

Bart Rallies Falcons To 28-26 Victory

Story, Page 1-D

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For III Years the South's Standard Newspaper

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TWENTY CENTS Price May Be Higher Outside Retail Trading Zone

Moslems Ransack U.S. Embassy

WASHINGTON - Thousands of Moslem demonstrators chanting support for Iran Sunday sacked and burned the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, the State Department reported — the second such attack in the Moslem world in 10 days.

All the people inside the embassy, including 12 American officials, two of their wives and seven non-Americans, unharmed, and all secret equipment was destroyed before the Americans escaped the building through a rear exit, spokesman Hodding Carter III said.

He said the United States has lodged a protest in "the strongest terms" and is assessing its future relations with Libya.

The State Department said the "performance of the Libyan government was not exactly distinguished" in protecting the building. It said only one policeman was outside despite requests that security be reinforced at the compound.

The embassy had no contingent of U.S. Marine security guards because the Libyan government had requested they not be stationed in Libya, the departThe U.S. embassy was the second one in the Moslem world to be overrun by a mob in 10 days. After the destruction of the embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, last month, additional security was ordered for all embassies in the region, and State Department families in 11 Islamic countries, including Libya, were advised to leave temporarily.

The first floor of the four-story embassy building was destroyed, and the second was damaged by flames after a mob bashed in the locked front door with

State Department officials gave this account of Sunday's episode:

The demonstration began at Green The demonstration began at Green Square, a large public gathering place in Tripoli. The crowd, chanting slogans against America and in support of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran's leader, grew to some 2,000 people, some of them wearing Libyan military uniforms. As they marched down the narrow streets toward the American embassy, U.S. diplomats called the foreign ministry for

The mob bashed in the embassy door

as the 26 persons inside destroyed the encoding equipment and gathered in the second-floor stronghold vault.

When the mob entered the building, some built-in dispensers sprayed tear gas into the corridor. Apparently no shots were fired, but some of the demonstrators may have been injured by flames or smoke, the State Department said.

The attack, which began at 10:15 a.m. Libya time (3:15 am EST), lasted about one hour. At 11:30 a.m., the people inside the building fled to what is described by the State Department as "safe refuge

elsewhere in Tripoli.

The Libyan news agency JANA said the Moslem student protesters marched on the embassy to support demands by Iranians holding the U.S. Embassy in Tehran for extradition of the ousted Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi to Iran. The students also shouted slogans de-

nouncing "American and imperialist hegemony," it said. The protesters "broke into the U.S.

Embassy and burned an American flag

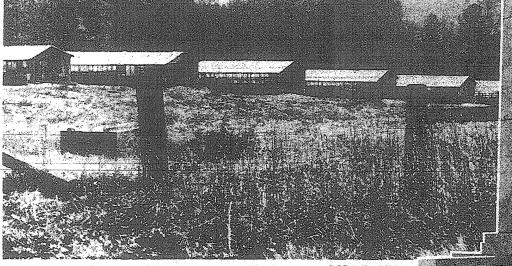
and effigies of the shah and Carter," See LIBYA, Page 10-A



The Underpaid And Under-Protected

Part III: No Golden

Eggs In Georgia's Chicken Sheds



Wilkie's Poultry Farm (above); Gainesville's Poultry Monument

Whole Families Labor On Poultry Farms To Earn Paycheck Of A Single Workman

By Paul Lieberman

Sandy Babb was making her rounds in a chicken house sandy Band was making ner rounds in a chicken nouse, picking up eggs one day last summer, when her left hand got caught in an automatic feeder. Before she could do anything about it, the gears were ripping at her fingers and the back of her hand. By the time one of her children heard her cries, and got someone to turn off the motor, she was in so much pain she thought they might have to cut her hand off.

When the accident occurred Aug. 9, Sandy and her husband David had been working at Wilkie's Poultry Farm in oming for 14 months. David B "flock tender" because he hadn't been able to find a decent puse for his wife and their three children to live in. A puse came with this job.

'It was just very hard to find a house," David Babb "We sort of jumped at the chance."

As Babb spoke, he and his wife were preparing to pack their belongings and leave the small, wood-frame house by

This six-part report on "The Underpaid And Under-Protected" was researched by Paul Lieberman, Chester Goolrick, Lee May, Charlene Smith-Williams and Steve Johnson. The articles were written by Lieberman and Gool-

the chicken shed. What had seemed like a good opportunity had turned into a bad experience with the accident. They were quitting the work collecting eggs.

