

Fieldcrest Mills, Inc.  
Eden, N. C. 27288  
Issued Every Other Monday For Employees  
and Friends of Fieldcrest Mills, Inc.

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# Employee Makes Hobby Of Ancient Instruments

"I enjoy it as a hobby more than anything I've ever done. My fishing rods are rusting."

Carl Wortham was talking about his hobby of making dulcimers, those ancient sweet sounding musical instruments in which there is a sidespread revival of interest.

The dulcimer is mentioned in the Bible, in the writings about King Arthur and in the poetry of the 12th century. Early settlers brought the instrument to the Southern Highlands of the United States.

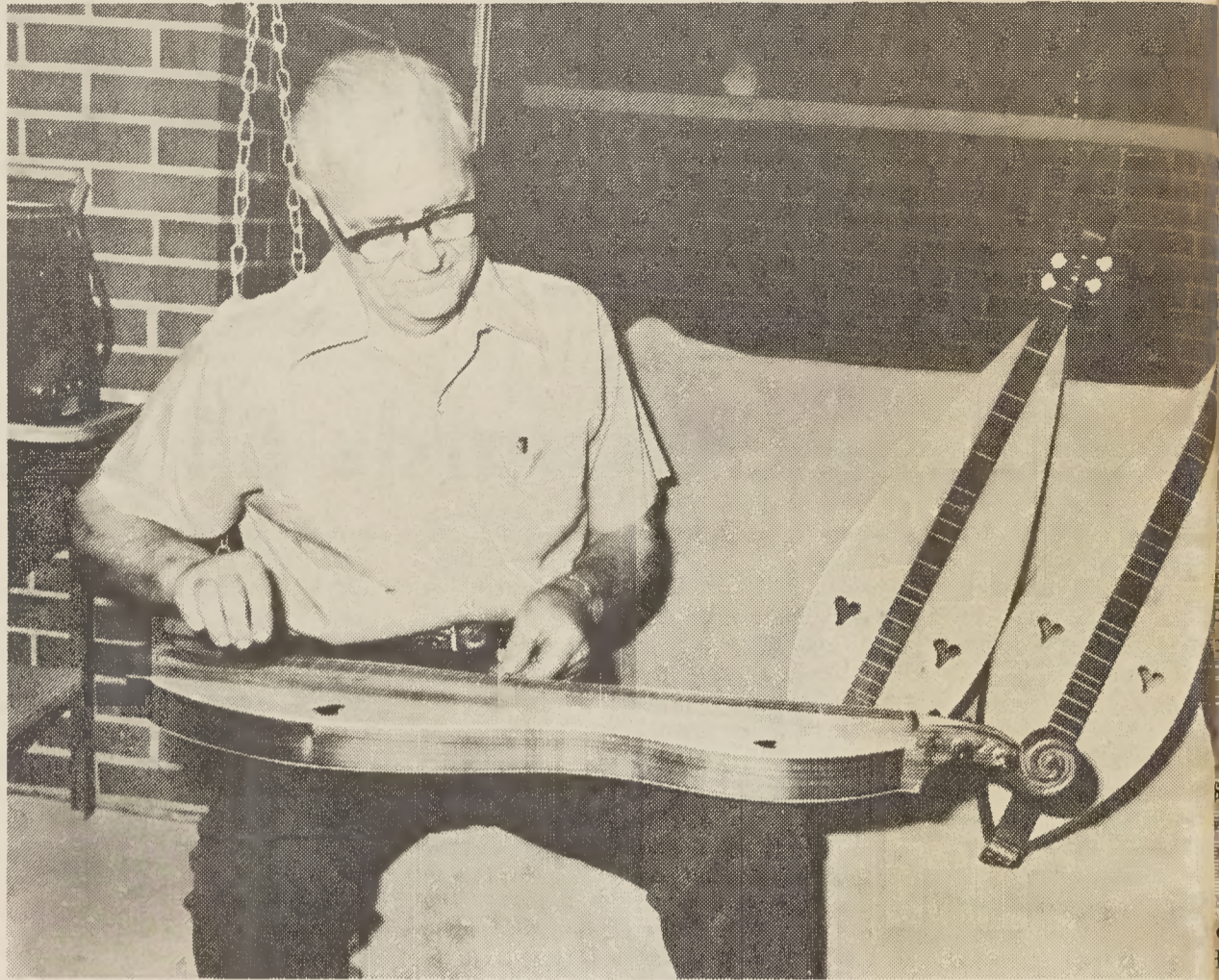
Mr. Wortham, an engineer in the Mechanical Development Department at Eden, has made 16 dulcimers and has sold them as far away as Puerto Rico and Arizona. A good instrument sells for from \$85 to \$150 and up and Mr. Wortham said he sells them as fast as he can make them.

His latest sale was to a lady from Michigan. She inquired about dulcimers at a Greensboro music store and was directed to Eden to see Mr. Wortham. He sold her a dulcimer and taught her to play it.

He makes the dulcimers in his home workshop and starts with a block of rough wood! He now makes all of the instruments from walnut although he has used cherry and even pine for the top. He buys the tuning pegs and wire for the frets from sources in Eden and Greensboro and orders some from Tennessee. He purchases either guitar or banjo strings.

