

Herald Courier/Bill McKee

Bristol Virginia's Electrolux plant (above) and the one in Piney Flats will share about 100 new jobs, the company announced Monday.

JF & Cec McCoy

Electrolux to add 100 jobs in region's plants

By **MARTHA J. MILNER**

Bristol Herald Courier

Electrolux Corp. plans to add about 100 jobs at its Bristol Virginia and Piney Flats plants after selling off part of its North Carolina operations.

Electrolux officials announced Monday that they will close the company's Lawrence Industries division in Haw River, N.C., on Dec. 3, and that Electrolux has signed a letter of intent with a group of private investors who plan to purchase the assets related to the industrial hose, marine hose, molded rubber, crushproof plastic and PVC hose operations of Lawrence Industries.

Steven Cooper, vice president and general counsel of Electrolux Corp. based in Atlanta, said Electrolux will move its floor care product support operation to the manufacturing facilities in Bristol Virginia and Piney Flats.

Cooper said he expects an additional 100 new jobs will be created between the two plants, but he does not know how many employees will be hired at each facility.

About 271 employees who work for Lawrence Industries in North Carolina will lose their jobs when the plant closes. But Cooper said the private invest-

Please see JOBS, Page 10A

JOBS

From Page 1A

ment group, headed by Thomas E. Farrell, plans to continue manufacturing industrial and marine hoses and other products at the plant, and he anticipates some of those employees may be rehired.

Various components for the vacuum cleaners and shampoos manufactured at the two area Electrolux plants are made at the Lawrence Industries division in

North Carolina and shipped to Bristol Virginia and Piney Flats.

Cooper said the move of the floor care product support operation to Bristol Virginia and Piney Flats will begin sometime after Dec. 3. The transition will occur over a period of time and should be completed during the first quarter of 1995, he said.

The two area Electrolux operations now have about 675 employees.

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The Electrolux Story

What is Electrolux?

Electrolux is universally regarded as the leading producer of top-of-the-line floor care equipment in North America. Throughout its seventy-one year history, Electrolux has consistently produced a high-quality line of floor care equipment which is always on the cutting edge of technology. The company has a solid reputation for introducing new systems before the competition, and for selling products which frequently last for decades.

Electrolux has continuously used a direct sales force in selling its cleaning equipment and the company today remains committed to this method as the best method to demonstrate the superiority of its home care products. Electrolux presently operates from over 600 branches with thousands of sales representatives showing its products throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Company History

The following are highlights from Electrolux's rich history:

1924 - Gustaf Sahlin came to America with his Swedish designed and manufactured Aktiebolaget Electrolux, an innovative canister style cleaner which he hoped to market in the U.S. Tank cleaners were regarded as something of a curiosity at that time, however, in-home test proved their efficiency.

1930 - Electrolux had established its own sales force and had offered its first incentives to salesmen, \$500 to 500 sales and a Reo convertible for the top division manager. The first U.S. manufactured Electrolux was the Model XII, produced in Cleveland in the midst of the great Depression.

1933 - A 15-acre site in Old Greenwich, Connecticut with 50,000 square feet of manufacturing space was acquired, and when the first cleaner came off the production line in 1933, the staff totalled 116. As sales multiplied, the plant was eventually expanded to more than 400,000 square feet of manufacturing space with four miles of

that automatically shut itself off when its bag was full. (The bag also sealed itself for ease of emptying.) This product, called the Model LX, was billed as "the cleaner you never have to empty."

1961 - Vacuum cleaners were getting smaller, and Electrolux responded with the introduction of the more streamlined, lightweight Model

Throughout its seventy-one year history, Electrolux has consistently produced a high-quality line of floor care equipment

G canister cleaner with a power nozzle. The advertising heralded this new development as "Once again a new standard in cleaning efficiency."

1963 - An increase in amounts of carpeting in homes created demand for a heavy duty carpet shampooer and Electrolux introduced the Model B8, designed to shampoo rugs as well as to scrub and polish.

1968 - Electrolux was purchased by Consolidated Foods Corporation which was attract-

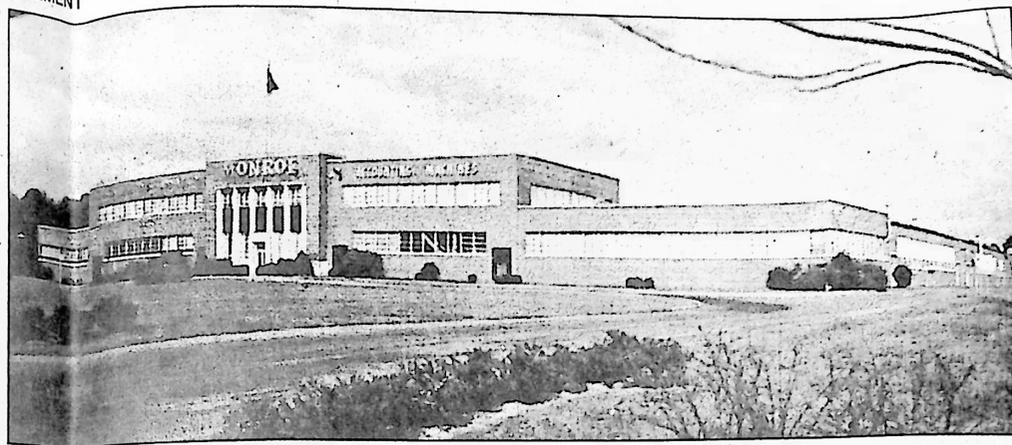
ed by the company's healthy financial statement and perceived growth potential. The parent company became Sara Lee Corporation in 1985. The model 1205 was introduced, featuring the first one-piece body construction and a sealed air flow system. At the same time, the external electrical cord for the Power Nozzle was replaced by an internal electric system built into the hose.

1970 - The second U.S. factory was opened at Bristol, Virginia in the building previously owned by Monroe Calculator. Operations began in this 200,000 square foot building with a host line, punch press and machining operations, and assembly of the Model L cleaner at 500 units per day. Most of the start-up equipment was brought to Bristol from the Old Greenwich plant. Over the next year, the B-8 Shampooer/Polisher and the Rugwasher came to Bristol, along with new die casting equipment, plastic molding and polishing equipment.

1972 - Bag production was brought to Bristol.

1974 - Introduction of the Golden J cleaner, which encompassed an even more powerful motor.

1977 - An additional 68,000



The Monroe Calculator Co. occupied the building now known as Electrolux.

square feet of space was added to the Bristol plant for warehousing. The first Electrolux upright cleaner went into production in Bristol.

1984 - The Diamond Jubilee Deluxe was introduced utilizing the newest space age materials and technology to produce a lighter-weight model conforming to all the high Electrolux standards, and the Diamond Jubilee Shampooer and Polisher with a one-step snap-in tank, folding handlebar and quick-release brushes.

1985 - 1988 - Manufacturing revitalization-modernization program began in 1985 which resulted in a multi-million dollar renovation of the Bristol facility and the closing of the Old Greenwich plant. Bristol became the "flagship" facility, with rubber manufacturing and selected assembly conducted at the Lawrence Industries plant in Burlington, North Carolina, and the start-up of a dedicated motor manufacturing plant located in Piney Flats, Tennessee.

Congratulations
to
Electrolux
on your 25th Anniversary
from your
friends
at
The Hartford
Bearing Company
Rocky Hill, Connecticut

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25th

Anniversary

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World War II - The Electrolux factory was converted to a round-the-clock production facility, manufacturing electric motors and precision controls for military use. Electrolux won the Army-Navy Production Award and was able to display the "E" flag as a result. As the end drew near, Electrolux began to promote "Duration Specials" which involved inspection, cleaning and servicing of existing machines. Eventually a "Preferred Post-War Sales Contract" was drawn up which put consumers on a preferred waiting list for the first products available when the plant returned to cleaner production.

1949 - The factory returned to vacuum cleaner production and introduced a new rug scrubber and polisher attachment to round out its full line of floor care products.

1952 - A major revolution in cleaner design occurred with the introduction of a product

through to Bristol. The Lawrence Industries plant in Burlington, North Carolina, and the start-up of a dedicated motor manufacturing plant located in Piney Flats, Tennessee.

