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Maine Department of Economic Development

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SIC NON TRANSIT GLORIA

The best is none too good when it comes to equipment for building Maine highways, and it’s gratifying to learn that the best transit available to engineers in this country is made in Maine, by Maine labor and at a price that is competitive.

The Keuffel & Esser Company of Kennebunk was low bidder on 16 transits for the State Highway Commission recently. Not only was the price right but the quality is superb. The components are fitted to 1/10,000ths of an inch.

In this picture Charles Dessow, K & E plant manager, (center) demonstrates one of the transits to Governor Reed, (left) and State Representative Elmont S. Tyndale, House Chairman of the Interim Committee on Economic Development, in the governor’s office.

SALES DOUBLED

First quarter sales of Pioneer Plastics Corporation of Sanford almost doubled last year's first quarter: $4,856,000 to $2,642,000. President Arnold Aron attributed the increase to a greater number of distributors handling the firm's products.

Only in Aroostook

There's only one place on earth where it could have happened, and that's in "The County."

Only in Aroostook could an industrial agent look you in the eye and tell you with the calm assurance of truth that the industrial council which employs him had "selected what appeared to be the most desirable of three" tenants who were clamoring to sign leases on valuable industrial property, and "closed the deal."

It happened in Presque Isle, when the Indian Head Plywood Corporation of Bethel, Vt. signed a five-year lease with four 10-year options on four large buildings in that city's Skyway Industrial Park.

Not the least spectacular feature of the story is the unprecedented speed with which the transaction was consummated. The Presque Isle Industrial Council had been in legal possession of the former Air Force Base only three weeks and two days when the leases were signed. The Council acquired the multi-million-dollar, 2,100-acre area with runways and several buildings from the Government for a token payment of $56,000.

500 EMPLOYED

Within a year Indian Head is expected to be operating plywood and veneer mills and a core-stock and sawmill, with 500 employed, ultimately, with an annual payroll in the neighborhood of $1.5 million.

Wendell Phillips, president of the Presque Isle Industrial Council said that Indian Head plans to use 10 million board feet of logs from Aroostook forests each year, generating employment for perhaps another 500 people.

The Indian Head Plywood Corporation operates three mills in Vermont, in Bethel, Newport and Rochester. It was understood here that these would continue in operation.

James K. Keefe, the Council's industrial director, said that two other companies had been interested in the property — a plywood concern and a veneer mill. Indian Head was awarded the lease because it would have a bigger operation and because investigation proved it to be in prime financial condition.

Keefe said that the corporation is managed by former executives of one of the country's biggest lumber concerns.

PROSPEROUS FIRM

"Despite the fact that some eastern plywood and veneer concerns are not having the best of sledding, Indian Head has prospered and expanded," Keefe said. "We confidently expect that their Presque Isle operation also will prosper and that it will contribute much to the economic well being of the area for years to come."

Keefe said the company had been investigating locations for a plant in Maine for about one year. Negotiations for the Presque Isle lease began only six weeks ago.

The company will occupy four 34,955 square foot buildings formerly used to house Snark Missiles. Two similar buildings remain to be leased, as well as several other buildings and facilities.

Keefe said the remaining properties would be ideal for a furniture manufacturing plant which could obtain its core-stock and veneer from Indian Head, "right next door."

Pictured nearby is one of the buildings from which plywood will be shipped to market before the year is out.
Millions of tourists have wended the main street of Damariscotta east or west along U. S. Route 1 without ever suspecting that the 1st National Bank used to be a little Maine blueberry farm. Even the owners of Maine's most interesting industries—Swett's Brothers and the Maine Building Concrete Co.—are not aware that it is located in these days.

They were wonderful whirls, too. And they still do, in the Singing Cove weaving shed, back on the main strand, because the industry is thriving and you are likely to hear in a day's travel.

Hand Loomed

Concrete Beams

A scant 35 miles (from Damariscotta) as the crow flies, but a world apart from the hand lording of woolens, is a levitated field near the Auburn Airport where the Structural Concrete Corporation of Maine molds concrete building beams of great size and endurance.

This firm has played a welcome variation on the theme that manufacturers of bulky products can't locate in Maine because of transportation costs. Structural Concrete Corp., located in Maine because it wanted to sell its products here—and they're too bulky to be profitably shipped from elsewhere.

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**ANOTHER AWARD**

Perhaps you should excuse us all to pieces for mentioning it, but DED has received another award from a national professional society.

The Bangor News published the following editorial comment:

"The State Department of Economic Development is doing right well by itself in the way of gathering in national prizes.

"The Society of Industrial Realtors gave its top prize earlier in the year to the DED for its industrial development program. Last Wednesday, (May 23) the department received the Silver Anvil Award of the Public Relations Society of America for the good job it did in promoting last year's Maine Products Show — a show which will be staged in Bangor in August on an even bigger and better scale, according to the present outlook.

"The DED staff knows that promotion is only part of the development battle. A lot of hard and unglamorous work is required by communities and private enterprise as well as by the state agency. But prizes are always nice to win, and these in themselves bring additional attention to the state. Our congratulations to the DED."

Thanks to the News for them kind woids.

**BOSTON BREAKFAST**

More than a dozen executives of Maine manufacturing firms with offices in Boston had breakfast with Governor John H. Reed and members of the DED staff in that city recently. It was a continuation of a series of "Industrial Breakfasts" which have been held in New York, Philadelphia and Augusta.

Object of the breakfasts is to provide opportunity for industrialists to discuss economic and government problems informally. The industrialists expressed satisfaction with their Maine operations, "particularly the "resourcefulness and willingness to do a day's work for a day's pay" of Maine labor."


**SUMMER CAMPS**

We've always claimed that the idea of summer camps for boys and girls originated in Maine, and probably it did. Anyway, it has become a sizable industry here.

This summer there'll be 205 such camps open in Maine, according to a directory published by the DED for use of parents and others who write in from all over the country asking for information on the subject.

There are 102 camps exclusively for boys; 65 for girls and 38 co-educational camps. They're located in nearly every part of the state, on lakes, ponds and at seaside.

**TOWN AND GOWN**

There have been times and places when resident towners and collegiate gowners were wont to argue the nuances of academic vs. non-academic philosophies with brass knuckles and shillalahs. But if such goings-on ever transpired in Waterville it must have been a long, long time ago for sweet peace and accord have dwelt upon beautiful Mayflower Hill for so, these many years.

The gowners of Colby College always are doing something nice for the towners of Central Maine and towners always are reciprocating in kind. Recently 250 towners and gowners joined to perform the Hector Berlioz Requiem at the Colby field house, with the public invited and applauding wildly.

"Like so many musical events at Colby," the Waterville Sentinel editorializes, "the Requiem performance was a truly joint effort which included talents of people at the college and people of the community.

"They had rehearsed the work since last January and the quality of the performance attested to the preparation. The community is fortunate for the cooperation of town and gown which made it possible."

**STATISTICAL**

You can get a free copy of a new booklet which describes the statistical services of the U. S. Department of Commerce which are available to business and industry — simply by requesting it from the Department at 80 Federal Street, Room 230, Boston, Mass. Name of the booklet is "U. S. Department of Commerce Helps You Find Your Market."