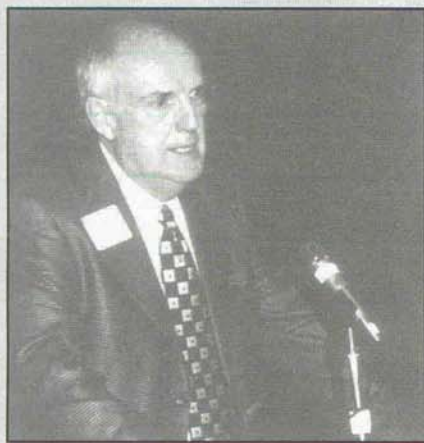
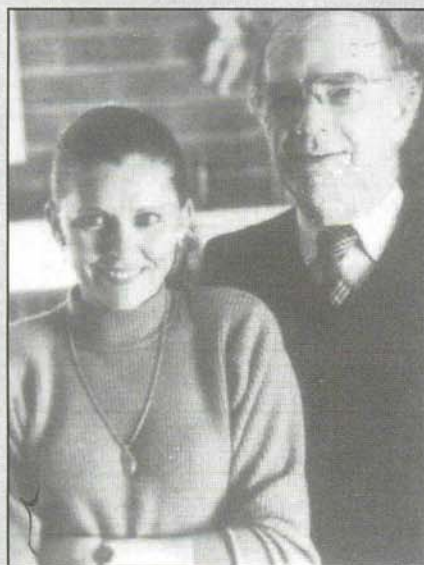




Reggie Hedrick
CEO
Allen Bradley (Retired)



Ronald F. Wilson
President and CEO
Southeast Paper Manufacturing Company
(Retired)



Pieter and Mariet Vedder

This is an excerpt from:

*Dublin-Laurens County - A Century of Progress
by Don & Mildred Lamb
first run: 2001*

*Contact the
Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce
to inquire about copies.*

Retirees Choose Dublin

"In 1975, I moved to Dublin to accept a job as General Manager of a new electronics manufacturing company. While this was a very desirable career move, I was more than a little concerned about moving back to Georgia. I had lived in another Georgia location twenty years earlier while in the military and was not particularly impressed at that time. As it turned out, these concerns were not only unfounded — the actual realization in Dublin was outstanding.

"From a business point of view, the tremendous success of Pyr-A-Larm and later Allen-Bradley, was in large part due to the very high work ethic of the people in and around Dublin. Recently, Allen-Bradley celebrated its 16th anniversary and I noted that over 90% of their employees already had their 15 years pins! Conscientious, involved and stable employees are basic ingredients for success.

"Having recently retired, my wife and I received many inquiries as to where we were moving for retirement. My wife is from Indiana and I grew up in West Virginia. We have lived and worked in New York, Virginia, Illinois and Florida. Our answer was quite simple; "We don't plan to move anywhere; Dublin is our home and we like it just fine, thank you."

"Dublin is a good place to grow up, a good place to work and raise a family and a good place to retire."

Reggie Hedrick

Ronald Wilson, former President and general manager of Southeast Paper Manufacturing Company retired at the end of 1994. He and his family chose to remain in Dublin. In August 1997, the year after his arrival, he made the following remarks to the Dublin Rotary Club:

"We found Dublin to be a perfect community. What makes it perfect is an abundant source of raw materials, proximity to waste paper sources, availability of water; diverse transportation means and a progressive community attitude which includes excellent city and county schools and hard working local officials.

"It is the most pleasant community I have ever lived in."



Global Consultants Choose Dublin

Pieter Vedder and his wife Mariet first came to Dublin in 1993 when he was Vice President Training and Development for Campbell Soup's Mushroom Division. He was founder and director of the famous Mushroom Growers Training Center in the Netherlands.

The following are excerpts from their story first published in *The Courier Herald* in 1990 and in *A Profile of Dublin and Laurens County Georgia* in 1995.

"So we quit again working for a single company and started our own mushroom consulting firm serving the big mushroom producers in Asia, Europe, the United States; mainly the same companies we had worked for as employees. Since we had the freedom to decide where to live, the decision was an easy one, and mutually agreed upon by Mariet and me. We would live in Dublin, Georgia, be together and be happy.

"Our work took us to a number of countries all over the globe. As native Dutchmen we of course know the Netherlands and a great part of Europe quite well. Besides that we have also been in Austria, Australia, China, the Caribbean, South Africa, Denmark, Spain. And while living in Italy spent quite a bit of time in Indonesia. I relate this to say that we know by experience rather well about life in different parts of the world.

"We therefore concluded that we could do our consulting work very well from the country of our choice because it makes little difference if

Right Above: Ground breaking Ceremonies: Electronics and Missile Assembly Plant; NWL Control Systems, Dublin, Georgia; October 4, 1985 (L-R) Norman J. Ryker, President and Chief Executive Officer, Pneumo Corporation; Dr. Charles McDaniel Superintendent of Schools, State of Georgia; The Honorable Joe Frank Harris, Governor of Georgia; Louie Livingston, Chairman, Dublin-Laurens County Development Authority; Harold Duncan, Executive Director, Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce; Arnold A. Tolvonen, President, NWL Control System (now) Parker Aerospace SCD

Left Above: YKK AP America, Inc. opened its first American-based Architectural Products Manufacturing Plant in October, 1992 in Dublin, Georgia.

