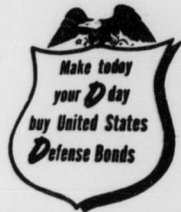


THE ERWIN CHATTER



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Discovers Old Well with Peach Twig; 6,000 at Erwin Barbecue Ends Water Shortage at Cooleemee

Jack Ridenhour's Wand Points To Well Capped 25 Years Ago Under Concrete Floor of Grey Cloth Room.

Old-timers at Cooleemee failed to find the capped well under the floor of the Grey Cloth Room when a water shortage developed this summer. Mr. Jack Ridenhour who has been with Erwin Mills for fifteen years was asked to try out his newly found powers as a water-finder with a peach divining rod.

Discovered Powers 2 Years Ago

About two years ago Jack bought a home outside of Cooleemee. Well-diggers went down 220 feet but found no water. Mr. Ridenhour remembered reading about people finding water with peach twigs, and he decided to try it. It worked. The twig pointed down close to the dry well. The drillers tried that spot and brought in a good well.

Jack says he uses no pattern when hunting for water. He just wanders back and forth until the twiz zooms downward.

He works in the Shop. For seven years he was manager of the theatre. He is married and has a six year-old son, Monte.



Mr. Ridenhour shows how he held peach twig.



Water! The twig swings down, stripping bark in Jack's hands.

Company Ends CIO Contract

Official notice to the Textile Workers Union of America CIO that Erwin Mills Inc., is ending the contract in Durham, Erwin and Cooleemee, was sent out in a letter dated August 7. The contract expires October 11.

Company officials felt that this was the only way to clear the field so that Erwin employees could choose exactly what they wanted. Under the present conditions, the contest between the CIO and AFL Unions has complicated matters for employees and Company alike.

Check-off Dues

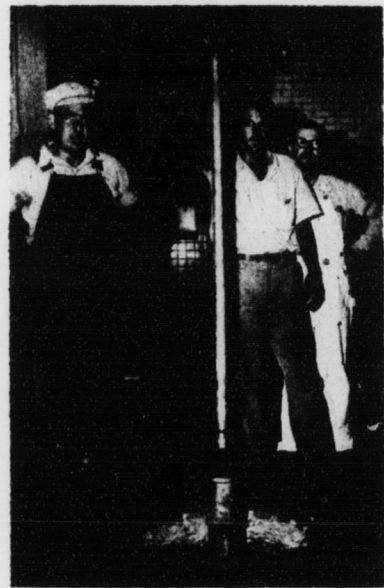
Last May when the controversy between the Unions began, some employees asked the Company not to pay to the CIO the dues checked off from their pay. The dues have been held in escrow since. Meanwhile check-off dues of employees who did not withdraw are being paid to the CIO according to the terms of the contract.

If the National Labor Relations Board orders an Election, our employees will be able to vote for one of three choices:

- NO UNION
- UTW (AFL)
- TWUA (CIO)

Regardless of what the employees decide—whether they want no Union, the AFL, or the CIO—they can be certain that the Company will continue to do the very best it can for them. If they should pick one of the Unions, the Company, of course, will, as it always has, bargain in good faith. If the employees decide on no Union, they can be sure that the treatment will be equally as fair.

The present contract will remain in force until October 11.



The old, 330-foot well discovered by Mr. Ridenhour, now in operation. Note thickness of concrete floor. Tom White, Duke Daniels and Burt Vick stand by.

New Equipment Deliveries Soon

Good news came to No. 5 Weave Room in Erwin this month when Mr. E. H. Bost, manager, was notified that air-changing equipment installation would begin in September rather than in October, and that the new X2 Loom deliveries would start in early October rather than November.

Announcement of the \$1,250,000 investment in new equipment and better working conditions was made last month. The prolonged, intense heat wave has made the news of early delivery doubly welcome.