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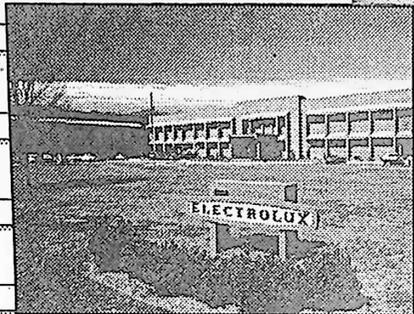
Beating Company
Rocky Hill, Connecticut

Celebrating

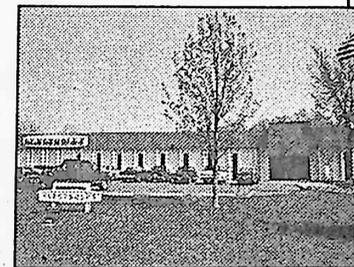
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25th

Anniversary



Bristol VA Manufacturing Plant

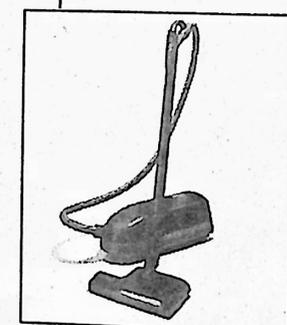


Piney Flats Manufacturing Plant

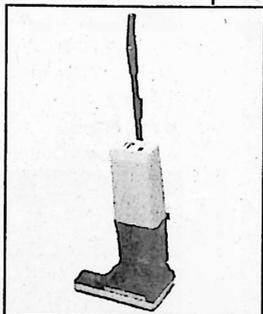
In Our Bristol, Virginia Manufacturing Plant

- Superior People
 - Superior Manufacturing Processes
 - Superior Products • Superior Quality...
- The Complete Edge*

Electrolux has been the producer of high quality floor care products for over 70 years and we are proud to have shared our growth with the Tri-City community. Since 1970, Electrolux has drawn from the talents of the residents of the Tri-Cities, and today, we stand as a premier manufacturer of floor care products. Our facilities are recognized as one of the most modern appliance manufacturing facilities in the world. Electrolux is moving into the twenty-first century with the same commitment and dedication to excellence that has made us the premier name in home care products.



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Kingsport, Tennessee 37660
(423) 246-7831

Manufacturing Plants:

300 Valley Drive
Bristol, Virginia 24201
(540) 466-2251

Industrial Park Road
Piney Flats, Tennessee 37686
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across from Post Office)



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Reprinted from 1970

A Good Beginning

We have just completed our first full year of manufacturing in Bristol - and it has been a most satisfying and rewarding year. Our business has been good, and we have met the demands of our progressive sales department. This has made us very happy because we know that there is little chance of consistent sales success unless the product is of top quality.

As we see our job at Bristol, it is to make the best cleaners and polishers we know how to meet the needs and wants of an aware public. This takes

skilled and dedicated people who take pride in themselves and in their jobs.

Bristol has a lot of people like this, and we have our share of them. Our sales are steadily increasing, and we are in an era of our company's greatest growth. That we have done well in the beginning of our operation here, means only that we have made a beginning.

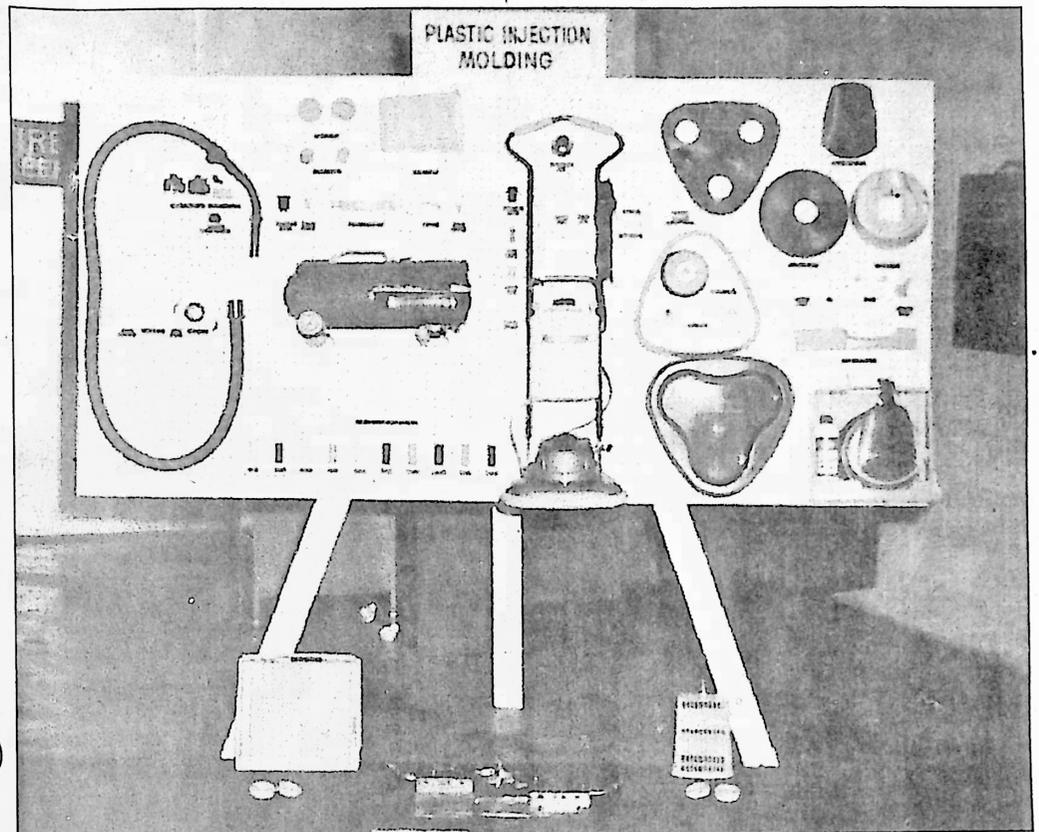
We see a bright future for ourselves here in Bristol - a good community with good people

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We see a bright future for ourselves here in Bristol - a good community with good people - the ideal place for a good growth company to be. We look ahead confidently to an era of continued growth and expansion in sales and in manufacturing needs. We have a fine plant and fine people to man it. We have room for more, and we are working diligently to hasten the day they are needed.

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Congratulations

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Offering Complete Service For:
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Squaws
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For 25 Years . . .
best wishes to

ELECTROLUX®

Teaming Up In The Tri-Cities



AUTO PARTS

CHECK OUT OUR
COAST TO COAST
GUARANTEE



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669-1141	323-7141	246-5550	429-5811

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Offering Complete Service For:
 ★ Brakes ★ Alignment ★ Shocks ★ Struts

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BLEVINS
 TIRE & RECAPPING CO.



from the
 Braves and
 Squaws
 at

Big Chief Supply, Inc.
 5150 Big Chief Drive
 Cincinnati, Ohio

ELECTROLUX®

Learning Up In The Tri-Cities



AUTO PARTS

CHECK OUT OUR
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AT MOST LOCATIONS

Bristol, VA 1901 W. State St. 669-1141	Blountville, TN 3276B Hwy. 126 323-7141	Kingsport, TN 113 Shelby St. 246-5550	Glade Spring, VA 385 N. Main St. 429-5811
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Congratulations, Electrolux!



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BRISTOL DIVISION

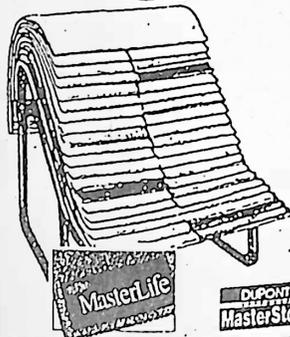
*Celebrating
 25 Years*

*We are proud to
 Supply Electrolux with
 Electronic Controls*
ALUTRON MODULES, INC.
AURORA, ONTARIO

**Congratulations
 Employees & Management
 at**

ELECTROLUX

for 25 successful years

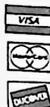


Keene Carpets, Inc.



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1970 - 1976 - The Early Years at Bristol

ELECTROLUX®

On February 1, 1970, 25 years ago this year, Electrolux Corporation, Division of Consolidated Foods, negotiated for and purchased the abandoned Monroe Calculating Company and approximately 33 acres of surrounding property. This was the beginning of a quarter of a century of continual growth and expansion in our community.

Electrolux hired its first Bristol employee, Lee Roy Draper, on July 1, 1970. Lee Roy had worked for Monore from January, 1951 until



Lee Roy Draper

its closure in January, 1970. Lee Roy remained as an employee of Monroe, negotiating the sale of equipment and other assets and subsequently, was hired by Electrolux July 1, 1970, because of his intimate knowledge of the facility and grounds. Lee Roy remained with Electrolux until his retirement in February, 1991 for a total of 40 years at this facility.

Additional hiring took place as equipment was installed and from August, 1970 to December, 1970, Electrolux employed 125 hourly workers and 16 salaried workers.

