

Bedsread Finishing: It's Really Been Around

Since its establishment as part of the Bedsread Greige Mill in 1917, Fieldcrest's Bedsread Finishing operation has really traveled. From the Bedsread Greige Mill, the operation moved to the Blanket Finishing Mill, then to the old Rhode Island Mill.

Finally, in 1966, Bedsread Finishing began operation in its present spacious location at the end of New Street in Eden, adjoining the Sheet Finishing Mill.

The Bedsread Finishing Mill performs the cutting, sewing, packaging and shipping operations for Fieldcrest's Bedsread operation and for the bedsread accessories such as dust ruffles, draperies, valances, shams and the newest operation, comforters.

The three shift operation employs 375 people and encompasses 275,069 square feet of space. Additions were made to the warehouse area in 1970 and again in 1972. During 1976, an addition of 12,000 square feet was made for the production area, mainly for comforters.

Comforter production was started in November of last year

and the Bedsread Finishing Mill now is producing almost all of Fieldcrest's comforters. Until last year they were made entirely by an outside company.

The primary operations at Bedsread Finishing are manual and automatic cutting, sewing, folding, tumble dyeing, packaging, warehousing and shipping.

In the dyeing area, some cross dyeing is performed in addition to the tumble dyeing. Cross dyeing involves using two or more colors in the same spread. Piece dyed spreads are dyed at the Blanket Finishing Mill, then sent to the Bedsread Finishing for the cutting and sewing processes.

Goods reach the Bedsread Finishing Mill by truck from the Bedsread Greige Mill, North Carolina Finishing Company, Foremost Screen Print and other plants. All sheeting fabrics used are produced at Fieldcrest's Draper Sheeting Mill.

The accessories operation began in the early 1960's with the production of pillow shams and valances. Production of dust ruffles was started during the

1970's. This area has grown enormously in the past year and is expected to continue this growth.

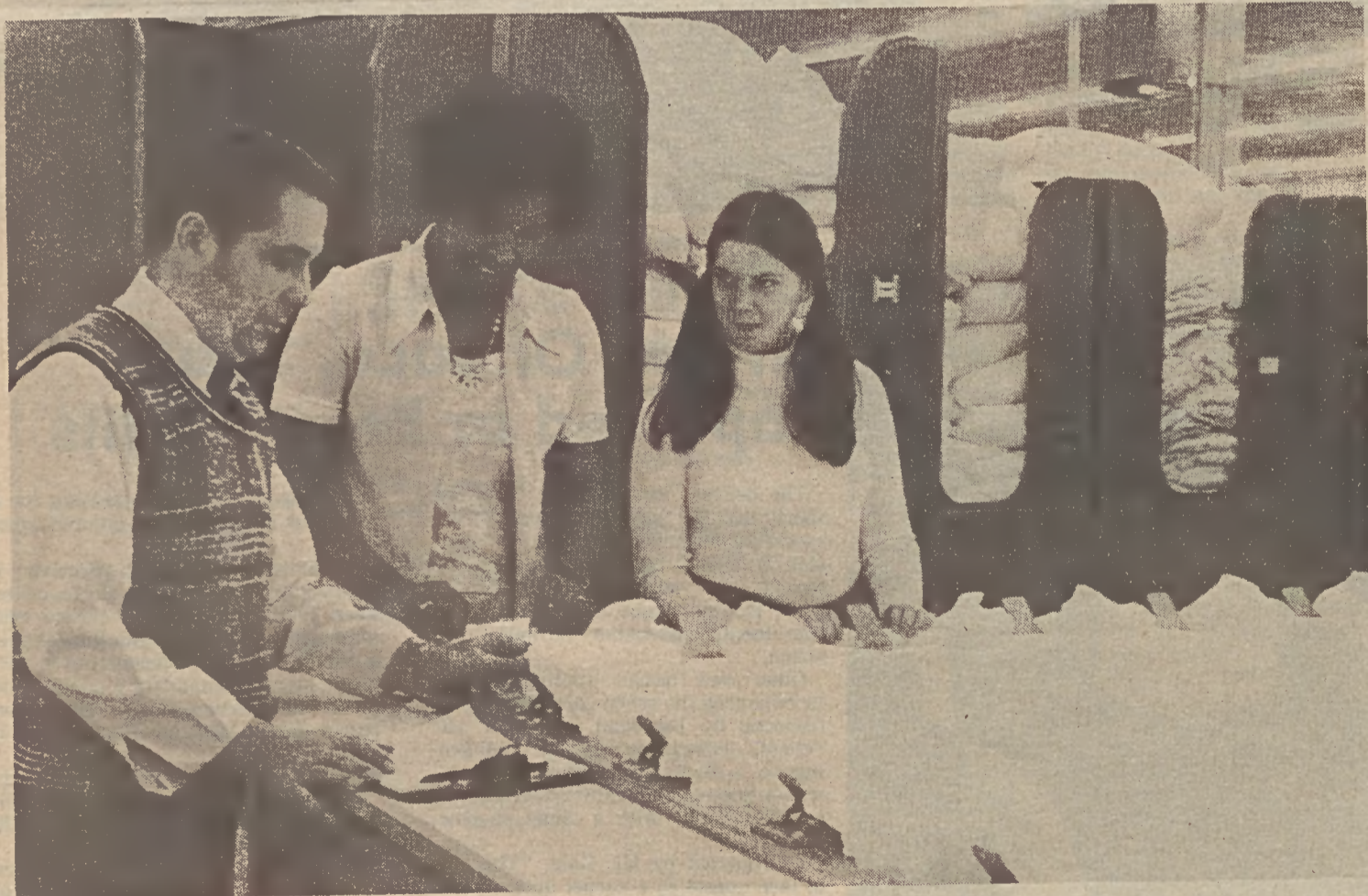
In the cutting area, about half is done manually and half automatically. Due to the large variety of sizes needed on some items, manual cutting is still necessary in order to produce Fieldcrest's high quality and high fashion products.

Goods are shipped from the Bedsread Finishing Mill directly to customers and to the Fieldcrest Service Centers. The Customer Service operation maintains a completely computerized billing and order processing function for maximum effectiveness.

Operating some of the most modern equipment in the industry, the Bedsread Finishing Mill has added new and improved equipment over the years and has streamlined its operation for the highest degree of efficiency and production. It is expected that modernization and innovation will continue to improve this very important part of Fieldcrest's business.



The Bedsread Finishing Mill, right, adjoins the Sheet



Supervisors EDD PYTLAK and PATRICIA ABBOTT instruct DENISE BROWN in "comforter framing".



BETTY SCALES
ping Department.