



THE MILL WHISTLE

Fieldcrest
Mills, Inc.

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Records Are Set In '76

Fieldcrest Mills, Inc. reported February 15 that 1976 sales and earnings constituted all-time highs for the second consecutive year.

Net earnings for the year rose to \$12,439,000 (\$3.39 per primary share), a 25 percent increase over the level of \$9,927,000 (\$2.75 per primary share), for 1975. Sales for 1976 of \$345,025,000 were 14 percent over the 1975 level of \$303,336,000.

The fourth quarter performance of the Company was strong and marked a reversal of the comparatively weak business trend noted in the third quarter. Fourth quarter net earnings were \$4,861,000 (\$1.34 per primary share) compared to \$4,828,000 (\$1.33 per primary share) in 1975. Sales increased to \$103,058,000 from \$94,436,000 in the prior year.

The operating results were announced by William C. Battle, president and chief executive officer of Fieldcrest.

Fieldcrest's 1976 earnings were affected by the decision of the Board of Directors to extend the LIFO method of accounting for inventory to the Carpet and Rug Division. This accounting change resulted in the establishment of additional LIFO reserves and a corresponding reduction in earnings of \$764,000 (\$2.1

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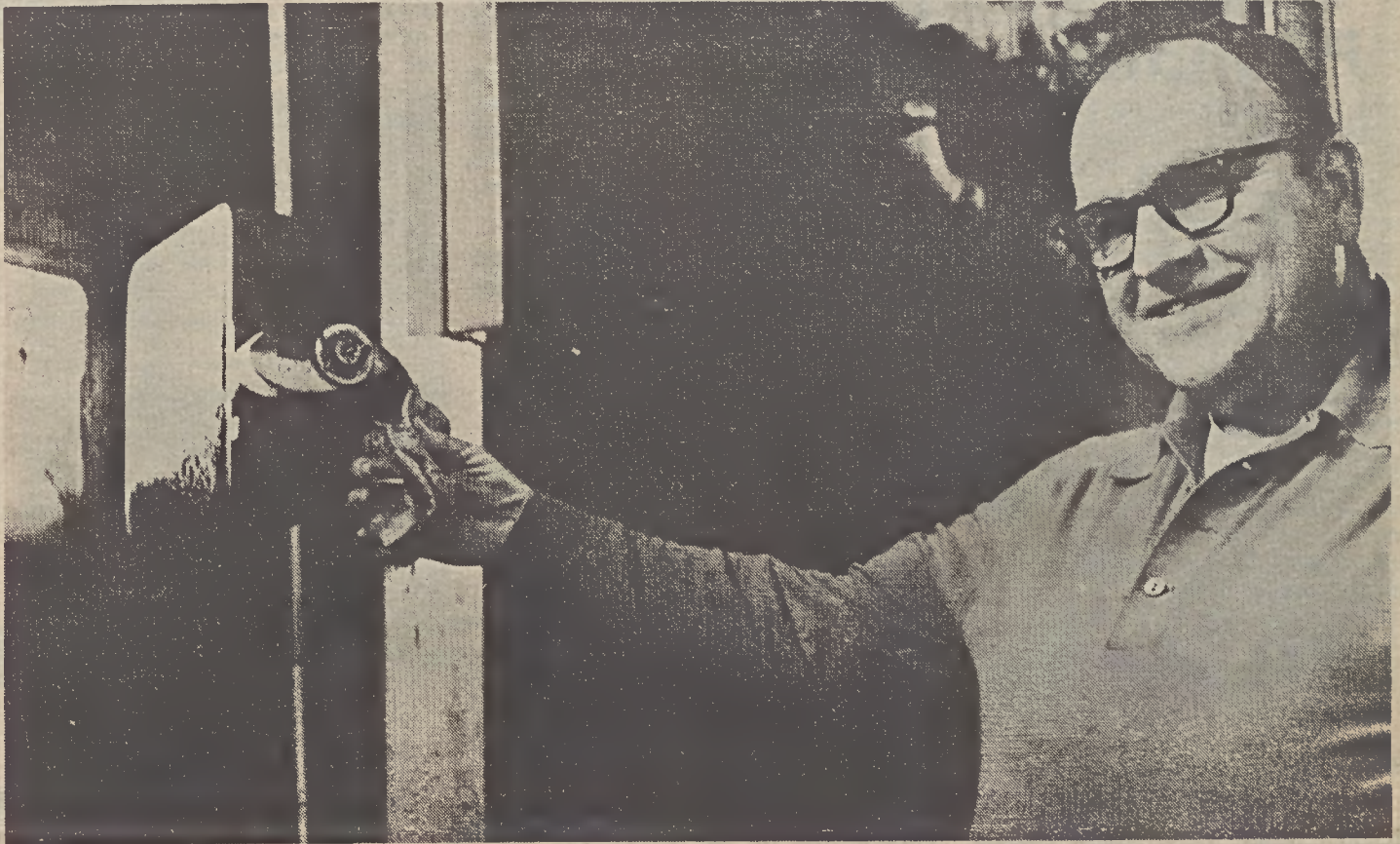
Notice

So that employees may make vacation plans, reservations at the beach, etc., the mills' summer vacation has been tentatively scheduled as follows:

The mills will cease operations Friday night, July 1, and resume Sunday night, July 10.

While the above schedule is expected to hold true generally, some individuals or departments may need to work during the vacation period.

The employees affected will be notified by their mill management and will be able to schedule time off on some later date.



He's Outstanding

Luther G. Meadows hasn't missed a day's work in 11 years. A fireman in the Draper Boiler Room, he has worked for Fieldcrest since 1936, and has one of the most outstanding attendance records in the company.

"When I don't feel good, I come on to work anyway and usually feel better. I think you feel worse if you stay around home in bed," he said.

For Everybody

Energy Conservation Now A 'Must'

The shortage of natural gas experienced during the past weeks has affected industrial users throughout the southeast and in many areas has caused the closing not only of mills and plants but also of schools, churches and small business.

Fieldcrest operations which are run by natural gas and at this time do not have alternate fuel capacity are mainly in four areas: the carpet backing process at the Laurelcrest Carpet Plant, some of the equipment at the North Carolina Finishing Company division, certain finishing processes for bedspreads at Eden, and dryers at Foremost Screen Print Plant.

All of these areas are now operating on propane which is converted to natural gas, and operations have been interrupted only temporarily and for short periods.

In the General Offices at Eden where natural gas was used for heating, conversion to fuel oil has been accomplished.

"This shortage of natural gas has shown us in a very real way that we must continue and even increase our energy conservation procedures throughout the company," said R. A. Harden, director of engineering for Fieldcrest.

"We have instituted stringent measures company-wide, but we will have to conserve even further both now and in the future because the shortage isn't going to go away

Predictions are that other sources of energy are going to be short, too, so we will have to make what supplies we do have last as long as possible," he said.

"Everybody is going to have to make energy conservation a way of life. And that includes individuals, industries, business—everybody. There is no choice in this, it's simply a fact."

Conservation measures already in
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Tax Changes Will Affect You

Major changes resulting from the Tax Reform Act of 1976 will affect just about everyone filing a tax return this year.

While the changes will be good news for many people, they will require extra care in the preparation of the 1976 tax returns.

The Internal Revenue Service maintains toll-free telephone systems in all states for people who need

information or assistance with their tax returns. For most North Carolina Fieldcrest employees, the number to call is 1-800-822-8800.

Employees who need assistance may either call the toll-free number or visit the nearest IRS office. Anyone visiting an IRS office for assistance should take their tax package received in the mail and all pertinent

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