The first half year was a bustling time with a tremendous amount of activity occurring. The entire building was being gutted for renovation. Walls were taken down on the factory floor, plumbing and wiring were being updated and for the first time, air conditioning was being installed in the 24 year old factory. The entire front of the building was a maze of rubble and plastic sheeting. Sheeting being used to contain debris from demolition of existing office spaces that were being torn out and modernized. The front of the old building was receiving a facelift and helicopters hovered overhead lowering equipment onto the roof top or down to the factory floor through the large openings in the roof.

While all this activity was taking place, limited production was occurring in the back half of the building in the way of hose assembly.

By October, 1970, the first completed product at the Bristol facility rolled off the assembly line - the electric hose. Shortly followed by the Model "L" metal body canister cleaner, the B-8 Shampooer and the rug washer.

Activity continued as millwrights set Bore Matic, injection molding, die cast, polishing, tumbling and punch press machines. Production was subsidized by parts supplied by the Old Greenwich Plant as the newly hired Bristol employees went through a training and learning curve. Technical advisors along with quality and production control support were supplied by the Old Greenwich facility in an effort to make the transition as smooth as possible.

The following year, 1971, was even more aggressive as 137 additional hourly workers, as well as 5 additional salaried staff, were added. Fabrication and assembly departments worked at a fevered pitch as we headed into the new year preparing for April "drive" month.

A new paint shop was being installed on sight while plating facilities were being sought off premise. Molding and die cast machines were being fired up and the machining and metal finishing departments were going full tilt. Six and seven day weeks were the norm and the pace was not for the faint of heart.

1972 saw an additional 75 people hired as we brought in new brush making equipment, expanded existing operations and started the filter bag assembly line. Previously, Electrolux's brushes were manufactured by Fuller Brush Company which was owned by Consolidated Foods. Because of non-competitive growth, Consolidated Foods sold Fuller Brush Company thus resulting in Electrolux getting into the brush making business, a venture which has continued to expand over the years. Filter bags were produced by Continental Can Company in Payole, Pennsylvania, prior to being brought to Bristol a part of a vertical integration effort. As part of Electrolux's continued growth, manufacturing of cord sets and water filtration devices was being evaluated as possible new areas of expansion.

In 1973, additional people were hired to cover growing production numbers and manning up for three new departments - Cord Sets, Water Filtration and Hose Braiding. Cord sets would be a completely new department with all brand new equipment. Hose braiding was brought in-house from a small company in Natchez, Mississippi. The water filtration

equipment would be purchased from a Florida concern and would be a totally new market venture for Electrolux.

1974 saw all areas of manufacturing expand and Electrolux brought on board an additional 85 people to man the three new departments plus cover additional production requirements.

Electrolux was out growing its floor space and in 1975 work started on expansion of the original building. Electrolux added approximately 125,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing floor space. This area later became the home of the first ever upright cleaner in Electrolux's history and the new shipping and receiving area. 1975 saw an additional 80 people hired to man up for the new upright and accommodate a growing Injection Molding Department.

1976 - Continued growth in all manufacturing areas and expansion of the cord sets, injection molding, and bag line departments resulted in yet an additional 100 plus new hires.

All in all, from 1970 to 1976 Electrolux created 19 new manufacturing departments and generated 600 plus new jobs for the local area.

This amazing rate of growth and development in the first 6 years set the stage for future expansion and consolidation that would eventually lead to a satellite plant in Piney Flats, Tennessee, and an additional 150 jobs.

1986 Tech Center Relocation

Electrolux moved its Technical, Research and Information Services Center to Bristol in the latter part of 1986 as part of a North American manufacturing revitalization strategy. The Technical Center had previously been located in Connecticut. The move involved building a new wing on the current Bristol Plant Facilities and relocating Engineering Offices, a full Environmental laboratory, Model Shop, and multi-million dollar main



Picture is 10 years service. Names underlined are still here for 25 years service. Front row: Tom Morrell, Bonnie Thomas, Mary Adams, Martha Ryan, Gail Leonard, Evelyn Robinson, Nancy Cross, Margaret Tolbert, Tish Helton, Ruth Cox. Second row: Kelly Sweeney, Jack Cross, Jim Davis, Brett Compton, George Walden, Joe Glacco, Charlie McKee, Bob Blevins, Ed Bogart, Jack Shaw, Jack Beavers. Third Row: Bill Lee, Mike Hale, Roy Lessee, Marlin Pullon, Don Woodring, Jerry Foster, Harley Rupp, Earl Woods, Clvide Boyd, Henry Harr. Fourth Row: Jim Booher, Don Corvin, Lee Roy Draper, Richard Williams, Ronnie Triplett, Bert Smith. Fifth Row: Fred Honaker, Clarence Brown, John Buchanan, Wayne Rader, Gary Rader, Jim Weaver, Dick Gordon, Willard Hancock. Missing from photo: Robert Lovelace, James Simcox

frame computer system.

Less than twenty percent of the Connecticut staff relocated to Bristol, resulting in a literally total restaffing of the Engineering and MIS Departments. The new personnel were professionals hired from all over the Eastern United States as well as some Bristol area people. Today, nine years later, more than fifty percent of the originally hired group of professionals are still employed at the Bristol facility, speaking well for the company and the Bristol area.

Distribution

In 1982 Electrolux closed four U.S. regional service centers into a National Parts Distribution Center (PDC) located in Bristol, Virginia. This transition concluded with adding 20 new jobs to the Bristol facility. The PDC was responsible for providing all U.S. branch offices with parts and supplies required to repair equipment brought to our branches for service. This activity included customer representatives (order entry), order pickers, order packers and shippers. Electrolux offered a hose repair program that was supported by the PDC, where

branches could send a customer's hose to Bristol for repair.

The consolidation of the regional service centers into Bristol PDC was so successful that in 1985 Electrolux opened a National Distribution Center in Bristol, Virginia through the closing of seventeen public warehouses across the U.S. This activity added 55,000 sq. ft. of brick and mortar to Bristol's existing facility while adding another 30 new jobs. This new state-of-the-art warehouse included a pelletizing robot, 1,000 ft. of conveyor, computers, narrow aisle-high density storage racks, wire guided vehicles and rotating carousels for automatic parts storage and retrieval. The NDC was responsible for all parts/supplies plus all machines and finished goods warehoused and shipped to all U.S. branches and our Canadian warehouse.

In 1986 Electrolux relocated the Inventory Department for field sales from Atlanta, Georgia to Bristol, Virginia. This relocation added another 3,000 sq. ft. of office space to the warehouse and eight new jobs to the distribution group. The Inventory Department is

responsible for determining and monitoring the amount of machines and supplies each sales office should be stocked with to support their sales and service. There are approximately 450 U.S. sales offices and 130 in Canada.

Our distribution group continues handling the above mentioned and is now providing distribution service for Electrolux worldwide.

*A Special
Thank You
and
Congratulations
To Your
First 25 Years
in Bristol*

**James River
Corporation**
Natural Dam, N.Y.

Congratulations

ELECTROLUX®

Bristol Plant For

ELECTROLUX

**Congratulations
to the
Employees & Management
for
Your 25th Anniversary**

Your Contractor by Choice

ELECTROLUX

*Your Contribution
to this Community
is Appreciated. . .*

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"SINCE 1890"

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Environmental laboratory, Model Shop, and multi-million dollar main

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Natural Dam, N.Y.

Congratulations

ELECTROLUX®

Bristol Plant For

25

Successful Years!

Harold D. Kistner, Inc.

Bristol, VA

Ph. 540-669-7724

ELECTROLUX

Congratulations
to the
Employees & Management
for
Your 25th Anniversary

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GENERAL CONTRACTORS

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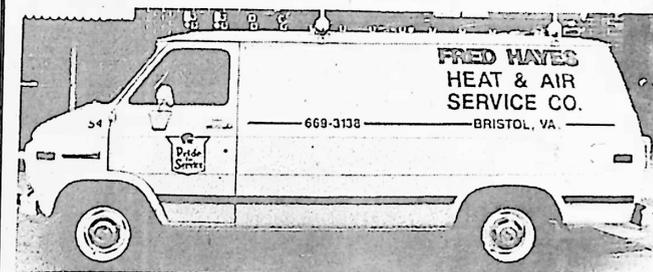
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to this Community
is Appreciated. . .*

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Dean Tillison

Congratulations to Electrolux

on your 25th Anniversary

from your friends at

A&M Tool, Inc. "M" Division

A&M Tool Molding Division, Inc.

