

Innovation Added To Pulmonary Program

Lungs are vital to life. They have to be protected.

That's the view of the Fieldcrest Medical Department.

In the pulmonary testing program at Fieldcrest, pulmonary function (breathing ability) test results are put into a computerized system which utilizes all test information on each employee.

The resulting computer print-out provides test comparisons and by reviewing the results of these tests, any change in the employee's pulmonary function can be determined. Participating employees receive a Form FCR-185 (Pulmonary Function Test Report).

Originally instituted in 1970 to detect reactors to cotton dust, Fieldcrest's Pulmonary Program is now being increasingly used to detect other, non-work-related malfunctions. Any abnormality in the annual tests is followed up by Medical Department personnel and the employee is referred for treatment when necessary.

Another aspect of this program is use of respiratory protection in certain production sites, mainly the opening, picking and carding areas.

Mills involved in this aspect of the program are the Fieldale Towel Mill, Columbus Towel Mill, Mount Holly Spinning Mill and the Bedspread Mill.

Since the pulmonary testing program was instituted six years ago, test results have shown that the incidence of cotton dust reaction among employees is small.

The highest incidence of reaction occurs in plant areas where the cotton is initially prepared for yarn manufacturing. Weave Rooms have a smaller problem.

To date, the masking program has proved effective, according

to Dr. Charles G. Young, Fieldcrest medical director.

"The goal, however, is to identify and eliminate the substance in cotton dust which causes reaction. Research by the textile industry and cotton producers continues to make progress in that direction.

"Also, most textile companies, Fieldcrest included, are making efforts to lower the dust levels through engineering," he said.

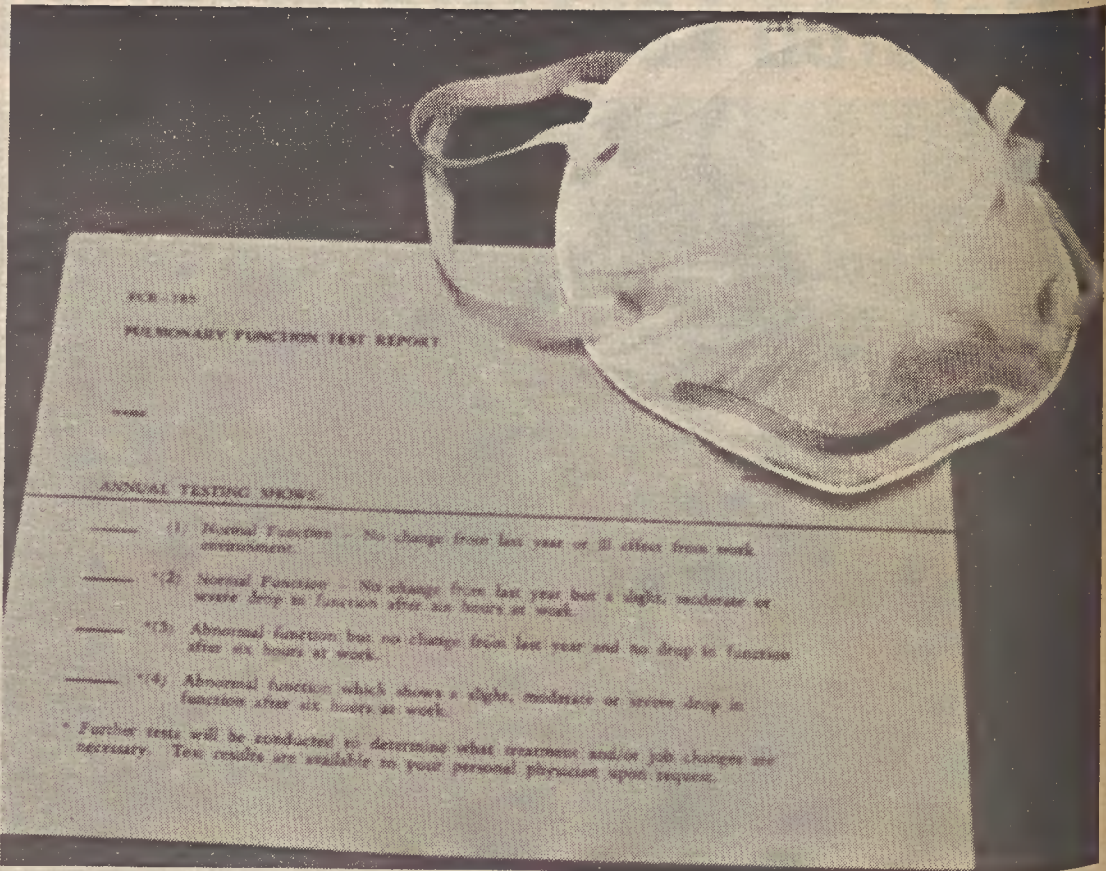
In discussing the identification of cotton dust reactors, Dr. Young said that detecting the reactors is complicated by the presence of other factors such as smoking, emphysema, asthma, and heart disease.

