

OCTOBER 10, 2002

Inside Today

Giants take early series lead

THURSDAY

Du Quoin Evening

© 2002 Du Quoin Evening Call

Your Newspaper Fights For Your Right to Know! Volume 107

Visit us online at duquoin.com

Du Quoin & Pinckneyville, Illinois

Man-Tra-Con Job Training Office Now Open In Du Quoin

BY KATHY KOPSHIEVER
News Writer

PINCKNEYVILLE

Man-Tra-Con is now open full-time in the Southtowne Shopping Center next to the John A. Logan Alongi Extension Center.

The employment training service is a federally funded non-profit corporation with locations in Perry, Williamson, Jackson, Jefferson and Franklin Counties.

Man-Tra-Con is currently helping 200 dislocated or unemployed Perry County residents to find jobs. Computer training classes, job search software, resume writing and interview skills are some of the programs available.

Some services are income based, but anyone may make use of computers for job searches or resume writing. Those with a greater need are assigned a Career Specialist to help with the program. Robinson, career specialist, said about 83 percent of Man-Tra-Con's unemployed or underemployed clients have entered employment. Placement for dislocated (laid-off) workers is closer to 99 percent.

The Du Quoin Man-Tra-Con office has three permanent employees. Charlene Gieser, former shop steward at Bridal Originals, has been hired as a temporary AFL-CIO peer counselor.



Niki Wisniewski and Charlene Geisers on the computer at new jobs center.



Kathy Kopshiever Photos

Pictured are Man-Tra-Con board members and employees Shelly Meacham, Niki Wisniewski, Greg Clark, Rosie Robinson, Cynthia Reeder and Danny Wildermuth.

When Bridal Originals closed last year, 76 people lost their jobs.

Gieser said the TAA petition for Bridal Originals was recently approved and will allow for two years of training for former Bridal Originals employees.

So far, 13 Bridal Originals employees are in the office skills program at Man-Tra-Con, six are in school and six have been employed by Bridal Originals in Sparta.

Gieser was the shop steward at Bridal

Originals for 22 years and at Country Set for 14 years before the plant closed.

She said she is familiar with computers and enjoys helping her former employees discern their interests. One woman was unaware that she was mechanically inclined until the Horizon interest test told her so.

Gieser said she's 66 and not ready to retire. When her temporary position as peer counselor is completed, she'll make use of Man-Tra-Con services to find a permanent position.