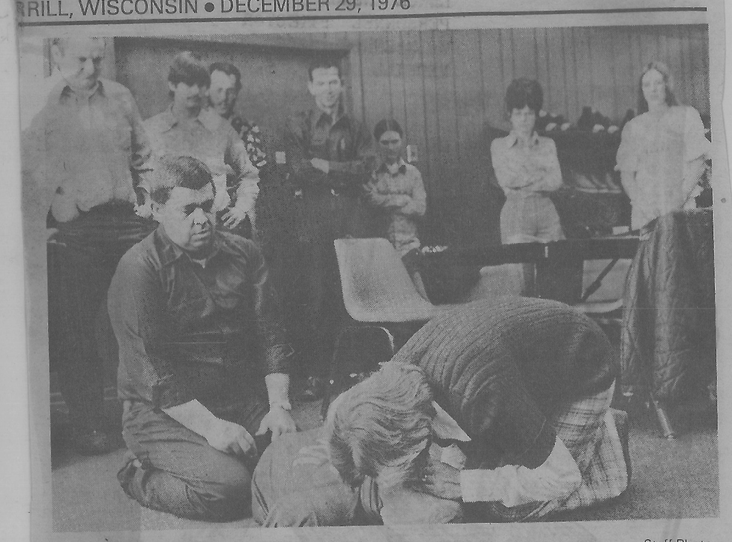
12-14-76



Chat with Santa

Kelly Welch, 5, received a bag of candy from Santa Claus Tuesday evening at the Weinbrenner Shoe Co. Kelly is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Welch, 807 Jefferson St., Merrill, a vulcanization press operator at the plant. Santa's trip was sponsored by the company for employee's children.

RRILL, WISCONSIN • DECEMBER 29, 1976

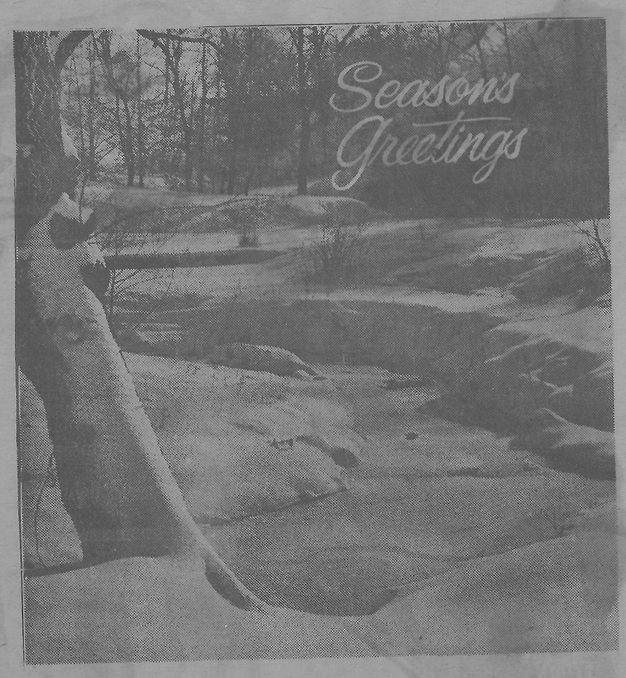


Staff Photo

Industry backs first aide

Georgia Radloff, 101 E. 10th St., Merrill, secretary at Merrill Manufacturing Co., is seen here performing cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on a first aide dummy as the instructor Thomas Beckman looks on. Radloff was one of 18 local company employees who took the first aide classes conducted by the North Central Technical Institute (NCTI) aimed at industries who must meet compliance with OSHA standards. The 18 who represented Weinbrenner Shoe Company, Anson & Gilkey Co., and Merrill Manufacturing Co. took the 15 hour course at Weinbrenner. The three hour sessions were conducted during regular work hours on Dec. 10, 13, 16, 17 and 20. Instructor Beckman, who is also a local firefighter, has taught the first aide course with a fire techniques course for NCTI for over five years. Visual aides used for the employee's training course was supplied by the Merrill Fire Department.