Arden, North Carolina

GAYLORD

Wishes Electrolux

a Happy

25th Anniversary

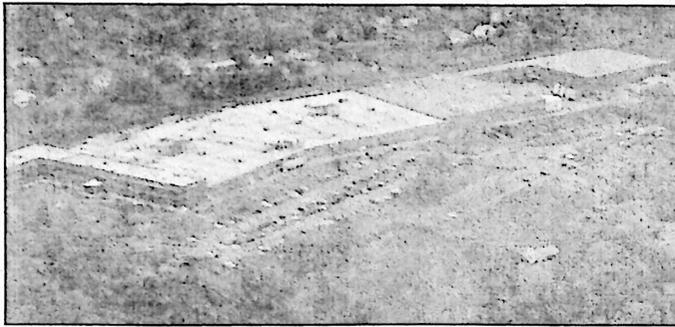
Celebration

Gaylord Container Corporation

Greenville, South Carolina

803-295-1230

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Our plant in 1988

Tomorrow . . . It has already begun!

In 1994 Electrolux made its first attempt to determine the requirements necessary to establish sales in Europe and Latin America. European standards agencies have different requirements than our familiar North American agencies of U.L. and C.S.A.

These new standards had to be interpreted and product changes had to occur and then qualification testing completed before products could be sold in the European countries.

During this phase, product distributors were found in sev-

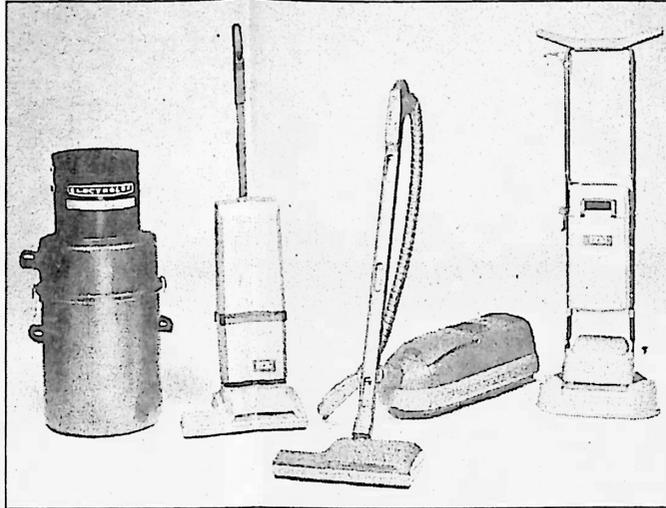
eral countries. Although only a couple of thousand products were sold in 1994, the learning experience on the requirements, timing and expectations were of great value for the future.

In 1995 Electrolux had the good fortune to hire a representative who ran a direct marketing organization in Europe, Asia and the Pacific which sold home floor care products, vacuum cleaners. Mr. Bjorn Eidhagen is now president of "Globaltek", Electrolux's division for international sales.

In just a few months the

number of country distributors has doubled. Sales have yet to have a major impact because of the miles of government red tape for initial start-ups for each distributor. The anticipation for sales growth in the next five years could have a significant impact on Electrolux and our operations here in Bristol.

The next couple of years will determine product acceptance, growth rate potential and overall market ability of Electrolux products in the global market place.



Quality products for 1995 and beyond.

Electrolux Community Involvement

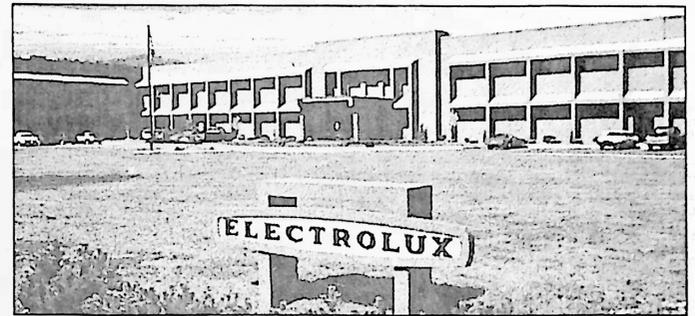
Electrolux Corporation has always been family and community oriented. Through the years, Electrolux . . .

• Hosts employee parties, picnics

with elephants, tigers and performers

- Easter Egg Hunts
- Open House to family members
- Had floats in parades

ELECTROLUX®



- Sponsor:
 - Blood Bank Drives
 - Talent Contests
 - Softball Tournaments
 - Horseshoe Tournaments
 - Pony Rides
 - Bingos
 - Thanksgiving Dinners
 - Christmas Dinners
 - Fishing Tournaments
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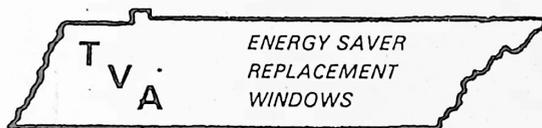
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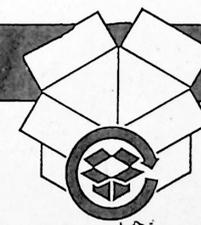
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Electrolux plant manufactures vacuums for U.S., Europe, Japan

By **JIM COX**
Bristol Herald Courier

Perhaps the most well-known manufacturer of canister vacuum cleaners in the United States, Electrolux has been an integral part of the Bristol economy since 1970, when the company moved into the former Monroe Calculating Co. building at 300 Valley Drive.

Electrolux's U.S. history dates to 1924, however, when the first vacuum cleaners were imported from Sweden. By the early 1930s they were being made in Cleveland, Ohio, and in 1933 a new facility was opened in Greenwich, Conn.

In industry, one community's loss is often another's gain. In 1985 the company consolidated all its manufacturing operations into the Bristol plant, closing the 52-year-old Connecticut facility.

Today Electrolux North America is a division of Sara Lee and is independent of its Swedish parent, Electrolux A.B. The Bristol plant employs more than 600 people, and a satellite operation in Piney Flats has another 180. The product line now includes a full range of floor-care products. Among that line are upright vacuum cleaners, floor polishers, rug shampooers and hand-held vacuum cleaners, as well as the familiar canister.

"All of our major products are assembled here at this facility," said Michael E. Fuller, vice president of manufacturing. "Also our engineering and product development group is here, also our information services group."

The Piney Flats facility, called the Electrical Products Operation, fabricates motors, electrical cords, steel stampings and wire harnesses, and produces a corded hand-held vacuum cleaner. The re-



Herald Courier/Mike Jackson

Michael E. Fuller is vice president of manufacturing at the Bristol Electrolux plant.

maining components built there are shipped to the Bristol plant for final assembly. Assembled products are shipped to a distribution center in Canada and more than 400 sales offices throughout the U.S.

Products assembled here are also exported to Europe and Japan.

"We have been distributing products in Japan for 11 years now," Fuller said.

Japanese products are distributed under the name Concordia, while European sales are under the Globaltek brand.

"Externally they look the same. They may be different in terms of voltage, chokes and filters, but basically they're the same Electrolux product," Fuller said. "We see great opportunity for us in the international marketplace, satisfying that niche of a high-quality, top-of-

the-line vacuum cleaner product, distributed through direct marketing channels."

Unlike its lower-end competitors, Electrolux products are sold only in the direct market mode, either door-to-door or at company stores.

"We do not participate in the retail marketplace. That's always been the Electrolux philosophy. We feel we're able to better demonstrate in the home, so you can see what it will do. You can see it, feel it, use it."

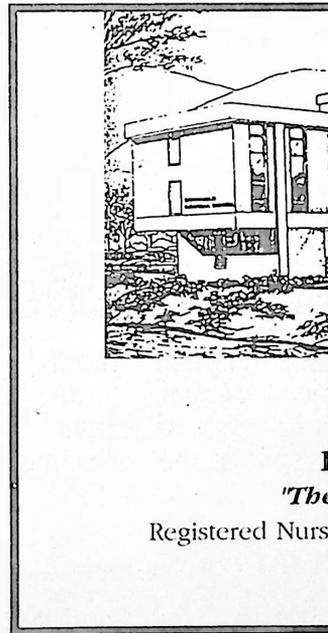
The local facility has seen continual growth since the 1970 opening. A 68,000-square-foot addition was built in 1977, and another 55,000 square feet were added in 1985 for the new national distribution facility.

"We still have additional capacity here," Fuller said. "I don't see a brick-and-mortar expansion any-

time soon, because as we have modernized, we have built in additional capacity."

Fuller said the work ethic of people in the Mountain Empire is a good fit with the company's reputation for excellence.

"We've always considered ourselves lucky to be able to find people with good work ethics, quality-conscious people, who work hard to protect the reputation of Electrolux quality and durability. Our products are often handed down from generation to generation. It's not a throwaway model; if something breaks or wears out, you can get it serviced. A lot of goods in this country are throwaway. It may cost more up front, but it's less expensive to own in the long run."