The Babbs' disillusionment stemmed from more than

Sandy's injured hand. They had grown increasingly angry ever since they were told that the poultry company's insurany of the And beyond that the accident started the Babbs thinking

and, beyond ust, the accident started the Babbs timining about the arrangement under which they had been working.

For 14 months, David Babb said, the whole family—husband, wife, and three children—had collected eggs. In return, the family had been paid \$100 a week plus extra cash when David did odd jobs around the farm.

A whole family working for the normal salary of one

erson is not uncommon in north Georgia chicken country person is not uncommon in forth deepga chicken country.

Scores of other families work the same way on the chicken
farms dotting the rolling pastureland. They are provided
with houses similar to the Babbs', close to similar chicken
sheds, and are paid a single weekly salary, commonly between \$100 and \$125, to look after the layers and collect the

Their labor helps make egg production one of the re-gion's major industries. And their earnings place them among the ranks of America's hundreds of thousands of underpaid workers.

In federal court in Atlanta last week, the five members to Babb family filed suit against Wilkie's Poultry Farm, alleging that the farm's employment practices had violated

the federal minimum wage law.
The Fair Labor Standards Act requires agriculturerelated businesses to pay the minimum wage, now \$2.90 an hour, if its employees work a combined total of more than 500 days in any quarter of the year. The Babbs' suit alleges

See POULTRY, Page 6-A

POULTRY CAPITAL

world CE

Iran Agrees To Dispatch U.N. Envoy

- United Nations Secretary-General Kurt NEW YORK -Waldheim said Sunday that Iran's new foreign minister has consented to send a special envoy to the United Nations, but it was not clear whether that envoy would be able to discuss the

As the 15 delegates to the Security Council filed into the emergency meeting for a second straight night, Waldheim said that Iran's Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh had told him in a telephone call Sunday that Iran would send a representative, an "administrator," to New York.

"I understand he will send an ambassador here," Wald-heim said. "This," he said, "should not be interpreted as a new special representative just for the Security Council debate."

U.S. Ambassador Donald McHenry commented: "If they really send somebody with authority, it will be significant."

However, the envoy's role appeared limited. Ghotbzadeh told reporters in Tehran: "I am just sending a man to manage Iran's U.N. Mission. This person will not negotiate and will got take part in the Security Council meeting. He will simply be there as an administrator."

Iran has not been attending the council debate.

One after another, in an attempt to resolve the crisis now in its 30th day in Tehran, the delegates Sunday night continued to line up behind the call for an an immediate release of the 50 American hostages.

See IRAN, Page 8-A

Shah In Texas, May Stay In U.S.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — President Carter gave Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi temporary sanctuary Sunday at an Air Force hospital here and left open the possibility of permanent asylum if another suitable haven is not found abroad.

The official explanation, issued by the White House in the pre-dawn hours, was that the deposed shah of Iran was moved from his New York hospital to Texas to allow him a secure place to recuperate "pending further onward travel plans."

But Carter, who made the decision to allow the shah to use U.S. government facilities for the first time since his arrival in this country on Oct. 22, did not rule out the possibility that the shah might be given asylum.

The deposed shah left New York before dawn Sunday and flew to Texas aboard a U.S. military jet for an indefinite stay

flew to Texas aboard a U.S. military jet for an indefinite stay at a "secure" Air Force hospital.

at a "secure" Air Force hospital.

President Carter, returning to the White House from Camp David, Md., said the shah needed "to recuperate" after five weeks of treatment in New York.

Asked if the shah would be offered permanent asylum in

the United States, Carter said: "I cannot answer that now."

Carter's press secretary, Jody Powell, said the shah was admitted to the hospital in Texas because "he needs a period of

recuperation under medical supervision."

Powell said the shah's doctors advised him that the deposed monarch "should not undertake a prolonged trip." He said the United States was continuing to seek a haven for him.

See SHAH, Page 8-A 🎉

Man, Child Drift 20 Days In Their Yellow Submarine

SEATTLE (AP) - James Ringrose said he and 7-year-old Nicole Rowley sang songs and made up a Christmas shopping list to pass the time as they drifted in the Pacific for 20 days in

Their favorite song was "We All Live in a Yellow Subma-rine," Ringrose, 37, of Newport, Ore., said in a radio-telephone interview from the freighter Chavez. The Chavez was bringing nnerview from the freignter chavez. The Chavez was bringing them back to Seattle on Saturday...