12/20/76



Nature is a winter wonderland . . . a feeling

of anticipation is in the air . . . and

we're wishing you joy at Christmastime!

Heartfelt greetings from

Weinbrenner Shoe Co.

- Antigo, Wisconsin -

Our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

weinbrenner
SHOE COMPANY
and factory store
MERRILL, WISCONSIN



MERRILL, WISCONSIN • FEBRUARY 9, 1977



Pressure check . . . Staff Photo

Alicia Buehler, Wausau, an employee of the A. Ward Ford Institute checked Robert Jackson's blood pressure during a hypertension screening clinic at the Weinbrenner Shoe Co. Tuesday. The institute, a specializing in cardio-vascular research and prevention will provide the service at four other Merrill factories this month. The group provides the service free of charge to business and industry. The Weinbrenner clinic continued through today.

8 THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL Sunday, March 13, 1977



—Journal Photo by William Meyer

Employes at Weinbrenner Shoe Co. take pride in their workmanship

Page 8—The Daily Herald, Wausau-Merrill, Wis. —Tuesday, March 8, 1977

Weinbrenner campaigning for ITC proposal to restrict shoe imports

By LEE STROMBERG
Staff reporter

Weinbrenner Shoe Company in Merrill has begun an intensive campaign in support of a proposal by the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) which would place tighter restrictions on shoe imports in an effort to protect jobs.

The effort has included a letter - writing campaign as well as petitions sent to President Jimmy Carter and to legislators urging support of the ITC proposal.

Monday, it also included a personal plea by company officials to a staff member of Rep. David Obey, D - Wausau. Jerry Madison, district representative for Obey's office, said he would contact Obey today on the matter.

"I am sure he will tell me he will urge presidential passage of the ITC proposal," Madison said Monday.

The ITC concept, in effect, would amount to a trade - off of higher shoe prices to protect jobs in the U.S. The commission has stated the shoe import restrictions planned would cost consumers an estimated $170 million or more, but would create or preserve 10,000 domestic jobs.

(The American Importers Association, opponents of the plan, claim ITC's proposal will cost consumers $1.5 billion the first year.)

On Jan. 6, the ITC recommended implementation of a tariff quota system. Under the plan, non - rubber footwear imports from each foreign supplier would be allowed up to 1974 levels under the current 10 per cent tariff.

Anything above that figure would be subject to a tariff of 40 per cent that would be reduced gradually back to 10 per cent during the next five years.

The commission's system will automatically take effect shortly if not blocked by a presidential veto, and even then it could face an override vote in Congress.

Foreign imports of shoes have had a dramatic effect on the shoe industry in the U.S. The American Footwear Industries Association, supporters of the ITC plan, claim that since 1968 shoe imports have been the major factor in closing more than 300 plants in the U.S. and the loss of 70,000 jobs representing a payroll of $500 million.

Lance Nienow, personnel manager at Weinbrenner's, said the inexpensive foreign shoes are the result of "cheap labor."

"It's unfair and is clearly a matter of wages," he said. "Countries can pay their workers 50 or 60 cents an hour while here in the U.S. employes get $3.50 per hour. Even with the 40 per cent tariff, imports will pose problems for U.S. suppliers."

The impact of foreign shoes has had a direct effect in the closing of several state - based shoe companies, including two Weyenberg Shoe Company plants in Portage and a company in Edgerton.

A Weinbrenner plant in Antigo has had periodic shutdowns, mainly because of Korean and Taiwan competition. The plant manufactures casual footwear, a shoe style that is also flooding the U.S. market from foreign sources that can charge much less for their shoes.

Nienow said Weinbrenner's Merrill and Marshfield plants have not been strongly affected by the foreign imports yet, mainly because the shoes manufactured at the two plants are not the type heavily imported. Safety, work and service shoes are major styles manufactured at the plants.

