



THE ERWIN CHATTER



Vol. VIII, No. 11

NOVEMBER, 1952

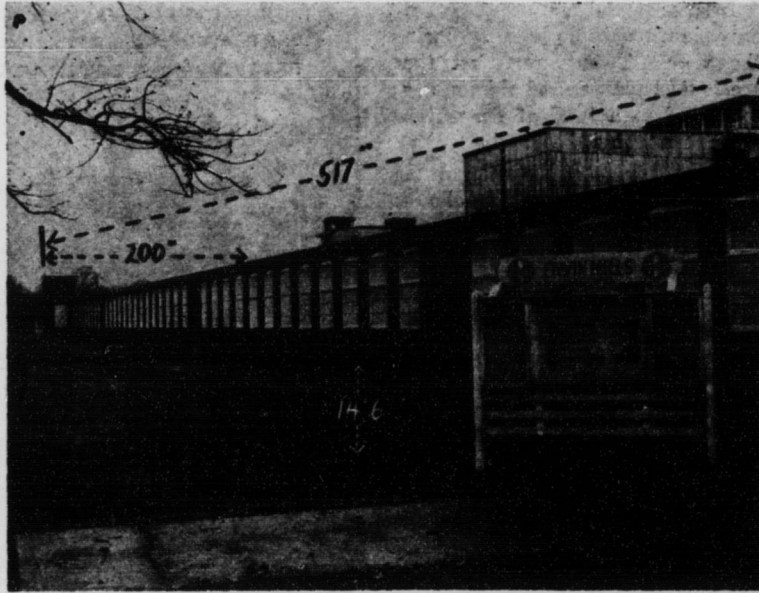
Circulation 6,000

No. 6 and 4 Mills To Be Combined At W. Durham In Next Nine Months

Production of Percalés Will Be Doubled To Meet Increasing Market Demand

In order to centralize the output of percale sheeting, now made only in our No. 6 Mill, it has been decided to combine No. 6 with No. 4 Mill in West Durham. No. 1 Mill, also in Durham, will eventually be converted to percales in order to double production. These changes are part of the \$2½ million modernization program announced last summer.

The nearly 200 employees now working at No. 6 have been offered jobs in West Durham. Those who accept can plan to make the change about nine months from now. Space for the machinery from No. 6 Mill must be prepared before the move can be made.



103,400 square feet under No. 4 Mill will be excavated in next nine months.

Digging to Begin Soon

It is expected that work will begin within the next month to excavate under No. 4 Mill. The area to be dug will extend from the Main Gate of No. 4 Mill to the west end of the building and across the entire width. Present plans call for the Cards and Sliver Lappers from No. 6 to be installed underneath the present No. 4 Card Room. The Weave Room will be under the present No. 4 Spinning Room. The entire area will be air-conditioned.

Employees Informed

Before the announcement of the change was made public, W. V. Byers, Manager of the Durham Erwin Mills, talked to the employees at No. 6 about the move and the reasons for it. He said that by putting both mills under one roof, we could work more efficiently and lower production costs. "One of our problems here at No. 6," said Mr. Byers, "is transportation of both raw cotton and finished goods. Combining the two mills will eliminate this problem entirely."

Mill History

No. 6 Mill is the former Pearl Cotton Mill, established in 1892 by B. L. Duke. It was named after his favorite daughter, Pearl. Operations began with 10,000 spindles and 210 broad looms, the first mill constructed in the South for the manufacture of wide sheeting. Since there was no bleachery in the South, brown goods were shipped to Utica, N. Y., to be bleached and sent to customers. Erwin Cotton Mills eventually did the bleaching. Erwin Mills bought the plant in 1932 and added new equipment. It has been producing percales since 1950.

Managers In Durham For Two-Day Meeting

It's front page news when all of our Managers gather at the same place at the same time! Here they are, in conference and between sessions at the Durham meeting November 4 and 5 when decentralization plan was announced.

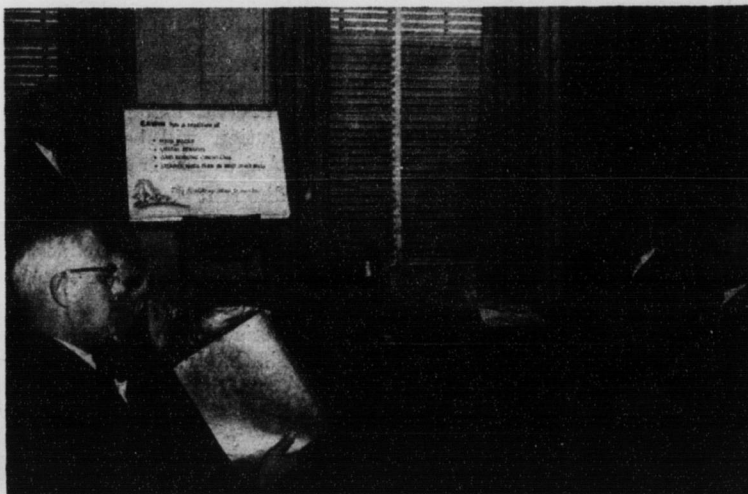


M. R. Harden, Manager of Plant 8, Stonewall, Miss. gets the latest news from N. A. Gregory, Assistant Secretary.



E. H. Bost, Erwin Manager, and J. L. James, Manager of the Cooleegee units in conference. W. H. Muse, Assistant Manager at Erwin is seated behind Mr. James.

