

Town Hit By Depression Struggles For Survival

GRAFTON, W.Va. (AP) — In 1938, the year of a reviving national prosperity, this is a depression town in a recession state.

West Virginia, heavily dependent on the depressed coal industry, is in trouble. An estimated 15 per cent of its 500,000 workers are unemployed.

Grafton, hardly dependent at all on the coal industry, leeters at the brink of ruin. Almost one of every four workers in the town and surrounding county is out of work.

Almost all of the town's economic props have slipped or snapped during the last 10 years. The Baltimore & Ohio railroad has cut its local work force one-third. Three other industries — a glass plant, a pottery and a brick factory — have closed.

Oddly, the 7,365 townspeople found inspiration in the latest blow closing of the glass plant. They have begun a cooperative fight to save the town.

The U.S. Senate is considering legislation that could help them and other depressed areas. Sponsored by Sen. Douglas (D-Ill.), it would make 385 million dollars available as loans to finance industrial plants.

Grafton people are scraping together every available dollar to finance their own search for industry.

Grafton argues it has much to offer — plentiful water, excellent railroad facilities, a willingness to build industrial plants and good recreation opportunities.

The town straddles a bend of the Tygart Valley River in the

Western foothills of the Alleghenies. In the 1840s the railroad, pushing westward, chose the river bend for a division headquarters, shops and marshaling yards.

In the years after the Civil War, Carr China Co. was founded and prospered. A brick factory opened at nearby Hammond. Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. built a plant.

The government built a flood control dam that created a huge lake three miles south of town. Cinders from the stacks of countless steam engines settled on Grafton, grinding into the soil and homes and filling the gutters. In the 1940s the B. & O. began replacing steam engines with diesel locomotives. The cinders stopped falling, but that meant trouble for Grafton.

Architect Quits Plan Commission

Architect John Howard submitted his resignation as chairman of the City Planning Commission at Monday night's session of the city council.

Howard has served as chairman of the commission for the past several years, and indicated that the press of business did not permit him to continue as chairman, although he would remain as a member of the group.

It was suggested and approved by the council that Don Sloan be named chairman, replacing Howard, and that Howard be asked to remain on the commission, as he had agreed.

The diesels required only a fraction of the maintenance required by the old iron horses. By 1958, the railroad's local work force had shrunk from 1,158 to 747.

Some 250 persons lost their jobs when the pottery closed in 1952 because of the owner's illness. Hammond Brick, a small employer, closed in similar fashion.

Last Sept. 29, Continental Can Corp.—which had taken over Ha-

New Exhibit Now Installed

PORTLAND (AP)—A new exhibit was installed Monday at the Garden of Tomorrow at the Oregon Centennial Exposition grounds here—a 21-foot Oregon Myrtle tree.

The tree was brought here by truck from Coos County. It weighed 10 tons with its roots packed in soil.

T. S. Easton, president of the Coos-Curry Pioneer and Historical Assn., who came along to watch the planting, discounted some widely held beliefs about the Myrtle.

He said the tree which grows in Oregon is not the same as that found in Palestine and Jordan. "Actually," he said, "Oregon Myrtle is part of the laurel family though folks don't like to admit it. In California, it some times is called 'pepperwood.'"

zel-Atlas — closed the Grafton plant as an economy measure. This left 480 persons, one-third of the town's industrial workers at that time, without jobs.

For several years some Grafton businessmen had been trying to get new industry. By purchasing land and erecting a building, they attracted a shirt manufacturer who employs about 150. They also talked the state Legislature into establishing a state park on Tygart Lake, behind the dam. Last year the park, with its boating, swimming and fishing facilities, attracted 176,000 visitors.

The glass company's shutdown aroused the rest of the townspeople.

Last Dec. 13 three thousand women, representing every phase of community life, marched through the town to dramatize Grafton's determination to help itself.

Tygart Valley Development Assn., Inc., capitalized at \$100,000, is selling stock at \$100 a share. The money will be used solely for investments that will attract industry.

The Grafton Area Development Council, which will provide operating capital and planning and management services for the development association, has sold more than 1,300 annual memberships at \$24 each. The council is looking now for a qualified director.

Council officers are looking for a tenant for the plant vacated by Continental Can, which turned the building over to the Tygart Valley Charitable Fund for only \$1.

Censors To Mull BB Film Showing Her Leaving Tub

PARIS (UPD) — A 33-foot film strip of Brigitte Bardot scampering naked from her bath awaits New York movie goers next week, provided the censors are not too scandalized.

The new Bardot film ("Love Is Not a Profession") portrays Brigitte as a remarkably immoral girl who holds up a jewelry store and then seduces one of Paris' most famous lawyers (Jean Gabin) into defending her.

The 33-feet in question — and they really are in question in New York — show Brigitte walking through her bedroom just after

Crew Member Given Transfer

PORT KLAMATH—Claude Shepherd, who has been with the Fort Klamath maintenance crew of the Oregon State Highway Department, was transferred to the Chemult division of the department and started work in his new location on Monday, April 20. His wife and 6-year-old son, Jimmy, will remain in Fort Klamath until later as Jimmy is a student in the elementary school.

Shepherd has been serving as scoutmaster of the Fort Klamath Boy Scout Troop 34 for the past two years. The scouts and their parents, with other local scout leaders and their wives, gave a farewell surprise party for the Shepherds in the C.I. clubhouse recently. Shepherd was presented with a gift from scouts of the troop in appreciation of his leadership. Refreshments were served by the parents.

emerging from a bath.

In the version shown to blase Paris audiences she is as undressed as she was in the bathtub. The Parisians never batted an eye.

French producer Raoul Levy, who helped his curvaceous star reach fame and fortune with similar undraped scenes in the past, thought the scene was "perfectly harmless."

The New York censors thought differently. They ordered the disputed 33 feet cut out of the American version.

Levy came up with a solution he hopes will soothe the censors although he admits it makes the scene more provocative.

He refilmed the sequence showing Brigitte holding a small towel. But, he said, "It's even more suggestive like that than it was before."

"I just cannot understand Americans," Levy said. "If you ask me, it's not pictures of Brigitte Bardot without any clothes on that cause so much juvenile delinquency over there. It's all those Hollywood gangster movies that are provoking restless American youth into trying to be like Al

Capone.

"They're the things the censors should ban instead of picking on me and Brigitte."

He said he had made two trips

to New York to battle the censors and still wasn't sure how he would make out.

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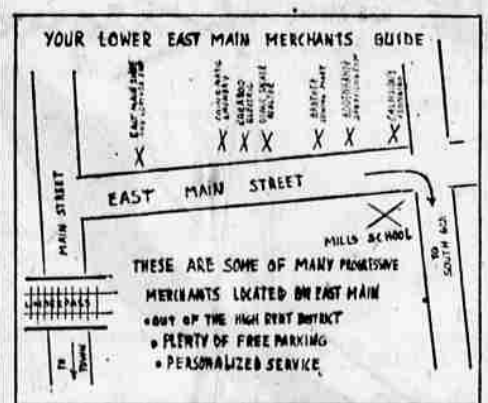
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