"We aren't affected as much now, but we could be in the future," he said.

About 940 workers are employed at the three area Weinbrenner plants. Nienow said that about 900 of the employes have signed petitions sent to the President and legislators urging passage of the ITC proposal.

Also, about 120 letters from Merrill plant employes have been forwarded to Washington, D.C. That letter - writing effort is expected to increase this week.

Local union officials have also urged support of the ITC plan and asked Madison Monday to relay their message to Rep. Obey.

"I don't think some of the (workers) here realize the seriousness of the situation," one union member said.

ITC commissioners stated in a lengthy report that there has been "significant idling of footwear plants," and capacity use of the nation's plants was down to 69 per cent in 1975 — nine per cent lower than in 1972.

The number of footwear firms has diminished from 597 in 1969 to 376 in 1975, the ITC report stated.

Profit levels are noticeably low, especially in smaller companies, and there is "significant unemployment," according to the report.

The American Footwear Industries Association estimated about 380 million pairs of shoes will be imported this year, representing 46 per cent of the nearly 800 million pairs of shoes sold each year in the U.S.



Power outage affects west side business district

A power outage this morning stopped activity in Merrill's West Side Business District. The incident occurred around 9:45 a.m.

According to Don Koll District Manager for the Wisconsin Public Service Corp. a 12,000 volt line that feeds the area fell into the Prairie River. A tree branch may have been the cause he said, if it swung into the lines. A definite cause will probably be determined at a later date.

Koll estimated that the amount of time the area would be without power would be between three and four hours.

Affected by the break was the Weinbrenner Shoe Co., the Park Place Apartments for the elderly, the Lincoln County Bank, Mel's Big Dollar, and all other businesses in that area along with much of the residential district north of West Main St. The area north and west of Franklin School was not affected he said.

The transmission line originated at the substation near the Merrill City Dam and runs west along the Wisconsin River.

EVERY HOME IN OUR TRADING AREA . . . NOW 13,517 COPIES EVERY WEEK!
Foto News - Wkly. June 1st, 77

MERRILL, WISCONSIN • AUGUST 3, 1977

Weinbrenner employees stage walkout

Weinbrenner employees left their jobs this morning (Wednesday) in a wildcat walk-out. The employees, members of the Boot and Shoemakers Union, Local 688 initiated the action after negotiations on a new contract were delayed an additional week. The original contract expired midnight, July 31. They were working under a temporary extension which was to have ended August 5. The date was extended this past Monday to August 12, however, which disturbed the employees.

According to a union spokesman, the union is hoping to meet with employees today in hopes of getting the workers back on the job as soon as possible. Approximately 455 employees are involved.

Industry

This community, with a lumbering and railroading heritage, still works with its hands.

"People work hard here and take pride in their workmanship," says Russ Herdina, manager of the Weinbrenner Shoe Co., which turns hides into boots here.

The major industries are Weyerhaeuser Co., which makes doors, particle board and veneer; Marshfield

Workers at Weinbrenner plant walk off their jobs

By DEWEY PFISTER
Herald staff

Production at the Weinbrenner Shoe Co. plant in Merrill was idled this morning by a walkout of members of Local 688 of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union.

About 450 factory and warehouse workers were involved in the work stoppage at the city's largest single manufacturing plant.

"Union officers can not and do not condone the strike," union President Ronald E. Kautz repeatedly stated to reporters this morning.

A 25 - month contract between the company and union expired at midnight Sunday. No strike vote had been taken.

The walkout, workers said, occurred because a negotiation session scheduled for this Friday was postponed by a federal mediator to next Thursday, Aug. 11.

Neither Kautz nor Lance Nienow, company personnel director, said they were certain why the meeting was postponed by the U.S. Mediation and Conciliation Service mediator.

Nienow said he did understand that the counsel handling negotiations for Weinbrenner recently had surgery and might not be able to attend a mediation session this week.