Ringrose and Nicole, of Gresham, Ore, were rescued by the Chavez's crew Friday night about 35 miles off Cape Disapointment on the southern Washington coast.

Ringrose said both he and Nicole were in good condition. Nicole's mother, Dianne Rowley, cried and hugged her daughter as the child was carried ashore about 4:30 p.m. Satur-

day, She had reported her daughter missing Nov. 12.

Ringrose was embraced by his business partner, Leonard Dahle. The two men worked together in Oregon Offshore Public Rower, Dahle said.

See SUBMARINE, Page 7-A

Inside

GOOD MORNING. Monday in Georgia will be fair and slightly warmer. Highs will range from the 40s in the north to upper-50s in the south. Details on Page 2-A.

Burger Said Slipping As Court's Chief

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Jackson Backs 23% Police Raises

Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson Monday likely will recommend a 23 percent salary increase for city police and fire-fighters in a budget that would require a

property tax increase of approximately 3 to 4 mills, it was learned Sunday.

If Jacksoh's proposal is accepted, the salary for a beginning patrolman will increase from \$11,510 to \$12,927 on an nnual hasis

City Hall officials worked through the night Sunday preparing the budget that Jackson is scheduled to present to the City Council at 2 p.m. Monday. A news briefing has been scheduled for 10 a.m.

Though some minor changes were being made in the final draft Sunday, the mayor apparently has stuck to a decision he made as the initial budget-writing process began — to propose an operating budget totaling between \$145 million and \$150 million. This year's operating udget is \$123.8 million.

The proposed budget could be fi-nanced within the 5-mill property-tax in-crease limit imposed on budget staffers by the mayor and will take no less than a 3-mill tax hike. "I would say the actual

that spectrum," one source said Sunday night.
In addition, Jackson is hoping the

See BUDGET, Page 7-A

Portugal's Leftists Losing To Center-Right Alliance

LISBON, Portugal — Millions of Portuguese cast ballots Sunday for a new parliament, and partial returns indicate that they would give power to a centerrightist alliance for the first time since

the leftist military coup five years ago.

With 86 percent of the vote counted,
national election headquarters reported
the Democratic Alliance of Social Democrats, Conservative Center Democrats

and monarchists was leading with 44.8 percent. It was followed by the Socialists with 27.4 percent and the Communists with 18.7 percent. Minor parties accounted for the remainder.

Lawyer Francisco sa Carneiro, who heads the Democratic Alliance, was greeted with cries of "Hello, Mr. Prime Minister" as he cast his ballot in Lisbon, Portugal's moderate Socialist Party is

See PORTUGAL, Page 7-A

Poultry

Continued From Page 1-A

that Wilkie's Poultry Farm qualified under the standards, but that David Babb had not been paid the minimum wage and that his wife and three children "received no wage or any other compensation" for thousands of hours'

The suit, in a sense, is a challenge to

Weeks earlier, as the family prepared to move, David Babb had insisted that the man who hired him had made it clear that both husband and wife would have to work in the six chicken sheds to pick up the eggs laid by 15,000 chickens every day. The pay would be \$100 a week, with a week's vacation sometime

during the year.

Babb said it didn't seem like a bad kind of job at the time. He was 38 and he had worked at a lot of jobs over the years. He considered his best skill carpentry — he could build anything with wood — but carpentry jobs were hard to find in north Georgia. With this job in the poultry business he could stay home with his wife, they could work together for the first time since their marriage 13 years before, and he could see more of

his children, now aged 12, 10 and 9.

He thought he could feed them all and clothe them and pay for gas for their ancient car, a 1963 Valiant, if inflation didn't get any worse. He'd just have to get used to working seven days a week Everybody knew chickens didn't take any vacations — he and Sandy would just have to accept that as a fact of life.

So they settled in and began working. For three hours every morning, they went through the row of long, low chicken sheds down a slight hillside from

The bills were going to be very high and the Babbs counted on the poultry company's insurance to pay them. Sandy said one of the Wilkies visited her in the hospital and told her not to worry about

vorked just as much as David, and often worked alone after he started doing other jobs, she had never been placed on the farm's payroll. As far as the insurance company was concerned, she had never worked at all. All the checks had been made out in David's name.