The
Registered Nurs

UF

Electrolux

Fish school
Students raise funds,
job skills at Virginia center

— Page 4B



Section B

Electrolux suit filed

By **STEPHEN B. EVANS**

Washington County Bureau

ABINGDON — Three former employees of the Electrolux plant in Bristol Virginia filed a \$1.5 million federal lawsuit against the company Tuesday afternoon, alleging sexual harassment.

Gina Walker, Janice Worley and Shamar Jones claim in their suit they were sub-

Three former employees claim sexual harassment

jected to repeated sexual harassment from co-workers. The women also say the company would make a "superficial inquiry" when they filed complaints, then told them

there was "non-sufficient evidence of harassment." After the complaints were filed, the women say company employees retaliated against them with threats and intimi-

dation.

"Plaintiffs have complained of co-workers asking female workers for sexual favors, abusive language, groping of female genitals and touching other sexual body parts, subjecting female workers to obscene pictures, subjecting plaintiffs to abusive remarks of their sexuality, threats by co-workers of violent assault and death, actual

Please see **SUIT**, Page 2B



Jaylyn McCoy is decked out in holiday splendor Wednesday for the "Christmas With Special Friends" party at E.B. Stanley Middle School. The party was a cheerful service project for the school's 6th-graders, who each year take on a civic task as a way to help meet the needs of others while learning about themselves.

Herald Courier/

Bristol man may be new chairman of Sullivan GOP

By **RICK WAGNER**

Bristol Herald Courier

Keith Spicer of Bristol Tennessee would become the new chairman of the Sullivan County Republican Party next year if party members follow the recent recommendation of the group's nominating committee.

Chairwoman Linda Blevins of Bristol, appointed about six months ago to fill the expired term of Jerry Teague, Colonial Heights, said she is not interested in seeking a full two-year term and believes Spicer would be excellent for the job.

Blevins automatically stepped up from deputy chairwoman to replace Teague after he resigned to become involved in the political campaigns of failed state Rep. candidate Neal Kerney of Indian Springs and failed U.S. House candidate Richard Venable of Indian Springs.

"A search committee has contacted me and asked if I would consider it (the chairmanship)," Spicer said Wednesday after an Eagle Forum meeting in Kingsport.

"I have indicated I am (interested)," Spicer said.

ACTIVIST

From Page 1B

nett as a consultant even before he was elected to the state House.

Patray said Bennett is one of only three Tennesseans who got one of the awards in 1996. Bennett's 10 years of work include having been chairwoman of the Northeast Tennessee Right to Life Chapter and as a counselor for Abortion Alternatives Christian Services, a local crisis pregnancy center that urges against abortion.

"What impresses me so much, Ann, is your obedience to Christ," said Miyoshi Callahan, director of the crisis pregnancy center.

Patray said the Eagle Forum, founded by Phyllis Schlafly in response to a feminism movement, is the oldest pro-family group in the nation.

Patray said a top priority of the state group this year will be to oppose the resolution that would allow Tennesseans in 1998 to vote on legalizing lotteries, something Patray said would hurt poor and lower-middle-class Tennesseans.

"I believe this is an issue we will win in the 100th General Assembly," Patray said. "I am up for the fight, and I want you to come with me."

Patray said last year he had hoped to encourage a law specifically allowing release time, a pro-

posal Kingsport school officials turned down and Sullivan County school officials are considering.

In release time, public school students attend religious classes during the school day. It is allowed in Tennessee based on court rulings, not on law, and some in the group support making it mandatory if parents want it.

Patray said she also will continue the fight to have a legislative review of a lifelong wellness curriculum outlined in state pamphlets sent to schools.

She said 1,600 of the pamphlets have been sent out without approval of a government oversight committee in the General Assembly. She said the program bypassed the committee by being deemed a change in policy not requiring legislative approval instead of a rule change requiring legislative approval.

Patray said the group also will fight to keep the compulsory age for children to attend school at 7 instead of 6 or 5, saying parents know when their children are mature enough to attend school.

Past issues the group has supported were Holcomb's 1996 law that banned same-sex marriages or recognition of them in Tennessee; and amending the law to prevent anyone accused of statutory rape to use the victim's past sexual promiscuity as a defense.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission doesn't provide much time to investigate such cases. Ninety days from the date the EEOC issues a letter of permission to file suit.

Electrolux officials declined to discuss the case, citing company policy.

"We have no comment," said H.M. McClanahan, the company's director of human resources.

A hearing date has not been set.

The former employees are demanding a jury trial.

SUIT

From Page 1B

assault by co-workers on females," the suit states.

The alleged harassment began in January 1991, according to the suit.

Only the company is named in the suit.

"All the details will come out as we do discovery," said the plaintiffs' attorney, Bernard Via. He said no other individuals are named in the suit because the

Four arrested in alleged burg

By MARK HYLER

Bristol Herald Courier

BLOUNTVILLE — Sullivan County authorities say they may have broken up a burglary ring responsible for thefts as far away as Loudon County, Tenn., with the arrest of two Kingsport men and a pair of juveniles.

Sheriff Keith Carr said the four suspects allegedly stole several thousand dollars worth of weapons, jewelry and electronics from homes across East Tennessee over the past several months.

At least three of those break-ins reportedly occurred in Kingsport, where homes in the Fort Henry Drive/Beulah Park area were burglarized.

"They were just going out and randomly

picking out houses," Carr said. "Many times they found people at home. They would go to the door, and if someone answered they would ask for directions or say they were looking for work."

And if no one came to the door, the four would allegedly break in and quickly gather up valuables.

"If people ever have someone come up to their door, acting suspicious like that, they should try to get a description and a tag number if possible, and report it immediately," Carr said.

He said some of the stolen property in the burglary spree has been recovered.

Arrested and charged with three counts each of aggravated burglary and three counts each of theft of property valued at more than

\$1,000, were Mohler and of 110 Riley, and a pair County.

Carr said to the cus Mohler br \$25,000 bo liminary he sions Court the result volving his agencies of Apprehensi es are expe a number o

Tire-disposal bids o

By RICK WAGNER

Bristol Herald Courier

BLOUNTVILLE — Sullivan County officials opened three bids for disposing of scrap tires Wednesday morning, but it was unclear which bid was best.

At first glance, Yarbrough said Quest Recycling of Johnson City may be the most cost-effective because of savings in hauling the tires.

But he told Purchasing Agent Nelda Hulse that a direct comparison among Quest, TR Systems of Parsons, Tenn., and Browning-Ferris Industries Tire Recyclers of Georgia would require a few days of study and calculations.

"This is something we need to kind of kick around a little bit," Hulse said. The contract is to be from Jan. 1, 1997, through June 30, 1997, the end of the fiscal year. Yarbrough said Tennessee likely will alter its scrap tire regulations and reimbursements by then.

A direct comparison among Quest Recycling of Johnson City, TR Systems of Parsons, Tenn., and Browning-Ferris Industries Tire Recyclers of Georgia would require a few days of study and calculations.

BFI proposes to take passenger tires for \$50 a ton, farm tractor tires for \$75 a ton and off-road tires for \$200 a ton.

In addition, transportation costs to the county from BFI would be \$425 per 53-foot tractor-trailer load to Jackson, Ga., and the county must have workers available to load the tires. Added charges are \$15 for each tractor-trailer tire still on the rim and \$15 per ton if tires are "extremely dirty."

TR Systems, operated by tire broker J.F. Weinhold, proposed handling passenger car and light truck tires no larger than 16-inches for \$72.50 a ton. That price would include TRS leaving two

only vendor representative to attend the bid opening, told Yarbrough and Hulse.

Because the cement plant in Chattanooga that uses the tires for fuel cannot handle any tires larger than 16 inches, Weinhold proposes the county contract with someone else to take care of those, as TRS customers Knox and Hamilton counties do.

The other two proposals would chop or shred tires, which can be used for artificial turf, other rubber products or as fuel.

Weinhold said the tractor-trailer tires should account for about 15 percent of the tires by number, about 40 percent

Electrolux official calls sale positive

VF Electrolux
■ 'I've been with the company for 25 years, and this is probably the best thing that ever happened to us.'

— Mike Fuller

Electrolux vice president of operations

No negative effects expected as Dallas-based company buys vacuum maker

Staff Reports

Electrolux Corp., which was formerly owned by three banks and the Sara Lee Co., has been sold to the Dallas-based investment company of Engles Urso Follmer Capital Corp., company officials announced.

