

Ribbon-cutting noise music to Union Tools



Officials cut the ribbon with shears at Union Tools new facility in Hillview

By **THOMAS BARR**
Editor

HILLVIEW - When considering the sound system needed to announce his first tenant in the Louisville Logistics Centre, Paul Lichtefeld Sr. really didn't consider the noise produced by Interstate 65 traffic.

However, it is the cars and trucks that travel past the property known as the Williams family farm which makes the distribution facility so attractive.

Lichtefeld and partner David Williams joined with local and state officials Wednesday to welcome Union Tool.

The Columbus, Ohio-based company will make the Hillview facility its new dis-

tribution center.

The company will lease the entire 302,550 square-foot facility located on the north-east corner of the Brooks Road interchange.

A. Corydon Meyer, CEO of Union Tools, said it was his dream for the past three years to get a new state-of-the-art distribution facility for the company which makes and distributes lawn and garden tools for various companies.

"It's wonderful and we appreciate everything everyone had done to make this possible," said Meyer.

Everything is right on schedule with some trucks beginning to arrive this week with merchandise for distrib-

Please see UNION/page A-8

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(Continued from page A-1)
ution.

The goal is to be in operation by September.

In selecting the Hillview site, Meyer said, the proximity to its customers and the economic incentives offered by Kentucky made it attractive.

While starting with around 45 employees, that number should grow to over 150 workers within 2-3 years, said Meyer.

Both Meyer and Sherrill Moore, human relations director, said that finding good employees has not been a problem.

Through the work of Career Resources and advertisements in The Pioneer News, Moore said, finding quality employees has not been any problem.

Gary Zimmerman, vice

president of operations for Union Tool, said the key to being here is having good employees.

"We feel this location will be very good," said Zimmerman. "We're looking forward to being part of the future of the Williams' family farm."

Bullitt County Economic Development Authority director Steve Wolfe said he is pleased with the labor force available in the area and is pleased that Union Tool has not had any problems finding employees.

With his mother looking on, Williams said it was an historic day for the family farm.

Since 1779, he said the land has been responsible for producing goods and services through its farming. Now, with the 80-acre logistics park, the land will produce different types of goods and services.

"This project is a quality product," said Williams. "It's been a true cooperative

effort."

Hillview mayor Leemon Powell said it was another wonderful day.

"This is a great day for Bullitt County, a great day for Hillview and a great day for me," said Powell.

Powell said the city would benefit from the taxes, including a portion of the occupational tax.

Also, Powell said, this will just be the beginning for the Williams property.

Bullitt County Judge/Executive Kenneth Rigdon said he is pleased that Union Tool will come to the area bringing quality, good paying jobs.

No longer is Bullitt County just a bedroom community to Jefferson County, said Rigdon.

The county is looking for good-paying jobs and to provide more places where Bullitt Countians can work, said Rigdon.

Lichtefeld said making the light industrial park's first tenant the right one was

important.

"We went to set the tone for the whole development," said Lichtefeld.

By the end of the year, Lichtefeld hopes to start construction on the second building.

With the desire for larger facilities, Lichtefeld said the second facility would be around 500,000 square foot, which is nearly double the original second phase.

In fielding prospective tenants, Lichtefeld said about half wanted buildings with larger space than he had available. With that in mind, he altered the plans and will build the larger facility.

Union Tool, which closed its distribution center in Columbus, will spend an estimated \$1.3 million on the new facility. The company will also receive incentives from the state in the neighborhood of \$1.5 million.

Appropriately, company officials had yard shears to cut the ribbon on the new facility.