

AMCO NEWS

0677.1
A21

Vol. XXVIII No. 5

Adams-Millis Corporation

Nov. - Dec., 1972

MEMORIAL HONORS A-M HOSIERY PIONEER J. E. MILLIS



J. E. Millis

In High Point's Historical Park on East Lexington Avenue at McGuinn Place, there stands a newly-restored 18th century blacksmith shop. A plaque inside the shop carries the inscription, "James Edward Millis, 1884-1961, given by Mrs. J. E. Millis and Family." A major portion of the funds for the

restoration of the blacksmith shop, which was dedicated on November 14, was provided by the Millis family as a memorial to Mr. Millis.

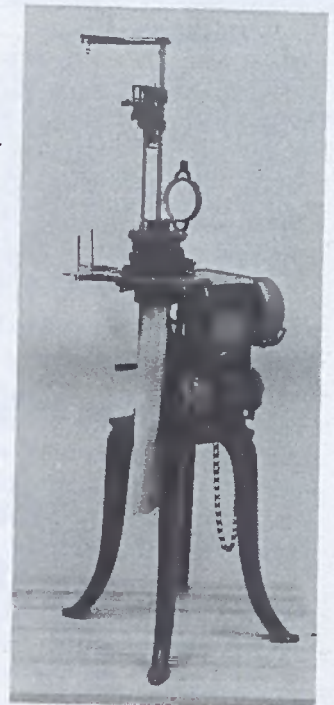
The shop resembles that used by blacksmiths in the late 18th century and the early 19th century in Piedmont North Carolina. The structure itself, moved from its original site on Hartman Road in Davidson County, dates from the 18th century and possible pre-dates the historical park's Haley House which was built in 1786 by John Haley, who was himself a blacksmith and not unlike Mr. Millis in leadership in his time.

Mr. Millis, father of Corporate President James H. Millis and grandfather of William B. Millis, personnel director of TexElastic's Rubber Covering Division, was one of the organizers of Adams-Millis Corporation, which became one of the largest hosiery producing firms in the world. He served as president of the corporation from 1935 until 1952 when he became chairman of the board of directors and James H. Millis succeeded him as president. He remained chairman of the board until his death in October of 1961. A man of broad vision and quiet integrity, J. E. Millis as an industrial civic, cultural and religious leader was for many years an inspiring force for the life and spirit of High Point. With all of his busy activities, however, he always found time to share the interests of his family. The blacksmith shop, often the backbone of the early American community, is indeed a fitting tribute to his memory.



Blacksmith Shop

On exhibit in the High Point Museum, a part of the historical park complex, is one of the first type of knitting machine used to make hosiery in the Adams-Millis Corporation plant. It is the George D. Mayo knitting machine, forty of which were installed in 1904 at a cost of \$5,000. Only one grade and one style of hosiery, service weight and all black, was produced. The stocking was knit in string fashion and cut apart; the toe was closed with a seam. Average output for the first year amounted to 200 dozen pairs daily.



Mayo Machine

The knitting machine was presented to the museum by Adams-Millis Corporation President James H. Millis.