

THE ERWIN CHATTER

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MANAGEMENT SPEAKS

To the Employees of Erwin Mills:

Older textile people remember when the hours of employment in a textile plant were long, the work ran badly, the pay was low, and, at best, about all one could hope for was to earn a living by hard and long hours of work. These same people can remember when a man with an education moved away from industrial work into teaching, banking, medicine, law, and similar occupations. If one recalls a year or two ago, when an engineer graduating from college took a job as a worker in a steel plant rather than follow his engineering profession, giving as a reason that his earning possibility was greater, his responsibility less, and his working hours less demanding, one can see that the advantages offered industrial workers has, indeed, undergone great changes during the last 25 years.

Technological changes have made textile work run much better, the hours have been greatly reduced, the working conditions improved, and the pay raised until today spinners, weavers, loom fixers, roving frame operators, and the like work less hours and earn more money than do teachers, clerks, clerical workers, and people in similar vocations. Recent history shows possibility for advancement is just as great as other vocations.

Textile workers, indeed, have a profession. When an 8-hour shift is over for them, they have earned excellent pay under good working conditions and their duties are over until their next shift. Their job requires no outside work and no worries to take home with them. Such an industry and such conditions should attract the attention of young people generally today and they should weigh carefully the advantages of making textiles their life's work.

Sincerely yours,
E. M. Holt
General Manager

GETTING A HEAD START TO A GOOD JOB



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT ERWIN MILLS IN DURHAM—Kenneth Cohn, Print Shop; Ira Love, No. 4 Weave, second shift; Lloyd Luquire, No. 4 Bleaching & Sewing; Kenneth Ferrell, No. 1 Weave; Robert King, Machine Shop.

During the month of June when promotions and graduations are uppermost in the minds of the younger generation, we find that several Erwin Mills employees are enrolled as Juniors or Seniors at Durham High School. They are members of the Diversified Occupations (D. O.) class at school and receive credits toward graduation by working at Erwin Mills.

The D. O. plan is under the direction of Mr. Chester Ryan and is a continuation of the Co-op program which was carried on so successfully by Miss Maude Rogers for many years. During the school year of 1952, Mr. Ryan had 31 boys in the D. O. class studying 20 different occupations. All these occupations are of an apprenticeship nature; that is, they are trades which a high school student can learn through on-the-job training. In addition to 25 hours per week on the job, each D. O. student spends 15 hours a week in classroom study related to his job. This is a self-study class and is most beneficial when the student can follow his on-the-job work by text book study the next day. Such varied occupations as electrician, sheet metal worker, machinist, printer, radio repairman and mortician are studied by members of the D. O. class. These students must also take English, History and other basic courses required for graduation.

To be eligible for D. O., a student must be sixteen years old, a Junior or Senior, have satisfactory

grades and conduct record and be genuinely interested in a vocation. If the student plans to enter a trade or any industrial work, the D. O. program provides him with a well-rounded practical education for the time he spends in high school. He will have earned a steady income while still in school and will be well equipped to advance in the occupation of his choice.

We talked with five Erwin Mills employees who are or have been members of the D. O. class at Durham High. Kenneth Ferrell of No. 1 Weave Room, 2nd shift, is a Junior this year and in addition to working here and keeping up his regular work in school, he also attended the Loom Fixer's School at Erwin Auditorium. During the latter part of the year his classroom study in D. O. consisted of Loom Fixer's lessons assigned at Erwin Auditorium, so that he has had good training for future work in the Weave Room. Kenneth has made no plans for the future, but he can be sure that his present training will assure him of a good job when he graduates.

Lloyd Luquire has been working for Erwin Mills since the summer of 1951, and by the time this is published, will have graduated from Durham High School and entered the Air Corps. Lloyd is a Spare Hand in the basement of No. 4 Bleaching and Sewing and feels that he has learned a great deal since he first came to work here. For other boys interested in the D. O. program, Lloyd says, "It's especially good for students who don't plan to go to college because they have a head start when it comes to getting a job."

Ira Love, No. 4 Weave, 2nd shift, has a natural interest in Erwin Mills since his father and three brothers are employed here. His father, Dock Thomas Love, is a Overseer in No. 4 Carding. Richard works in the Sewing Room, Lester is Assistant Payroll Supervisor and Norman operates the Print Shop. Ira has worked here since the summer of 1951.

