

"Rock Hill, South Carolina, Will Never Be The Same Again," Editor O. C. L. Cobb's Death A Loss To Rock Hill

Rock Hill, South Carolina, will never be the same again.

Those ten words in the first paragraph of a color picture feature story of the National Geographic were written three years ago by William H. Nicholas who used as the title of his article, "Dixie Spins the Wheel of Industry."

The opening theme of his article was the change at Rock Hill brought about by the efforts of Charles L. Cobb.

"Things began to happen," the magazine writer observed, when Mr. Cobb began putting Rock Hill "definitely on the map of Southern industrial progress."

"More and more, Dixie is converting its own raw materials into manufactured goods instead of shipping them north and buying them back as finished products. More and more, Southern factories are selling their output in other sections of the United States and abroad.

"These giant strides of the South in balancing its economy spell increased prosperity everywhere below Mason and Dixon's line."

The remainder of the detailed account dealt with individual successes and company expansions in the 10 state area, but of all those the writer contacted, the impetus for the entire feature in the National Geographic was the enthusiasm and imagination of Charles L. Cobb.

Rock Hill, South Carolina will never be the same again, we repeat at this point of this article, because Mr. Cobb, at 69, died in Rock Hill March 14, 1953 after a long illness. He was president of the People's Trust Co., and chairman of the board of the People's National Bank of Rock Hill. He was a native of nearby Chester.

The editors of the Tri-State Safety Journal came into this region four years ago, from Wilmington, Del., and among the first we met was Mr. Cobb who subsequently became our advisor and confidant.

In time we came to learn of Joslin Park, for we are constantly searching for stories of community betterment and



CHARLES L. COBB



ARCHIE O. JOSLIN

industrial-employee relations with a good theme of accomplishment.

"You should get the story of Joslin Park," Mr. Cobb said to us on one of our visits to his office. The article appeared in these columns in 1951, and from Archie O. Joslin, president of M. Lowenstein & Sons, Inc., the owners of the great Rock Hill Printing and Finishing Co., we were honored to receive the following comment on the story we told of our dear friend Charlie Cobb.

Mr. Joslin's letter said:

"What you wrote about Charlie Cobb is exactly what happened. I have emphasized many times, both publicly and privately that Charlie Cobb is really the one responsible for the Bleachery being located in Rock Hill. He had tremendous vision in our first conversation back there years and years ago, in doing things that brought about the erection of the Bleachery in the community at Rock Hill. At that time he promised the community that we would employ about 500 people. We now employ approximately 2,700 people. I am

certainly happy that you referred to Mr. Cobb in your newspaper as he deserves special mention in every way for the Bleachery being located at Rock Hill."

The substance of our story was that Mr. Joslin wanted to locate a plant in this section but he needed plenty of water. Charlie Cobb replied, the story goes, "we have the water near here—we will bring the river to you."

And how did Charlie Cobb react to this unexpected article—we had the material gathered, the photos readied, and in print before he knew of the preparation. We were honored to have this comment from him and now make it a part of this tribute to him, by quoting from his letter, dated Sept. 1, 1951 in which he said:

'YOU WERE certainly most kind and generous to feature old man Cobb in your story of the Rock Hill Printing & Finishing Company. I do not feel that all the nice things that folks have said about me over the years in connection with the establishment of the Bleachery in Rock Hill have been deserved. Many happy days have resulted since my efforts and the efforts of my associates in this direction. If the company meant nothing more, the presence of so many fine families it has brought to our community would be worth it."

WE RELATE this episode in the 100 year growth of Rock Hill, for Charlie Cobb made Rock Hill grow and made possible the vast employment of thousands and thousands of men and women, and in turn, industrial humanitarians like Archie O. Joslin and W. H. Grier, a native of Fort Mill, have provided recreation and benefits for these people.

After Charlie Cobb attended public schools—he began a climb upward in the business world. He had been an active banker more than 50 years.

He started out first as a newspaper boy in 1891, selling papers before and after school hours. By the time he was 15 he had built up a \$100 a month business and was employing other youths to help him.

We have been with him, on the streets of Rock Hill, and noticed he bought papers from newsboys—an armful of them—an encouragement we felt he was giving to future businessmen of this land of opportunity. He didn't need the papers, he had desks piled with material to read, and more at home, but he was helping the boy in a job which he once

Helped T. Bleachery

had.

AT 16 HE SAW his first as a messenger with the Savings Bank was consolidated in 1899 of Rock Hill under the name of Rock Hill under the name of Cobb was later elected assistant signed in 1905 to organize the along with a cousin, John R. I years later the bank was in insurance and real estate dis state as the Peoples Trust C these institutions until his death.

Being the oldest man in business in South Carolina, he the field. He was president Association in 1922, and was the National Bank Division ciation. He was elected a d branch of the Federal Reserve. He was a member of t trustees for many years, and aide-de-camp to Govs. Richar and I. C. Blackwood.

For years he wrote a c the Rock Hill Herald, and in 1 story in the Saturday Evening graphic.

