

Dybak, Inc. Papers, 1972-1988

- Repository:** Rockingham Co. Historical Collections
Gerald B. James Library
Rockingham Community College
P. O. Box 38
Wentworth, NC 27375
- Title:** Dybak, Inc. Papers, 1972-1988
- Accession No.:** 93-059
- Extent:** 1 box
- Provenance:** A collection of papers found in the former Dybak plant in Eden, NC shortly before its demolition in late 1993.
- Inclusive Dates:** 1972-1988
- Subject Headings:** Chatham Manufacturing Co.
Dybak, Inc.
Textile industry – Eden (N. C.)
Textile industry – Rockingham County (N. C.)
- Items Separated:**
- Related Collections:**
- Preferred Citation:** *Dybak, Inc. Papers. 93-059. Rockingham Co. Historical Collections, Gerald B. James Library, Rockingham Community College.*
- Descriptive Note:** Business correspondence of Dybak with its parent company Chatham Manufacturing. Other correspondence includes orders from companies doing business with Dybak. Also included are payroll records and a payroll time book. There is a small amount of material dating back to the time that Leaksville Woolen Mills occupied the buildings.

History of Dybak, Inc.:

Dybak, Inc. was a division of Chatham Manufacturing Co. of Elkin, NC and operated in Eden, NC from the early 1970s until the mid 1980s. The company was located in the former Leaksville Woolen Mill building in the Spray section of Eden. Governor John M. Morehead built the mill originally at this location in 1839 and when that building burned in 1893 a new factory was erected on the same site. The Leaksville Woolen Mills later took over the complex of buildings for the production of blankets. In 1960, the Woolen Mills merged with the Chatham Manufacturing Co. which continued the production of blankets until the summer of 1971.

Sometime after the closing of the Woolen Mills, Chatham set up a new division which was named Dybak, Inc. In the spring of 1972, the new company installed Garnett textile machinery in the former Woolen Mill building and soon began the production of rubberized backing for the carpet industry. By 1974, Dybak had a total of 35 employees producing nearly 4,000,000 pounds of backing. For a number of years, Dybak was quite profitable for Chatham Manufacturing. By the mid 1980s, the Dybak division became less profitable and the plant was subsequently closed. The machinery was removed from the building and the mill stood vacant and deteriorating for several years. At one point, Chatham offered the property to the City of Eden which declined the offer due to the poor condition of the buildings and the lack of adaptive use potential. Chatham was forced into bankruptcy and in 1992 officials of the company decided to demolish all the former Dybak buildings to "maximize the value" of the property. The Eden Historic Properties Commission attempted to find a way to preserve the buildings but no alternative use could be found for the property. Demolition was carried out between September and November 1993 with the rock foundation of the 1893 factory building left intact as a memorial to the textile industry in the Eden area.

While Dybak was a division of a larger, non-local company, it gave employment to approximately 35 workers in Eden for a period of 15 years. Like other small, low paying companies, when its single product declined in consumer demand the operation passed from the scene leaving little evidence of its existence except for this small collection of papers.

Bibliography

Barkley, Meredith. "Old Woolen Mill Still has a Place in Eden History." *The Ledger*, 13 Jan 1993 p. 1

Barkley, Meredith. "Park Promoted for Old Mill Site." *The Ledger*, 10 Feb 1993 p.1

Church, Ken. "Dybak Building to be Demolished." *Eden Daily News*, 19 Aug 1992, p. 1

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"Leaksville Woolen Could Reopen." *Eden News*, 2 Feb 1972, p.1

Robert W. Carter, Jr.
11 Dec 1995

Contents:

Folders

Business Correspondence. Chatham Manufacturing Company. 1972-1976, 1980.

Business Correspondence. Miscellaneous. 1972, 1974, 1975, 1980, 1984, 1985, 1988.

Business Correspondence. W. Lowenthal Company. 1984-1985.

Dybak, Inc. Correspondence. 1972, 1974-1975, 1979, 1982, 1984-85.

Dybak, Inc. Correspondence. Miscellaneous. 1968, 1973-75.

Dybak, Inc. Equipment Maintenance Records. 1944, 1956, 1975, Undated.

Dybak, Inc. Payroll Records. 1972-1976, 1979.

Dybak, Inc. Payroll Time Book. 1974-1975.