



... Wire Changing Time

THIS article was written by an employee who witnessed the changing of a wire on one of our Fourdrinier papermachines for the first time.

Wire changing in the Ecusta Machine Room is "old stuff" to a great number of employees here at the plant. In fact, this ordeal will soon encounter its twelfth birthday.

After all these twelve years of doing one job over and over one might think that the wire changing crew of about 50 men would tend to become lax and a little indifferent in their response to this rather intricate and difficult operation. Surprisingly, the exact opposite is apparent on each single wire change. To prove this assertion, we can compare a wire change that occurred on Thursday, March 22, 1951, with a wire change several years prior. Using the same number of personnel and in many cases the same individuals, the operation that for years demanded as much as three hours time was begun and ended in the brief space of forty-five minutes. That's efficiency PLUS!

Also, an outsider would have to believe that close supervision would be a necessary element in such a complicated procedure. No sir, there is no "Daddy-Rabbit" in this deal. Every man has a job to do and every man does his job. Frankly, things move so fast and so furious there's hardly time for supervision. Don't get the idea that the proper supervisors aren't on hand, because they are. It is just that the method of changing a paper machine wire has become such a science, there's no need for a lot of commands. I feel sure that in case of an emergency the proper supply of efficient supervision would be forthcoming.

It was a privilege and revelation to watch this group of men perform. My hat is off to these Machine Room men and others who can and do this particular task at various intervals. It's further proof to me that with the same kind of teamwork in all departments, we can and will continue to meet outside competition with the zest and determination that is necessary during these fast moving days.