

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

WLBZ Radio Station Records

Manuscripts

1955

Sunset Industries Feature with C. Everett Page

WLBZ Radio

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/wlbz_station_records



Part of the [History Commons](#), and the [Radio Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

WLBZ Radio, (January 01 1955) "Sunset Industries Feature with C. Everett Page". *WLBZ Radio Station Records*. MS 608. Tape 1, part 1. Special Collections, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine. https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/wlbz_station_records/137

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in WLBZ Radio Station Records by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

University of Maine Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department

Transcript of a sound recording in MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine, 1931-1973

Title: Sunset Industries feature with C. Everett Page

Date: Not dated. Circa 1955.

Recording number: T.1.1

Length of recording: 6:27

[transcript begins]

Interviewer: If that's an unfamiliar noise to you, you may be perhaps interested to learn that it's the sound of hand looms being operated at Sunset Industries, Incorporated of Bangor at 40 Columbia Street. The manager of Sunset Industries here is C. Everett Page with Mrs. Dorothy Popham of Charleston as his assistant. Sunset Industries was originally started in October of 1953. The purpose of it, which we'll go into in a little more detail later, is to give employment to women over sixty years of age. Six women are employed here now. When the organization first began to operate, stitching operations were carried out as one of the steps in the assembly of women's blouses. About three weeks ago, the operation was changed to that of hand weaving. Mr. Page, I was wondering, could you tell us the exact purpose of Sunset Industries?

Mr. Page: Hello Bill. Welcome to Sunset Industries here at 40 Columbia Street. Sunset industries as you have already stated is organized for the purpose of giving those sixty or over employment. We hope eventually to give employment for men in this age group also and for different types of people who have had different types of businesses or professions in the past, not necessarily similar to what we have at the present time. We can't expect to employ all of those in this age group, but we are setting this up as a research thing, as a pilot plan to prove that those in this age group need not be retired automatically or reach compulsory retirement. In other words, it should be more optional.

Interviewer: Now this is not strictly a local setup either, is it? Headquarters in Massachusetts?

Mr. Page: We have a headquarters in Stoneham, Massachusetts, we have a plant there, one in Haverill Massachusetts, and one here.

Interviewer: What age ranges are represented in your employment here now?

Mr. Page: In this plant here they range from 61 to 72 inclusive and I'd say the average is about 65.

Interviewer: How many hours a week? It probably isn't a full week is it?

Mr. Page: Well yes, we think it is. These ladies work thirty seven and a half hours a week. They work five days. They come in to work at eight in the morning, work until four thirty and an hour at noon off and ten minute rest periods before noon and in the afternoon.

Interviewer: Well that's pretty close to the standard forty hour week.

Mr. Page: They're always here early in the morning and when it's a bad storm they're here that much earlier so to be sure to be here.

Interviewer: How long does it take to learn to operate one of these looms?

Mr. Page: Well as you can see, they are a hand skill loom, they don't use their feet. It's fully a hand skill proposition. A person can learn to operate one in an hour, but as far as throwing the shuttle and turning the wheel and beating it, of course it would probably take a month to actually learn all the problems connected with it.

Interviewer: It's a very compact and neat looking instrument. How does it compare, will it do the same work as one of these larger looms that I've seen?

Mr. Page: Exactly, of course the old fashioned looms are much larger and work credibly. They are very good looms but these happen to be a more portable nature and only about forty four inches long and weigh thirty four pounds. They can be put in the backseat of a car and on a kitchen table at home or out under the apple tree.

Interviewer: I see one of the operators sitting nearby. Let's see if she has a word to say. What's your name please?

Operator: Azuba McNamara

Interviewer: Do you live in Bangor?

Operator: I do.

Interviewer: And in your work here, I noticed that the cloth seems to have two patterns. That is this first a plain, or actually a lack of pattern, and then there's a three or four colored section woven in. How do you change the pattern?

Operator: Well you just have your numbers that you go by when you start in and then it just automatically comes to you to change your colors, to get your border, the different colors in the border. By the various shades.

Interviewer: What do you think of the idea of Sunset Industries, that is, what it's trying to do?

Operator: Well I think it is a wonderful thing. I think it's marvelous that Mr. Page should have this place for us people that are getting older, to work. Of course we don't want to be put on the shelf just because we have gained a few years on us you know. It isn't nice to feel that you are retired and that you're not useful anymore and I just think that it's the most wonderful thing that I know of.

Interviewer: Thank you Mrs. McNamara, you've certainly taken to the work, I can see by the material that you are turning out. How about future plans Mr. Page?

Mr. Page: Well, future plans are that we hope to have maybe twenty five women employed right here Bill and then in addition to that we hope to give people in the outlying districts, in fact all over the state of Maine, a chance at this. If they wish to purchase looms, later on we'll offer training in the training center and then if their work can come up to standard under their own personal supervision and cooperation, we will purchase their cloth and pay them so much a yard per weaving. We hope in that way of giving a lot of women in this state a chance to earn some money.

Interviewer: That is certain to keep you busy along with your telephone answering service and the personalized letter service too. How about visitors here?

Mr. Page: Oh, they're welcome. We have visitors in each day by they are just attracted by what they see in the window and they are looking through the door, see the women at work and we are glad to have them and they should always feel free to come in.

Interviewer: They can come in and see what this noise is all about. Thank you very much Mr. Page. This program was transcribed at 40 Columbia Street in Bangor, the home of Sunset Industries.

[transcript ends]

For more information about this transcript, audio recording, or other materials in Special Collections at the University of Maine, contact:

Fogler Library Special Collections
5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library
Orono, ME 04469-5729
207.581.1686
um.library.spc@maine.edu