

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

### The Pot Rooms

We are now in the midst of the hottest weather of the season, and those who have the best interest of the work at heart have a mighty good reason to be proud of the way grades have kept up. Several of us were more or less disturbed as to how we would get by July 4; but that week we made the highest percentage of number one metal we have made in a long time.

Last year we averaged a percentage of 73.94 from January thru July, while this year our average is 93.96 for the same period, or a gain of twenty per cent. This represents work, and someone deserves credit for it; but if we started a list of those who are most deserving, it would be a long one, and some might be left out who shouldn't be. And the writer wants to take this occasion to thank all the men for the courtesies and good will they have shown him. He couldn't do anything at all by himself to improve the grades, except to call the men's attention to what they could do themselves by working together. But after doing that, all that was necessary was to keep the men informed of the good work they were doing; and if you don't believe that was a real genuine pleasure, just try it some time. We don't mean that all was easy sailing, and that we had no ups and downs, but just that we were on the right road, and making progress. Niagara is the only plant the Company has that has a better average in number one metal than Badin for this year, and since we have gotten by as well as we have so far this summer, there is no reason why we shouldn't give Niagara a hard race the rest of the year.

There have been all kinds of experiments tried here lately; but we believe one of Uncle John McGregor's men takes the cake. The aforesaid man evidently is a firm believer in adapting the machinery on hand to the needs of the occasion. At any rate, his only piece of machinery was a breast drill, for boring holes in tapping hole castings, and his main source of trouble was a corn; so he tried it, and it worked. It hasn't been patented yet, so here's a chance for some enterprising corn doctor.

Mr. Horsfield, who has been in the Pot Lining Department, will now be

given an opportunity of seeing how his pots stand the test of fire, since he has been transferred to Pot Room work in the Control Department; or probably we should say that he has had that much added to his other duties. He is looking forward to some novel experiences, and most likely will not be disappointed.

And, speaking of fire tests, Mr. Fuller's wood block paving got what was coming to it recently when a large crucible of hot metal was overturned on it. But after the show was over, the paving was still on the job, and not much worse for wear.

Mr. Fuller had us all laughing about his wife digging for potatoes under one of his watermelon vines, but we believe she has just as good a joke on him. They had to do without chicken Sunday, because the cook didn't show up, and Mr. Fuller was a conscientious objector when it came to maltreatment of innocent dumb animals. It seems that in his first and only attempt he had to make five passes with an ax before the dirty deed was done, and then came out of the fray a nervous wreck.

We were looking forward to a little amusement on visitor's day; but the weather cheated us out of it this time. The pot room notes might have been a little more interesting, as we had our pencil and pad ready—but it wasn't to be. So if the would-be visitors feel a disappointment, they can know that they weren't the only ones.

The Control Department has lost a good man recently, tho the work will probably go on as usual; but we will all miss Mr. Ralph Sturkey's smiling face and ready wit for some time. It has been suggested that he must have had a heart-to-heart talk with our old friend, the mule, and the call of the farm was too strong.

Mr. Adam Long, one of our returned soldiers, is back with us again as floor walker on the 3 to 11 shift. We are always glad to welcome a good man back.

—J. O. CRAIG

### General Office Notes

Mr. Darrell Clark, accompanied by Mr. W. L. Cotton, made a business trip to the wilds of Rowan County several

weeks ago. Their business was ostensibly to look over the Company's property there, but from all reports their own results were to be well "wined and dined" by the unsuspecting farmers who knew not that it was a lawyer there who were entertaining in the innocent-looking personage of Mr. Clark.

Miss Florence Dent, who has held the position as stenographer here for the past six months, left her work last week to return to her home at Newnan, Ga. The loss of Miss Dent is felt keenly by the employees of the General Office, and of whom held her in the highest esteem.

Miss Jessie Kendall spent her two weeks' vacation at Asheville, and at her home near Ansonville. Miss Kendall says she changed localities often enough during her stay for the fried chicken and watermelon not to become a bit monotonous.

Mr. Dalton Cooper, of Southmont, and Mr. R. C. Tillery, of Salisbury, both of whom were instrument men on the High Rock Basin work, will be employed on town surveys and in the drafting room.

Mr. H. L. Kennedy, who has been employed as instrument man here for the past five months, leaves his work here to take the position of engineer on highway construction in South Carolina.

Blank applications for life insurance were much in demand during the electrical storms a few weeks ago. Even Nuebling admitted there might be something in it.

Mr. W. J. Nuebling made a trip to Southmont, in the interests of the Company, July 17. "Nueb's" only regret is that there were no "Reef's Specials" there.

Mr. J. L. Kittrell, accompanied by his wife and daughter, spent a week with his parents in Winterville, S. C. They returned home Monday, July 14.

Mr. W. C. Reynolds came down from Southmont recently, where he was employed with the surveying corps, to join the gang on townsite surveys.

Mr. R. B. Clark and Mr. L. C. Russell, both of the drafting room, returned from their annual vacations on July 28.

Mr. F. H. Hyatt has left his work on the surveying corps, to take a job in the Aluminum Plant.