"As we continue with the pulmonary testing program, we are finding a number of employees with pulmonary problems which have nothing to do with cotton dust.

"By detecting problems of this kind, we are able to refer those involved to the appropriate medical authority for treatment. We feel that the program is extremely valuable to employees in the area of general health maintenance.

"So many people have pulmonary problems and never know it. With this new system of testing, a variety of abnormalities may show up and treatment can be rendered by the personal physician, hopefully before the problem becomes serious," Dr. Young said.

Most people applying for production work at Fieldcrest are given a pulmonary function test as part of the pre-employment physical. The test is a simple one taking only a few minutes. It consists of blowing air from the mouth into a tube connected to a machine which records the breathing capacity.



FOR YOUR PROTECTION, masking is extremely important in some production areas. Shown also is the Pulmonary Function Test Report which is filled out for each employee when taking the test.

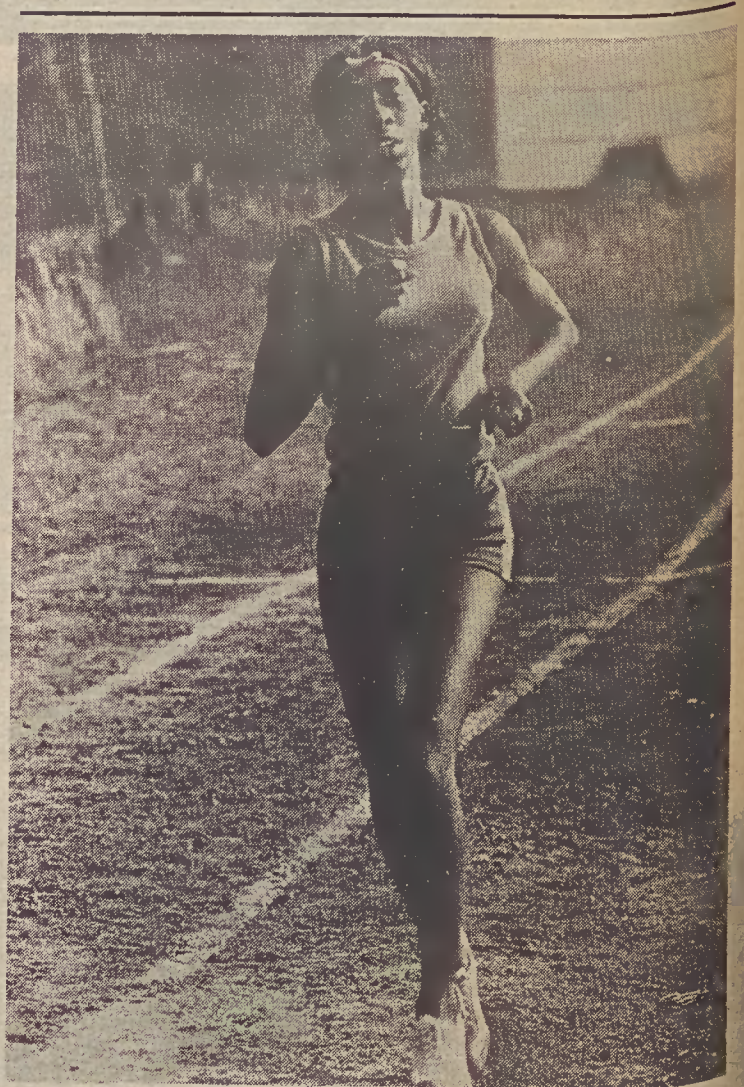
Pre-employment testing of Eden area employees is done at the central Medical Department. In outlying areas, the testing is done either at nursing stations or by trained technicians at each plant.

Nursing stations are now in operation at the Columbus Towel Mill, Swift Spinning Mill, Fieldale Towel Mill and North Carolina Finishing Company. Another is planned for the Greenville yarn plants.

Annual Follow-up testing is conducted by a team from the central Medical Department. The team consists of Norman Austin, supervisor of medical services, Calvin Wilkins, medical technician; and Rudy Rakes, medical technician.



PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST is administered to Della W. Freeman of the Karastan Winding Department by Calvin Wilkins, medical technician.



SHIRLEEN SLADE

Outstanding Athlete

Shirleen Slade, a junior at George Washington Carver High School, is making quite a name for herself in the field of athletics.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Slade, she has not only won a number of track events, but

she was voted athlete of the year and most valuable female in track at the George Washington Carver High School athletic awards banquet.

Her father is employed in the Card Room at the Fieldale Towel Mill.