

Adjustable Platform

Maintenance Builds Better 'Mousetrap'

"Building a better mousetrap" has long been the pursuit of many people although not everyone finds the secret formula for that "new and improved" product.

However, the Adams-Millis Maintenance Department employees and their "better mousetrap" will help boarders to do their job more effectively and comfortably.

Since boarders come in a variety of heights while boarding machines are the same height, various methods have been used to elevate the boarder to a comfortable level to work most effectively. Boxes of different sizes has been the most commonly used method. However, each has its own shortcomings, safety factors among them.

Now those considerations can be put aside, thanks to a team effort by the Maintenance Department to design and develop adjustable platforms for boarding work stations.

"Mount Airy bought one from someone but it didn't work very well," said Gary Farlow, who spearheaded the platform project. "We looked at it and modified it to get what was needed."

But Farlow was quick to point out that the project was truly a team effort in the department. He cited Jim Jordan, Randy Farlow, Jon Freeman, Tom Harrington, Lonnie Roller, Richard Perryman, Jerry Smith and Bill Sexton for their assistance.

"I think everybody in the

department worked on this project," he said. "We asked for input from everybody on what we could do to make it work best and everybody made suggestions. What we have is a combination of all those ideas."

Input for the design also came from Jerry Goad, head fixer in the Mount Airy Boarding Department, Greg Hiatt, fixer, and from Boarding Supervisor Tony Lowe.

The adjustable platforms (53 x26 inches mounted on a 60 inch wide metal frame) which are now in use (63 in Mount Airy and 8 at High Point Finishing) evolved through a couple of steps, according to Farlow.

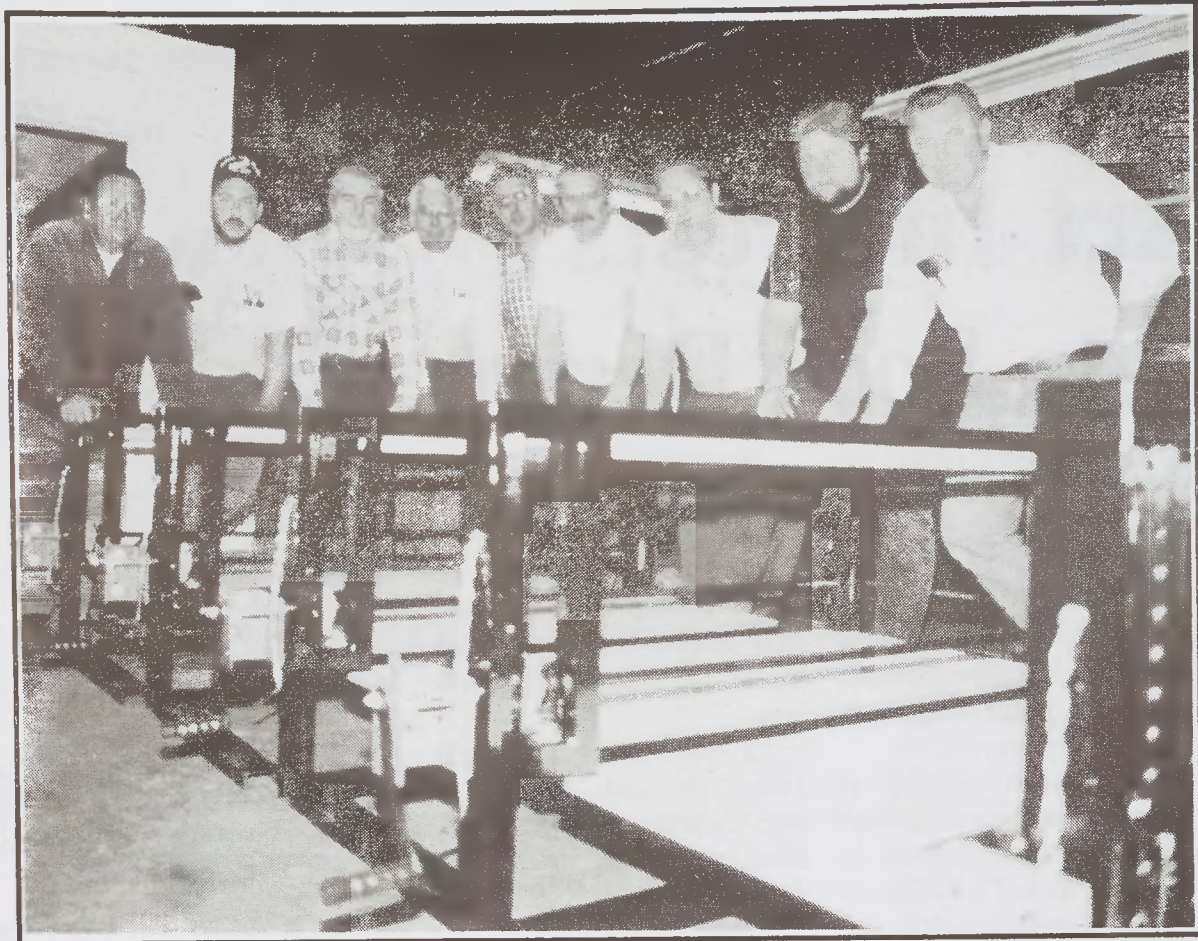
The original one purchased in Mount Airy was controlled by air pressure which left it unstable as the boarder moved from side to side. It also had a tendency to jam as the platform was adjusted.

The first one designed by Maintenance used an electric motor to raise and lower the platform. But there were problems with that too, including cost.

