

## Georgetown Steel board exec James B. Moore Sr. dies at 86

PITTSBURGH — James B. Moore Sr., long-time board member of Georgetown Steel Corp., now Mittal Steel Inc., and Andrews Wire Corp., died last week after a long battle with cancer. He was 86.

A native of Georgetown, S.C., Moore served in the South Carolina House of Representatives for three terms and was chairman of the state House Judiciary Committee.

He founded the Andrews Industrial Development Corp., which was instrumental in bringing Oneita Knitting Mills to Georgetown, and was a major player in the efforts to have Georgetown Steel Corp. built in the city.

"Some people today may

not like the fact that we have a steel mill here, but in 1969 Georgetown was dying and, at the time, it was a huge benefit to the community," said Jack Scoville, who has practiced law in Georgetown for more than 20 years.

Moore also was a champion of the Port of Georgetown, having served on the State Ports Authority for 35 years—longer than any other individual—and Scoville suggested in 2000 that the city's port be named in Moore's honor. "He really was 'Mr. Port,'" he said. "The fact that we have a port in Georgetown today, as viable as it is, is because of Moore."

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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Avtron starts one project, receives another

PITTSBURGH — Avtron Manufacturing Inc., Independence, Ohio, has started one project in the United States and received a contract to launch another in Taiwan. The company, which specializes in the delivery of drive systems, automation solutions and diagnostic software, said the Coatesville, Pa.,-based steel plate plant of Chicago-based Mittal Steel USA successfully started up phase two of the "zero production downtime" plate mill supplied by Avtron's Industrial Automation division. Phase two included four new Avtron ADDvantage-32 digital DC drives to replace existing drives on the mill. The installation followed the successful phase-one upgrade in 2003, during which eight such drives were installed. All 12 drives were installed and commissioned by mill personnel and no Avtron technicians were required on-site, allowing the mill to optimize the project budget. The result of the project to date has been the elimination of 60 hours of annual downtime on the drive lineup and a reduction in part repair costs and replacements. Phase three of the project, planned for the fourth quarter, will include the addition of nine more Avtron drives. The company said it also recently received a contract to upgrade an obsolete auto-extension control system at Chung Hung Steel Co., Kaohsiung, Taiwan. The order is the first phase of a planned upgrade of the drives and automation for the tension leveling line at the mill.

#### Morgan hosts rolling mill maintenance seminar

PITTSBURGH — Morgan Construction Co., Worcester, Mass., will host a rolling mill maintenance seminar at its Worcester headquarters Sept. 27-30. The company said the seminar is a practical, hands-on course designed to train rolling mill staff on advanced maintenance practices and service techniques. Gabriel Royo, vice president of rolling mill spares and services for Morgan, said the main focus of the seminar will be on Morgan's high-speed equipment. The course will cover a number of areas, including pre-finishing mills, no-twist mills, reducing sizing mills, pinch rolls and laying heads, and will discuss the latest operating and maintenance practices for such high-speed equipment. Design upgrades that enhance reliability as well as the latest methods of complete mill overhaul also will be covered. The seminar will involve both classroom training and hands-on training. Other topics include machinery analysis and diagnostics; roll mounting and removal practices; methods of improving bearing maintenance and reliability; and methods of lubrication analysis and system maintenance. For more information, contact Patricia Green of the Morgoil Bearing division at 40 Crescent St., Worcester, Mass. 01605 or at greenp@morganco.com.

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## Stainless imports rise, consumption falls

PITTSBURGH — Stainless steel imports totaled 286,403 tons in the first five months of 2005, a 19-percent increase from the same period last year, according to the Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA).

But consumption of 972,096 tons was down 2 percent in the same comparison, with imports accounting for 29.5 percent, a 5-point increase, the Washington, D.C.,-based trade organization said.

Stainless plate imports totaled 30,131 tons in the January-May period, down 1 percent from a year earlier, but U.S. consumption fell 14 percent to 106,626 tons, putting import penetration 3 points higher at 28.3 percent.

