

First Erwin Mill in West Durham

By Zoe Young

The Erwin Cotton Mills Company was founded by charter dated April 20, 1892. The incorporators of the organization were: Messrs. Washington Duke, B. N. Duke, George W. Watts, W. W. Fuller, and W. A. Erwin. Mr. B. N. Duke was made President, Mr. Geo. W. Watts Vice-President, and Mr. W. A. Erwin Secretary and Treasurer. These officers remained unchanged until the death of Mr. Watts in 1922 when Mr. John Sprunt Hill was made Vice-President. Mr. B. N. Duke resigned as President in 1927, and Mr. W. A. Erwin was named to succeed him.

The first mill was built in West Durham in 1893 with 5,000 spindles and looms to weave the yarn production. The mill was doubled in size in 1896. At first muslin and sheetings were manufactured, and a good part of the product was used for tobacco bags. In 1898 this product was changed to denims, which were made here for the first time in the South. This first unit as completed in 1896 is now known as No. 1 Mill of the Company. It has a total of 596 looms and 27,468 spindles, and manufactures sheetings.

In 1903 No. 2 Mill was started at Erwin, N. C., then known as Duke. The reasons for selecting Duke as a site for the mill were—the proximity of the Cape Fear River, which it was thought might be developed as a water power; the proximity of the cotton fields; and the probable supply of adequate labor for operation. This mill consisted of 1,024 looms and about

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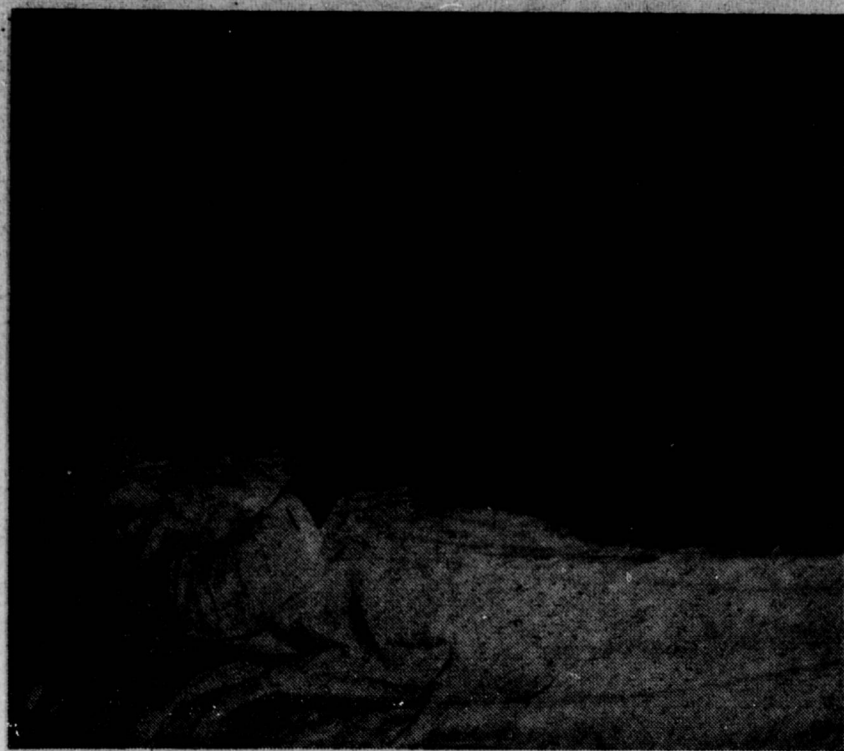
Durham and Erwin Plants Added to Chatter Circulation

With this issue THE ERWIN CHATTER expands its coverage to all three areas of the Erwin Cotton Mills Company. The paper was begun last July at Cooleemee and has been enthusiastically carried on ever since. W. G. Marks, now Safety Engineer at the Central Office, was the first editor of THE CHATTER. Since he moved to Durham, J. W. Wall, Personnel Manager at Cooleemee, has acted as editor for the paper.

With the months the paper has grown in size, showing increased interest to the point that the Company felt such a paper should serve each plant. With this aim in mind, an editor-in-chief to supervise and coordinate workings of three staffs has been secured.

W. Calvert, a graduate student at Duke University has assumed the duties as editor-in-chief of the publication.

It is hoped everyone will feel that the interest and usefulness of this paper will depend on his or her personal interest in it. Therefore, everyone should contribute as many news items, pictures, etc., as possible. In turn it is known that all fellow workers will receive pleasure from reading about their friends



Erwin G. I. Gets Rose from Janet Blair

Marine Hawley Awarded Purple Heart with Star

Pfc. Alenzo Hawley, of the Marines, gets an American Beauty Rose from the bouquet carried by lovely movie actress, Janet Blair, as she tours the wards of the U. S. Naval Hospital in the Charleston Navy Yard for the Sixth War Loan Drive. Private First Class Hawley of Dunn, N. C., Route 3, wears the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action in the Marshalls and is now eligible for a star on that decoration for wounds received in the fighting on Saipan.