Zeb Stone Promoted

Mr. Zeb J. Stone's promotion to Director of Systems and Procedures was announced in July by Mr. Carl R. Harris. Mr. Stone will be under the supervision of Mr. John McArthur, Controller, and will devote his attention to the streamlining of our clerical work.

For example, Mr. Stone was recently working on the most efficient system for writing our paychecks. "Systems" involves the method of keeping all records on work, pay, taxes, life insurance, hospitaliza-

tion and other deductions before a paycheck can be issued.

Systems and Procedures became increasingly important during World War II when there was an unwieldy amount of red tape to be handled throughout the Company; now the department continues to be important in our organization.

Mr. Stone works closely with all the mills, both in North Carolina and Mississippi. Mr. Lester Love, formerly Assistant Payroll Supervisor in Durham, is now Mr. Stone's assistant in Systems and Procedures.

Daredevils Thrill Greatest Crowd of Employees and Families Ever Assembled in Erwin

Employees Hear Speech by Mr. Ruffin

Although the thermometer hit 104 the Barbecue Dinner at Erwin, July 19 was a success.

Visitors from Durham included Mr. Wm. H. Ruffin, President who made the featured address of the day, Mr. Carl Harris, Vice President, Mr. E. M. Holt, General Manager and Mr. N. A. Gregory, Assistant Secretary. Mr. Robert Barrett, Training Director, and Mr. Glenn Penland, Safety Director also attended.

Committees Praised

Mr. E. H. Bost, Manager, made the speech of welcome and introduced the visitors and Mr. Ruffin. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ruffin praised the work of the committees who had worked so hard to make

No. 5 had weathered the slump better than most, he said: "Our mills are known as high wage mills," he pointed out.

Better Working Conditions

Speaking of the million and a quarter dollar investment in No. 5 Weave Room, for air changing equipment and new looms, he said "We either keep improving and modernizing or we lose out. Such investments in the Erwin Mills future means steadier jobs and constantly improved working conditions."

Fight Between Unions

"The fight between the two Unions seems to be a bitter one with sharp differences of opinion," Mr. Ruffin went on, "I want to urge you to not let these sharp differences of opinion cut apart families, or groups of friends, to urge you not to become bitter against each other."

