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Dyeing Largest Flag Expression Of Love

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An expression of love and a reaffirmation of faith in this great nation is how Spectrum Fibers employees see in their contribution of dyeing the world's largest flag.

The unique project was completed last week at the Waco Rd. plant which is the only industry in this area having a significant role in bringing the project all about.

This extraordinary flag—measuring 208 feet, five inches by 411 feet, one inch—nearly 20 stories high and almost two city blocks long—will weigh as much as two passenger automobiles, be large enough to blanket a football field—including the end zones—and earn itself a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

It's the largest flag of all time, America's Stars and Stripes, which, according to Spectrum Supt. of Dye and Finishing Beek Hilton, will be unfurled July 4, 1980 from the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in New York Harbor where the flag will have permanent housing and be raised on national holidays and as a welcome to visiting heads of state.

Buford DeFore, Spectrum Executive Vice President of Manufacturing, said his company's contribution to the effort consisted of jet dyeing the fabric, 10,000 pounds of red, white and blue polyester fiber. The aim was to match federal government standards for flag shades, making sure that the light and weather fastness properties of the flag are good enough to stand up to its anticipated life of from 10 to 15 years.

"Naturally," said Mr. DeFore, "with the large number of companies involved in the creation of the flag, a great deal of cooperation has been necessary and representatives of Sandoz Colors & Chemicals have been meeting for months with customers like Spectrum to coordinate these efforts."

Celanese Fibers is providing the yarn for thread and seam support. Detailed engineering plans for the design and con-

struction of the flag was prepared by a New York based engineering consulting firm, Weidinger Associates, and approved by the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority which constructed and operates the bridge.

"When we were first approached about participating in the Great American Flag Program, the idea was enthusiastically received because of the singular nature of this project, as well as the cooperative venture it represented for the textile industry," said DeFore.

Work began with the compelling thought that since the flag may be declared a National Monument, everything about it must be right, said Personnel Manager Alex McCallum.

From the Kings Mountain industry, the flag was shipped to another company for sewing.

The magnitude of the project can be realized, said DeFore, when you consider that one star alone represents 18 feet. The flag will actually "roll up and down".

Milliken and Co. was responsible for arranging for the 10,000 square yards of knitted fabric to be available by Nov. 15th for shipment to Kings Mountain dyehouse of Spectrum Fibers, Inc., where the red and blue were dyed with Foron (TM) disperse dyes supplied by Sandoz Colors and Chemicals from recipes developed by John Skoufis of Sandoz.

Pressure jet dyeing of portions of the fabric for the preparation of a prototype flag containing stripes of red, white and blue, was carried out in the Celanese Dyeing and Finishing pilot plant in Charlotte, under the direction of Mr. Skoufis. The shades of the Red and blue fabrics have met the

specifications of the U.S. Army Research Laboratories, at Natick, Mass. This prototype flag will be exposed on the New York bridge for a continuous period during the winter to corroborate previous laboratory testing of the weather fastness of the dyes, and to evaluate the seam properties in advance of the erection of the final flag.

At a time when the flag has come under attack by some, local Spectrum employees are glad to have the opportunity to show their patriotism.

Clarence Rudisill, floor walker in the Spectrum Finishing Department, is just one of the many Spectrum people who had a hand in the big project.

"I feel real good about working on this project," he said.

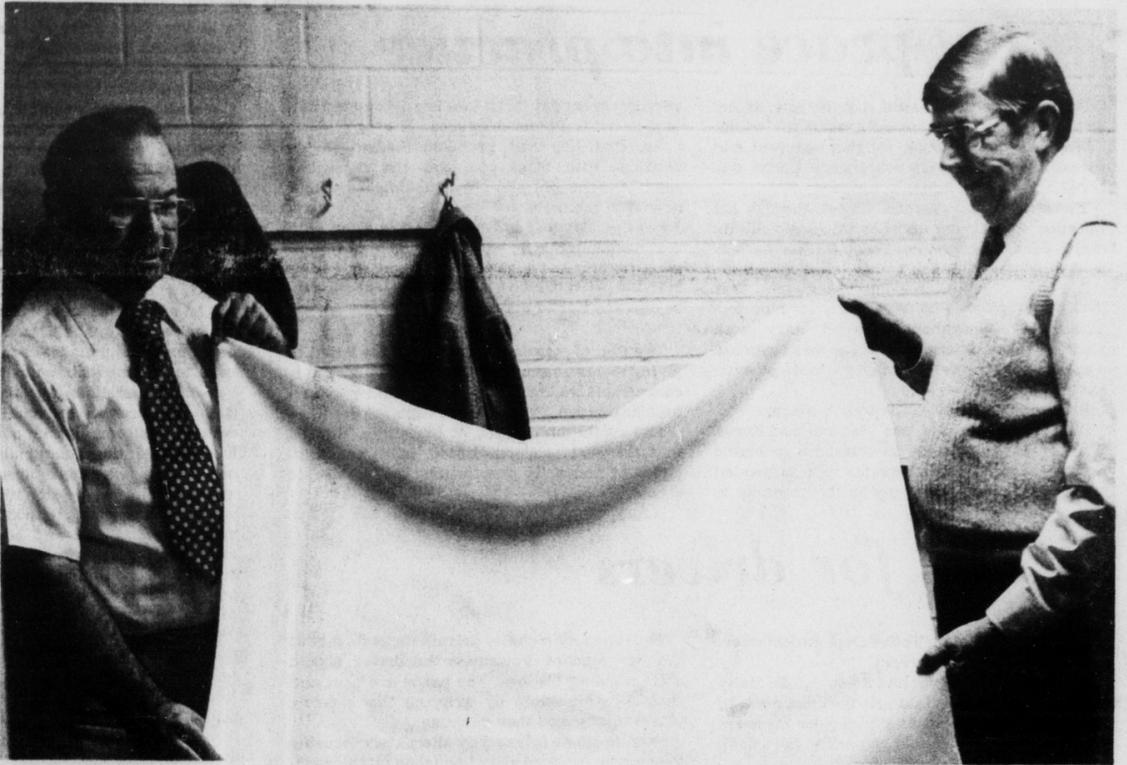
His sentiments were echoed by William Moore, front tender frame operator, Mike Scism, fabric coordinator in the Technical Service Department, Robert Jimerson, jet machine operator in the Fabric Dyeing Department.