Kautz, at last word this morning, was still attempting to schedule a union meeting late this morning and arrange for an appearance by a business representative from the international union at Beaver Dam.

A new two - year contract negotiated by the union and company was rejected last month by the union membership.

The Weinbrenner plant in Merrill manufactures quality men's dress shoes and a variety of work and leisure footwear.

Total employment in Merrill is believed near 540, including office, supervisory and administrative personnel.

Plant and warehousing operations were affected by the walkout this morning.

Weinbrenner also has plants at Marshfield and Antigo.

The walkout in Merrill did not affect operations of the skeleton workforce at the Antigo plant, but it was reported that the 220 employes at Marshfield also went on strike shortly after 10 o'clock this morning.

MARSHFIELD
NEWS-HERALD

Wednesday, August 3, 1977 — 30 Pages — 3 Sections
Vol. 57, No. 127 — 15¢ — Marshfield, Wis.

Weinbrenner Workers Go On Strike

Some 230 workers at the Weinbrenner Shoe Co. plant here joined 400 others at the firm's plant in Merrill this morning in an apparent wildcat strike.

The strikers here are members of Local 717 of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, whose contract with the company expired July 31. They reportedly voted by a 2-1 margin on July 14 to go on strike after the contract expired. They left their jobs shortly after 10 a.m. today.

As the striking workers stood outside the plant's W. Third Street offices this morning, Local President James Weigel attempted to call them back in to work, saying their walkout was illegal and was not authorized by the national union.

Union shop steward Karl Koch told the News-Herald the strike was illegal because it was taking place before a negotiation session with a federal mediator, which is called for in their contract.

A mediation session had been set for Friday but was postponed prior to the walkout until Aug. 12. The company had reportedly made an offer which was turned down by the union, but

See—STRIKE—Page 11

Strike

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

neither Koch nor plant manager Russel Herdina would reveal the contents of the offer.

Workers outside the plant said their strike may be legal if proper notification was sent to federal and state mediation boards that the contract was still open. But they did not know whether such notification was made by local union leaders.

The strikers also said low wages were the reason for their walkout, claiming that several experienced seamstresses who have been with the firm for years were making only $2.30 per hour. One woman, who said she had been there for 24 years, said she was making $2.44 per hour.

Asked if their charges were true, Plant Superintendent Russel Herdina said later this morning that seamstresses are paid on a piecework basis, "so if some of them aren't efficient workers, perhaps they are (only earning $2.30 per hour). But others are earning more, too, so it's a two-way street."

Meanwhile, strikers outside the plant told Weigel they would go back to work only if a representative of the national union would meet them to answer questions.

The 400 Weinbrenner workers at Merrill, members of Local 688 of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, reportedly failed to show up for work earlier this morning.

Sources there said their action was also opposed by officials of their local.

The Weinbrenner Company is headquartered in Merrill and employs about 500 there, including the striking production workers and management and clerical personnel.

Walk Out Starts At Weinbrenner's

About 450 union employees at Merrill's Weinbrenner Shoe company staged a wildcat walkout early Wednesday morning to protest a change in dates for new contract negotiations.

Union representatives and a U.S. Labor Council bargaining agent representing the Weinbrenner company were scheduled to meet Aug. 5 to negotiate a new contract. A federal mediator moved the negotiating date back to Aug. 11 because the shoe company's representative was recovering from surgery and could not make the meeting.

The Weinbrenner employees are members of the Boot and Shoe Workers International union, which is affiliated with the AFL/CIO.

Shoe company personnel officer Lance Nienow termed the production halt a "work stoppage" rather than a strike, and said workers walked out of the plant at 6:30 Wednesday morning.

"It happened so fast it was unexpected," he commented. "There is no production at the moment."

Three hundred employees at company plants in Marshfield and Antigo are still on the job. The company has been located in Merrill since 1936. Nienow said the plant has not been struck before.

Contract negotiations between the company and the union started in July. Representatives met for three consecutive days then to resolve the economic issues. The Aug. 5 meeting was to be the second negotiating session.



