"Fifty-Third Year of Community Service"

Colbert County Reporter

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Review Of Alabama Business In April 1964

Industrial production in Alabama during the month of April changed only slightly from March, as the number of series showing month-to-month advances was offset by those which declined. For example, bituminous coal production, down 6 per cent, was mitigated somewhat by a gain of about one-tenth of one per cent in coke production; losses in pig iron production and steel ingot production, both of which were down 1 per cent, were offset by gains of 1 per cent each in electric energy consumption for industrial purposes and manufacturing employment. Cotton consumption and total nonagricultural employment were diametrically opposed. The loss of six-tenths of 1 per cent by the former was the identical gain by the latter.

When compared with the same month last year, the continued strength of the Alabama economy stands out more clearly. Electric energy consumption for industrial purposes led the series in gains with an increase of 12 per cent. An additional show of strength is illustrated by the 13 per cent increase of this important indicator over the comparable four-month period in 1963. Further evidence of the increasing demands for electric energy is the 11 per cent increase in electric energy consumption for nonindustrial purposes (Table 3) over April 1963 — as the air conditioners go on again. The month of April 1964 saw the highest quantity of electric energy for industrial purposes consumed to date.

Steel ingot production trailed the output of April 1963 by 6 per cent, but production through the first four months of 1964 was 6 per cent ahead of the comparable period last year. With a seasonally adjusted index of 103 (1957-59=100) our mills are still producing at an encouraging rate. Performance data on this year's production, at that time viewed in the light of conditions a year ago to obtain an objective point of view. At that time purchases were distorted considerably by the inclusion of extra quantities which went into stockpiles. This gave rise to some unusually high levels of output. As a consequence, when we compare this month's output with that which occurred in this inflated period a year ago, today's performance looks meager. However, when we examine the April 1964 output in its true perspective, we see that Alabama's steel mills are producing at a rate which is at least normal for this time of year.

Cement production took an unexpected downtown in April 1964 by lagging behind the same month a year ago by 6 per cent. In addition, the cumulative figure is 1 per cent below the same four months of 1963. As we have noted in some of our previous analyses, the problems of excess capacity in this industry over-shadow the production results of any one month. We note with enthusiasm that cement consumption is 6 per cent ahead of that of a year ago and 22 per cent ahead of the four months' cumulative amount. This consumption is no doubt directly related to the high number of building contracts which were awarded earlier during 1963.

Construction activity continued strong in April. Total building contracts awarded through the first four months of the year showed a 6 per cent increase when compared with a comparable period a year earlier, with the majority of this increase coming from the industrial-commercial sector. Public works and utilities construction was down 5 per cent during the first four months of the year when compared with the same months in 1963. However, large month-to-month fluctuations are to be expected in this sector. Residential construction continued strong in the four-month cumulative measurement, and in April registered a positive year-to-year gain for the fourth consecutive month.

Trade and financial indicators for April were impressive — all of the series showed year-to-year advances. New passenger car registrations continued to climb — to their highest point this year—to reach 11,420 for the month. This one series is proving to be somewhat of a scene-stealer as previous all-time-high records are being challenged.

Bank debits to deposit accounts in the 11 cities, although 11 per cent ahead of this month a year ago, were below their level in March. This is not what would have been seasonally expected. We attribute this reversal to the fact that consumer spending in anticipation of Easter occurred entirely in March, which gave to that month a higher volume of bank debits.

Colbert To Stay 'Dry'

Colbert County voters Tuesday once again defeated a proposal for legal sales of alcoholic beverages.

In the fourth election on the proposal since 1957, the drys appeared to have picked up strength over the wets, tallying 6316 votes to 5639 for their opponents, according to unofficial returns.

The difference was 519 compared to a margin of only 156 two years ago. The wet-dry issue has become a biennial issue at the polls since citizens voted to go dry in 1957 after 11 years of legalized sales.

Unofficial returns showed voters in the rural areas tipped the scales against legalized sale of alcoholic beverages.

