Former employees’ annual Social Security statements missing Pace information

By Richard Draper | Journal Reporter

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The 423 former employees of Pace Airlines Inc. are discovering the hard way of another financial blow from the collapse of the company.

The company’s management failed to issue W-2 forms for 2009. That not only complicated employees’ tax filings for 2009, it also meant that, in most cases, their earnings for last year were not reported to the U.S. Social Security Administration.

What makes that significant is that if their 2009 earnings are not counted, it reduces the amount of Social Security benefits they would receive.

"Your Social Security benefits are figured on your best 35 years of earnings, and you want to be credited for what you paid for," said Frank Viera, a public-affairs specialist for the agency.

Pace collapsed last September after a turbulent 3½ months under new owner William Rodgers Sr. It was forced by creditors into involuntary bankruptcy in January.

The issue surfaced recently when some former employees received annual Social Security statements on their earnings, which are typically mailed about three months before the person’s birthday. Those statements showed no earnings for 2009 from Pace.

Viera said that employees don’t have to wait until they get their annual Social Security report to determine whether earnings are missing. They can request a statement at www.ssa.gov/W2

Ask: Employees who are missing their 2009 earning can call 728-4039 in Winston-Salem or 378-2498 in Greensboro.

WHAT TO DO

It is likely that wage earnings for 2009 were not filed with the U.S. Social Security Administration for most, if not all, former Pace Airlines Inc. employees. The defunct company did not issue W-2 forms for 2009 to employees.

Social Security requires proof of earnings -- either a W-2 or the most recent pay stub that employees had before the company stopped paying their wages -- before the agency can correct the omission.

The Internal Revenue Service can provide a substitute W-2 form by calling 728-4039 in Winston-Salem or 378-2498 in Greensboro.