"I've been with the company for 25 years, and this is probably the best thing that ever happened to us," said Mike Fuller, vice president of operations, who oversees both the manufacturing facility in Bristol Virginia and the motor manufacturing facility in Piney Flats. "We have changed philoso-

phies, and there will be greater opportunities for our existing employees and future employees."

Fuller said the new investment company will bring a new level of expertise to the local company, and he foresees an opportunity for expansion. No negative effects are expected from the sale, he said.

The terms of the sale were not disclosed.

The Bristol Virginia facility employs about 575, another 175 work at the motor manufacturing plant in Piney Flats, and about 12 to 15 are employed at the local sales office, Fuller said. The sales office is

one of about 500 nationwide. During 1997, the company's sales exceeded \$250 million.

Joseph P. Urso, has been named chairman and CEO of Electrolux Corp. and Engles Urso Follmer Capital Corp.

"Our firm intends to continue the great legacy of Electrolux and remains committed to direct sales," Urso said in a prepared release from his Dallas office. "We plan to continue to offer the industry's highest quality products and to provide great opportunities for the people who serve this

Please see **ELECTROLUX**, Page 8A

ELECTROLUX

From Page 1A

organization."

The investment firm has substantial interests in other direct sales companies, including Interstate Engineering, a company that also manufactures and sells vacu-

um cleaners through an independent direct sales organization.

"The organizations of Electrolux and Interstate will remain independent," Urso said. "However, the affiliation of the two companies will create positive synergies enabling both companies to realize substantial growth."

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER
MAY 6, 1998

■ ELECTROLUX, L.L.C.

Location: 300 E. Valley Drive,
Bristol, Va.

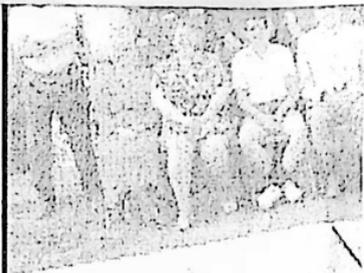
History: Gustaf Sahlin came to America in 1924 from Sweden with a canister style vacuum cleaner and eventually established a direct-to-the-consumer sales force which led to the continuing success of Electrolux. The company is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. The company has been in this area since 1970. It has a plant in Bristol and one in Piney Flats. The company's 800 combined workforce manufactures floor care products including uprights, canisters, central vac systems, shampoos, polishers as well as commercial uprights.

Community Activities: Actively supports and sponsors Junior Achievement, holds fund raisers for the American Heart Association, gives regular contri-

butions and support to various educational facilities, Boys & Girls Club, law enforcement and arts. The company is also active with United Way.

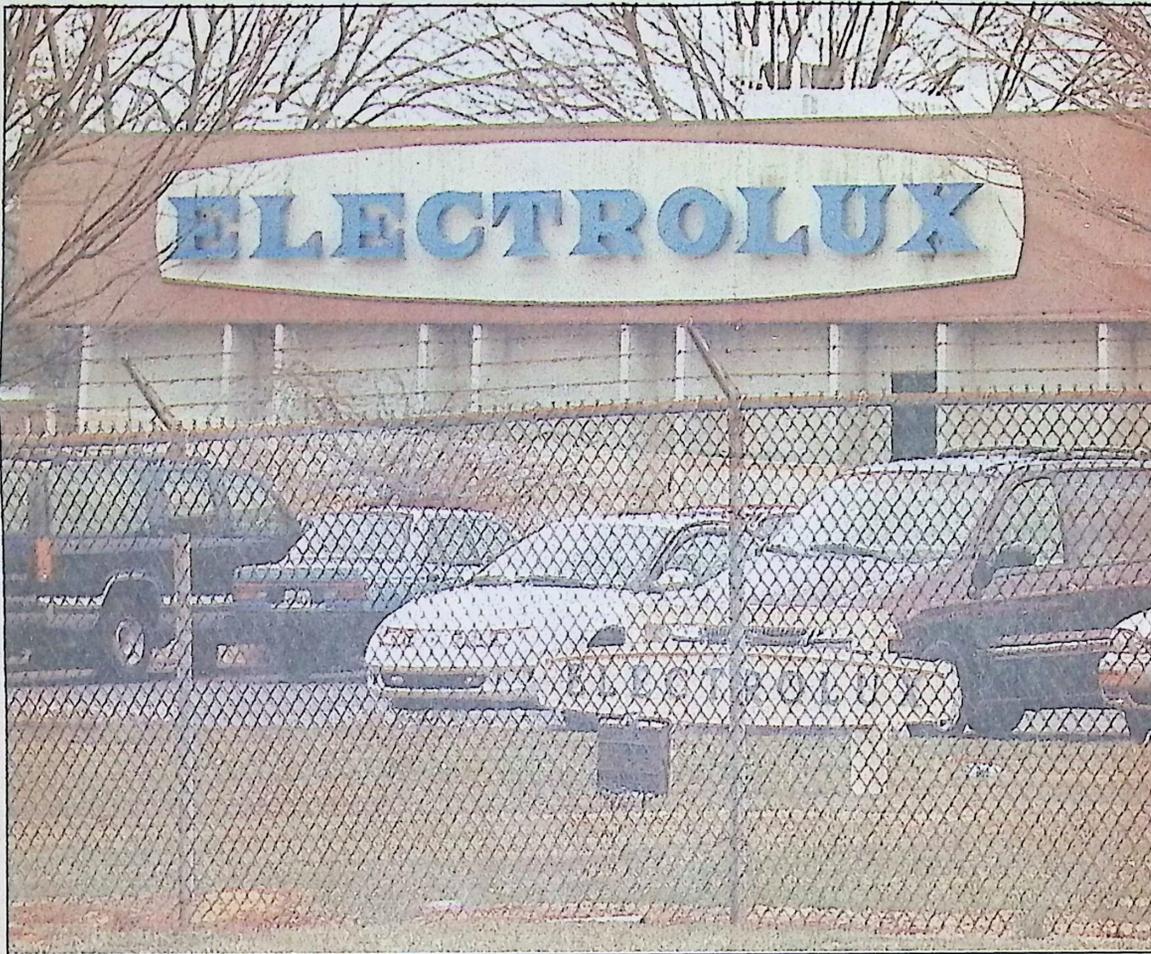
Claim to Fame: In 1985, the company began a manufacturing revitalization-modernization program that resulted in a multi-million dollar renovation of the Bristol facility and a dedicated motor plant in Piney Flats. The Electrolux-Bristol plant is recognized as one of the most modern manufacturing facilities in this area, using the latest advanced technology. Twenty-five percent of the workforce has 25-plus years with the company.

Other Facts: Electrolux presently operates from more than 600 locations with thousands of sales representatives throughout the U.S. and Canada, and the company markets its products through distributors worldwide.



Bristol Herald Courier
28 Feb 1999

Electrolux cuts reported



David Crigger/Bristol Herald Courier

The Electrolux plant at the Tri-Cities Industrial Park is shown Tuesday afternoon. Company officials declined comment on reports by employees that they had been told the Piney Flats plant would be closed and several departments at the Bristol Virginia plant eliminated.

*Up to 250
face layoff,
say workers*

By ANNE GRUNDON

Bristol Herald Courier

Electrolux employees said Tuesday that the company will close its Piney Flats facility and eliminate several departments at its Bristol Virginia plant, leaving as many as 250 people without jobs.

Company officials declined comment, however, confirming only that they spent the day meeting with employees of the two local plants. Those meetings will continue today, said James McCain, chief operating officer of the Bristol facility.

"After we've finished meeting with employees, we'll issue a news release," he said. "It'll probably be late afternoon."

Neil Henson, director of human resources for the local facility, also declined comment.

"We're still trying to get the word to employees," Henson said. "We need time to do that."

Officials at the company's headquarters in Dallas referred all questions to McCain.

Electrolux employees began calling the *Bristol Herald Courier* at about 11 a.m. Tuesday to report that McCain and Henson had been holding meetings with employees at the two plants.

Several employees, all of whom

See ELECTROLUX, Page 14A

Feb. 28, 2001

ELECTROLUX

From Page 1A

asked not to be identified, said they were notified during those meetings that between 200 and 250 of the company's 800 local workers will lose their jobs in the next several months.

Those affected work at the Piney Flats facility, where vacuum cleaner motors are made, and at the Bristol facility producing plastic molding and working on the brush line and bag line, the employees said. Those at the Piney Flats plant with the most seniority will be transferred to

Bristol to work so that facility can be closed, employees reported.

