

# Town In Southwest Sweden Is Noted For Its Textiles

RIPSA, Sweden (UPI)—Ripsa is a small village set in the heart of Southeast Sweden's farming and forestry country. But its reputation is a large one among textile people in many parts of the world.

At a factory in this out-of-the-way place, with a population of 250, are produced hand woven wools worked into casual clothes sold in Western Europe and across the U.S.A.

Christian Dior was one of the first customers of the firm bossed by the Countess Ebba von Ecker-mann, a tall, handsome woman in her early 40's.

The firm is organized officially in 1952, although the countess already had been busy with textiles. In an interview, she told how she started the production of at-home clothes, ski and after-ski pullovers, skirts and other casual wear—all designed by her and all dyed in the clear, bright colors she specifies.

Reporters Visit  
She talked as she held an informal fashion show on the lawn of the manor house of the family's 6,000 acre estate. The visitors were a group of reporters from The United States, Canada, Japan, Brazil and several Western European countries. They were on a two week tour of Scandinavia as guests of Scandinavian Airlines System, and the tourist associations of Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

"This area always has done fine weaving," said the countess. "My husband and I settled in Ripsa in 1945 and while he farmed and timbered the land, his family has owned for five generations I began with some of the local residents to make fabrics for mother."

"My mother is the Countess Marg von Schwerin, a courtier in Stockholm. She's been in business since 1927. The crown princess of Norway was one of her early customers."

"I was supplying mother with yard goods for suits, but afraid I'd drown her with fabrics, began to make some lap robes. I'd already been doing a few as gifts for friends."

In 1950, her husband went to the United States on a reforestation study and she went along with a group of the robes to show stores. She returned to the village, which is about 60 miles southeast of Stockholm, with a batch of orders.

Turning to clothes was the next logical step and now the countess also is making scatter rugs.

Nothing Wasted  
Her husband explained that "nothing goes to waste. We make the carpets from scraps. The buyers snap up the rugs for their homes, not for their stores."

The countess employs 50 people — 40 who work in a tidy

factory on the estate. Some of the young women who are not from the village live on one floor of the spacious white concrete manor house. One section of the house also has been turned into a styling workshop.

As the business has grown, so has the demand from local residents for her to open a weaving school. She's already in the second year of an experiment enrolling teen-age girls in sort of a charm school. They learn cooking, correct dress, manners and such.

"The weaving school will have to wait until I can find the space," she said. "And, the time."

# New York, Chicago On Firing Line Of Controversy Over Civil Rights

United Press International  
With the integration problem breaking out all over the country, some non-Southern public officials are finding themselves increasingly on the firing line of the civil rights controversy.

Two key attack points in recent weeks have been New York, with a Negro population ten times the total population of Montgomery, Ala., and Chicago which has 14 times more Negroes than all residents of Jackson, Miss.

Mayor Robert Wagner of New York has walked through crowds of pickets to reach his office and Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley

has been virtually routed from one of his city's parks and booted off a convention platform.

Both New York and Chicago have long been havens for Negroes who decided to leave the South. Both cities long have had their share of racial incidents. But only in recent months has the integration campaign there been stepped up to its current hot pitch.

Jobs and housing are the two biggest issues in both New York and Chicago — as they are in most of the non-Southern areas where alleged racial discrimination was an issue.

Just as a 48-hour hunger strike ended at the New York City Hall Sunday night, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) sent fresh recruits to the office of the mayor.

Also in New York more than 200 integration pickets were arrested in a single day at construction sites where hiring discrimination was charged.

Chicago integration groups attempted to storm to the upper floors of the Chicago Board of Education building but were turned back. Many pickets have been dragged to paddy wagons by police.

"Republicans are to blame!" Daley pleaded as he retreated from a July 4 freedom rally at a public park. But the GOP, which for years has written off Chicago to the Democrats, said it wasn't so.

Integration leaders, who had gone fairly easy on the Democratic organization commanded by Daley, began beating a path to his door this summer. He has been confronted by as many as 500 pickets demanding such things as a bi-racial committee. He has worked with Negro leaders in

granting some demands. Integrationists claim that Daley has dragged his feet on moving Negro pupils into white schools for fear of a great white exodus from the city. The move to suburbia cost Chicago more than 100,000 population in the 1950s. At the same time, the Negro population shot upward.

While playing the tense situation with caution, Daley has been firm on one point of confrontation with demonstrators: "If a public office is to be used for public business, taking over of the office

by anyone is not proper and interferes with public business."

Wagner, referring to the nationwide civil rights struggle as "pent-up protests against 100 years of discrimination and indignity," asked for a special New York legislative session to enact laws to promote desegregation.

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# Increased Pay Tax Needed For Rails

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Railroad and union representatives have secretly agreed to ask Congress to levy millions of dollars in higher payroll taxes on railroads and their workers, informants reported Tuesday.

The extra revenue is needed to help save the railroad retirement fund from bankruptcy. Future benefits that the fund is required to pay out far exceed anticipated tax revenue.

Ironically, railroad labor and management quietly reached the reported agreement on the payroll tax legislation at the very time that they were deadlocked over the work rules issue that threatens a nationwide rail strike.

The main feature of the payroll proposal would boost to \$450 a month the earnings base to which the railroad retirement tax and unemployment compensation tax is applied.

Both taxes apply now only to the first \$400 in monthly earnings. The railroads and their employees contribute equal amounts to the retirement fund. But only the railroads pay into the jobless pay fund. Both funds are in serious financial trouble.

One source said he had heard estimates that the proposal would provide \$89 million a year in additional revenue, with railroads and their employees each paying \$28 million more into the retirement fund and the railroads paying about \$33 million more into the jobless pay fund.

Informants said the boost in the taxable earnings base along with other less significant changes in the jobless pay program were agreed upon by representatives of all the railroad unions and representatives of the American Railroad Association.

# Democrats Schedule Picnic For Sunday

The Douglas County Democratic Central Committee will hold its annual picnic Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. at the South Beach one-half mile south of Winchester Bay. Guests will be present from the Fourth Congressional District.

According to Mary Ferche, publicity chairman, the picnic is open to the public as well as members and friends of the committee. Those attending are asked to bring a picnic lunch and extra food for guests. Beverages will be furnished.

To reach South Beach, turn west at sign pointing to the Coast Guard Station and go past the station to the end of the road.

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