Jerry Wilkie, one of the brothers who operates the chicken business, acknowledged recently that the insurance company was reluctant to pay for Sandy Babb's medical bills. "I'm sorry that she got hurt, I really am," Wilkie said. "But he was the one who signed the work-Jerry Wilkie, one of the brothers who man's compensation card. He was the one who was hired."

Wilkie said that Sandy Babb was not supposed to work in the shed at all. "I heard that she was doing all the work on the farm, and he was laying around hunting and fishing," the poultry farm

Wilkie said the job of caring for the

cally sort them into sizes and delicately

place them in cartons.

The nation's tenth-largest egg producer, Crystal Farms owns about 2 million laying chickens, according to Jim Brock, company's general manager. Similarly to many other poultry giants, Crystal Farms does not handle the chickens itself, but contracts the birds out to area poultry farmers. In turn, the farmers — working in highly modernized chicken houses that cost as much as \$400,000 to build — collect the eggs and turn them back over to the company. As Brock explains it, the arrangement re-lieves the poultry companies of substan-tial capital costs. The farmer, on the other hand, is guaranteed a steady in-come from the company, which pays him in the neighborhood of \$1 per chicken

"In a bad year we take the loss," one egg company executive said, "but in the good years, we take all the profits."

Contracting out its chickens to some 80 farms throughout north Georgia, Crystal Farms is able to supply about 525 million eggs each year to distribu-tors primarily in the New York city

At the same time, there are many independent farmers who own their own farms, buy their own chickens and hire workers to collect the eggs. An independent may have several chicken sheds on different properties and hire a family to

The chicken farms are a frequent sight along the two-lane blacktop roads which stretch through the countryside. A one-story clapboard farmhouse sits just off the road. Within walking distance be-hind it are one or several very long and low wooden sheds. The path between the buildings is well worn. The acrid odor of the chickens and their droppings, rather

like ammonia, pervades the air well be-yond the buildings.

Buddy Lane is a young man still, in his late 20s, but like other rural people nis late 20s, but like often rural people in poor circumstances, he has aged more rapidly than do people who lead comfortable lives. He is fence-post thin and has an angular face and a quick smile that reveals a set of crooked teeth. He wears the soiled clothes of a worker torn blue jeans and a short-sleeved shirt unbuttoned to the waist.

Buddy Lane is not his real name. Like some other flock tenders, he is hesitant about being identified, just as he is reluctant to complain about the money he

tant to complain about the money he
makes for tending to chickens. Quite
simply, he wants to keep his job.
Buddy has worked for four years now
on an independent egg farm about 20
miles north of Gainesville. He has not had a day off in those four years, and he's gotten so he doesn't expect one.

Buddy lives with his wife. Marie, and their four small children in a dilapidated clapboard shack with a sagging porch just off the road and not far from the three chicken sheds Buddy is supposed to tend. Buddy is responsible for around 40,000 broilers which are raised and fattened in sheds until they are old enough to be slaughtered and taken to the super-

Buddy is paid weekly for his work, a total of \$105. But, Buddy says, his employer subtracts \$25 a week from that amount for his rent. In addition, Buddy pays his electric bill, which comes to around \$40 a month, and he is responsi-ble for any repairs that are needed around the house.
"The pay ain't too good," Buddy said not long ago. "It's hard to make it on \$80

As a consequence, he and his wife receive food stamps to help provide food for their children. Another child is due

The employer deducts nothing from the employer deducts nothing a roin the pay — no Social Security, no taxes and no insurance. One or two years ago, Buddy hurt himself on the job. He said he was told he was covered by some kind of insurance, but he finally had to

and of insurance, but he mainy had to pay the bill himself.

Every morning of the week, Buddy rises at 6:30 a.m. to begin work, and during the day he makes many trips out to the sheds, where he checks the broilers and does other chores. His wife helps when all three sheds are full. Buddy is also responsible for cleaning out the

sheds periodically.

He would like to look for another job, one that pays better, but he has little education and no skills. His family was so poor that he had to quit school after the fifth grade and go to work, and now he believes that most jobs require a colchicken farms.

At Crystal Farms, a large egg-processing business plant located at Chestnut Mountain south of Gainesville, thousands have time to go to town and look. After of eggs are processed every day, graded and packed by machines that automati-

necessary to get the job done.' And lots of times he will specify, 'Now, you and your wife will have to look after the chickens. You can't do it by yourself. It's going to take your wife."

stances of the family living anywhere except on the farm, in a house near the chicken sheds

selves in talking about benefits afforded their laborers. As in other industries where workers are given housing for lit-tle or no rent, the bosses say the house should be figured into calculatons of minimum wages.