They said McCain and Henson made the announcement but did not allow employees to ask questions. Workers were told that Henson would be assisting them in finding other jobs, but there was no mention of severance pay or extended benefits, employees interviewed said.

Those who will be affected by the pending layoffs currently earn between \$9 and \$17 per hour, one employee said.

"We've been hearing rumors for about three to four months, so we weren't surprised," one employee

said. "Anybody that's worked here less than 15 years is probably going to be gone."

Community leaders in Bristol Virginia and Sullivan County said they were unaware of plans for layoffs at either facility.

Bristol Virginia City Manager Paul Spangler and Mayor Jerry Wolfe said they had not been notified of changes at the Bristol facility. Jack Lawson, Sullivan County economic developer, said he had heard rumors of the layoffs but had been unable to confirm them.

"I've not heard anything officially," Lawson said. "I'm still checking on this."

KINGSPORT TIMES NEWS

FRIDAY

Good morning from:

Bobby Talley
of Kingsport.

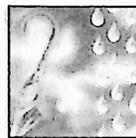


Tomorrow:

A local family's "most famous" bull has been recognized in the 2001 Spring Sire Evaluation Report. In Agriculture.



Today



Saturday



Sunday

Today: High: 55-60 — Low: 40-45

• One more mild day; spotty rain possible.

Saturday: High: Low 50s — Low: Upper 30s

• Rain developing with locally heavy rainfall possible.

Extended: Highs: 30s to 40s — Lows: 30-40

• Rain will continue Sunday and may mix with and change to snow late. Snow or snow showers are possible Monday.

FAST ACTS

The seven judges of the Virginia Supreme Court are elected to staggered, 12-year terms by the state's General Assembly.

March 2, 2001

Price 50 Cents

★

5 Sections



85th Year, Number 61

Electrolux confirms plant closing

■ **Some equipment** and personnel from the Piney Flats plant will be moved across the state line to the Bristol plant.

By **GARREN SHIPLEY**
gshipley@timesnews.net

PINEY FLATS — Electrolux confirmed Thursday that it will reduce its work force by some 200 jobs and close its factory in Piney Flats in the next 24 months.

In a news release issued Thursday, officials of the vacuum cleaner manufacturer confirmed rumors that had been circulating for days that the facility was closing.

The layoffs are part of a major shift in the company's manufacturing methods, officials said.

Component manufacturing, like the motor plant in Piney Flats, will be outsourced.

In its place, the company will institute a "full" and "lean manufacturing" process that officials say will more closely resemble an automobile manufacturing plant.

Some equipment and personnel from the Piney Flats plant will be moved across the state line to the Bristol plant, officials said.

A new ISO quality program will also be introduced at the Bristol facility, which produces plastic molding and

installs brushes and bags into completed sweeper units, but the changes will mean job cuts.

"It is anticipated that during the 24-month time period required to implement the plan that Electrolux employment in the area will be reduced from 800 to 600 people," said James McCain, the plant's chief operating officer, in a written statement.

Company officials later said rumors of the shutdown began when the company informed its employees before any announcements were made to the media.

The cuts are a local reflection of a February announcement that the company would cut 2.3 percent of its

worldwide work force.

"Electrolux remains very strong financially, and it is anticipated that these changes will significantly improve the company's competitive position," McCain said.

A slowdown in the North American market toward the end of last year and uncertainties in the year ahead were factors in the decision to cut the jobs, officials said.

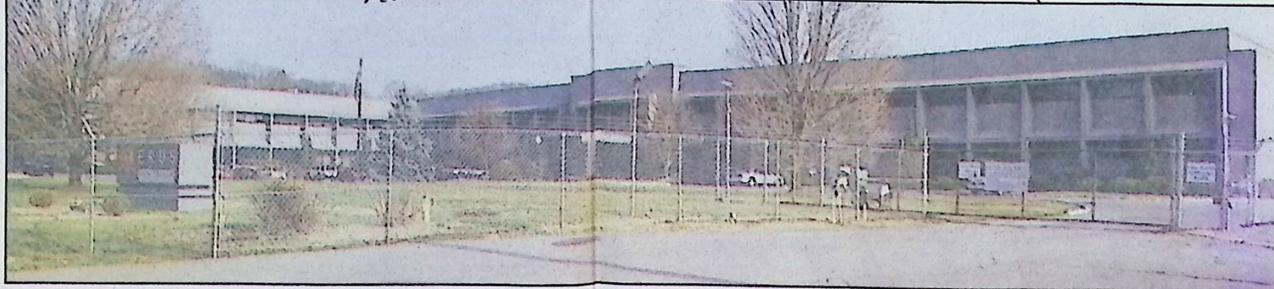
Even after the cuts, shares of Electrolux AB were recently upgraded by Prudential from "accumulate" to "strong buy," but the stock was off a full point — 3 percent of its value — at the end of the day, closing the session at 32³/₁₆.

VF Company Files Electrolux

The three-decade-old Aerus Electrolux operation in Bristol Virginia will shut down by the end of May, idling as many as 250 workers.

Bristol Herald Courier

VV Electrolux



Andro Teague/Bristol Herald Courier

Aerus Electrolux plant in Bristol to shut down

As many as 250 workers to lose jobs

By MIKE STILL

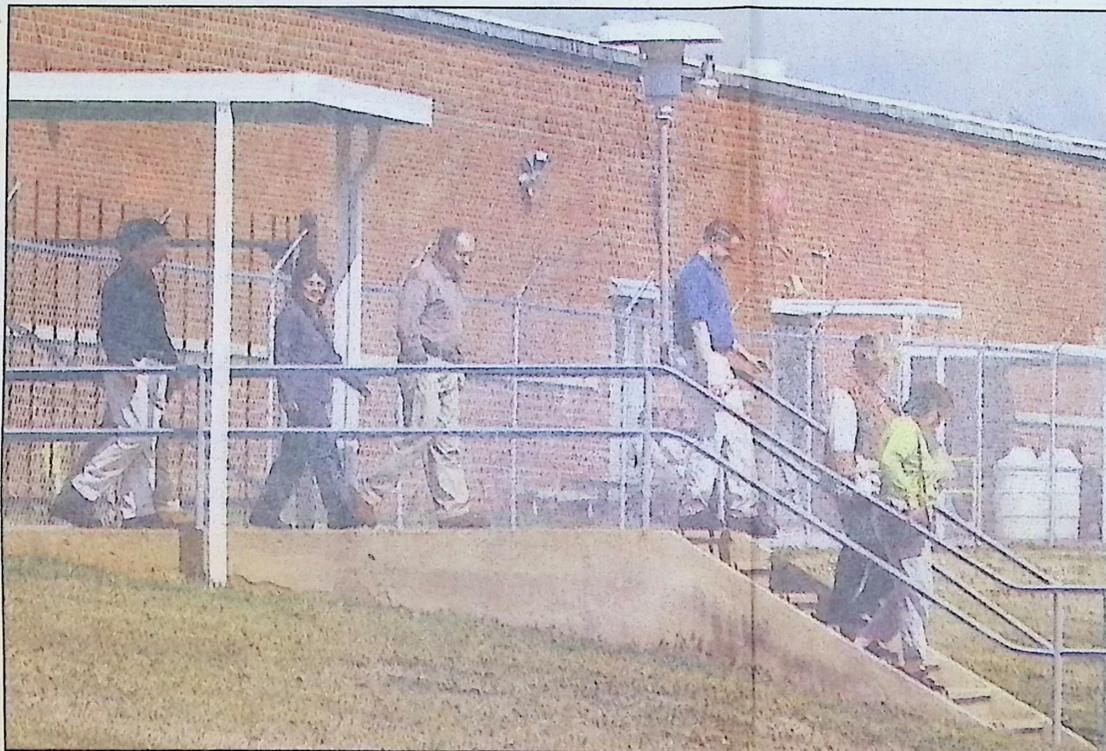
Bristol Herald Courier

The Aerus Electrolux plant in Bristol Virginia will shut down by the end of May, idling as many as 250 workers, officials of the vacuum cleaner manufacturer said Thursday.

Employees filed into the plant Thursday morning to attend a teleconference with Aerus Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Joseph P. Urso, who told them of the shutdown.

"We are extremely grateful to our employees in Bristol and to the surrounding community for all of their support and efforts over the years," he said. "And we are very sorry for any adverse impact that this decision may have on our employees, their families and friends in the Bristol area."

Company officials said in a statement that Aerus had signed an



Andro Teague/Bristol Herald Courier

Aerus Electrolux employees leave the building for lunch Thursday hours after learning that the plant will soon close.