Mr. Ryan, D. O. coordinator, says that our Machine Shop is one of the finest places in town to send his students because the boys can follow one job from beginning to end. When learning a trade, this experience is much more valuable than working on an assembly line where the student can learn only one job at a time. Robert King was a D. O. class member this year and assigned to the Machine Shop. A visit to the Machine Shop any afternoon will prove to you that the older employees think he's a fine worker.

Kenneth Cohn wants to learn the printing trade and he's having a world of experience by working part time in the Print Shop at the Main Office. He is learning all about offset printing and knows how to use the Oloid Blueprint Machine. Kenneth is a Junior this

year and plans to be in the D. O. program again next year.

Not too long ago the D. O. students gave an Employer-Employee Banquet at Harvey's Cafeteria. Each student invited his employer or someone from his company to represent his employer. Mr. E. B. Cooke, Superintendent of No. 4 Mill, Lester Love of the Payroll Department and Ralph Carrington, Overseer of No. Weave, represented Erwin Mills at this banquet. All who attended the banquet soon realized that everybody benefits when everybody cooperates through the D. O. plan. The school benefits by being able to keep these young men in classes until graduation, the



Mr. and Mrs. Garland Sauls, Durham, who are the proud parents of a baby girl, Deborah Faye, born May 3rd.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Weaver, Durham, who announces the birth of a son, Richard, on May 5th.

Mr. and Mrs. Booker T. Williams, parents of an 8½ lb. son, Barry Thomas, born April 25th. Booker is employed at the Warehouse in Cooleecee.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ward, Cooleecee, proud parents of a baby girl, Frieda Gale, born May 18th.

student benefits because he is learning a trade while going to school and will be qualified for a much better job when he graduates, and the employer benefits because he has the opportunity to train young men who will someday become his regular employees.

Have you heard the news? The E Bond, which you can buy regularly on our Payroll Savings Plan here, has been improved and is a better buy than ever! Buy more and more U. S. Defense Bonds, and if you haven't yet joined the Payroll Savings Plan, you can't afford to delay any longer! Your E Bond for which you pay \$18.75, grows to \$25.00 in 9 years and 8 months in 19 years, 8 months, it will grow to \$33.67! Brother, those are good returns! So don't put it off any longer; join Payroll Savings right now. You can't afford to delay buying U. S. Defense Bonds—they're better than ever!

DEATHS

Erwin friends extend their sympathy to the following persons who recently experienced a death in their family:

Mrs. Geneva Huey and William Robbins of the Sewing Room in the loss of their mother, Mrs. Laura Robbins.

Mrs. Addie Turnage and family of Erwin in the death of her father, Mr. Holmes.

Miss Ellen Benson, Pat Benson, Glen Benson and family of Erwin in the recent death of their mother.

ERWIN MILLS' FAMILY—The picture, taken in 1927, shows three generations of the Erwin family: W. A. Erwin, W. A. Erwin, Jr., and W. A. Erwin, III.



START RUG-MAKING AS A HOBBY! Making your own rugs is a hobby that will bring you relaxation and satisfaction, even if you have very little time for your hobby. A rug, like this one, is fun to make and can be crocheted very quickly. The cost is very little with lustrous Kentucky Soft Spun rayon yarn available at 5 & 10c stores. Art Needlework stores and Sears Roebuck. To get started on this fascinating hobby, ask for your free copy of the Williamsburg rug pattern, pictured above, and the Lexington, another rug not pictured. Your local Chatter editor has a supply of these instructions and will be glad to give them to you.

NEW CHIEF IN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT—Upon the retirement of Mr. C. F. Williams in April of this year, Mr. Jack Holt took over the duties of Purchasing Agent for the Erwin Mills, Inc. Mr. Holt has spent 10 years with the Company, all of them in the Purchasing Department working with Mr. Williams. Mr. Holt was born in Durham County and moved to Erwin at an early age to live with his uncle, Dr. W. P. Holt. He lives in the country a few miles from Durham where he and his wife, the former Miss Blanche Rogers, have a lovely home and two children, Jack and Michael. A country gentleman at heart, Mr. Holt does much of the farming himself when time permits and enjoys woodworking as a hobby. He holds a Masters Degree from Duke University where he majored in History and has held various offices in the Carolina-Virginia Purchasing Agents Association.