

Manpower Shortage Blamed for Poor Showing

Evans Drops Top Brass in Big Shakeup

Although no official announcement has come from the corporate offices in Portland, Ore., the Plymouth plant of Evans Products Co. has undergone a major shakeup in top administrative personnel involving more than 50 white collar workers, many of whom had been with the company for as many as 18 or more years.

The Observer learned of the cleanout on a tip from one of the administrators involved, who received notice of his dismissal last week after devoting 18 years to the company.

First indication of a drastic action came in the third quarter report to the shareholders from Board Chairman Monford Orloff.

At that time Orloff wrote, "Warnings were less than expected primarily because of startup expenses and manpower problems at the Plymouth, Mich. rail car and equipment manufacturing plant."

"Corrective action is being taken at the Plymouth plant and its performance should improve markedly in the next several months. With our present high order backlog and with profitable operations at the Blue Island, Ill. and Washington, Ind. rail car plants, we expect rebuilding to make a substantial contribution to earnings in 1967."

At that time, Orloff indicated that sales and earnings for the first nine months of 1966 were \$214,391,000 and \$5,773,000 respectively, in contrast to sales of \$177,593,000 and earnings of \$5,635,000 for the same period in 1965.

That report was issued on Oct. 28 and showed net earnings per common share for the nine month period was \$1.84 compared to \$1.96 for the same period in 1965. The net earnings were based on the average number of common shares outstanding, adjusted for stock split and stock dividends.

Prior to the report, on Oct. 1, the Board of Directors elected Sheldon Kaplan as a director and president of the company. The announcement that Kaplan had been appointed General Manager of the Transportation Equipment Group, maintaining his position as President of the United States Railway Equipment Co. in Chicago.

Then the Board dropped a bombshell on Nov. 15 with the announcement that Kaplan had been appointed General Manager of the Transportation Equipment Group of Evans Products Co. The announcement was made by President C. Calvert Knudsen in Portland, Ore.

There was nothing in Evans' announcement about James Conway, executive vice president and, up to that time, General Manager of the Transportation Equipment Group. It was learned that Conway had received notice of his ouster only a few days earlier.

Then on Nov. 18, Kaplan announced two new appointments to the company's manufacturing operations of the Transportation Equipment Group.

John Smoter was named Divisional Vice President with general supervision over all of Evans' railcar manufacturing and engineering operations including Plymouth, Blue Island and Washington. He reports directly to Kaplan.

Arthur Björke has been appointed manager of the Plymouth rail car plant, reporting to Smoter.

Smoter was formerly a vice president of Evans' United States Railway Equipment Company's subsidiary in charge of production at the Blue Island and Washington plants.

Björke joined the United States Railway Equipment Company in October of this year. His background in repairing, rebuilding and building all type of railroad cars includes 27 years in the railroad operating and equipment department of the Texas and Pacific Railway and nine years with the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad.

Quered about the rumors, Public Relations Director Sam Hudson admitted there had been a reduction in administrative and supervisory personnel.

"We have had a shortage of production workers for some time," said Hudson. "There just aren't any workers available. We have tried everything to get skilled and unskilled men but we are still short from 60 to 70 production workers."

Hudson said Evans lost some men during the wildcat strike last summer and haven't been able to replace them.

"We offer training for welders and will hire skilled or unskilled workers," he said. "Thus far we haven't been able to find them in this area."

Evans has expanded the facilities in Plymouth by more than 56.5 millions during the past two years and has a tremendous backlog of orders for rail cars.

Corporation officials recently announced improvements that would enable the Plymouth plant to produce as many as 10 cars per day, a record for that type of production, but it is believed production has never reached that goal because of the lack of manpower.

And Santa Please Bring ...



Open Detroit Yule Show On Dec. 11

DETROIT—Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh has announced Dec. 11-29 as the dates of the 1966 Christmas Carnival at Cobo Hall.

The carnival is a collection of colorful displays and children's participation activities built around a holiday theme.

It officially will be opened, Sunday, Dec. 11 at 1:30 p.m. when the thousands of lights used in the carnival are turned on. At the same time the Municipal Christmas Tree at the foot of Woodward and other decorated trees along Jefferson Avenue in the Civic Center area will be lighted.

The annual holiday show will be held in Halls A and B of the city's multi-million dollar convention facility. It will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with these exceptions: Dec. 11, 1:30-9 p.m.; Dec. 24 and 25, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Christmas Eve, closed.

The Christmas Carnival was begun in 1952 by Mayor Cavanagh when the Ford Rotunda was destroyed by fire, depriving Detroit-area children of Ford's annual Christmas Fantasy. Last year the carnival was attended by 308,236 persons. The total four-year attendance is 1,362,918.