The law can cut both ways on this

Federal wage-hour regulations specify that the furnishing of a house to the worker can be counted toward the minimum wage. If a house is furnished primarily for the employer's benefit, how-ever, it cannot be counted as part of the

"primarily for the employer's benefit or for the employee's benefit."

Allen himself seemed to think it was obvious why the laborers were provided houses on the farms. "This is part of the deal, that they be there 24 hours a day," he said. "I presume that the employer is furnishing the house for that reason, so

David Babb Took Job As 'Flock Tender' Because This House Came With It

Allen said he has seen very few in-

The providing of a house is a practice mentioned by chicken farmers them-

Allen said he would rely on the office of the solicitor, the government attorney who represents the labor department, to decide whether flock tenders' houses are

that they can be there 24 hours a day in case they are needed."

Attacking The System: 2 Families Go To Court

Lawsuits challenging the arrangement under which many families work as flock tenders have been few and far between. Two such challenges this year, lowever, have been filed in U.S. District Court in Atlanta. Neither has come through Joe Allen's wage-and-hour office. The suits have been filed on behalf of two families by attorneys with the Georgia Legal Services office in Atlanta.

The first suit, filed in the spring by the Louie Roper family of Maysville, al-leges that Cobb Inc. — a subsidiary of Upjohn Inc., which runs a group of north Georgia poultry farms — violated their right to a minimum wage while they worked on a farm in 1975, 1976 and

The suit states that after hiring Louis Roper to work the farm in 1975, the company permitted Mrs. Roper and the Ropers' teen-aged son, David, to work up to 80 hours a week for more than three years without any compensation.

The suit, which is yet to be heard in court, claims that Geraldine Roper, David Roper and Louie Roper would have to be given back pay of \$23,500, \$6,100 and \$7,300 respectively to bring their incomes up to the federal minimum

As with many disputes in which employees' wages and hours are at issue, en the suit comes to trial, the case will be a matter of one party's word against the other's. The Ropers contend that officials of the poultry companies were "in a position to know and did in fact know" that all three members of the family were working in the chicken sheds. The companies contest the Ropers' version of how they worked.

Lawyers for Cobb Inc. and the Upjohn Corp. agreed in a counterclaim that Louie Roper worked on the poultry farm, but asked for a jury trial to prove that the charges of wage violations were

The counterclaim alleges, in addition, that the poultry farm lost revenue when Roper "abandoned his duties" as a farm manager. The suit asks that Roper be ordered to pay \$11,500 to cover those al-

J. Roy Weathersby, an Atlanta lawyer who is among those representing Cobb Inc., said recently that the company has documents proving that only Louie Roper was hired to tend to the chickens. "There was no need for anyone else to

Weathersby pointed to the Ropers' house on the farm as an additional benefit. "It was an attractive situation," the attorney said. "They were not required to live on the property.'

The David Babb family can expect a similar stern challenge to the suit filed on their behalf last week in federal ourt. Similarly to the Roper's suit, the Babbs allege in a 10-page complaint that the bosses of their farm "were in a posi-tion to know and did, in fact, know" that

The suit asks that Babb be paid \$23, 900 "as difference in wages paid to his family and minimum wages."

David Babb and his family have been away from the egg business several months now. Babb has what he calls a much better job. The family lives in a trailer several miles from Wilkie's Farm. On a small table in the kitchen area is a complicated half-completed jig-saw puzzle. Trying to pick up the small pieces with the fingers of her injured left hand is part of the therapy ordered by

The Babbs said recently that they are hopeful the lawsuit will at least win them a settlement from the poultry farm them a settlement from the pointy farm or the insurance company to pay the medical bills. Mrs. Babb is apologetic about making a fuss over the incident. She-liked-Jerry-Wilkie. "I-would-have liked to have parted friends," she said.

David-Babb-still-sounded-a-bit-angry but not as much as he had this summer while preparing to leave the house that went with the flock tending job. "I've learned my lesson. There should be a written contract and everything should have been clearly understood from the first," Babb said at that time.

And he suggested another lesson from the job he had held for 14 months. "As long as there are people who will work, there will be some cotton pickin' turkey who will work for next to nothing," he

TUESDAY: Pumping gas and cleaning

however, the insurance Later, however, the insurance company refused to pay for anything. Regardless of whether Sandy had

chickens is a simple one that can be performed easily by one man. "They work about four hours a day," he said. And the house is furnished free, even though it could be rented for as much as \$250 a month, Wilkie said, adding that after the Babb's left, "I had 18 families call me about this one place."

