

House Set

For April 14

1945

The Cowden Manufacturing Company which has a half-million dollar annual payroll in Morehead and produces a garment at its plant on West Main Street every 11 seconds, is having its first open house on Friday, April 14, and has extended an invitation to everyone to come and visit with them and see the factory in production.

The Morehead Industrial Foundation, which financed the modern factory building, is making a concentrated effort to have all people in this section go through the plant that day. It is known that representatives from Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in neighboring towns will come to Morehead on the 14th while top officials of the Cowden Company at its main offices in Lexington, will attend.

Open House hours will be from 10 until 11 a. m. and 12 noon until 3:30.



**From The Collection Of:
Dr. Jack D. Ellis
552 W. Sun St.
Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-7473**

WEST MAIN ST.

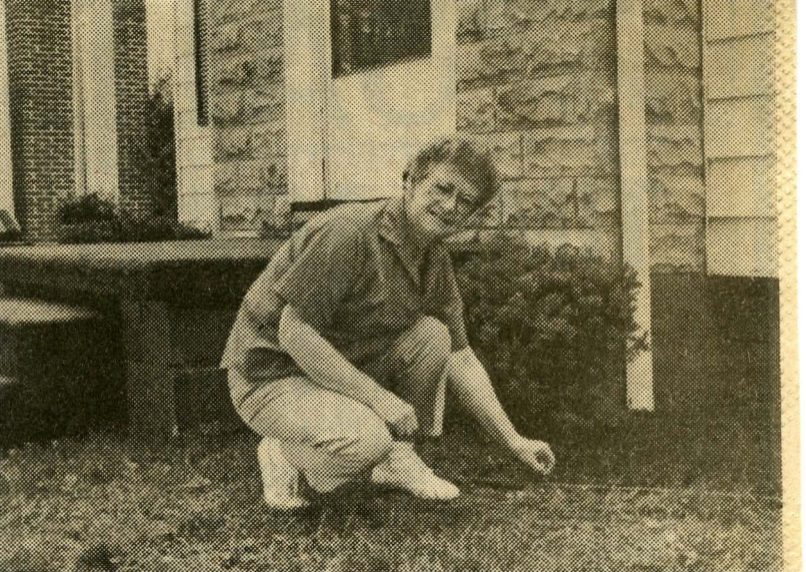
Cordene Company
clothing manufacturer
1960s

Morehead

used 11-1-02



SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL.—These are the people in charge of the different departments at Cowden's. Front row, from left: Kathryn McKenzie, instructor, shirt department; Lorene Flannery, school instructor; Gertrude Kenney, instructor, shirt department; Margaret Hamm, instructor, pants department; Merle Fouch, instructor, pants department; Geneva Brown, floor lady, pants department. Back row: James White, office manager; Layton Daniels, head cutter; Addie Rader, personnel director; Naomi Ferguson, first floor lady; Volney Skaggs, head mechanic, and Robert Roe, head shipper.





