

Company Will Provide Help To Employees On Income Tax Returns

As in past years, the Company will again provide help to employees in preparing their income tax returns. There is no charge for the service. Members of the Industrial and Public Relations Department and other qualified volunteers will give individual assistance to Fieldcrest employees in filling out the tax forms. The schedule is to be announced shortly.

The annual withholding statements (form W-2) are being prepared in the Payroll Department and will be distributed during the latter part of January. Each employee will receive two of the withholding statements this time, one from Marshall Field & Company covering the first nine months of the year and another from Fieldcrest Mills, Inc., for the months in 1953 following the purchase of the mills. All, of course, are being prepared at Spray and the two forms will be attached to each other when distributed to employees.

New U. S. Tax Rates Are Now In Effect

Changes in Social Security and federal income taxes became effective with pay checks received in the week beginning January 3. The Social Security tax went up from 1½ per cent to 2 per cent with the Company's contribution for Social Security increasing in the same manner. The tax applies to earnings up to \$3600 within a year.

A decrease of approximately 10 per cent was made in the withholding rate for federal income taxes. The withholding rate during 1954 is 18 per cent whereas it was 20 per cent last year.

The new rates apply to all earnings paid on and after January 1, 1954, even though the wages may actually have been earned in 1953.

Any question concerning pay roll deductions for Social Security or federal income taxes should be taken up with your departmental supervisor or the Personnel Department.

William A. Blackburn Honored For 50 Years' Continuous Service

William A. Blackburn of the Synthetic Fabrics Mill completed 50 years of continuous service January 1 to establish one of the longest records of unbroken service in the company's history. His record is exceptional in that he has never been off the payroll since joining the company 50 years ago, and has worked the entire time in the same mill and department.

Mr. Blackburn was honored at a luncheon at Meadow Greens Country Club, Thursday, December 31. Harold W. Whitcomb, president, after expressing the management's appreciation for the loyalty and cooperation shown by Mr. Blackburn through the years, presented the veteran employee with the Fieldcrest diamond and gold 50-year service pin together with other gifts from the company.

Officials Pay Tribute

Macon P. Miller was toastmaster and he presented Mr. Whitcomb and several other members of management and supervision, who paid tribute to Mr. Blackburn for his long record of faithful service.

Brief talks were made by J. G. Halsey, manager of the Synthetic Fabrics Mill, A. L. Jackson, mill superintendent, and Jesse Griggs, Foreman of the Weaving

Department, Chester Roberson, assistant foreman, and Howard Barton of the Engineering Department and former superintendent of the Synthetic Fabrics Mill who was closely associated with Mr. Blackburn for almost 40 years.

Visits Starting Place

During the afternoon following the luncheon, Mr. Blackburn was escorted by Mr. Barton on a visit through several Fieldcrest plants including the old Lily Mill building where Mr. Blackburn began his career with the company a half century ago.

Mr. Blackburn was honored on the Fieldcrest radio program, January 1, and other honors are planned for him by the members of the Carolina Council which holds its next meeting January 21. Mr. Blackburn is a charter member of the Council organization.

A native of Forsyth County, Mr. Blackburn went to work as a boy in the weave room at the old Lily Mill in the year of 1904. He continued working in that same department for 50 years, most of the time as a loomfixer. He has fixed on looms running gingham, silk, rayon and nylon and other synthetic fibers. He started up the first automatic looms at the Lily Mill many years ago and in fact started most of the looms in the present mill except the S-6 models which were installed in 1948.

An Expert Loomfixer

An expert loomfixer, he enjoys working on machinery and can fix practically anything, particularly in the electrical line. He has a modern shop in the basement of his home where he does many different kinds of machine or repair work. He is said to have built the first earphone type radio used in the Tri-Cities.

Mr. Blackburn is a member of the Episcopal Church and in the past was active in the Y.M.C.A. He is a great movie fan and at one time operated the movie projector at the Central Y.M.C.A. He has owned his home in the Oakland Heights section of Leaksville for many years, and is married to the former Miss Lillie Sykes, whose father was the late W. H. Sykes, Sr., was formerly superintendent of the Nantucket Mill.

Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn have a son and a daughter, both married. The son, W. A. Blackburn, Jr. is associated with an electrical firm in Washington D. C. The daughter, Hazel, formerly was employed in the Engineering Department. She is now Mrs. Ernest Hopkins and lives in Winston-Salem. The Blackburns have one grandchild, Billy Hopkins, three years old.

Stoots Made Sergeant



Sergeant James H. Stoots now in Korea, was recently promoted to his present rank. Pictures above show the young soldier, his wife and the five-months-old daughter which the soldier has never seen. His wife was the former Miss Betty Barrow of Mayodan. She is holding little Connie Lynn Stoots who was born August 15.

Sergeant Stoots entered service in July 1951, and has been in Korea for about twelve months. He expects to be able to return to the states in March.

Proud grandparents of Connie Lynn are L. J. Stoots of the Karastan Weave Room and Dicie Stoots who is employed in the Bedsread Winding Department.