An affable, freely-smiling man, Wilkie said he was aware a man often had family members, or even friends, help

'I'm sorry that she got hurt, I really am...but he was the one who signed the workman's compensation card. He was the one who was hired.'

—Jerry Wilkie

their house, picking up the eggs and put-ting them in cartons to be taken to the packer. Then they broke for lunch.

In the afternoon, they toured the sheds again, picking up freshly laid eggs, Babb said. The eggs from this farm eventually were sold for distribution around Atlanta. During the course of a typical day, Babb said, they might work six or seven hours each and collect some 12,000

There were other things to do around the place, too, such as making sure the layers were properly fed. Babb said that sometimes they both worked seven days a week, as long as 55 hours each. In the evening, he made repairs on the frame which was not in the best of shape when they moved in.

Babb said they had lived on the chicken farm for about three months when one of his two bosses came to him and asked if Sandy could pick up the eggs alone. The boss said he would pay David the minimum wage on an hourly basis if he would agree to do some odd jobs, such as driving a truck which spread fertilizer. By now, Sandy was delighted to be

working at her first job since high school and David figured they could use the extra money. Things seemed to be get-ting more and more expensive all the

So David took the new job. Sandy was in the shed by herself much of the time.
And although Babb recalled that the boss's original instructions had called for boss original instructions had cannot be children to stay away from the chicken house, the children started helping Sandy out when they were around. David was there, too, when there was nothing else for him to do on the farm. But they were making more money now, David would say later. Some weeks, he could bring home as much as \$90 extra. He said he never even thought about whether the two of them were making a fair wage. Then Sandy got her left hand caught

in the machinery which carries feed on a conveyer belt to the chickens.

She was rushed to a hospital. Doctors

took 100 stitches to close the wounds; they were able to save her hand. They said it would be a long-time before she would be able to use the hand again there was nerve damage - and since she was left-handed, she wouldn't even

around the sheds. "That's not just here, it's the industry as a whole, and not just in Georgia," he said. "The whole nation."

"How do you insure all these people? How do you keep people off your property?" Wilkie asked, sitting in his car on the road in front of the row of chicken houses. The chicken farmer said it was up to insurance officials and their attorneys whether to pay Mrs. Babb's doctor bills. "All we do is pay the premium" he said. "I'm sorry it hap-

pened," he repeated.
Sandy Babb's bill came to \$1,680 for the six days she spent in the hospital and the doctor charged her another \$825 for his services. Now she goes to a physical therapist, who charges her' \$171 for every three days of treatment. David and Sandy never made enough money to put anything aside, so they don't know how they will pay.

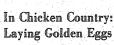
In Chicken Country:

of the city of Gainesville, there rises a monument to the chicken. At the corner of Washington and Church Streets is an enormous marble pillar topped by a statue of the honored bird. At the base are etched the words, "Poultry Capital

Georgia's chickens have produced more than 5 billion eggs each year dur-ing this decade.

The egg business is one of extremes —

and of smaller independent



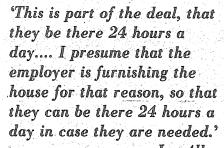
An hour north of Atlanta, in the heart of the World."

The words do not make a groundless claim. This, indeed, is the center of an impressive industry. Consistently, Georgia has earned more than any other state

from poultry products.

One-third of Georgia's cash farm receipts come from poultry. In 1977, the state's farmers earned \$429 million selling commercial broilers, \$10 million sell-ing other chickens, \$10 million for tur-keys — and \$287 million selling eggs.

of giant companies run with the high-efficiency mechanization of modern



Still, her husband wants to get back there. "It's like somebody said to me just the other day. I don't know anything else

says.
"Last year I had to work Christmas Day, the Fourth of July and Thanksgiv-

ing," Buddy said as he led visitors on a tour of the chicken sheds. Although he clearly is not entirely pleased with the job, Buddy is a cheerful man, and he

job, Buddy is a cheerful man, and he makes a point of saying that his employers have been kind to him, "except for the pay." He wouldn't want it known that he had said anything critical about

"They don't treat me so bad," he said

In a trailer not far from Gainesville, a man and his wife wonder whether they should go back to the chicken farm they left not long ago. He is disabled and can no longer work at a sawmill nearby, and

she is pregnant. He says he wishes he were back on the farm. "This sitting around ain't bringing nothing in," he says

He remembers the work as not all bad. In all, they were out in the chicken shed not more than four or five hours a

day, seven days a week. It wasn't the hardest work in the world, and he was

his own boss. "Nobody told me to bow up

and git," he said. He got paid \$80 a week, and the house was free.