See PLANT, Page 15A

PLANT

From Page 1A

agreement with The Eureka Co. — a subsidiary of Swedish firm AB Electrolux — to have Eureka's El Paso, Texas, facility take over assembly and some manufacture of Aerus vacuum cleaners, floor polishers, floor shampoos and air-filtration devices now made at the Bristol plant.

Aerus and AB Electrolux are separate corporations.

The production shutdown and move were expected to start immediately and be complete in May.

Urso said implementing outsourcing opportunities — such as the contracting of Aerus production to an outside firm — would "lower the cost and improve the supply of Aerus products and services."

About 250 employees in the production side of the plant were given 60 days notice required under the federal Warren Act, said Aerus Vice President and General Counsel Jeff Harvey, although transfer of operations was expected to take between 90 and 120 days.

The transfer to El Paso will include production equipment at

On the Net

Aerus Electrolux:
www.electroluxusa.com

the Bristol site, he said.

Aerus will continue handling product development, sales and marketing and franchise-ownership opportunities, according to the statement. About 100 support and administrative jobs were to remain at the Bristol plant.

Harvey, when asked whether any jobs were cut effective Thursday, said "not many, even if there were any."

The statement called the closing and transfer a step in "Aerus' commitment to continuous improvement and cost-rationalization of all company activities."

The three-decade-old Bristol operation, which began as Electrolux, was bought in 1998 by Engles, Urso, Follmer Capital Corp. and renamed Aerus. Urso is a partner and CEO of Engles, Urso, Follmer.

Aerus shut down its 200-employee plant in Piney Flats last year, followed by two rounds of Bristol facility layoffs totaling 100 employees from last August to

November.

"We look for opportunities to realize economies of scale," Harvey said of the production transfer. "We specifically were concerned and sought an opportunity to improve outsourcing for our production."

Harvey, when asked whether the remaining Bristol operation would be moved to a smaller facility and the existing Aerus plant sold, said the company had no "immediate plans to do so."

When asked whether the shutdown was due to foreign product competition, he said it was not.

Aerus President James Scott said in Thursday's statement that the company plans to "make the transition as smooth as possible and will involve the assistance of various state agencies and private outplacement services."

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Aerus to move Bristol services to facility in Texas

■ About 340 employees of the former Electrolux facility will lose their jobs by the end of May.

By MATTHEW LANE
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BRISTOL, Va. — Aerus, formerly Electrolux, announced plans Thursday to move its product assembly and

distribution services from Bristol, Va., to El Paso, Texas, which will put some 340 employees out of work.

According to company officials, Aerus has signed an agreement with The Eureka Co., a subsidiary of AB Electrolux of Sweden, to provide certain manufacturing, product assembly and distribution services from a facility located in El Paso.

The transfer of the product assembly and distribution activities will begin immediately and is expected to be complete by the end of May.

Other support and administration functions currently performed at the Bristol facility will continue, and vendor relationships for most materials and accessories will be unaffected.

"The ability to provide customers

with the best overall value in today's competitive direct sales industry requires changes to the company's business practices, including the implementation of outsourcing opportunities to lower the cost and improve the supply of Aerus products and services," said Joseph P. Urso, chairman and chief executive officer of Aerus.

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Newsline

VF Electrolux

Aerus to move Bristol services to Texas facility

Continued from page 1A

Approximately 340 employees at the Bristol facility will be affected by Thursday's announcement.

"While we regret that this relocation will affect some of our valued Bristol employees, we intend to make the transition as smooth as possible and will involve the assistance of various state agencies and private outplacement services," said James Scott, Aerus president and chief operating officer.

Jerry Brown, director of the Bristol Virginia Economic Development Board, said Thursday's announcement was "very unfortunate" and the city is sorry that Aerus chose to relocate.

"Hopefully, the employees can be absorbed into the Tri-Cities market and find new jobs," Brown said. "I think a lot of people knew this company has been downsizing for quite awhile. I think a lot of people had anxiety about the operation once that was done."

Brown said the city is ham-

strung on new recruitment efforts due to the state-imposed moratorium on annexation.

"We don't have any additional land to create new industrial parks," Brown said. "Unfortunately, most of our efforts have to go toward rejuvenating land that's not being utilized within the city, and sometimes that takes a long time to get that done."

Bristol Tennessee City Manager Tony Massey said what affects one side of the state line also affects the other.

"We hate to see that announcement today. We're still one Bristol community, and whenever something like that happens on either side of the state line it has a negative impact regardless of the location," Massey said. "We're very focused right now in trying to do some things to improve our economic development efforts, and we're very heavily involved in the recruitment of several potential projects."

"Hopefully, if some of those come through, they would offset this announcement."

Aerus Electrolux closing Bristol plant

The Aerus Electrolux plant in Bristol Virginia will be put up for auction by Dec. 31.



BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BY MIKE STILL
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BRISTOL, Va. — Aerus Electrolux plans to close its plant here, ending a three-decade manufacturing and corporate-office presence in Southwest Virginia.

About 175 jobs will be eliminated and the facility put up for auction by Dec. 31, company Human Resources Director Teresa Carter said Tuesday.

Chief Executive Officer Joseph Urso, in

a statement issued Tuesday, said the company will consolidate all its operations at its Dallas headquarters "in its effort to rationalize costs of company activities."

Tuesday's announcement followed the vacuum cleaner manufacturer's decision in March to eliminate 250 jobs and to contract manufacturing to El Paso, Texas-based Eureka.

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CLOSING: Aerus Electrolux plant being idled

From Page A1

At that time, the company said foreign competition was not a factor in the manufacturing shutdown and that it had no immediate plans to move remaining administrative and support jobs from the Bristol facility.

Eureka is a subsidiary of Swedish-based AB Electrolux — a separate company from Aerus. In 2001, Aerus sold certain rights to the Electrolux brand name to AB Electrolux to distinguish the two corporations.

Carter said Tuesday that the manufacturing relocation was almost complete and that the closing would not affect Aerus sales offices in the region.

"It involved economies of scale," she said. "This is a large building, and it would be beneficial in the long term to bring these positions under the same roof in our Texas offices."

Carter said some employees would be offered the chance to relocate to Texas, although the number of those positions was not known Tuesday.

The workers affected by the March layoff announcement were given 60-day notices under the federal Warren Act, which made them eligible for job retraining and unemployment assistance.

Carter said the remaining workers also would receive Warren notices as various jobs are phased out through the year.

"One can only imagine the emotional pain of losing one's job through no fault of their own," wrote Aerus Chief Operating Officer James Scott in an undated release posted to the company's Web site. "Enough of the pain!"

He lauded employees for their willingness to train others to take their places.

"This is not about the pain, but about the true character of the people at Bristol and their passion for the core and for excellence," Scott said. "When the announce-

ment was made, it was clear that we needed the help of the plant personnel to transition the equipment and train the people in El Paso how to operate and maintain the equipment to make products for the core. In other words, train someone else to do the job you are losing."

Some Aerus employees were worried about their futures.

"I've had 34 years here and I've gotta give it up now," Freddy Honaker said Tuesday after hearing of the new round of layoffs. "Thirty-four years I've been here at this company."

"Fifty-eight years old — I ought to at least have six, seven more years of working," he said. "I thought I'd get it here, but I doubt it now."

Employee J.D. Johnson expressed concern about the possibility that jobs could be lost to cheaper foreign manufacturing.

"I've been here soon to be 15 years, and they announce that they're going to have to move the plant to El Paso, Texas, and rumor has it that part of it's going to made overseas — China, Mexico, places like that," he said.

"The company is making more money, more profits by taking the jobs elsewhere," Johnson said. "If every company does this, before long, who's going to buy the products? Who's going to be able to afford the products?"

The Bristol facility, which opened three decades ago as Electrolux, has seen changes as its parent company found itself under new ownership in 1998 when Engles, Urso, Follmer Capital Corp. bought the company.

Bristol's sister facility in Piney Flats, Tenn., was closed in 2001, leaving 200 workers unemployed, and the Bristol plant lost 100 positions later that year.

The company also has branched out in recent months from its traditional line of vacuum cleaners and home-cleaning products into

home stereo and entertainment systems.

Mayor Jerry Wolfe said Aerus' announcement was not a surprise.

"From the city's standpoint, it's certainly terrible and most directly felt by the employees," he said. "Our thoughts are with the families and the people losing their jobs."

Wolfe said the closing may have a positive long-term effect.

"It's an excellent facility, and Aerus has kept it well-maintained," he said. "I certainly think there are prospects out there that would appreciate this facility."

"Our economic development department will certainly be happy to help with the sale of the facility and to market it."

News Channel 11 producer Meredith Swanson contributed to this report.

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