

AMCO NEWS

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MEET YOUR SUPERVISOR

From its beginning with 60 machines in 1954 to its present complement of 587 machines, the ladies' seamless Knitting Department of Plant #6 has been watched over by W. Dewitt Winfree. But, Dewitt Winfree's *Dewitt Winfree* experience in hosiery knitting operations began long before Adams-Millis had a ladies' seamless nylon hosiery division.



Dewitt was born in Kernersville on September 10, 1905, to George P. (a former employee of Adams-Millis) and Zona Dwiggins Winfree. When he was five years old, his mother died and he went to live with his Grandmother Winfree. He attended Kernersville schools and while in his high school years, worked at Adams-Millis' Kernersville plant carrying water, sweeping, getting up yarn--and learning to knit. Upon becoming 16, he left school and secured full-time employment with Adams-Millis. After three or four years of knitting on Scott and Williams KG machines, Dewitt left Adams-Millis for employment with Kernersville's Vance Knitting Company where he worked for twenty-five years, advancing from knitter to supervisor, a position he held for nineteen years. Upon liquidation of Vance Knitting Company, he was employed for a while by Crawford Knitting Company, also in Kernersville.

However, in June of 1953, Dewitt returned to Adams-Millis in Kernersville to help start up sixty 370-needle K machines which had been in storage for some time. Early the next year, he was transferred to High Point to start up sixty new 474-needle KN machines. At that time, the ladies' seamless division's personnel numbered two: Dewitt Winfree, supervisor in charge of all production, and one knitter working one shift. Today, the department has nearly six hundred 400 and 474-needle KN and KN-2 machines, running three shifts. And, at the present time, Dewitt is extremely busy as his department is in the process of moving from the old consolidated knitting room to the second floor of the recently closed full fashioned knitting division.

Since his return to Adams-Millis, Dewitt has seen many changes in the production methods of ladies' seamless hosiery, two of the major ones being the conversion from the looped toe stocking to the GeTaZ gusset panel loopless toe stocking; and, more recently, the production of the Perma-Loc run-resistant stocking.

At the age of 17, Dewitt was married to Miss Martha Bull, also of Kernersville, who for several years was employed in the Looping Department of Plant #4. Three children were born of their marriage: Zona, who is presently a pairer at Plant #4; and Berchel and Wilma, both of whom are employed by Western Electric in Winston-Salem. There are also three grandchildren. All are residents of Kernersville.

The Winfrees reside at 117 Fall Street and attend First Baptist Church. (Continued page 4)