

Fieldcrest MILL WHISTLE

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the Employees of Fieldcrest Mills, Inc.
Spray, North Carolina

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OTIS MARLOWE Editor

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Thanksgiving Not Just A Day

The observance of an annual day of thanksgiving had its origin in early mankind's deepest religious consciousness—going back through the centuries to the time when men first realized their dependence upon a Higher Power, says Consolidated Textile News.

Its observance in our country on a fixed day and on a national scale stems directly from the 36-year campaign carried on by a devout and devoted woman editor, Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, of Boston. She began her movement to have the last Thursday in November designated as America's Thanksgiving Day in 1827 but it was not until 1863, with Abraham Lincoln in the White House, that she succeeded.

In an editorial in Godey's Lady's Book, which she edited, Mrs. Hale, in September, 1863, began with this text from the Bible:

"Then he said unto them, Go your way and eat the fat and drink the sweet and send persons unto them for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy unto the Lord; neither be ye sorry, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.—Nehemiah, VIII:10."

Then Mrs. Hale continued:

"Thus commanded the inspired Leader of the Jews when they kept the 'Feast of the Weeks.' In a time of national darkness and sore troubles, shall we not recognize that the goodness of God never faileth, and that to our Father in Heaven we should always bring the Thanksgiving offering at the ingathering of the harvest?"

In her long campaign, Mrs. Hale bombarded the Presidents and the Governors of all the states with letters urging that November's final Thursday be proclaimed Thanksgiving Day. As a result, 30 states observed the holiday in 1859, and four years later President Lincoln, to whom she had sent her stirring editorial, issued the first Thanksgiving Day proclamation in our country's history.

Among the treasured gifts that Columbus brought back to Queen Isabella was a skein of cotton thread.

Approximately 1,788,880 pounds of cotton were used to make office machine ribbons in 1952.

Mill Fire Prevention

By J. G. Farrell Jr.
Engineering Dept.

The textile industry is one in which flammable materials are handled daily and adequate fire protection is essential for safe operation. Fieldcrest Mills goes great lengths to safeguard the plants against fire. Even at the time of construction of the plants, fire protection was kept in mind and automatic sprinkler systems and fire walls and doors were "built in". Exterior fire fighting equipment is provided, such as hydrants, pumps, reservoirs and standpipes. Fire extinguishers, fire buckets and tanks and hosepipes are provided inside each mill.



Under our fire protection setup the master mechanic is the fire marshal at each mill and each plant has organized fire brigades which hold practice drills periodically so that they may be able to fight fires efficiently when an emergency arises.

Our organization of mill watchmen patrol the plants, making an inspection hourly on nights, week-ends, and holidays when no one is at work in the mills. All of the preventive measures taken by the Company would not protect the plants from fire should employees disregard fire prevention practice. If we cooperate to prevent fires before they start and remain alert and prepare ourselves for the proper action, should a fire break out, then the hazard of fire in the mills is reduced to a minimum.

Below are some basic rules which will help us prevent personal injuries and property damage caused by fires:

1. Practice good housekeeping to prevent the unnecessary accumulations of combustible materials.
2. Know the location of fire extinguishers and learn to properly use them.
3. Don't smoke in restricted areas.
4. Make sure that alleys and passageways leading to fire fighting equipment and fire exits are kept clear and ready for immediate use.
5. Know how to turn in an alarm.
6. Report any unsafe conditions such as exposed wires, overheated bearings, trash accumulations, and especially oily rags.
7. Do not stack materials too close to sprinkle heads and do not block fire doors so that they will not shut automatically in case of fire.

Fires take a tremendous toll in industry every year. By using simple precautions and by knowing in advance what to do, if fire breaks out, we can save ourselves from injury and do our part in reducing fire risk at Fieldcrest Mills.

Textile Prices Decline

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have been riding a crest of prosperity. He pointed out, however, that even in the face of the decline in textile prices, the textile mills have kept up a relatively high rate of activity, cotton consumption in the crop year just ended having amounted to 9.5 million bales and there has been a complete comeback in mill employment since the "recession" in the first half of 1952.

The Journal of Commerce article, said, points to a drop of 15.4 per cent in raw cotton values, a 21.2 per cent fall in cotton cloth prices, and a 16 per cent contraction in mill manufacturing margins while during the same period the cost-of-living index was rising from 185.5 in August, 1951, to 192.7 in August, 1953.

He quoted the Journal of Commerce article further:

"In holding the price line, the mills themselves obviously have had to do some belt-tightening and in the current high cost situation there are relatively few areas where the belt can be tightened.

"It has been noted by more than one analyst that the situation has required in order to stay in the black and not sacrifice any of the great gains, social or otherwise, of recent years, the exercise of severe economy in management policies and in administrative and operating procedures.

"To realize further what has been and is happening one need only examine the earning figures for the textile industry and for industry as a whole. In 1951 profits per dollar of sales after Federal taxes for the textile products industry averaged 3.7 cents against 5.3 for all U.S. manufacturing.

"In 1952, the textile average was 3.5 cents and for all manufacturing industry it was 4.3 cents. The latest government figures that have been released show that textile earnings for the second quarter of 1953 are 2.5 cents for each dollar of sales as compared with an average earning of 4.4 cents for all U. S. manufacturing industries."

Morris Twins



Nancy Page and Martha Jewel, twin daughters of R. L. Morris, Martinsville, nieces of Mrs. Mamie Sawyers and Herman Garrett, Towel Mill.