Pfc. Hawley, who has been home recuperating from wounds received in action, has returned to Asheville to await further orders. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Hawley.

To the Boys in Service

It is swell to hear from you. Keep those letters and cards coming and we will do our best to answer each of them. The paper hopes to include more of your news and local news that will interest you. Address your note to the paper to ERWIN CHATTER, Box 577, West Durham Station, Durham, N. C. Lotsa Luck from All the Erwin Family and Hurry Home.

Victory Gardens Yield Savings

Plant Now and Pluck Dollars Later

Ration points have again been placed on many canned vegetables and fruits . . . 300,000 farm laborers have been inducted into the Armed Forces . . . farm machinery is wearing out . . . transportation is even more over-burdened this year . . . the situation on the entire food front has tightened up. But it can be greatly alleviated if more Americans will produce their own vegetables in large quantities this summer by cultivating Victory Gardens.

Here are a few hints designed to make your gardening tasks lighter and your yield greater. First, plan your garden carefully on paper before you start any "ground" work. Take into consideration the fact that the garden area should have at least six hours of sun daily; that the ground should not be too sandy

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Springtime Calls for Clean-Up and Paint-Up and Safety

FIRE DEPARTMENTS CALL FOR SPRING CLEAN-UP

Citizens Can Help Prevent Fire Losses by Following Few Simple Rules

Figures just released indicate that during 1944 fire losses in the United States have amounted to approximately \$424,000,000.00. It is the duty of every citizen of our community to do his or her best to prevent any unnecessary fire losses.

It is up to every individual to not only look for fire hazards, but to act promptly when a fire occurs, and to remember that the origin of most of our fires can be traced to a thoughtless act or improper precautions on the part of some individual.

A spring clean-up drive in the home will be aiding the war effort because through co-operating in such a drive we will be eliminating many of the causes of fires and saving vital materials which cannot be replaced until the war's end.

Common sense rules which everyone may follow in avoiding fires are as follows:

1. "Act promptly to get rid of

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SPRING HEALTH CLEAN-UP IN ALL COMMUNITIES IS URGED

With spring only a whisper away, sanitation programs are expected to accelerate in such a manner as to affect just about every household.

Victory gardeners, those patriotic people who are contributing importantly to the war effort, and at the same time are earning themselves assets of health and an interesting contest with the soil, are perhaps the first group health regulations confront.

Stable manure, deemed a prime requisite for some cultivators of the soil, must be spread upon the land promptly, and not left in a heap in some corner of the lot.

"If manure is left to stand, within a short while it will smell to high heaven and will cause a rapid breeding of flies," J. H. Epperson, Superintendent of Durham's Health Department, warns.

"Most folks having a garden stay pretty well in line with rules of sanitation, but those persons who persist in visiting the city disposal plant and getting themselves a lot of sludge to place upon their gardens,

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SAFETY CONTESTS NOW UNDERWAY

Interest in These Contests Now Running High by All Employees in the Erwin Mills

The Inter-Plant Safety Contest which began January 1, 1945, is now in its third month with considerable improvement being shown over the first month when part of the mills got off to a slow start. Everyone expresses the view that by the end of the contest period in June our mills should be making some outstanding safety records which in the final analysis means much more than records because it represents employees who have saved themselves painful injuries as well as loss of income through these accidents.

In the units located at Durham and Erwin individual departments who are competing for a prize are really showing some fine competitive spirit with accident prevention being one of the principal topics of conversation. Proof of this is seen when we find the individual departments arguing good naturedly as to whether a certain accident is to be charged to them or to some other department. Under the terms of this contest every employee in the winning department of each mill will receive a prize, but now that the contest is well started employees report that their goal is more to better the records of other departments than to actually receive a prize which means that we have developed the real spirit of co-operation with our fellow employees.

Proof that accident prevention is something that is good for all of us is clearly seen by observing those employees who now realize the value of such activity and who are gaining real personal satisfaction by doing their fellow worker a good turn, helping him or her to prevent an accident.

Let us all remember that these efforts we are now putting forth mean not only the prevention of injuries to ourselves, but the prompt delivery of supplies to our fighting forces which in turn may be the means of preventing suffering to those who are in the front line protecting our jobs and our homes.

—W. G. Marks

INTER-PLANT SAFETY	
Standings for the First Two Months of 1945 Against the First Two Months of 1944	
Mill No.	Improvement Over Last Year
Cloth Room—Numbers	
2 and 5	Perfect Record
Mill No. 6	Perfect Record
Mill No. 2	85% Better
Mill No. 4	70% Better
Mill No. 4	
Bleachery-Sewing	18% Worse
Mill No. 1	57% Worse
Mill No. 5	206% Worse
Mill No. 3 Finishing	315% Worse
Mill No. 3	246% Worse
Total All Mills	8% Better



EASTER GREETINGS