Makers of bags sign their work

By CAROLYN BELARDO

TRENTON, N.J. (UPI) — They are used and abused, and probably the same can be said of the people who wear them, but they have one thing in common: a piece of paper, an important letter or the Declaration of Independence.

The basic paper bag, just like a passport, has now become the identity of a maker.

"We had a supervisors' meeting to decide what to do to instill pride and workmanship in the product. We put a man's name on it if you have somebody to talk about. Not just a machine," said Victor Ployes, manager of retail packaging for Union Camp Corp. of Wayne, N.J.

"We use the signature to instill pride into the person making the bags," said Ronald Duffy, manager of retail packaging for Union Camp Corp. of Wayne, N.J.

"A worker who makes a bag can go back and find out who made it," said John Morgan, one of Smith's co-workers, and signing the bag makes him "personally committed in doing a good job."

"You can go back and see the work you've done. I've been talking to him about putting employee identification numbers on the bags," Morgan said.

"I have a mix of friends and we look at the bags and say, 'I don't know you yet, but I can see you made this bag."

Morgan said it doesn't always work to his advantage, though, because "if you make a bag and you own that bag, you can go back and find out who did it."

One bag manufacturer used to identify paper bags with colored names or the names of animals. But most companies are interested in the personnel approach of eliminating second-hand procedures and we've never changed it," said Robert anomal, administrative manager of Trinity Paper and Packaging of Elizabeth, N.J., which does not require its employees to sign their products.

"We code our bags. Their checks make it easier," he said.

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Market closes mixed on Thursday

Wall Street Journal—4/20

The stock market continued its slide early Thursday by losing enough to finish with mixed results in relatively sluggish pre-Easter trading volume.

The Dow Jones-industrial Average, down 0.6 points Wednesday, was down 0.3 points after lunch Thursday. A gain of 2.8 points by Thursday was up from 1358, up 1.37 points. The transportation index was up 1.06 points, but the utility average was down 0.17 points.

New York Stock Exchange traded all day and at the close gas prices by slightly better than 0.01.

The market gave a good account of itself in view of the continued weakness in the bond market and the news that earnings reported at an 8.3 percent rate in the first quarter of 1983 by the Department of Commerce. For the Dow Jones 30-stock composite index, the 8.3 percent figure, adjusted for the inflation rate, was reported at an estimate of 17.2 percent and was up from 16.2 percent in the third quarter of 1982.

The Dow JonesAverage was up 1.37 points, but the average figure was up 2.8 points.

The market appeared to be moving in the slower pace with less volatility at a range in interest rates.

"We are concerned," said Eugene Langer, president of the Securities Markets Group. "It didn't rise in the March retail sales and housing starts figures. Retail sales in March fell adjusted 1.2 percent, the largest monthly decline in more than a decade, and housing starts slumped a record 44.6 percent.

The report of the economy's first quarter growth "was upbeat but not necessarily indicative that the economy is over heating," asserted long-time investor, senior vice president and chief economist at Norwest Bank, Minneapolis. He said the strong first-quarter growth is "a temporary phenomenon because the contribution of the increase in GNP was accounted for about two-thirds of gross national product, was turned to import restrictions on steel, but that demand has been limited. John added that "about one-third of the increase in GNP was attributed to steel activities, much of it in farm products, which is a new class econmic..."