Mr. Wortham started making dulcimers about a year ago when he saw one owned by a friend from Missouri. He became interested in owning one but could not find one to buy. So he decided to make one himself.

He got his first information from some mountain people who were making and selling



Carl Wortham plays one of the dulcimers he made in his home workshop.

dulcimers at the North Carolina State Fair. He later visited the area around Boone and talked with some mountaineers, asking them how dulcimers were made.

He made his first instrument from plywood. He worked out the location of the frets at the piano and made the frets from paper clips and the strings from piano wire. He made the tuning pegs from walnut. He gradually obtained more information and learned where to order certain items so he would not have to make them.

During 1974 Mr. Wortham visited Jean's Dulcimer Shop at

Cosby, Tenn., where he received much help from Jean and Lee Schilling. He also visited Bill Davis' Dulcimer Shop at Gatlinburg, Tenn. Mr. Wortham said Bill Davis brought back the dulcimer 19 years ago and through his cable television program on dulcimers at Gatlinburg has greatly popularized the dulcimer with tourists.

Mr. Wortham makes the dulcimer in hourglass, teardrop and fish shapes although he makes most of them in the hourglass design. He said it took about three weeks, using all of his spare time, to make the first one. He makes them faster now

but said it was hard to estimate the accumulated time it takes to make one.

While the dulcimer is loved for its soft, sweet sound, it can be amplified. Also, it can be played in combination with piano or guitar although many people prefer to tune it to their own voices as an accompaniment to singing.

"I enjoy making them but see the expression on people's faces when they find they can make music on one — that's the greatest pleasure," Wortham said. "What is so great is watching people's faces when they realize they can get a simple tune from it."

## Recent Service Anniversaries

**Thirty-Five Years**

Elizabeth B. Parrish ..... Karastan

**Thirty Years**

Fontell Parrish ..... Columbus

**Twenty Years**

Henry H. Ballard ..... Fieldale

Estelle T. Dalton ..... Fieldale

Gail P. Walker ..... Research & Quality Control

William R. Frasier ..... Blanket Finishing

Virginia B. Odell ..... Karastan

Amos T. D. Hall ..... Fieldale

**Fifteen Years**

Jackie R. Moore ..... Sheet Finishing

Howard Perry ..... Columbus

Elmer S. Churchill ..... Blanket Finishing

Mary A. Dykes ..... Columbus

Mary S. Cox ..... Bedsread

**Ten Years**

Donald L. Allen ..... Automatic Blanket

Melvin L. Clark ..... Fieldale

Frances W. Kallam ..... Blanket Finishing

Robert L. Edwards ..... Automatic Blanket

Audrey R. Herring ..... Columbus

Curtis Glisson ..... Columbus

Edna Pearl Regan ..... Columbus

Edward H. Abernathy ..... Columbus

John C. Bircher ..... Karastan Spinning

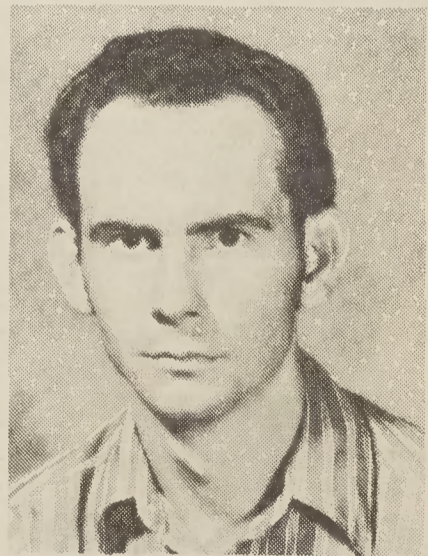
Betty G. Gauldin ..... Blanket Finishing

B. Gary Ramsey ..... Fieldale

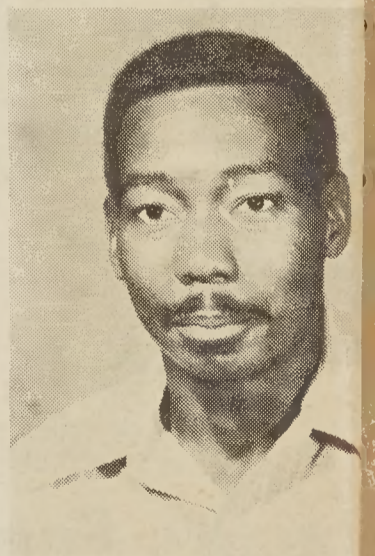
Jesse C. Amos ..... Fieldale

Linda B. Johnson ..... Automatic Blanket

Martha J. Peterson ..... Columbus



ROBERT L. LEE



LEO E. SANDERS

## Promotions At Smithfield

Two promotions have been announced at the Automatic Blanket Plant at Smithfield. Robert L. Lee has been named a shift foreman in the Components Department and Leo E. Sanders has been named a shift foreman in the Control Assembly Department.

Mr. Lee has been employed by Fieldcrest since 1966. He worked

as an uptwister operator, utility hand, extruder and coordinator all in the Components Department, before his recent promotion.

Mr. Sanders has been employed at the Automatic Blanket Plant since 1970. He worked as a utility hand and a server, before the Control Assembly Department, before being named a shift foreman.