Oscar Muehlbauer (right), supervisor of upper leather for the four Albert H. Weinbrenner Co., plants, in Merrill, Marshfield and Antigo, who will retire January 31, was honored Saturday evening by about 40 supervisory officials of the company and their wives at a dinner in the Badger hotel.

On behalf of the company, Edward Ott, vice president, director of manufacturing, presented Mr. Muehlbauer with a self-winding, white gold wrist watch.

Mr. Muehlbauer entered the Weinbrenner employ November 4, 1914, in Milwaukee, as an upper leather cutter. Later he was put in charge of the upper leather stockroom. He came to Merrill January 18, 1937, as cutting room supervisor of the plant. He was in charge of the cutting room in the Merrill plant until 1957 when he was promoted to his present position of upper leather supervisor of the four plants.

Following his retirement, Mr. Muehlbauer and his wife plan to take a trip to Florida. Also in their plans is a cruise to Jamaica and the Bahamas. They will return in the late spring.

(Jim Freiberg)

Merrill Herald 1-23-62

Union, Weinbrenner to meet with mediator

Contract negotiations will resume tomorrow between the Boot and Shoemakers Union and Weinbrenner Shoe Company under federal mediation. The meeting is the one which had been postponed earlier causing disturbed Weinbrenner employees to walk off their jobs last Wednesday.

While a new contract will be in the making at the negotiations, picketing employees contend they are more adamant than ever about their unauthorized strike maneuver. Several attempts by president Ron Kautz of the local Boot and Shoemakers Union to get workers back on the job have met with failure. Employees insist they will remain off the job until a satisfactory agreement in pay increases can be reached.

A 40¢ an hour pay raise over a two year period proposal was rejected by the employees prior to the July 31 expiration of their old contract because they believed it would exclude many workers due to technicalities in the piece work rating system.

According to employee spokesman Wayne Terrance many of the employees now only receive the minimum wage of $2.30 per hour. Personnel director at Weinbrenner's Lance Nienow however, rejected the $2.30 figure siting that the average wage was higher.

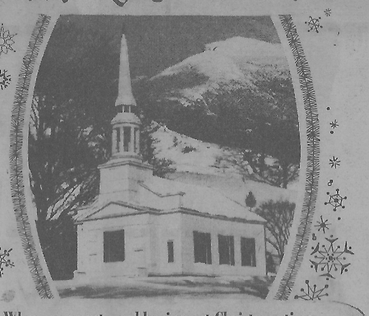
On Friday after negotiations the company and union mediator, Local 688 will meet. The contents of the meeting is unknown but some believe it may be set to discuss the outcome of contract bargaining and to take an ultimate strike vote.

Our Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



weinbrenner
SHOE COMPANY
and
FACTORY STORE
Merrill, Wisconsin

Merry Christmas



When we count our blessings at Christmas time we think of friends like you and wish you a beautiful holiday in a beautiful world!

WEINBRENNER
SHOE CO.
Marshfield, Wis. Ph: 384-2626

Weinbrenner to build new factory retail store

The Daily Herald
J.P. Chilsen, Merrill general manager
Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1978

Merrill area news

Weinbrenner Shoe Co. in Merrill has announced plans to construct a new factory retail store in the town of Pine River just north of the Pine Ridge restaurant off Highway 64.

Edward Weege, town chairman, explained the new shoe outlet facility is planned for construction in the spring with completion by mid-June.

The 5,000 - square - foot building will be located between the Pine Ridge restaurant and the Best Western Motel, a 40-unit facility also planned for spring construction.

Weinbrenner will transfer its retail operations from its Merrill factory to the new location. The company will continue to offer factory damaged shoes and seconds from its line of work, dress and recreational footwear at the new site.

"We have been pleased with the reception we have received from our retail store in Merrill," said James Greenlee, Weinbrenner president. "We have had excellent support from Merrill area residents, and tourists and visitors to the area have been very responsive to the availability of our products.