FORMAL OPENING OF
MORREHEAD GROC. CO.
APRIL 14, 1954

From The

Closed 1983

Dr. J. W. ...
132 W. ...
Morrehead, KY

608-784-7473

2000



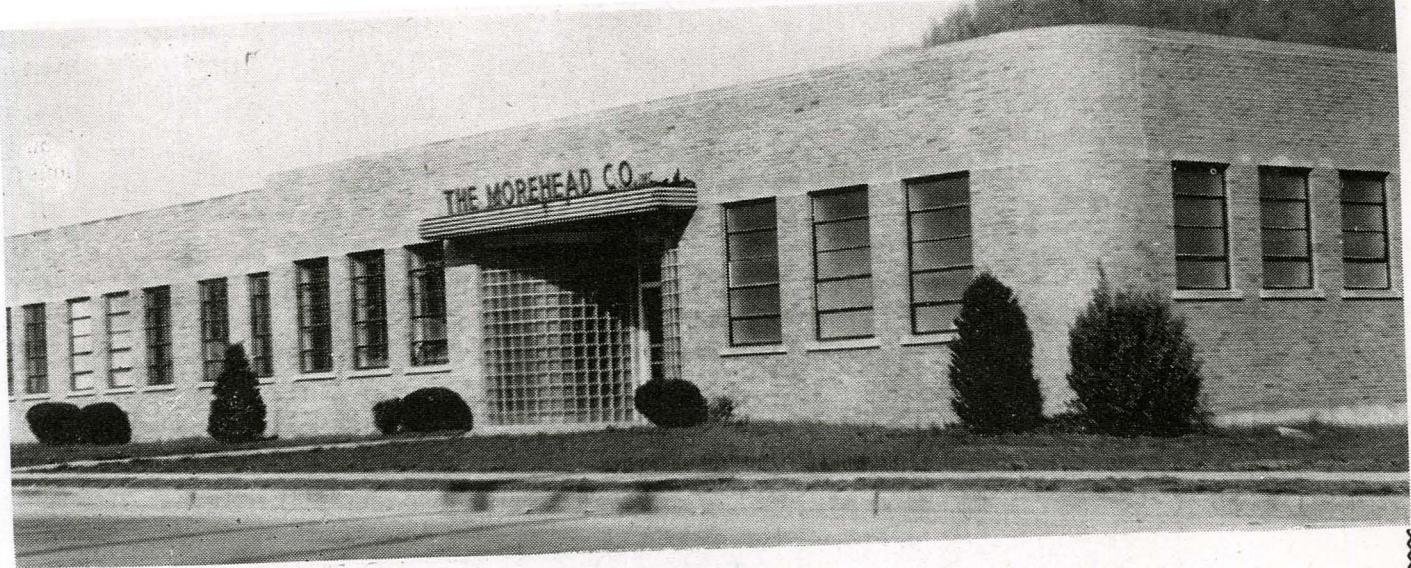




MORRIS COMPANY

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552 W. Sun St.
Morristown, KY 40351
800-747-7478

1948-1980



The Morehead Company



THE MOREHEAD CO.

and Seniority Rights Is ing Garment Plant Issue lay

A labor-management controversy was imminent at the Cowden Manufacturing Company in Morehead today, but there appeared hope the difficulty would be ironed out by an official from the United Garment Workers of America, with whom the employees are affiliated.

Morehead Manager Tom Cox said there was a misunderstanding over the lay-off of approximately 70 of the 200 Morehead employees.

Cox said, the Morehead plant was converting to an army contract for a bulkier garment than the Cowden brand pants and shirts they presently make and that it would require fewer employees and the elimination of some departments.

Issue between the Cowden Company and a group of workers is apparently over the 'seniority clause' in the contract.

The Cowden Company advised the employees working on 'operations' that will be discontinued of the impending lay-off. Mr. Cox said some of these workers contended they should be moved to other departments because of their seniority.

The Morehead manager said that some operations in the present manufacturing process would be dispensed with, altogether, when work begins on the Army garments and these were the employees affected.

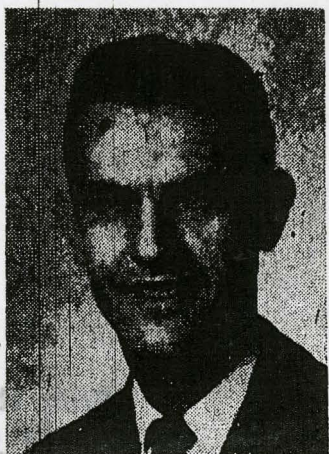
"It takes several months to train a worker in any operation," Cox said. "The Army contract we plan to begin work on will only last three or four months. We intend to adhere to the seniority rule, in every possible instance, but we can't take an employee from the pressing department, for example, and place her on pockets, when we already have someone else trained for that."

The manager clarified his statement with: "Ours is a streamlined operation, with one girl doing a particular job every day. She reaches a favorable production scale in this way, but it requires weeks for her to attain that."

"It's the same thing as a railroad having to lay off some telegraph operators. . . and they in turn, contend they should be given a job as an engineer because they had more seniority as telegraph operators than some of the engineers have as engineers."

The Cowden Company has always been union and carries the United Garment Workers in all labels. Two years ago a controversy developed at the Morehead plant and the Cowden Company issued a statement saying "this is the first time in our entire history we've had a strike or a threatened strike."