THE LINE formed at the left this time when Santa Claus checked in for his annual visit with area youngsters. (Above) This shows the lines of kiddies and parents waiting for a chance to talk with the gay old gentleman. (Left) Girl Milburn whispers in Santa's ear telling him of the things she'd like to have under the Christmas tree. (Below) These three boys gave Santa a busy time each wanted to make his wants known and all three were talking at the same time. Santa started his pre-Christmas appearances at Wonderland Center, Livonia Mall and Westland over the past weekend. He and his assistants will be on the go until Christmas eve and then he starts his annual around the world delivery of gifts.

Livonian Ends Officer Course

Lieut. Lynn W. Grace, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bud W. Grace, 31480 Myrna, Livonia, has completed an officer's artillery course at the Army Air Defense School at Ft. Bliss, Tex.

Lt. Grace was graduated from Livonia Bentley High School in 1961. He received his commission through the ROTC program at Western Michigan University, where he received his B.S.A. degree in 1966. He is a member of Alpha Kappa Psi fraternity and Scabbard and Blade society.



Pick Plymouth's Kenneth Hulsing For SC Drive

Planning for a membership campaign on behalf of the recently organized Schoolcraft College Foundation has begun with the appointment of a membership committee headed by Kenneth E. Hulsing of Plymouth.

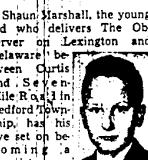
Hulsing and other committee members, Mrs. Alex Nelson of Northville, and Robert K. Barbour, of Plymouth, will meet with Schoolcraft President Dr. Eric J. Bradner on Dec. 12 to develop a membership plan and begin organization of a campaign.

The committee was appointed by Foundation Vice President Philip R. Ogilvie, Northville attorney, who presided at a recent meeting of the group's board of trustees.

Residents of the college district organized the Foundation as a non-profit corporation to aid Schoolcraft by developing trust and endowment funds for the institution.

Among its projects are the development of funds to match a \$10,000 grant, now held in escrow, for student aid by Sheldon Hayes of Northville, and funds for the construction of a fine arts center on the campus.

Meet Your Carrier



Schaun Marshall, the young lad who delivers The Observer on Lexington and Delaware, is between 12 and 14 years old. He lives at 1000 Mile Road in Redford Township, has his eye set on becoming a chemist.

The 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall, of 19294 Lexington, who attends Our Lady of Loreto High School, is enrolled in the science, geography and math classes and is determined he'll reach his goal.

After his studies, Shaun enjoys tinkering in slot car racing, and model airplane building.

SS Aides Will Answer Queries At Livonia Mall

Samuel F. Test, manager of the Detroit Northwest Social Security Office, announced Monday that the Livonia Mall Shopping Center will have two Social Security days, Friday afternoon and evening, and Saturday afternoon and evening, Dec. 2 and 3.

Social Security Field Representative, Michael Laik and Josephine Jackson will be at attendance in a booth in the mall to answer questions and distribute free Social Security booklets.

Residents of Livonia, Plymouth, and Northville may take advantage of this opportunity to obtain valuable information about the Social Security Law.

Schoolcraft Officials Go East to Workshops

Workshops and field trips will take Schoolcraft College administrators and trustees to Washington, D. C., and Florida next week.

Dr. Eric J. Bradner, Schoolcraft president, and Howard Kahn, assistant to the president, will attend a workshop on federal programs for junior college administrators in Washington, Dec. 5-6.

The two-day meeting is sponsored by the American Assn. of Junior Colleges and involves panel discussion on existing and projected federal programs related to junior and community colleges.

From Dec. 6 to Dec. 10 three Schoolcraft administrators and three trustees will participate in a field trip that will take them to the campuses of five colleges in Miami, Boca Raton, Fort Lauderdale and Palm Beach, Florida.

Attending from Schoolcraft will be Dean of Student Affairs Edward W. McElroy, Business Manager, W. Kenneth Lindeff, Dept. of Academic Instruction Robert K. Stenger, and pledged trustees James Boswell, Livonia; Leroy C. Bennett, Livonia; and Sam Hudson of Plymouth.

The field trip is an annual activity sponsored by the Midwest Community College Leadership Program, a cooperative agency of the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University, and supported in part by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Participants will headquarters in Miami, visit Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton; Palm Beach Junior College, Palm Beach; Broward Junior College, Fort Lauderdale; and Miami-Dade North Junior Colleges.

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MSUO Gets Federal Funds

Grants totaling \$470,307 to Oakland University have been accepted by the Michigan State Board of Trustees.

They included a grant of \$388,000 from the United States Public Health Service for biological research equipment to be installed in Oakland's new \$5.3 million School of Engineering Building.

Other grants from federal agencies included one of \$7,500 from the Office of Education to the department of continuing education for preparatory costs of a new institute of reading program, one of \$30,000 from

the Atomic Energy Commission to the department of biology to continue studies of cellular proliferation and regeneration following tissue damage, and one of \$500 from the Public Health Service to the department of biology for fellowship allowance.

A grant of \$44,207 from the City of Troy to the department of education was accepted under a United States Office of Education subcontract for development of a creative sociodramatic supplementary educational and cultural enrichment service.

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