"The new store will provide us with expanded space and a better opportunity to serve our customers," he said.

The metal building with planned brick or stone facing will face east along Pine Ridge Avenue.

"I know that all area residents will be pleased with this further commitment of Merrill's largest employer to this area through this expansion of Weinbrenner Division operations here," Weege said.

The firm, a division of the Bata Shoe Co., employs about 600 persons in Merrill.

Greenlee said the company has signed a long-term lease with Donald and Gerald Whitburn of Merrill, owners of the land, who will construct the building and lease it to the firm.



Company honors its retirees 1978

The Weinbrenner Shoe Co. honored 10 persons who have recently retired after serving the company for 25 years or more. Honored at last week's banquet were (in the first row): Dolores Verhoven, Marshfield, 25 years; Helen Koehler, Mehlhorn, Shawano, 32 years; and Alice Cortwright, Merrill, 28 years. In the second row standing: Leslie Sukow, Merrill, 38 years; Estella Guckenburger, Marshfield, 34 years; Elmer Domres, Marshfield, 25 years; and Edward Martell, Merrill, 30 years. Retirees that were unable to attend included Ruth Radke, Marshfield, 26 years; Violet Oelke, Merrill, 27 years; and Evelyn Hanson, Merrill, 40 years.

WANT A STEADY JOB IN MERRILL?
LADIES (AND GENTLEMEN) HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

NORTH CENTRAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IS STARTING A THREE-WEEK INDUSTRIAL SEWING PROGRAM TO TRAIN POWER STITCHERS FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH THE WEINBRENNER SHOE COMPANY OR THE MIDWEST OUTERWEAR COMPANY OF MERRILL.

Training starts Monday, February 6 and will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for three weeks. Classes will be held at North Central Technical Institute in Wausau. The fee is $13.40. The program will be repeated starting February 27.

Get the edge over other job applicants! Train for a future in the garment industry! To enroll, or get more information, contact: Marie Bannon, coordinator, at NCTI-Wausau, phone 675-3331 — or Marilyn Havens, phone 842-3009.

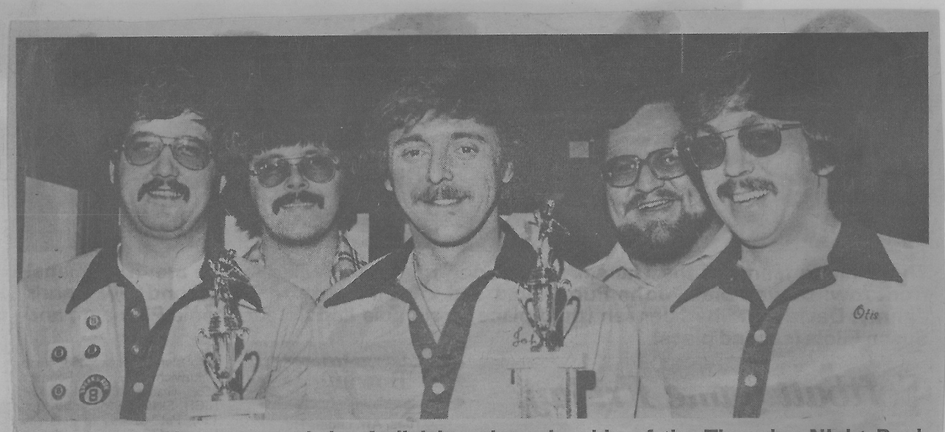
NCTI slates industrial sewing program

An industrial sewing program for area persons interested in becoming power stitchers has been announced by North Central Technical Institute.

Marie Bannon, NCTI, Home Economics coordinator, stated the three week course is designed to acquaint applicants with industrial sewing machines and help them develop skills in the areas of speed and accuracy.

Training will begin Monday, Feb. 6 and will be held from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday for three weeks. Classes will be held at North Central Technical Institute in Wausau. The fee is $13.40. The program will be repeated starting Feb. 27.