Cowden has notified United Garment Workers headquarters in New York of the dissatisfaction of some employees who say their seniority rights are being violated and Cox said that a representative of the Union would be in Morehead this week to confer with the workers and the company. Cox expressed hope that the difficulty could be ironed out and said the lay-off might be only temporary and all employees might be called back at the termination of the Army

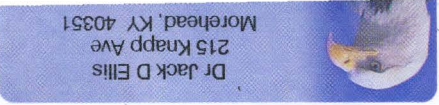


Tom Cox
Cowden manager.

contract.
Cowden also has plants at Mt. Sterling, Stanford, Lancaster and Springfield.

Some employees have already been laid off as the company completes each operation on its present stock of Cowden stock material and Cox said it was planned to start immediately on the Army contract.





COWDEN CLOTHING FACTORY OPENED 1948
WEST MAIN ST - PHOTO ART STEWART

From The Collection Of:
Dr. Jack D. Ellis
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Bur



1950

THE MOREHEAD COMPANY employs about 250 women. They are located in one of the state's most modern factories on West Main Street, constructed by money subscribed by progressive Moreheadians who, in turn, leased the building. The company makes a top grade dungaree sold all over the nation. This is an interior view in the plant.

LOOKING BACK:

FROM THE COLLECTION OF DR. JACK D. ELLIS, AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN:
THE MOREHEAD COMPANY ESTABLISHED IN 1947, BUILT A BUILDING ON WEST MAIN ST. IT WAS LEASED TO THE COWDEN MANUFACTURING COMPANY WHO OPENED A SEWING FACTORY IN 1948. BY 1956 THEY EMPLOYED 250 WOMEN. THE COMPANY MANUFACTURED SHIRTS & PANTS FOR SUCH COMPANIES AS J.C. PENNY'S, SEARS, AND MONTGOMERY WARD. AT THE HEIGHT OF THEIR PRODUCTION THEY PRODUCED ONE GARMENT EVERY 11 SECONDS.
Among those identified are:

Elsie Maddox, Christine Boyd, Eula Behart,
Golda Burdette, Ada Betts

From The Collection Of:
Dr. Jack D. Ellis
552 W. Sun St.
Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-7473

Cowden Adopts Plan To Better Acquaint Local People With Garments Made Here

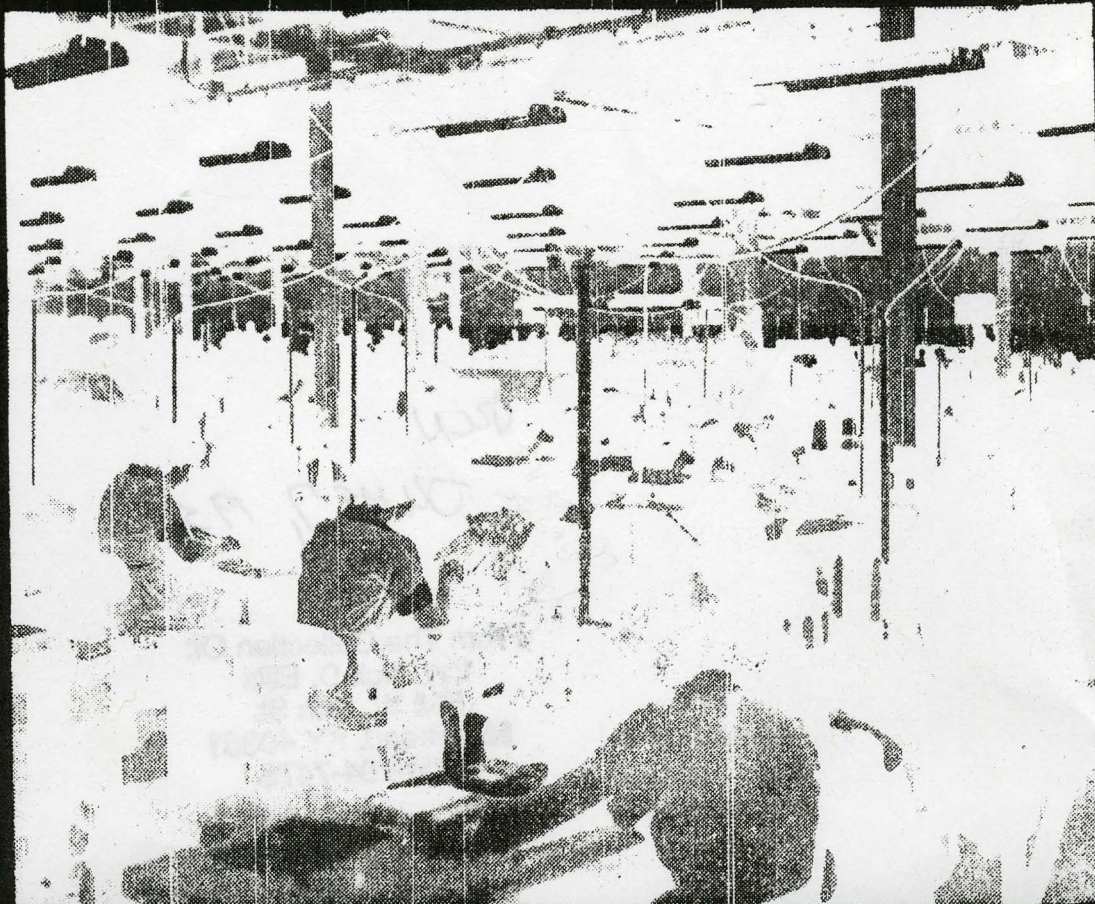
Special Prices Offered; Workers Will Participate