But his wife hopes he will start get-

ting his disability checks from the government — that way, they will not have to go back to the farm. She does not

remember the work as being either easy

"They are big people in the community and they go to church. They are real

good to me in a way."

to do," he says.

The man, about 50, say he knows peonle who make as much as \$150 a week in the business, but they have been working for the same man a long time, maybe as

long as 12 or 13 years.

He has a good laugh about the time he fell through the floor of the house on the chicken farm. He can do without that he says, "but it'll be nice to have some money for a change."

The Wage And Hour Man: 'They're Awfully Afraid'

Joe Allen is a pleasant, balding man with an office in the federal building in Gainesville. For 15 years, he has worked in the city as an official of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor. He is the one wage and hour man for a large area of north Georgia.

Leaning back in a chair in his office, Allen estimated that he spends more of his time now attending to complaints in-volving area industrial workers than he does to complaints involving agricultural

Allen is well aware of wage practices in the poultry industry — he enjoys, in fact, critically dissecting the explanations of some chicken farmers for the wages they pay. At the same time, how-ever, Gainesville's wage-hour man said the fact that he must wait for complaints means he only occasionally gives attention to laborers in the chicken

sneeds.

"They are awfully afraid of losing their jobs," Allen said. "According to the law, the employer can't discriminate against them in any way because they have made a complaint. But, practically speaking, we know that eventually an employer can find some reason to discharge them."

Indeed, he added: "We try to point out to the employee that the farmer might

find out he has made a complaint."

Then Allen made it clear he knows what happens to many flock tenders: "The employer will hire a man to take "The employer will have a man be will say, vou'll have to do whatever

has requested such an evaluation from the wage and hour office in Gainesville. Allen said: "I've never had anyone do that." Allen also wondered whether the

Allen also wondered whether the houses would have much value on the open market. "Some of these sheds aren't more than 50 yards from the house, and on a hot day things can smell pretty The wage-hour man was getting

Under the wage-hour regulations,

Allen said, employers are supposed to "get a determination of the rental cost

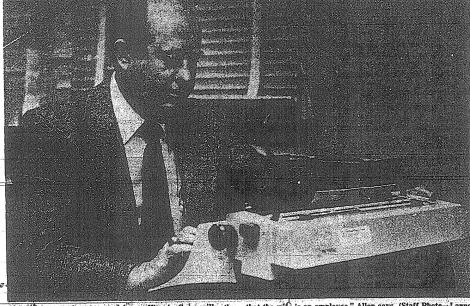
of these facilities" before counting them

Not one employer in the past 15 years

work in the sheds, which he said is hard.
"The employer will say that the work can be done in two hours, if they bothwork," he said. "But you aren't supposed to take into account how fast the best worker can do it. They also do a lot of other jobs: putting wood shavings on the floor of the chicken house, patching wire, spraying for insects, cleaning feeders and drinkers, and so on. It's a seven-daya-week job, for all of them. Sometimes the kids come home after school and help. And we have always insisted that the wife is an employee.'

Many chicken farm laborers are covered under the federal minimum wage law, now guaranteeing a \$2.90-an-hour wage while other laborers in the industry are not covered. When agricul-tural workers were included under the umbrella of the Fair Labor-Standards Act in 1986, Congress-specified-that-the-employer had to use 500 man-hours of labor in any quarterly period to be af-fected.

Scores of farm owners have just one or two chicken houses and, if they don't do the work themselves, employ only two or three workers, too few for cover-age under the federal law. Some of these poultry farms, however, may still fall poultry farms, however, may still fall under Georgia's state minimum wage law. Adopted in 1970, the law covers businesses which gross more than \$40,000 a year or employ at least six workers. The law requires these businesses to pay not less than \$1.25 an hour. Georgia's minimum wage is the swest among the 41 states which have such laws.



Joe Affin mans the wage and hour office in Gainesville, the heart of Georgia's poultry industry. "We have always insisted that the wife is an employee," Allen says. (Staff Photo-Launa