"I think we would have had overkill with that one," Farlow said.

So when the project went back to the proverbial drawing board, a simpler, less costly unit was the result.

The platform is adjusted up or down by a wench and the platform is secured at its desired height with metal pins inserted into the sides of the



Maintenance Department employees pose with some of the adjustable platforms they designed and made for Adams-Millis boarding departments. From left are Jim Jordan, Jon Freeman, Jerry Smith, Richard Perryman, Tom Harrington, Bill Sexton, Lonnie Roller, Randy Farlow and Gary Farlow.

unit. The manual adjustment takes 15 to 30 seconds.

"It allows for a 10-inch adjustment of the platform," Farlow explained. "That should take care of about any boarder's height requirements."

Goad agreed.

"We're well pleased with them," he said. "They're really doing a good job. The boarders really like them. Several have told me that their backs don't hurt since they have the platforms."

Boarders in Mount Airy

range in height from approximately five feet to 5-11.

So the "better mousetrap" that Maintenance devised solved a long standing problem, making the workplace safer and more comfortable for employees which should result in better productivity.

Platforms also are to be added at Kernersville Finishing but the design will have to be modified slightly because of the space available in the boarding department there.

"We plan to use the same system but we'll need to ad-

just the width of the platform," Farlow explained.

Retirees

Barbara D. Lane
Kernersville Finishing

Edward Markushewski
Corporate Office

L.H. Eford
Corporate Office

Geraldine Bailey
Corporate Office

Ella Jones
Mount Airy Knitting & Finishing

Rosa L. Brooker
Kernersville Finishing

Mildred J. Hayes
Silver Knit

Employees Evaluate Displays

Some Adams-Millis employees are being encouraged to look at socks -- while they are away from work.

Kernersville Finishing Plant Manager Robert Gates said a survey form is being given to employees at plant Roundtable sessions to evaluate how retailers such as K mart, Wal-

Mart, Sam's and others display Hanes socks in their stores in comparison to other brands.

"The retailer is our customer," Gates said. "If our socks sell, there will be reorders and continued business. If we ignore what happens in the retailer, the repeat business may not come."

In Memoriam

Howard Young
Retired

Faye Lail
Retired

Clyde Berrier
Dependent of Hassie Berrier
Mount Airy Finishing

Virginia Thompson
Retired

Joe Allred
Retired

Eula Garner
Retired

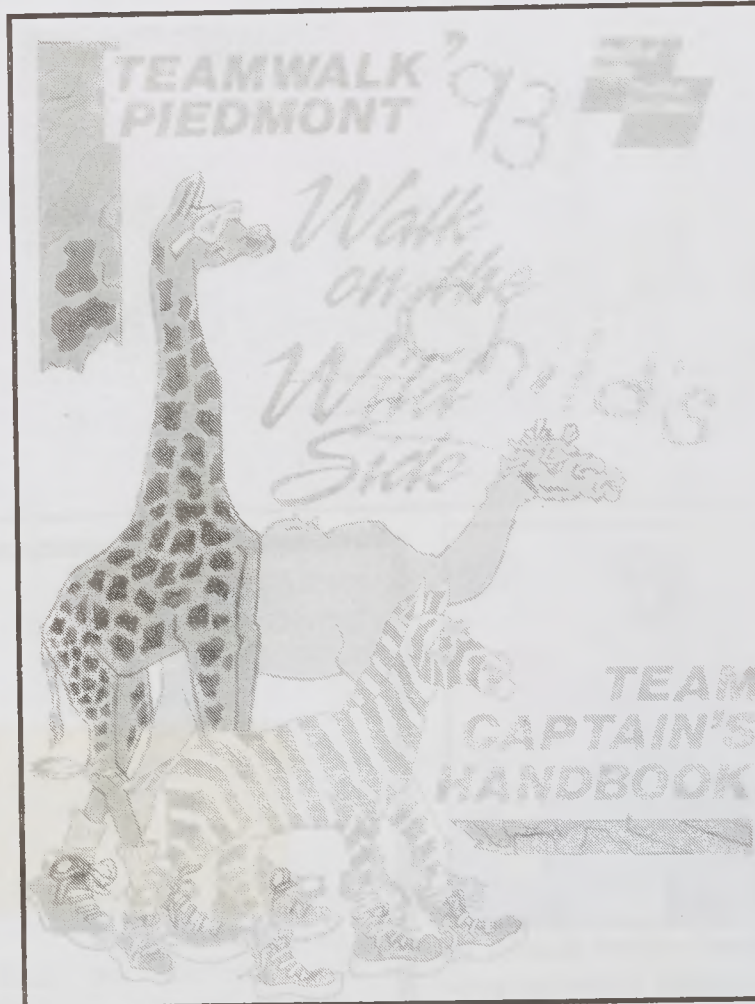
Howard Robbins
Dependent of Ella Robbins
High Point Finishing

Hermal Hall, Jr.
Dependent of Dusky L. Hall
Mount Airy Finishing

Billy Norman
Dependent of Janell Norman
Drexel Knitting

Pauline McCarter
Retired

Nellie Patterson
Retired



Teamwalk Piedmont

Adams-Millis employees participated in the annual Team Walk Piedmont and other events to raise funds for the March of Dimes and to help prevent birth defects. A full report will appear in the next issue of the Amco News. In 1992 Adams-Millis employees raised some \$23,000 in the annual walk for the March Of Dimes. "Our employees have been very helpful in making this event a tremendous success for the past couple of years," said Linda Leach, who has coordinated the event within Adams-Millis.