To acquaint the people in the vicinity of Morehead with the product manufactured at its factory here, the Cowden Manufacturing Company today announced special prices and an employees contest.

In a statement the company said: "We have had many requests lately from employees in all our plants that they be able to buy shirts and pants which are manufactured by Cowden's. For this reason we have decided to make the Cowden Plus shirts and pants available as cheaply as possible in each town in which we have a plant and to stage a contest at each plant awarding the following prizes to employees and to those who are responsible for the sale. At Morehead the company is giving \$100 in prizes broken down as follows: 1st, \$50; 2nd, \$25; 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, \$5 each.

The Cowden Plus shirts and pants, the finest the company makes, will be available in Morehead at Gold's Department Store. Special prices will be offered to anyone purchasing these pants or shirts provided they bring with them a card issued by the company and distributed by employees.

There will be no limit to the number anyone can purchase. The purchase price and employees prize arrangement expire June 29.



COWDEN ASSEMBLY LINE—From this plant on West Main Street in Morehead, one of the nation's most modern garment working factories, come the Cowden plus shirts and pants. The company announced this week a special price locally during June on these garments to better acquaint the people in this section of Kentucky with the product made here. The lower price is obtainable if the customer presents a coupon issued by a Cowden employee while the worker will share in cash awards. The Cowden plant at Morehead, gradually expanded for the past two years, employs 250 people and has an annual payroll in excess of \$500,000.



1950

SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL—These are the people in charge of the different departments at Cowden's. Front row, from left: Kathryn McKenzie, instructor shirt department; Lorene Flannery, school instructor; Gertrude Kenney, instructor shirt department; Margaret Hamm, instructor pants department; Merle Pouch, instructor pants department; Geneva Brown, floor lady pants department. Back row: James White, office manager; Layton Daniels, head cutter; Addie Rader, personnel director; Naomi Ferguson, shirt floor lady; Volney Skaggs, head mechanic, and Robert Roe, head shipper.

Morehead Plant Produces Garment Every 11 SECONDS

371,000 Pairs Of High Quality
Pants, 312,000 Shirts Are
Turned Out Here Annually

At its Morehead plant the Cowden Manufacturing Company produces 700 dozen pants and 300 dozen shirts each week.

An idea of how streamlined the production may be better obtained by a breakdown of the total. That is, 371,000 pairs of pants a year and 312,000 shirts.

Or, in more simple figures it is 7,200 pairs of pants and 6,000 shirts each week.

And figuring on a five-day-a-week basis, the daily production is 1,400 pairs of pants and 1,200 shirts.

A Garment Every 11 Seconds

Now, if you want to bring the production and time element to simpler figures, an average of about six finished garments come off the assembly line every minute, or, to be even more specific, a pair of pants or a shirt completed and packaged every 11 seconds.

