the county if elected include encouraging industry to come to the county. "I'd like to see more jobs in

Perquimans County," he said, "by making our county more attractive to industries that might locate here."

He also said he looks forward to working with the Board of Education to "provide the best possible education for our young people."

"As I see it, Perquimans County's two main resources are



White

its people and its water, and we need to work to utilize these resources to the fullest extent possible."

Though the economy will make his plans more difficult to achieve, White said, "Despite the economic problems we now face, I feel optimistic about the future of Perquimans County, and I am excited about the potential progress we can make by working together."

Howell stresses the need for efficiency

Campaigning for the District I seat on the county Board of Commissioners, Wayne Howell emphasizes the need for efficiency in running the county.

"These times with the economy like it is," he said, "you have to be efficient in handling public funds and see that the money is used to the best advantage of the people."

He believes the elimination of waste in the county budget and careful spending of tax money is the most important job of the commissioners. "I think you should handle public money the same way you handle your own," he said.

"It's not right to be conservative with your own funds and liberal with the public funds. If anything, you should be more conservative with the taxpayers money than with your own."

Howell cited as one of the main reasons why he decided to run that "I was requested by a lot of my friends and acquaintances." A farmer in the county since he graduated from North Carolina University in 1963, Howell has a good deal of experience in handling other people's money during his involvement with both church and agriculture groups.

As president of the county's N.C. State Alumni Association, and coordinator of the 13 county area, he has kept Perquimans County among the top ten fundraisers in the association.

He has also been a member of the county committee for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service since 1963 as well as a member of the board of directors for the North

Carolina Peanut Growers Association and the Hertford branch of the Bank of North Carolina. He is also on the board of stewards at the Evangelical Methodist Church in Woodville.

Along with efficiency, Howell expressed his support of volunteer organizations such as the fire department and the rescue squad, and favored helping those groups whenever possible, as for example,



Howell

the county's plan to set up a retirement fund for the rescue squad.

And though a commissioner "shouldn't disagree just to disagree, or argue just to argue," he should "have an opinion and voice his opinion."

And he adds that "If I didn't think I could get the job done, I wouldn't be running."