

By Bay Street Warehouse Employees

100,000 Bales Of Cotton Processed

The 16 employees of the Bay Street Bonded Warehouse No. 1 in Columbus, Ga., are particularly proud this month. They have processed the 100,000th bale of raw cotton to pass through that facility since it began operations in November, 1974.

Used now to store raw cotton for the Columbus Towel Mill and Swift Spinning Mills, the 89,000

square foot building was formerly utilized for the storage of finished goods for the Columbus Towel Mill. Raw cotton at that time was stored at the respective mills rather than at a single facility.

After considerable renovation, the building can now house a whopping 25,000 bales of cotton. The employees are able to process about 800 bales per day.

As each bale arrives at the warehouse, samples are taken which are used for testing. These samples are tested for fluorescence, or the ability to reflect light; for coarseness, staple, or length of the fiber, and grade.

Each bale is then tagged according to these criteria and stored, to be delivered to the mills as needed.

The cotton is generally delivered to the warehouse by rail and sometimes by truck depending on the distance from which it comes. It is then delivered to the mills in Columbus by truck. Occasionally, cotton is sent from the Bay Street Warehouse to Eden area mills.

Normal inventory in the warehouse is approximately 20,000 bales and the average storage time is two to three months.

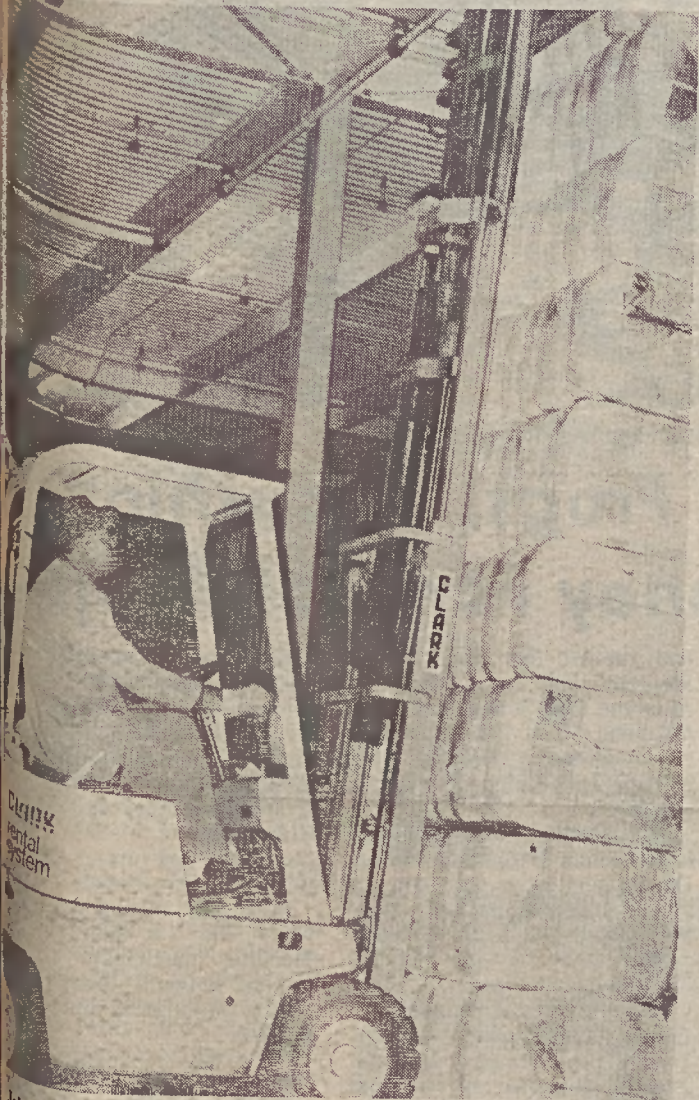
The Bay Street Warehouse is a federally bonded public warehouse. It was renovated to government specifications and a negotiable receipt must be issued for each bale of cotton stored there.



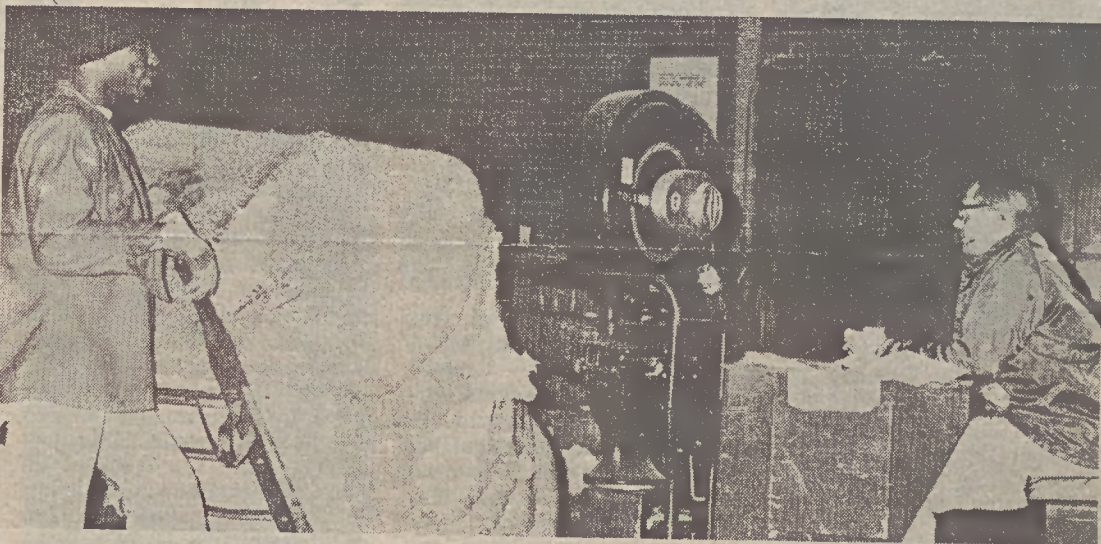
100,000th bale? Arthur Hill, sampler, and Charlie Mahagony, warehouseman, begin to process a bale of raw cotton.