A majority of the residents of Sheffield and Tuscumbia voted wet. A majority of the residents of Muscle Shoals City, however, sided with the majority of rural residents in voting dry.

Lamar Plunkett, chairman of the Citizens Committee for Decency and Morality and a Church of Christ minister, said the vote was a "victory for the citizens of Colbert County. The good margin is appreciated."

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Florence To Keep Council Government

Residents of Florence Tuesday voted to keep their present council form of government.

Voters defeated a proposal to establish a city commission form with a full-time mayor by a count of 1253 to 1039.

Postmasters Caution Against Wrong Addresses

If your mail is delivered to the wrong address the post office could be at fault. But before you phone the post office about the mistake, be sure the mail had the correct address and that your home or business had your house number plainly displayed. If you have a curb line mail box you should have your name and address plainly printed on it.

Muscle Shoals area postmasters said that complaints are regularly received about misdelivered mail from patrons who have neither their house number nor their name visible to the carrier. A survey of one letter route in Florence showed that 127 patrons or 27% of the entire route had no name or number displayed. "Such patrons are making it very difficult to deliver their mail correctly", said the Tri-Cities postmasters. "A carrier not familiar with the route has absolutely no way to tell where to leave your mail if you do not have your house number or name displayed. Help your carrier to give you the best possible delivery by addressing mail you mail plainly and correctly, including your ZIP Code, and by being certain that your house number or name can be easily seen," the postmasters concluded.

Todd Suspends More Foreign Beef

Montgomery, June 17 — Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture A. W. Todd began a new assault on contaminated foreign meat imports today, placing 47 cases of imported beef under suspension from sale and movement.

The meat, located at Associated Grocery Warehouse in Birmingham, was packaged for the Tupman Thurlow Company of England and New York and imported from Argentina. Included in the suspension was 29 cases of corned beef and 18 cases of roast beef and coast beef with gravy, all canned.

The suspension by Todd represents the first such action by the Commissioner since being served with a federal injunction ordering him to "revamp my methods of inspecting and testing of foreign meat imports."

Todd said the suspension action was based on the finding of hair in the meat by his Pure Foods and Drugs Division, "making the beef unwholesome and unfit for human consumption."

EDITORIAL GRIST

THE FAMOUS ABOUT — FACE

Although excerpts from a speech made by Lyndon B. Johnson on March 9, 1949 when he was a member of the Senate has been repeated again and again, the President shrugs it off with aloof indifference. His attitude has become known as the Famous About-Face. Here are the excerpts:

"One of the other civil rights measures deserves some passing attention. That is the bill for creation of a Fair Employment Practices Commission.

"This, to me, is the least meritorious proposal in the whole civil rights program. To my way of thinking, it is this simple: If the Federal Government can by law tell me whom I shall employ, it can likewise tell my prospective employees for whom they must work. If the law can compel me to employ a Negro, it can compel that Negro to work for me. It might even tell how long and how hard he would have to work. As I see it, such a law would do nothing more than enslave a majority.

"Such a law would necessitate a system of Federal police officers such as we have never before seen. It would require the policing of every business institution, every transaction made between an employer and employee, and, virtually, every hour of an employer's and employee's association while at work.

"I do not think the proposed law is workable, Mr. President. I am convinced it would do everything but what its sponsors intend. I feel certain it would reverse our entire historical trend of progress. It would do nothing more than resurrect ghosts of another day to haunt us again. It would incite and inflame the passions and prejudices of a people to the extent that the chasm of our differences would be irreparably widened and deepened.

"I can only hope sincerely that the Senate will never again be called upon to entertain seriously any such proposal."

A Shakespearean description of this whirling dervisher would have been

"'Tis a common proof that lawlessness is young ambition's ladder, whereunto the climber upward turns his face,
But when he once attains the utmost round
He then unto the ladder turns his back,
Looks into the clouds, Scanning the base degrees by which he did ascend."

