

# Employees At Whiteville Plant Are A Very Special Group

(Continued From Page One)

Consulenze Industriali, an Italian firm owned by Emanuele Bondi, an Italian inventor and engineer who invented the system.

The Whiteville employees, most of whom have been with the company since the plant opened in 1973, have overcome numerous obstacles in perfecting a very complicated process, according to W. C. Flake, general manager.

"First, the process had to be modified before full-scale production could be achieved. Then these people had to be trained in an extremely complex system which uses electronic equipment. The really hard part, however, was achieving and maintaining high quality.

"This is where these employees have outdone themselves. They themselves have set goals for quality for 1978 and have shown that they are determined to meet these goals. I've never seen anything like the teamwork and determination they have.

"They are just outstanding in every way. In safety—no lost time accidents since 1974, in maintaining high quality, in cooperation, in everything," Flake said.

The system is indeed quite complex. First, the pattern is scanned by an electronic computer device which transmits the design onto punch tape. The punch tape is used to select the colors for the design which will be woven on a loom utilizing electronic equipment.

The cloth is then folded into a "stack" which can be up to 10 feet high. This huge "stack" of cloth is put on a fabricating machine in such a way that the ends of yarn are cut to

pre-determined lengths and embedded into a backing which has been previously coated with a plastic material. One block or "stack" of cloth will produce 90 6'x9' or 8' x 10' rugs or 180 4' x 6' rugs.

After the fabricating process is completed, the warp is removed from each rug. The rugs are then sent to Eden for washing, shearing, fringing or serging, cutting, inspecting, warehousing and shipping.

"Each step in the production of

these rugs is absolutely critical and must be done correctly. That means that every single employee at the Whiteville Plant knows the importance of his or her job and performs accordingly. They have all made up their minds to maintain a high degree of first quality rugs and that's exactly what they are doing and are going to continue to do. There's nothing that can't be done when you have a group like this, with a combination of teamwork and determination," Flake said.



**DIANNE STOCKS**, scanner operator, begins the process which will result in beautiful rugs.



**ADDIE MITCHELL**, left, and [unclear] process as folder operators.



**NATHANIEL McKAY**, weaver, and **ARTHALIA STRICKLAND**, technician.



**BOBBY REESE** removing warp from finished rug.



**DORIS FOWLER**, fabricating operator, left, and **BILLY LEWIS**, fabricating operator.