President Ruffin announced that no decision has been reached as to what will be done with the No. 6 mill property after it is vacated.



C. R. Harris, Vice President of Erwin Mills, calls managers meeting to order. Seated on right are President Ruffin and W. V. Byers, Durham Manager. M. R. Harden in left foreground.



E. H. Bost discusses problems with R. H. Lewis, Standards Department, and J. L. James, Cooleegee Manager.

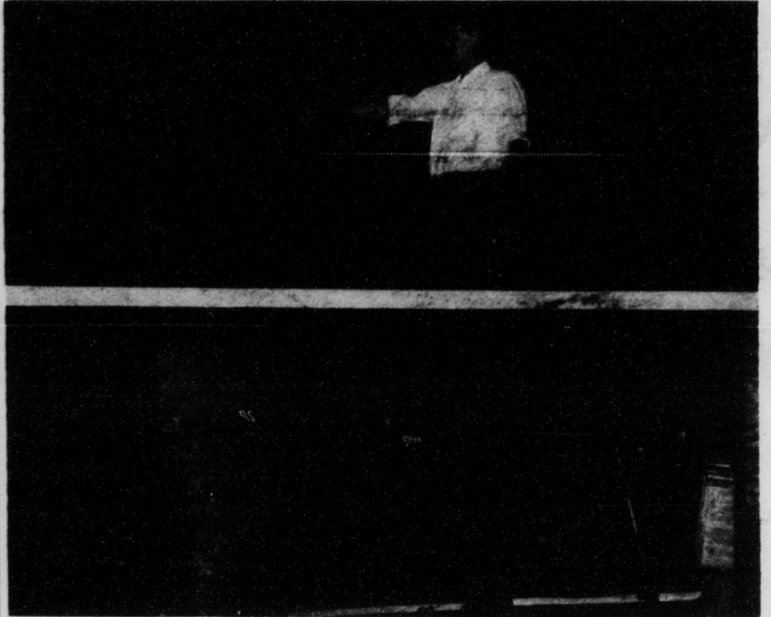
25 Year Club Banquets Planned

Magic Shows, Speakers Scheduled For Annual Quarter-Century Banquets

Wallace the Magician will wave his magic wand over guests at the annual Twenty-Five Year Club Banquets for Durham, Cooleegee and Erwin employees this year. The speaker for each banquet will be an executive of Erwin Mills.

Durham will have the first banquet this year on November 29. The Cooleegee banquet will be held in Salisbury at the Yadkin Hotel on

DIGGING UNDER NO. 4 TO BEGIN SOON



DOCK LOVE, Overseer in No. 4 Carding indicates where No. 6 equipment will eventually be moved. Some of area is now used to store old looms.

Changes In Executive Management Announced

All Managers Given Added Responsibilities; New Research Division To Aid Modernization Program

Some changes in the executive management organization of Erwin Mills were announced this month and went into effect immediately. The changes have placed more responsibility directly upon the managers. This is a decentralization plan which gives managers greater independence in operating their mills.

Division Created

A Research and Development Division has been created, and E. M. Holt has been named Director. His work will include machinery research, quality control of products, as well as development of new products and styles. This is in line with our expanded efforts toward modernization and improvement.

To Help Managers

As Vice President and Assistant Treasurer, C. R. Harris will continue to have the responsibility of over-all production of the Mills. Marchant Cottingham and E. G. McIver, Jr. assist Mr. Harris and are available to help the managers with manufacturing problems which they may have.

Return to Early Ideas

According to President Ruffin, the decentralization is "really a return to practices which proved successful in the early days of Erwin Mills. There is a general tendency in industry toward decentralization and we find that it fits in with our modernization program and our efforts to meet our competition with greater efficiency."

Negotiations In Full Swing

The first contract negotiating meeting between the Company and the UTW (AFL) was held in Durham on November 10. The AFL represents employees in Cooleegee and Durham. Last month the AFL and the Company reached agreement on the extension of the old contract through November 25. In the event a new contract has not been signed by that date, negotiations will continue.

In Erwin, negotiations between Erwin Mills and the TWUA (CIO) began October 30.

The Company will notify employees immediately when the final decisions are reached and the contracts are signed.

the night of December 6. In Erwin the celebration will be held at 12:30 p.m., December 13.

Two new Fifty Year employees will be added to the roster this year. They are Graham A. Wilson of Durham, and Robert W. Wilkerson of Erwin.

Altogether there will be eighty-two new Twenty-Five Year Club members. Thirty-eight new members are from Erwin, twenty-nine from Durham and fifteen from Cooleegee.

The NLRB election for Plant No. 7, Neuse, is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3. Employees will have the opportunity to vote for the CIO Union, AFL Union, or No Union.



E. M. Holt, Director of our new Research and Development Division, is regarded as one of the best technical men in the industry. He started working for the Company in Erwin in 1921. In 1926 he moved to Durham as Superintendent of No. 1 Mill and later Superintendent of No. 4. He was Assistant Manager of the Durham plants for two years and moved to Cooleegee to become Manager there in 1934. From January 1947 until his recent appointment as Director of Research and Development, he was General Manager of all Erwin Mills.