HOLD THE LINE — BUT NOT US

The recent action by Congress is raising their own salary $7,500 per year makes the Government's appeal to "hold the line" on inflation look rather silly.

Along with the pay raise for the lawmakers went a general raise all the way from 3 to 22 per cent for over a million and a half white collar government employees — the third such raise within the past 19 months.

The government likes to challenge private enterprise to hold the line for the good of the nation, but when it comes to those drawing checks that are furnished by private enterprise it is another matter. The sky is the limit.

We don't mind Congress getting a raise. The only quarrel we have is the heftiness of the hike. And, pray tell us, how does the Government expect private industry to hold down salaries when the millions drawing government checks continue to get increases. This is like saying "You people work cheaper and keep down inflation but let us have our regular raises." That's a Houdini trick if we ever heard of one.

Maybe President Johnson, who hipped and hoorayed when the act passed Congress, sees this as part of his anti-poverty program. This program, as radical a socialistic scheme as ever dreamed up by a politician, may end up with a taint of poverty alright — poverty for the struggling business man who is already sweating under the tax load.

ENCOURAGING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

A short time ago some 75 students skipped going to school in a Chicago suburb in order to observe what is known as "senior ditch day". This was a direct violation of school rules. But, worse by far, was the attitude taken by number of the parents who falsely stated their children were ill on that day or involved in some urgent family business.

The known "ditch day" participants were suspended for three days. The Superintendent then wrote to the board of education and said: "If the attitudes shown by some of both parents and pupils in relation to this ditch day has significance as to the moral outlook and fiber of leaders of our present and future generations — I am profoundly concerned and quite pessimistic about the future effectiveness of this or any school in teaching the values of personal pride, honor, integrity, sportsmanship and responsible citizenship."

Well said! The parents who lied set an example for their children that directly and inevitably encourages juvenile delinquency. It is a short step from skipping school to serious crime.

Then, there are some people who think a joke must be bad to be good.

Few people can stand to hear what they ought to hear.

THE GIRLS

By Franklin Folger

"I'm the one who should be stretched out on her back somewhere!"

Truck Weighing Research Begins

A statewide program of weighing large trucks for research purposes was launched Monday by the State Highway Dept. and the U. S. Bureau of Roads.

Officials said the weighing is an "annual affair" for planning and road design and had nothing to do with enforcement. They said the Public Safety Dept. was in charge of finding truckers breaking state load limit laws.

Meanwhile others have said no checks are being enforced to find violators. The reports come on the heels of recent charges by former State Highway Director Ed Rogers that overloaded trucks "are tearing up" state highways faster "than we can build them."

This research program, however, is using state scales which Rodgers had charged have not been used in enforcement since the Persons Administration left office 10 years ago.

Officials said the present weighing operation uses "lodometer" scales manned by 16-member crews working in rotation from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily through Aug. 10.

Drivers are questioned about trip origin, destination, commodity and intermediate stops.

Shoals Area To Be Represented

Miss Ethel Pearson, Administrator, Muscle Shoals Regional Library, Florence, will attend the 83rd Annual Conference of the American Library Association to be held in St. Louis, Mo., June 28 through July 4. One of the nation's largest professional gatherings, the ALA Conference will have more than 3500 librarians from all parts of the country participating.

General sessions of the ALA Conference will present speakers of national prominence. More than 400 business and program meetings will cover all phases of librarianship.

Included in the Conference will be a special Library Equipment Institute. Also on the agenda are conferences covering Adult Services, Children's Services, Interlibrary Cooperation, and Reference.

"Miracle Worker" Gets Underway Friday

Members of the Starmaker Community Playhouse, Inc. have entered the homestretch of thier rehearshals for the forthcoming local production of "The Miracle Worker."

Director Mrs. Frank Potter states that this is one of the most exciting and absorbingly interesting plays they have ever attempted, and it is hoped this production will maintain the unbroken string of successes it has enjoyed the past two summers.

The first presentation will take place Friday, June 26 at 8 p.m. at Ivy Green.