This is at the Morehead plant only, so you can readily see the scope of Cowden's operations in all plants is a good picture of American assembly line methods and good plant management.

This may seem rather astounding to the layman, but actually the Morehead plant hasn't reached possible top production. The plant is set up to eventually produce 700 dozen pants and 700 dozen shirts each week.

Expect Production Increase

The Morehead plant is comparatively new, and this production with resultant employee earnings, increases as the workers become more experienced and skilled.

The Morehead plant manufactures 19 different lot numbers of pants and 19 lot numbers of shirts. Each lot number is a distinctively different garment, the variance being either in the color of the material, the type of material or the method of manufacturing.

'Cowden Plus' Best On Market

All garments are broken down into two groups, the Cowden Plus line and the Cowden Regular line.

The Cowden Plus matched shirts and pants, considered the best in the clothing field, are manufactured from a type of material exclusive to the Cowden Manufacturing Company, and are

Cowden Employees Are Local People

Probably one of the reasons for the 20-year-old, steady expansion of the Cowden Manufacturing interests is that it has always been firm policy to hire and train people native to the locality in which the factory is situated.

The policy holds good for every position, including people in supervisory capacity, if that locality can furnish the personnel.

In the Morehead plant every employee is a result of the vicinity, with the exception of the plant superintendent.

add only with the Cowden Plus label.

The Cowden Regular line is made with the same skill and high quality requirements, but come from less expensive material and slightly changed construction.

Cowden garments are sold in every state of the nation.

Sales offices are maintained at Lexington, New York, Kansas City, and Oakland, Calif., with sales forces operating out of each office.

School Children Excused For Cowden Opening

All schools in Rowan County, including the four Consolidated districts, were urged today by Supt. Ted Crosthwait to attend the open house at the Cowden Manufacturing Company on Friday, April 14.

Crosthwait said that any class which attends the open house, accompanied by the teacher, will be excused. "I know of no better visual education than to see one of our local, progressive plants in operation," he declared.

Monroe Wicker, director of Breckinridge Training School, said he was requesting all personnel and students to attend the Cowden Open House.

Plant Morehead Built

The new plant at Morehead, Ky., for the Cowden Manufacturing Company, was built on a 10-acre tract purchased by the company in 1947. The plant is located on the east end of the city, at the extreme end of Main Street.

The plant, which cost \$1,000,000, was completed in 1948. It is a modern, single-story building with a large central hall and many small work rooms. The plant is equipped with the latest machinery and is capable of producing 700 dozen pants and 700 dozen shirts each week.

The plant was built by the Cowden Manufacturing Company, which is a subsidiary of the Cowden Clothing Company. The plant is located on the east end of the city, at the extreme end of Main Street.

Many Contributed

The plant was built by the Cowden Manufacturing Company, which is a subsidiary of the Cowden Clothing Company. The plant is located on the east end of the city, at the extreme end of Main Street.

Large Staffed Movement

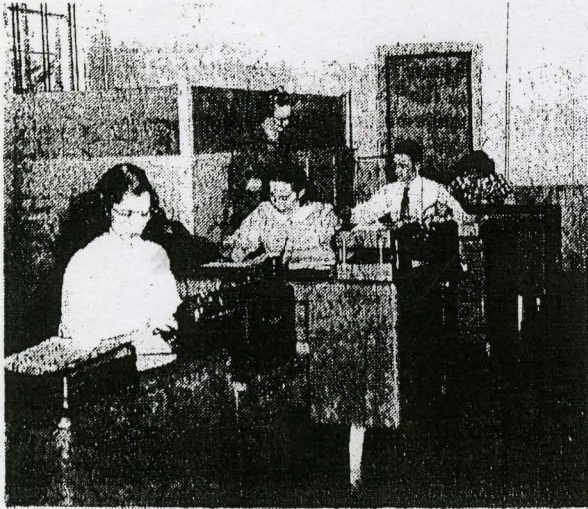
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Rice Supervised Work

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MOREHEAD PLANT SUPERINTENDENT—E. Thomas Cox, superintendent of Cowden's plant in Morehead, is shown at his desk in the modern factory building. Mr. Cox is the only employee that isn't from the vicinity. A native of Indiana, Mr. Cox became affiliated with Cowden in 1917 and now holds a top position in their operation.