Spectrum has a hand in donating a National Monument to America.

"We're glad we had a part in it," said DeFore. "At this giving season of the year we're particularly proud to be doing something for our country and making a contribution to the creation of this magnificent flag," he added.



EXAMINES MATERIAL—John Skoufis, supervisor of application research for Sandoz Colors & Chemicals, inspects dyeing for the Great American Flag in Spectrum Fibers Kings Mountain Plant where employees have had a part in the mammoth project by dyeing the flag.



DYE WORLD'S LARGEST FLAG—Spectrum Fibers, Inc. employees had a hand in a mammoth project recently by dyeing materials for the world's largest flag to be unfurled in New York

July 4, 1980. From left, C.B. Jolly, Finishing Department Manager, and Srpt. Beek Hilton display the finished material.

Night Watchman Robbed Sunday

A suspect was being questioned yesterday in the robbery and beating of a 77-year-old night watchman Sunday.

Hall Belk, night watchman at Park Yarn Mills for 11 years, is

recovering from head wounds at Kings Mountain Hospital where he was admitted Sunday morning. A family spokesman said that it required about three hours for doctors to sew a large number of stitches in Belk's

head.

Mr. Belk told investigating officers, Sgt. Paul Barbee of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, and Belk's son, Sgt. Johnny Belk of the Kings Mountain Police Department, that he was struck on the head by a man standing behind the door as he left the plant to make his rounds Sunday morning about 3:30 a.m. Belk said "the man kept beating me after he hit me over the head repeatedly with an iron post and took two checks from my wallet and my gun and holster."

Ring Bell For Needy

Operation Helping Hand by the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association gets underway today.

Ministers representing various churches in the community will be ringing bells at Harris Teeter, Kings Mountain Plaza and West Gate Plaza to help provide a merrier Christmas for the indigent.

The Helping Hand is an annual project which provides food and staple items to the needy, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year.



RHONDA BRIDGES

Governor Appoints KM Girl

Rhonda Denise Bridges, 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bridges of Route 1, Kings Mountain, served as a page in Governor Jim Hunt's office the week of December 3-7.

Rhonda is a sophomore at Bessemer City High School, where she is President of her class and is active in the chorus, junior varsity basketball and a member of the Spanish Club.

Funeral Services Held For Mrs. Bessie Beam

Funeral services for Mrs. Bessie Falls Dickey Beam, 88, were conducted Saturday morning at 11 o'clock from Central United Methodist Church of which she was a member.

Mrs. Beam succumbed Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. in Beam's Nursing Home after a long illness.

She was a member of a Kings Mountain pioneer family, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Falls, and widow of James R. Dickey, who died in 1933, and Paul J. Beam, who died in 1980.

She was a former employee of Southern Bell Telephone Co., Belk's Department Store, Neisler Mills and Wayside Fabric Shop. She was a member of the KM Woman's Club, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 155 and Order of Eastern Star.

Surviving are her son, District Six City Commissioner James J. Dickey; two daughters, Mrs. Margie Lou Fink of Salisbury and Mrs.



MRS. BESSIE BEAM

Nancy Dickerson of St. Louis, Mo.; three sisters, Mrs. Leona Hendricks of Charleston, S.C., Mrs. Ollie Whittlemore of Greensboro and Mrs. Ellen Petrosino of Kings Mountain; and nine grandchildren.

Rev. Robert Boggan officiated at the final rites and interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Gary Whitaker Named S&L Academy Trustee

Gary H. Whitaker, Executive Vice-President and Managing Officer of First Federal Savings

& Loan Association of Kings Mountain, has been elected a trustee for the 1980-82 term of the Savings & Loan Academy.

Mr. Whitaker was elected at the regular meeting of the Savings & Loan Academy at the North Ridge Country Club at Raleigh.

The Savings & Loan Academy was developed in 1972 by the North Carolina Savings & Loan League. The Academy is directed by a 10-member board of trustees. Courses offered by the Savings & Loan Academy are held at Appalachian State University in Boone.

Mr. Whitaker is a member of Kings Mountain Rotary Club. He served on the Cleveland County Board of Realtors, Red Cross Board and the Cancer Society Board. He is a Mason and Shriner.



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