The new facility, in addition to providing consolidation of cotton storage for the Columbus Towel Mill and Swift Spinning Mills,

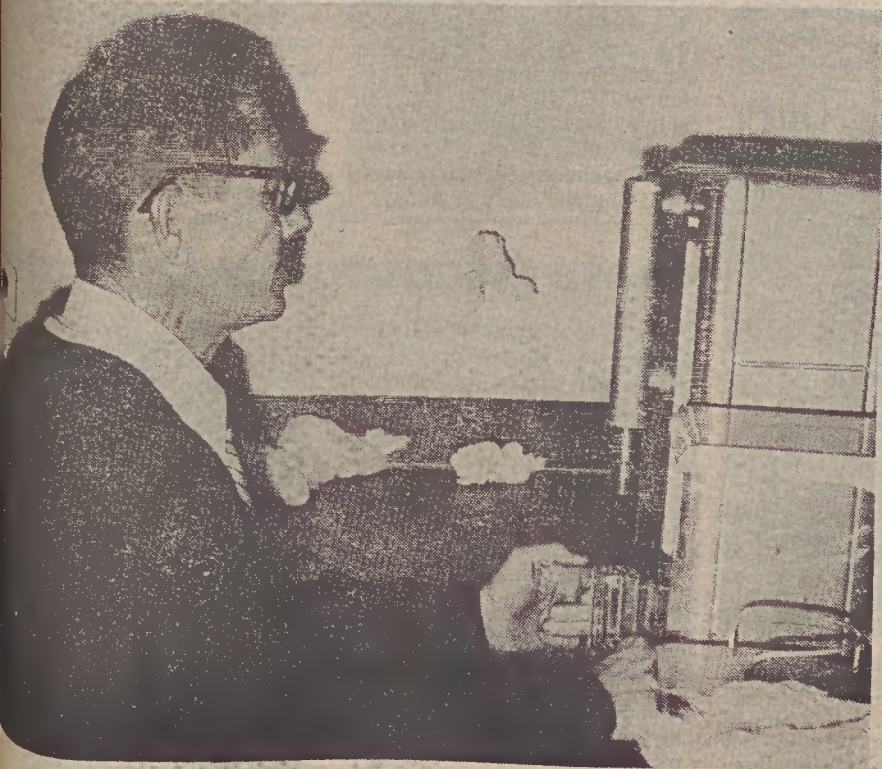
has also resulted in a more streamlined and efficient storage, testing and delivery system.



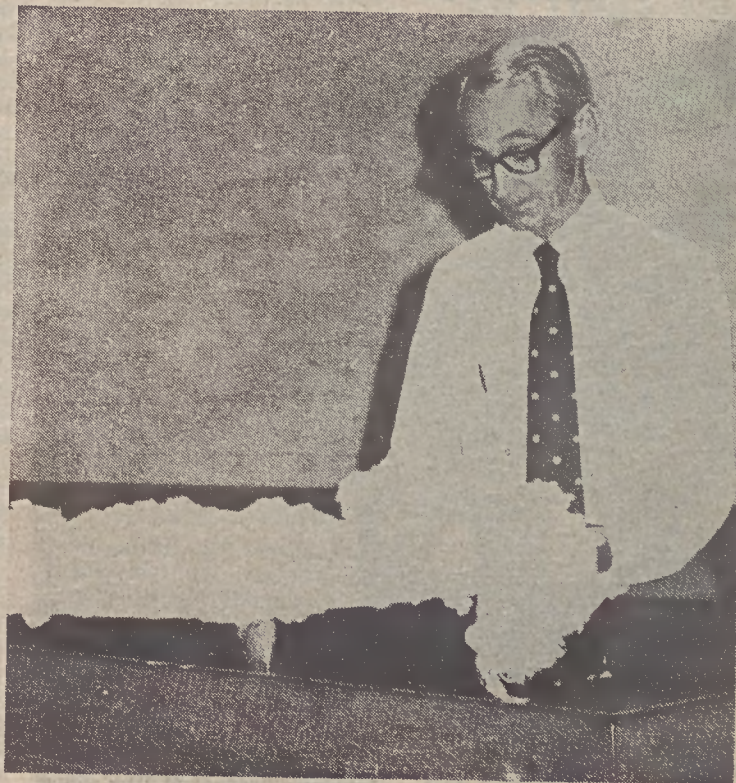
John Carter, fork lift operator, stacks processed bales of cotton awaiting shipment to various mills.



Weighing the cotton are William Lindsey, left, warehouseman, and Paul Thomaston.



Testing cotton is Paul Thomaston, lab technician.



Bill Lively, cotton classer, examines cotton.