OFFICE FORCE AT MOREHEAD—The payroll, production reports, and other records are compiled by this group. Reading from front: Verle Underwood, Rosemary Stokes, Auldie Rader, James White and Silverine McQuilthy.

—Photos on this and opposite page by Art Stewart, photographer, Morehead, Ky.



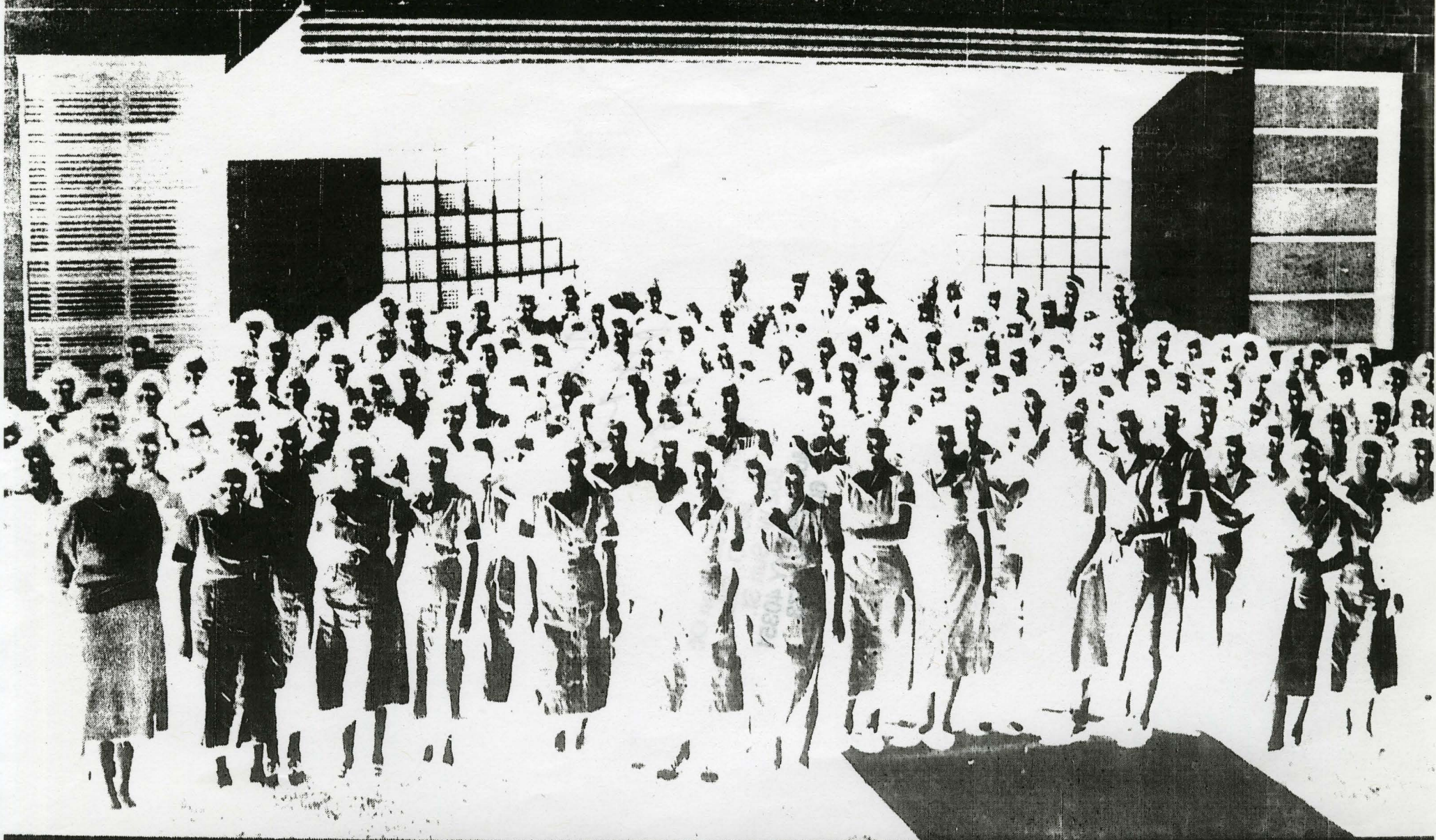
MECHANICAL DEPT.