Bottom Left: Flexsteel Industries, Inc. The original Uniroyal building and two major expansions

Bottom Right: Development Authority spec building completed in 1999





Dublin City Manager, George Roussel (left) and former mayor Robert Walker - Dublin one of Georgia's ten Cities of Excellence.



(L-R) Scotty Jones, Chairman, Willie Paulk, President and Paul Nagal, President of the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and a board member of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Executive Association. Mr. Nagal presented Willie Paulk with an award designating her as a Georgia Certified Executive.



Governor Zell Miller received an apron from Willie Paulk, Executive Director of the Dublin-Laurens Chamber of Commerce, at a barbecue for the Georgia General Assembly in Atlanta. This annual event is chaired by Cecil Passmore of Dexter, President of the Knight State Bank. The counties of Laurens, Dodge and Bleckley are the hosts.

you have to go from Europe to the United States or the United States to Europe and traveling to Indonesia could be from either. So we decided to return to the United States and specifically to Dublin, Georgia.

"The reason for telling this story is because, after reading it you perhaps may appreciate a little more the good, blessed country in which you live. You may think there is still much to complain about but if you looked around in the world as much as we have you would soon learn that there is so much more in this country to be grateful for.

"We like, and chose to live, in the United States and Dublin, Georgia, particularly, because:

"We didn't find a place where people have more freedom in personal life, in business, education, religion, politics or whatever.

"We didn't find a place where people who like to study and work have better opportunities to explore themselves and create opportunities for their children. The society is, in general, so well organized and taxes, federal, as well as local, are very reasonable when you stop and consider what you get in return.

"In Georgia there is such a lot of space for everyone. In Holland, for example, there are 12 people living in the same amount of space as is occupied by one in Georgia.

"There will be hardly any place in the world where there is such an abundance of food available in an enormous variety. In most counties you have to pay much more for it too.

"We think there is no other country where the air transportation is so intensive and well organized with generally good service on the ground as well as in the air.

"Hardly any country has such a large choice of newspapers, books, magazines, radio and television programs to educate yourself or fill your leisure time.

"You will have a hard time to find a country where postal service, parcel deliveries, insurance and all kind of public services even remotely compare with where you now live.

"We think there is no other country where the telephone service is better, or as good. Do you realize the importance of having enough and good quality water at almost anytime? In so many parts of the world, people have to go for it and you can only drink water out of a bottle, otherwise you jeopardize your health.

"You always have enough electrical energy, 24 hours a day. In several countries you cannot wash and cook at the same time; and don't even mention using a dryer, air conditioning, or anything like that. The roads here are so wide and safe and of such good quality, and cars and gasoline are cheap. In Italy, for example, the price of a quart of gasoline

is almost the same as you pay for a gallon here.

"Dublin is a place where you can buy a house, or a lot to build one on, cheaper than in most every comparable country or state.

"In Dublin there is always a doctor available and a well-equipped and staffed hospital close by. In many parts of the world a heart attack or a serious infection, just as an example means, almost absolutely the end.

"In general, shopping and eating out in Dublin is a pleasure. One can buy almost everything at reasonable prices and most times you are served with a big smile too.

"We know, it can be cold and uncomfortable for some weeks in Georgia. It is also sometimes too dry and the temperature and humidity can be too high for a couple of months. But we have air conditioning in most houses (and even in the cars). People in general suffer more from having snow, cold rain and freezing weather during the long winters in many parts of the world. From Dublin, you can go to many interesting places, to a cosmopolitan or historical city to mountains or to the sea.

"The one thing we missed in Dublin at times was our family, but we have found many good friends who made up for that.

"We would like you to know we love Dublin, Georgia, this typical Southern village in Laurens County as much, or perhaps more than you do and we have all the good reasons in the world for that."

(In 1993, Pieter and Mariet Vedder became American Citizens).



Ground Breaking Southern Pines Regional Recreation Complex. The Dublin and Laurens County Recreation programs and facilities were combined into the Recreation Authority. Southern Pines is being developed into a 18 million dollar recreation complex that will serve the entire community. Included in the photograph are Dublin Mayor Robert Walker, Laurens County Commission Chairman D.M. Mullis, Recreation Authority Chairman Louie Curry, Jr. and Director Danny Jones along with other city, county Recreation Authority officials. (July 1, 1999)



Above: Chamber sponsored "Business After Hours" held monthly. The Business After Hours and Business and Breakfast meetings provide networking opportunities for Chamber members in an informal setting. These meetings are held in various businesses with businesses as sponsors.



Left: Past chairs of the Chamber and Development Authority after their annual breakfast meeting. (L-R) Don Lamb, Farrell Nichols, Frank Fields, Don Crafton, Bob Walker, Wallace Miller, Hal Ward, James Hudson, Geva Alexander, Scott Beasley, Michael Cauley, Louie Curry, Tom Kellam, Scotty Jones, Jimmy Allgood, Lester Porter, Mike Cummings, June Moore, Roger Folsom, Louis Livingston, and Helen Harper.