For the convenience of the public tickets may be purchased at Anderson's Book and Gift Shop and Holiday Inn in Florence, Walgreen Drugs in Sheffield, Walgreen's Drug, Buffington's Card and Gift Shop, and Ivy Green here.

The Miracle Worker is sponsored by the American Association of University Women and the Helen Keller Property Board.

State's Biggest Crop, Forestry, Still Booming

AUBURN–Nearly 22 million acres-87 per cent of Alabama's total area--are now in trees.The trend is toward still more and much better forests.

Auburn University's Extension Service forester, Ivan R. Martin, says wood products valued at over $500 million are manufactured annually from the two billion board feet of timber taken each year from the state's forests. This makes forests the state's biggest crop, followed at a distance by cotton, worth $157 million last year.

Martin says that one out of every five Alabama wage earners works in some phase of the wood industry. He adds that Southwest Alabama leads in the development of wood-using industries and that the records show only two counties Limestone and Madison–have two-thirds of their land cleared.

Every year the state is growing 1,6 billion more board feet of timber than is being cut.

A 15 Year Test Program Completed By TVA

A 15-year testing and demonstration program now being concluded by TVA foresters has helped create a new and expanding market for commercially treated wooden fence posts, TVA said.

Kenneth J. Seigworth, Director of TVA's Division of Forestry Development, said that 15 years ago commercially treated posts were available by special order only. "Today, they can be purchased at almost any farm supply store in the Tennessee Valley," he said, "and sales in the region now total about a quarter million posts each year."

He added that with an estimated 100 million posts in use on Valley farms, mostly untreated, future requirements should approach one million annually. Three commercial treating plants in the region and several others nearby make treated posts available at reasonable costs.

In the late 1940's, TVA began looking for an efficient, low-cost method of treating posts to meet the needs of Valley landowners, who were faced with a dwindling supply of naturally durable fence post woods. At the same time, thousands of acres of non-durable post-size pines and hardwoods were in need of thinning. TVA began testing several promising oil-soluble preservatives, with the initial idea of providing an inexpensive method by which farmers could treat posts themselves.

To promote the use of treated posts, TVA designed mobile treating equipment and demonstrated it to over 13,000 people throughout the Valley. While home treatment proved effective, the principal result of the demonstrations was an increase in the use of commercially treated posts.

Results of the TVA program indicate that pine posts treated with "penta" (pentachlorophenol) or copper naphthenate should last at least 20 years. Commercial pressure-treated posts will last 30 years or more.

"Today, the trend definitely is toward increased reliance on commercial treating plants," Seigworth said. However, he pointed out that home treating methods for posts and construction lumber may make a significant contribution in under-developed countries. "The Agency for International Development and the Peace Corps may find it a valuable addition to their programs," he said.

Government Positions Open

The Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Birmingham Procurement District, U. S. Army, Birmingham, Alabama has issued an Examination Announcement for Quality Control Representatives and Specialists. The grades and salaries covered are GS-9, $7030 thru $9100 per year and GS-11 $8410 thru $10,650 per year.

The examination was issued on 24 June 1964 and is open continuous. No written test is required. Positions to be filled are located in the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Civil Service announcements and application forms may be obtained from Carlton H. Hughes, U. S. Post Office — Florence, Alabama, or the Board of Civil Service Examiners, Birmingham Procurement District, U. S. Army, Birmingham, Alabama.

Incomplete Reports On Narcotics

The Birmingham Director of Internal Revenue, A. J. O'Donnell, Jr., reports that many taxpayers are filing incomplete Special Tax applications for narcotic licenses, beer stamps, and liquor stamps. Some doctors are not giving their State professional license or certificate number, so it is not known if they have qualified to practice in Alabama. Many other applicants do not give a complete address. Where there is no name and number of a building or street, the exact location should be designated in addition to post office or route address such as "two blocks east of the post office," or "50 yards south of water tank."

When all of the requested information is not furnished, a delay in the issuance of the stamps will result.