11 SECONDS
SECONDS



THE MOREHEAD CO.

COWDEN MFG CO



EMPLOYEES AT MOREHEAD PLANT—These are the 190 people that are employed at the Morehead plant of the Cowden Manufacturing Company. Presently they produce around 650 dozen weekly. As they become more experienced and skilled this production should reach 700 dozen of each weekly. These 190 employees will earn approximately a half of a million dollars this year. Practically all the women at the Morehead plant wear neat uniforms. These are purchased by the Cowden Company and made available to the workers at cost.

MOREHEAD MEMORIES: PEOPLE AND PLACES

AROUND ROWAN ~~IN 1948~~ TOWN - 1948

BY

JACK D. ELLIS

"Call to remembrance the former days." (Hebrews 10:32)

In 1948, there were many good days in the history of Rowan County. The county's industrial base consisted of the Lee Clay Products Company in Clearfield, the General Refractories Clay Mines on Christy Creek, and the Kentucky Fire Brick company at Haldeman. Also, that year the Morehead Industrial Foundation, Inc. signed a contract with the Cowden Manufacturing Company to establish a new garment factory employing female labor. The factory was located on West Main Street and was in operation for over 30 years. (The building is now owned by Morehead State University.)

It was not a good year for Morehead State College's budget requests. George I. Cline, Rowan County Representative in Frankfort deplored the appropriation bill which gave MSC only a \$9,000 increase, far less than the other colleges. (So what else is new in 2006).

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

In 1948, John M. Palmer, Vice President of the Lee Clay Company, was named president of the Morehead Industrial Foundation, Inc. That year Mr. Palmer was also elected president of the American Association of Clay Manufacturers and C.B.

Daugherty was named to the Board of Directors of the newly formed Soldier Clay and

Asphalt Company. Also, that year, a contract was let by the City of Morehead to pave Lyons Avenue. It called for a 20 foot wide concrete street to be paid for by the property owner at \$75 per lineal foot. (This writer was still at home and lived with my parents on Lyons Avenue at the time and I was glad to get off of a cinder street.) Later after marriage, my wife and I purchased, under the GI Bill, our first home on Lyons Avenue. *that year*

The talk in town was the amazing story of Jack Cecil's two hound dogs that were turned loose on his Fox Farm near Sharkey and picked up a trail and were found several days later 128 miles away at Athol, Kentucky.

SENSATIONAL MURDER TRAIL

A book could be written about a ^{*famous*} ~~sensational~~ Rowan County murder trial. It was one of the most ^{*trials*} ~~sensational~~ ~~trials~~ in the state of Kentucky and maybe the nation, and drug on for over four years. In 1948 Mathew Fyfe was freed from prison because the state was unable to uncover additional evidence relating to his alleged rape and murder of his cousin, Ida Mason. Fyfe's first trial conducted in 1944 resulted in a hung jury. He was brilliantly defended by local defense attorney Thomas R. Burns, and the hung jury could have been called a victory for the defense. (Mr. Burns then entered the military service and was not involved in any of the other trials.) In a second trial the jury handed down a verdict of life in prison. Six months later the case was re-docketed by the Court of Appeals on the grounds his conviction was based on insufficient evidence. In a third trial in 1946, the jury again handed down a life sentence and again Fyfe was remanded to

the prison at LaGrange, Kentucky. Then following another appellate court decision that he was convicted on insufficient evidence, Mathew Fyfe was released from prison for the second and last time. The results of those appellate court decisions would indicate that Rowan juries are hard on people charged with murder.

During the initial trial in 1944, this writer and Frank Burns were high school seniors. Since Frank's brother Tom was the defense attorney, we attended much of the trial as part of our classroom work. However, we both went into the Army shortly after the trial ended and did not witness any of the other trials. ~~However~~, this writer's wife, ^{but} Janis Ruth Caudill, as well as many other local citizens attended those later trials. That was in the days before television and that was even better than reality TV - It was reality!