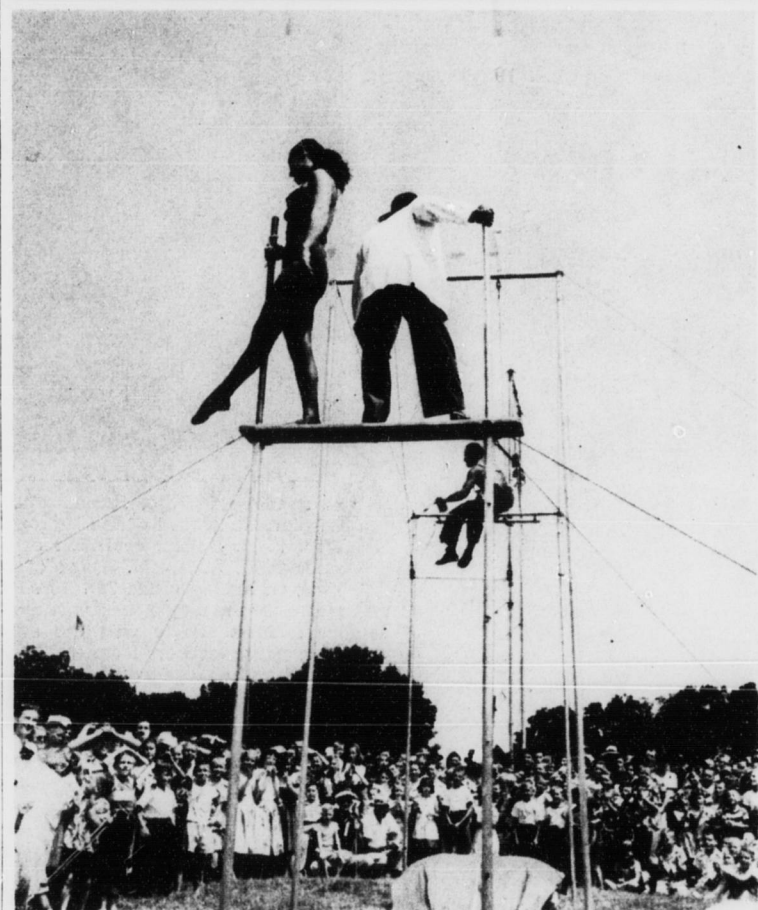
Everyone Urged to Vote

Mr. Ruffin said that if an election is called by the National Labor Relations Board, that Erwin employees should: "... consider the questions that will be raised just as you consider the questions in politics. Look everything over carefully, and don't be pushed around. Decide the questions for yourselves. You have the right to vote for whatever you want, the CIO, AFL or No Union. Let's don't have our employees getting mad at each other. It is important for every one to go and vote."

Assurance Given

Mr. Ruffin said, "... Times like these create confusion in people's minds, arguments, claims, rumors, false statements, truths, all get mixed up. This seems to be the proper occasion to give you people assurance about the future. . . . Whatever happens, CIO, AFL or No Union your Company is going to do the best it can for its employees at all times. It cannot do more than its best, and it certainly does not want to do less than its best. I mean that from the bottom of my heart. You may be told by one Union that if the other Union wins you are going to lose a lot of your benefits. The other Union may say the same thing about its opponents and both Unions may try to tell you that if you vote for no Union you will lose all of your benefits. That is not so! Regard

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Trio of acrobats, Les Chambertys, pause for applause.

NLRB Still To Decide About Elections

If Union Elections are Ordered They Probably Will Be Held in Fall; Employees at Durham, Erwin and Cooleemee Are Involved.

The National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D. C., has, by now, probably received all the papers pertaining to the hearings held in Durham late in July.

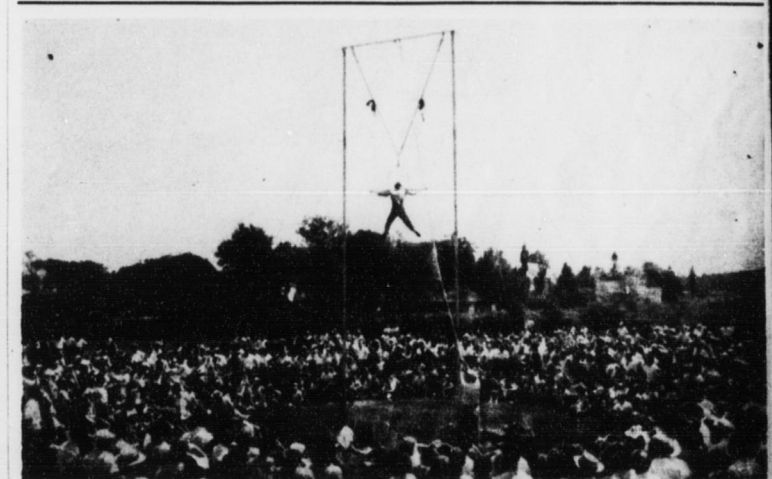
The Board will study the testimony and, if the usual procedure is followed, will decide whether or not elections should be held in Durham, Cooleemee and Erwin. Normally an election is held within 30 days of such decision.

Because the contract at Neuse expires in March 1953, the question of an election presents a different problem and the Board will possibly have to give a separate decision about an election in that case.

the big affair run so smoothly. He made special mention of the members of The Yard who worked during the time everybody was enjoying themselves.

Textile Slump Cited

Mr. Ruffin explained the reasons for the textile slump, and held out hopes that the bottom had been reached. Erwin's Mills, No. 2 and



Billy Barton, before his sensational "Cloud Swing," hangs by his neck.

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