

DEPARTMENT NEWS

TWISTING

The move to the new plant is fast approaching. We are less than two months away from beginning equipment relocation. The first twisters to be transported include 4 from 1st floor EE, 18 from 2nd EE, and 18 from 5th MM.

Much work is necessary to prepare machinery for use in the new plant. This year's overhauling project is very demanding. Rings, spindles and double idlers are being installed on 2nd WE twisters; rings and spindles on 4th EE and MM; double feed rollers on 2nd EE. In addition, separator blades will be placed on all twisters scheduled to be moved.

Gainsharing results for January are 1.55%. The greatest opportunity for improvement is quality. Last month we had a loss in that area. All doffers met to suggest countermeasures for quality improvements. Remember, if everyone takes personal responsibility to do his job following proper procedures, QUALITY will be the result.

Your support during this transition to the new plant is appreciated. You have been asked to do different jobs, assume additional tasks, change work areas and, in some cases, work different shifts. Temporary employees are also being used in some areas. All of these things are necessary at this time because we must continue to supply our customer with the quality product they demand and deserve.

- RICHARD HARRISON

WEAVING

I would like to say "thank you" to each person in Weaving for picking up and doing things that go beyond your regular job requirements. Everyone has done an excellent job filling in vacancies due to the new plant transition. I know it has not been easy but your efforts are noticed and greatly appreciated.

Weaving has received its seventh air jet loom and one additional Dornier loom. When we get to the new plant there will be twenty Draper air jet looms and twenty-eight Dornier looms. The Sales Department is currently working to obtain new customers to fill the production capacity we will have. Industrial Weaving will be going to a seven-day schedule in April.

The Splicing area continues to show good results in the quality of splices being made. Weaving splicers and Twisting reclaimers are concentrating their efforts together to solve problems with broken cords.

- MIKE ROLAND

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The pressure on improved quality continues to get greater. Our customers are demanding better quality and they are prepared to go to other suppliers to get it. We are facing a major loss of business from Mexico because our quality is not as good as the quality from the local Mexican supplier. In this case the quality complaint is baggy fabric and tight cords.

Tight cords can be created in all our production areas, from twisting to weaving to treating. Any yarn or cord that is not in the proper guide, or is wrapped around another cord, or is twisted wrong, or the bobbin has a bad build, or is a different age than the other cords all can cause a tight cord that our customers can not use.

Baggy fabric can come from misalignment in the loom or in the treating unit or from moisture getting in the edge cord. Leaving a treated roll on the reroll table too long can be a problem. Any damage to the outer plastic wrap will permit moisture to get to the fabric and cause it to be baggy.

Mexico is not the only customer with this complaint; they are just the only customer we are close to losing because of this complaint. If we lose Mexico then we make less sales, and less sales mean less profit, and less profit means less gainshare for you. It does not matter if you are the one that caused the tight cord or if you are not. What matters is that each of us do our job the best we know how, follow the specifications and procedures and be on the watch for mistakes by others that we can correct.

Quality and customer service begin and end with you, the person who makes the product right or makes it wrong.

- DAVE LEWIS

TREATING

We have installed laser printers in the treating units to efficiently print more legible roll tickets. We are now placing these tickets in a zipper pouch that sticks on the side of the roll. Formerly we secured roll tickets with staples. This new procedure eliminates the possibility of damaging the fabric with staples and solves the past problem of tickets being lost in addition to improving roll appearance.

We are experimenting with a new roll shell that may prove a better shell at a lower cost we call the "Super Shell". Made of strong plastic instead of wood, the super shell weighs less but appears more durable.

- PHIL HUDDLESTON