He was twice married, th Hope Ratteree of Rock Hill, wife, the former Ruth Cather survives. Also surviving are Jr.; a grandson, Charles L. Cobb, president of the Nation Rock Hill, South Carolina

Textron's 25th

Anniversary

Textron Plant Expansion In This Area \$24-Million Since End Of World War II

Anderson is given special attention in the 25th annual report of Textron, Inc., received today.

"Within a 20 mile radius of our Anderson, S. C. headquarters we are now producing rayon, acetate and nylon filament fabrics on approximately 4000 new looms housed in four ultramodern single-story, windowless, air conditioned buildings," the report reveals.

"At present our only remaining New England operations are at North Smithfield and East Greenwich in Rhode Island and at Lowell, in Massachusetts," the stockholders are informed.

Included in the Anderson group "are the Peerless Mill at Belton and the Honea Path mill which were purchased in 1952 and enlarged to 960 and 600 looms respectively. Present total productive capacity for all types of cloth amounts to one quarter of a billion yards annually.

"With the completion next month of our second new building at Williamston, South Carolina, major expansion and modernization of our facilities in the Anderson area will have cost in the aggregate more than \$24,800,000 since the last World War. The Directors plan to keep future expenditures for fixed assets well within our depreciation provision.

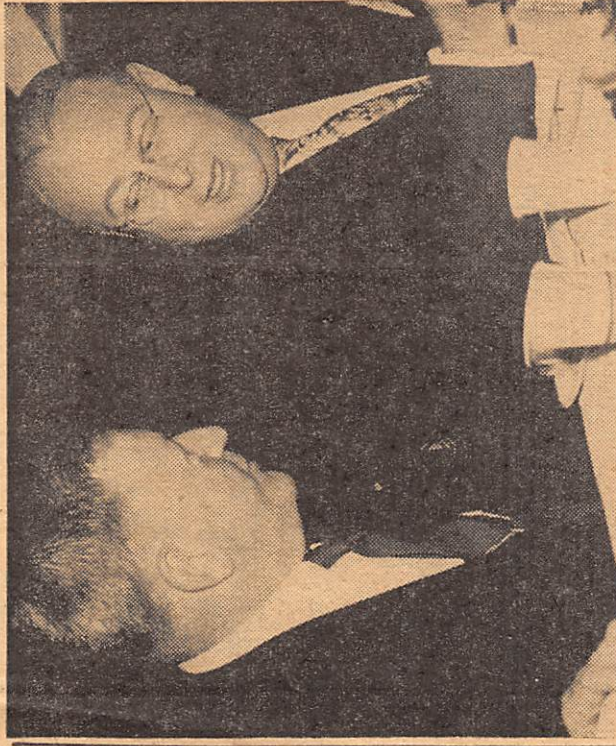
"In the near future all accounting functions will be consolidated in our Anderson office which is located at the hub of our southern manufacturing operations. Our continuing policy will be to eliminate all unnecessary over-

plete charge of purchasing, manufacturing and selling.

"During the last two years there has been a persistent style trend away from filament rayon and acetate fabrics to cotton goods in the lower price ranges and to nylon in the better constructions. As a result, in the twelve month period ending last June, there was a 30% drop in the consumption of such fabrics from that of the previous twelve months through June 1951. Stocks of filament textile yarns in the hands of producers exceeded 98 million pounds last April compared with a post-war normal of 8 million. It is hoped, however, that by fall there will be a normal pickup in volume and price. When staple filament fabrics are again produced and sold at a profit, we feel confident that our modern, low-cost plants, with the anticipated improvement in operating efficiency, will show a satisfactory return on investment.

"Because of continuing strong demand for print cloths and combed lawns, a major portion of the second quarter production of our cotton mills has already been sold at satisfactory prices. It is anticipated that there will be an adequate supply of raw cotton this year at prices close to the Government loan values. Mills, converters, cutters and retailers are therefore operating at high rate of turnover with little fear of inventory losses.

"The



ROBERT CUSHMAN, executive vice president of Textron and **Willie P. Carter**, president of the Hartwell, Ga., Chamber of Commerce, are shown as they chatted during the recent annual dinner meeting of the chamber. Mr. Cushman was principal speaker at the meeting.

Cushman Speaker At Hart Meeting

HARTWELL, Ga., More than 200 business men, farmers, officials, and civic and industrial leaders from Piedmont Georgia and South Carolina were guests at the Hart County Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet here.

Highlights of the evening's program were an address by Robert M. Cushman, executive vice president of Textron Southern, presentation of outstanding player awards to basketball players who participated in the recent Hart County tournament and selections from

Cushman praised the people of Hartwell and Hart County and gave credit to the Hart Chamber of Commerce for bringing Textron Southern here.

GUESTS include Ben T. Hult of Atlanta, commissioner of labor for Georgia; Mayor William C. Johnston, Anderson; J. I. Allman, assistant superintendent of State Department of Education; Judge Clark Edwards, Jr., Elberton;

HUFFINES President

s Named resident

of man-made fibre fabrics. From 1941 until 1947, Huffines was an executive of Burlington Mills. Since 1947 he has been with Textron. He attended the University of North Carolina 1922-24 and was graduated in 1926 from the Philadelphia Textile Institute. From 1929 to 1933 he represented Rockfish Mills of Hope Mills, N. C., in New England, but returned to the South in 1933 as president of