To enroll or for more information contact Mrs. Bannon, coordinator NCTI, 675-3331 or Marilyn Havens, 842-3009.



Weinbrenner Shoe captured the A division championship of the Thursday Night Pool League. Team members are: John Schenzel, Steve Wais, John Conrath, Gary Schuster, and Jim Robl. Missing from the photo are: Len Hodgson, Barry Benzinger, Mike Weckwerth, Neil Callahan and Bruce English.

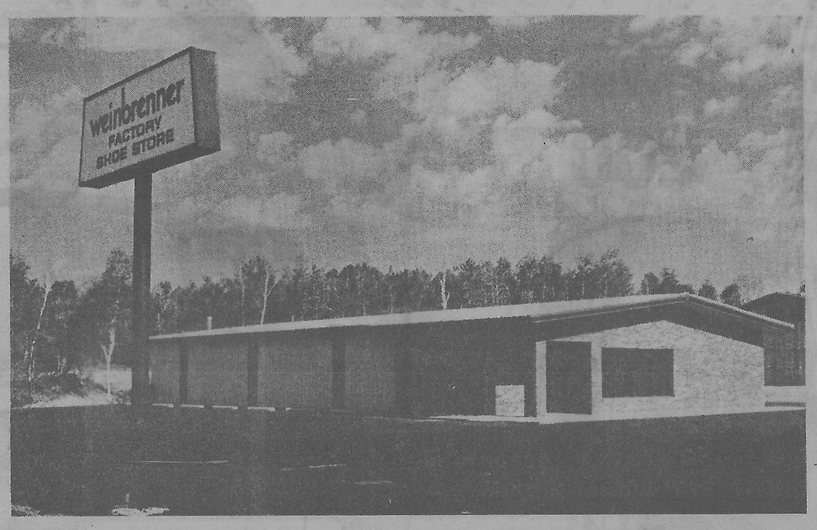


Say Good-Bye To The Old

Weinbrenner Factory Shoe Store

We're Moving To Our New Location In The Pine Ridge Oasis!

OPENING
MONDAY, JUNE 12
AT 9 A.M.



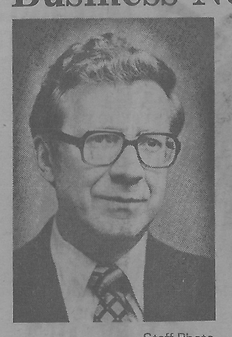
COME SEE US for Fantastic Savings on factory damaged footwear.

¼ MILE WEST OF THE HWY. 51 INTERCHANGE ON ROUTE 64

Our new larger store will have OVER 4,000 SQ. FT. of factory damaged footwear, attractively displayed for your selection.

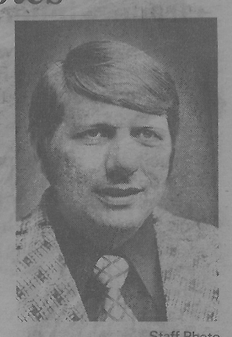
Hours: 9-5 Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Sat., 9-9 Fri., Noon-5 Sunday

Business Notes



. . . Staff Photo

E.W. Hielke



. . . Staff Photo

Lance Nienow

Two men have been promoted to positions of vice-president at the Weinbrenner Shoe Co., according to president James V. Greenlee. The promotions became effective at the beginning of the month.

E.W. "Bill" Hielke, 45, has been promoted to Vice-president, Administration. He has been employed by Weinbrenner for 16 years where he has served in various administrative capacities - most recently as Chief Administrative Officer. He is also the assistant treasurer of the Bata Shoe Co., Inc., USA.

Lance Nienow, 34, assumed the position of Vice-president, Human Relations. He has been employed by Weinbrenner Shoe for the last nine years as its personnel manager. Included in his new duties will be the overall human relations activities of the Bata Shoe Co., Inc., USA.