(In today's media world that trial would have been news for ~~four~~ years ^{became nr.} Fyfe was ^{finally} released from prison.

WILD MAN OF THE MOUNTAINS CAPTURED

In 1948 Federal Agents captured what the press called Kentucky's "Wild Man of the Mountains." Some women picking blackberries at the head of Craney Creek in Rowan County came upon a 50 gallon moonshine still. A team of officers including Sheriff Sam Green and Federal agents staked out the still and caught the famous "Wild Man of the Mountains." His name was Ray Carey and he was wanted for 3 ½ year for Army desertion, as well a operating a moonshine still. ^{He was returned to ~~the~~ military authorities} ~~The Army got him and sentenced~~ ^{was} ~~him~~ for desertion. (I knew Ray Carey but had forgotten he was once "Kentucky's Wild Man of the Mountains.")

AROUND TOWN IN 1948

The Morehead Methodist Church purchased land on where they planned to build a new parsonage. (However, in 2006 much more is being built by the Methodist Church *as* a beautiful new fellowship hall is rising up ~~where the original parsonage once stood.~~)

That year Jimmy Tackett purchased the Yellow Cab Company from H.M. Meadows. Bill Carl and Roger Caudill opened a new garage and Ford Dealership called Carl-Caudill Motors. Dr. Harold Blair, well known dentist and civic leader was killed in an automobile accident. The recreation center at the Rodburn Hollow was named *Walter Adkiss* Woodland Park by contest winner ~~Wally Hacker~~. The Harvest Festival held their first fair that year, and William C. Lane purchased an interest in the Lane Funeral Home and became co-manager. (He still is.) - *Ninety-seven Morehead Normal School alumni gathered for a reunion on the campus of Mrs. Conroy - say all and gas lease were filed in Rowan County in one day that year.*

CITY COUNCIL ACTIVE IN 1948

Aware in 1948 that some sub-par housing was under construction in Morehead, the City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting the construction of any building in the City limits measuring less than 200 square feet. It was an effort to curb cheaply constructed homes and businesses within the City limits. The City Council also enacted an ordinance requiring all property owners to construct and maintain sidewalks. Also a Rowan County Grand Jury criticized the City Police Court for amending drunken driving charges to reckless driving and warned against continuance of such a practice. Condemnation charges were ordered by the City Council against property owners on

West Main Street rights-of-way for the proposed pavement of west ^{U.S. 60.} ~~Morhead~~ streets.

Also the Council appointed Ed Hall Police Chief; C.B. McCullough, Fire Chief; Mrs. Ike Blair, City Clerk; "Scorch" Mutters, Police Court Clerk; Clyde Whitt and Bill Bowman, Patrolmen.

In 1948 Fraley Furniture opened with WW II hero Earl Scott Fraley as the manager. Also that year, the General Refractories Company on Christy Creek was closed and their railroad that ran seven miles up to the mine ^{also} was closed. "Pa" Kessler was the only engineer on the railroad. The railroad was discontinued after 28 years of service and Mr. Kessler retired. That year the state released plans for widening and beautifying U.S. 60 west of town. That was the year they closed and covered over the creek that ran adjacent to U.S. 60 from near the Methodist Church to Route 32.

Local clubs and civic organizations joined with the Rowan County Board of Education in urging publicity for the schools and more visitations by parents during National Education Week. Lillian Kiser of Little Brushy School won the county's spelling bee for the second straight year. (This writer's mother was the teacher at that school, which is the actual building now designated the Cora Wilson Stuart Moonlight School, located on First Street.)

In the column last week this writer mistakenly wrote "Wendell Wilkie was defeated by President Harry Truman in the 1948 Presidential election." But it was Thomas E. Dewey that President Truman upset in that election. (Thanks to those who called that to my attention)

Ada Bates | 1983-1983

Merewi Co 724-4580 ml Cawden
Cawden

Tom Cox - Superintendent

Instructor - For Hodges

Shute + Pouch - Kanda
Kara

Shut - Alvedson

Shute for men + woman
~~Government~~ Union - Strike
of six months

Judson + Ray
Wino - Sears - J C Perry -
Apprentice Nurse Part of Perry
Sign Here Pass

- 08L

8889 L = #31
+ 08L