

BUSINESS

OLYMPIC STEEL, ATLAS IRON FORM VENTURE

FROM STAFF REPORTS

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Olympic Steel Inc. is linking up with Atlas Iron Processors Inc. and Uwe T. Schmidt to form a joint venture to buy, sell and trade metals and alternative iron products. The venture, Olympic Continental Resources LLC, acquired the business activities of **Thyssen Continental Resources** LLC, which had revenues of \$145 million in the last fiscal year. Olympic is a publicly traded steel processor and distributor in Bedford Heights, while Atlas is a privately held Cleveland scrap materials and distribution company. Schmidt, former chief executive of Thyssen, will be president and CEO of the new venture at 30050 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood. CHARTER ONE BRANCHES OUT

Charter One Financial Inc.'s Charter One Bank subsidiary signed agreements with supermarket retailers in Ohio and Michigan to open at least 12 full-service supermarket banking branches in the next two to three years. Charter One said it will open the first two of six full-service bank branches in Kroger stores in Redford and Lincoln Park, Mich., later this month. The first Ohio Charter One Bank branch in a Super Kmart will open in New Philadelphia in February. CARD PORTFOLIO SOLD

Alliance Data Systems Corp. of Dallas acquired the private label credit card portfolio of National City Card Services. Terms were not disclosed. National City Card Services, based in Columbus, has a portfolio of receivables valued at about \$400 million. COIL MAKER GEARS UP

Swiger Coil Systems Inc. installed new winding equipment to increase the Cleveland firm's manufacturing of coils for large industrial motors and generators. The new custom-made coil winder replaces existing equipment, said Robert Wilber, director of operations. "The new winder increases manufacturing efficiency while enabling us to better control precise specifications." The 22-year-old Swiger, which employs about 100 people, doubled its manufacturing capacity about a year ago. RATNER TO SPEAK

Albert Ratner, co-chairman of Forest City Enterprises Inc., will address the Northern Ohio chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Feb. 13 in the Oak Room at Tower City Center in downtown Cleveland. The cost is \$15 for NAIOP members and \$25 for nonmembers. Call 573-1355. CANADIAN FLIGHTS STILL ON

Air Ontario's pilots went on strike last week but five of its daily round-trip flights between Cleveland and Toronto have been picked up by Air Canada. Leanne Perreault, a spokeswoman for Air Ontario, said travelers can continue to make their reservations through travel agents or Air Canada, which is Air Ontario's parent. Air Ontario has been operating about 70 percent of its regular service during the strike. SEMINARS ABOUT TO BEGIN

The winter certification course for the Cleveland chapter of the American Production & Inventory Controls Society (APICS) will begin next week. It is one of six courses needed for certification. Classes at Lakeland Community College cost \$270, and at Cuyahoga Community College are \$240, including all books. The courses train professionals whose interests include inventory or production management. Registration deadline is Jan. 17. For more information, call Anna Tanczos at 621-2742.