Imports of stainless sheet and strip increased 12 percent to 162,813 tons, accounting for 22.9 percent of U.S. consumption of 711,851 tons, which fell 3 percent from the first five months of last year.

Stainless bar imports through May were 53,049 tons, a 70-percent increase, while U.S. consumption of 104,258 tons was 29 percent higher. Import penetration reached

50.9 percent, a 12-point increase.

Stainless rod imports totaled 21,401 tons, a 26-percent increase, but U.S. consumption fell 7 percent to 33,018 tons, putting import penetration at 64.8 percent, a 17-point increase.

Stainless wire imports reached 19,009 tons, a 10-percent increase. U.S. consumption and import penetration are calculated quarterly by SSINA.

**Imports of specialty steel—stainless steel, alloy tool steel and electrical steel—totaled 376,707 tons through May, a 23-percent increase.**

Imports of total specialty steel—stainless steel, alloy tool steel and electrical steel—totaled 376,707 tons through May, a 23-percent increase. U.S. consumption was 1,188,284 tons, a 2-percent increase, putting five-month import penetration 6 percentage points higher at 31.7 percent.

Electrical steel imports increased 28 percent to 39,359 tons and U.S. consumption rose 12 percent to 173,224 tons. Import penetration of 22.7 percent was 3 points higher than a year earlier.

Alloy tool steel imports were 50,945 tons, a 52-percent increase from a year earlier.

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## TXI completes spin-off of Chaparral Steel unit

PITTSBURGH — Texas Industries Inc. (TXI) has completed the long-awaited spin-off of its Chaparral Steel division in the form of a tax-free stock dividend.

The spin-off to shareholders means that Chaparral, based in Midlothian, Texas, will operate as a separate company from Dallas-based TXI, which supplies construction aggregates, ready-mix concrete and concrete products.

Mike Locker, steel analyst at Locker Associates Inc., New York, said that the spin-off is good for the steel industry and makes Chaparral Steel a strong candidate for a takeover. "They have excellent properties, a good market position, strong operating performance and can be very profitable even during a down cycle. Plus, they're non-union and that makes them an even more attractive candidate for a potential buyer," he said. "Nucor Corp. is the most logical company to pursue them, but Gerdau Ameristeel (Corp.) could be another one interested in acquiring them."

Charles Bradford, analyst at Bradford Research Inc.,

New York, said Chaparral's new management team must review any offers it receives for the company. "I'm not sure whether new management is interested in selling the company or not. I haven't talked to anyone there yet," he said. "And even if they were interested in selling the company, it would have to be approved by the shareholders. But clearly the new managers are obligated to review any proposals made to them. And I know of a number of people who are looking to buy and sell steel companies."

Cary Baetz, Chaparral's vice president and treasurer, declined comment on any potential sale of the company. "It's the company's policy not to comment," he said, adding that because the spin-off is in the form of a tax-free stock dividend, there are rules governing how long the company must wait before any change of ownership can occur.

Baetz said that from an employee and overall operating point of view, there is no change. "The only difference is instead of TXI supporting all of our corporate functions, we will support our own cor-

porate functions," he said. "The spin-off went very smoothly. It was a long process and we're glad it's over."

Chaparral Steel began trading Monday on the Nasdaq stock exchange under the symbol CHAP.

All Chaparral Steel shares owned by TXI were distributed to TXI shareholders, who received one share of Chaparral Steel common stock for every share of TXI common stock they own. The number of Chaparral Steel shares outstanding is about 22.7 million.

In December, TXI approved a plan to spin off the steel business. The company said it believed its cement, aggregate and concrete segment and steel operations were two distinct businesses and the "separation would better facilitate the strategic objectives of both."

Chaparral Steel, with plants in Petersburg, Va., and Midlothian, is the second-largest producer of structural steel products in North America, with revenue of about \$1.1 billion in its most recent fiscal year

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