

Plant managers change at Higgins Industries

VANDERBILT — Change in management was one of the major developments of 1981 at Higgins Industries.

J. Richard Yuill, plant manager at Vanderbilt who had been with the firm since 1939, retired from the position in April.

In announcing the change, C.H. Higgins Jr., president and chief executive officer of Higgins Industries, announced the promotion of Stanley Robinson to plant manager. Robinson had served as assistant plant manager.

Since joining Higgins Industries in 1956, Robinson has been a member of the Northern Michigan Personnel Association and

an active participant in numerous community - management and planning groups.

For 16 years he was president of the Vanderbilt Board of Education, and also served on the Otsego County Planning Commission.

Yuill was continuing as a member of the firm's board of directors. Also chairman of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners, Yuill serves as a consultant to Higgins Industries to review and study various special projects.

Higgins Industries is a manufacturer of seamless brass and copper tubing and welded brass tubing.

Roberts Boring: special machinery for farming, oil, automotive

GAYLORD — Building special machinery from customer specifications is the business of Roberts Boring and Manufacturing.

Owned and operated by George and Sharon Roberts, the firm supplies the

machining needs of the aircraft, automotive, oil and agricultural industries.

Since its opening in 1978, the firm has moved to its present location and new building in the Gaylord Air Industrial Park. Roberts employs more than 20 people.

Meeting north's freight needs

PETOSKEY — Headquartered in Petoskey, Parker Motor Freight meets the growing freight needs of Gaylord, Otsego County and northern Michigan.

Parker Motor Freight is a motor common carrier and has terminals in Petoskey,

Detroit, Cheboygan, Traverse City, Cadillac, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Flint and Pontiac.

President of the trucking operation is John Parker.

Aspen's plans

BY BRAD FLORY

Herald Times Staff Writer

GAYLORD — Plans for commercial and residential development of about 120 acres in Gaylord's Aspen Park area (located on the former site of the Gaylord Country Club) are about to go off the drawing board and into construction.

Developers expect new businesses to be in operation in the area within a year. Homes are expected to be under construction at the same time.

When fully developed, the property, owned by the Aspen Park Center development group, will be divided into 19 platted commercial lots and eight residential lots.

The parcel set for development runs about 1,880 feet to the east of Old 27 South, from Grandview Boulevard south about 3,400 feet.

Sewer lines, storm sewers, water and bases for two roads are expected to go into construction there within the next two weeks.

Those improvements, prerequisites for development, have been contracted to M&M Excavating of Gaylord at a cost just under \$300,000. Further construction will push total construction costs to about \$400,000, according to a representative of developers.

The total cost of development in the district, including expenses such as legal and engineering fees, is estimated at \$625,000.

FUNDING in that amount is expected through the sale of bonds to be repaid through special tax assessments to Aspen Park landowners over a 10-year period.

Included in the proposed special assessment district is the K mart store presently under construction. The remainder of the district is controlled by Aspen Park Center.

Development will be concentrated along Old 27 South and two new roads to be constructed.

Parkway Road will run south from Grandview Boulevard, between the Elks Lodge and the Midway Family Center, for about 1,300 feet. Parkway will connect Grandview Boulevard with the other planned road, Commerce Road.

Commerce will run east from Old 27, then turn to the south, and dead end after about 3,700 feet.

Parkway Road will run through land platted for commercial development. Parcels around the western end of Commerce Road will also be platted commercially, but areas further east on Commerce will be developed for residential use.

Residential lots will include six 10-acre lots and two five-acre parcels.

Railway critical

GAYLORD — Without the railroad, there would have been no Gaylord.

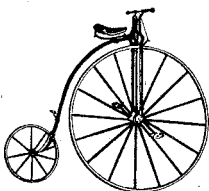
Rail transportation was basic to the economic development of the area in the latter 19th Century. And today, rail service is still critical to Otsego County's economic health.

Community leaders recognized that when the Detroit and Mackinac Railway was saluted at the 1981 Alpenfest Honors Luncheon in July at Hidden Valley.

Charles Pinkerton, president of the Tawas-based rail company, noted at the luncheon that the 400-mile line in northern Michigan has guaranteed rail service for a minimum of 25 years, providing industry an alternative means of transportation.

The railway loops from Bay City to Mackinaw City north, and south through Alpena and on to Tawas and Bay City.

In 1980, the Michigan Transportation Commission purchased 105 miles of the trackage from Sallings crossing in Otsego County to Linwood in Bay County from the bankrupt Penn Central and allowed D&M to operate it and derive revenues without subsidy.



Starline: everything including sinks

GAYLORD — Starline Distributors, Inc. opened its Gaylord branch at 1622 Dickerson Road in 1980.

A large public showroom displays many examples of kitchen cabinets, appliances, carpeting, sinks, Congoleum and other

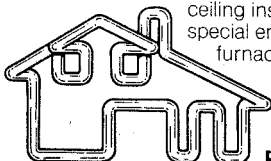
items for kitchen and bathrooms.

The firm sells to builders and the public, providing delivery as well.

The firm has a Traverse City branch and a main branch in Flushing. Gaylord branch manager is Jeff Smith.

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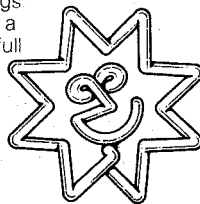
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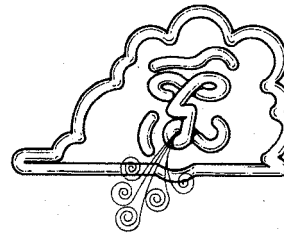
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