

THE MILL WHISTLE

Fieldcrest
FASHIONS FOR BED AND BATH



Karastan
AMERICA'S FINEST POWER LOOMED RUG

Published by Fieldcrest Mills, Inc. • Plants located in Spray, Draper and Leaksville, N. C. and Fieldale, Va.

VOL. XV

Spray, N. C., Monday, October 22, 1956

NUMBER 8

Pledges Asked In Community Fund Drive

Fieldcrest Employees Given Wage Increase

Fieldcrest pay checks last week reflected a general wage increase averaging 10 cents per hour for hourly paid and piece rate employees in the Tri-Cities and Fieldale, Virginia. The raise was put into effect Monday, October 8.

Individual increases were calculated on a percentage basis and the minimum raise in any rate was eight cents per hour. Fieldcrest's minimum rate following the wage hike is \$1.16 per hour, except for learners. Detailed rates for each job are being issued.

In commenting on the wage increase, R. A. Harris, vice president in charge of manufacturing, said: "The raise at Fieldcrest was a part of a general movement in the textile industry to increase wages, although we understand some of our competitors did not grant as large an increase as we did. This means that there is now a wider gap between our wages and those of some of the mills with whom we must compete.

"The increase will add over one million dollars to our annual payroll and our costs will be increased by that amount. It will be up to each of us at Fieldcrest to maintain our efforts to increase productivity to offset these higher costs. I am sure that employees will continue to cooperate with us in keeping costs down so that we may obtain an increasing share of the market in which we operate."

Duke Power Official Speaks On Council Program

C. S. Reed, Duke Power Co. vice president and rate engineer, described the economic advantages of the Piedmont Carolinas in an address before the members of the Carolina Cooperative Council Thursday evening, October 18, at Consolidated Central Y.M.C.A.

J. M. Norman, president, presided over the meeting which opened the Council's 36th program year. He expressed appreciation to the officers and committeemen who served last year and presented the incoming Council

officials. Rev. Frank Phibbs, pastor of the First Methodist church, Draper, gave the invocation. F. W. Klein, of the program committee, introduced Mr. Reed. Attendance prizes were awarded to H. L. Robertson, Finishing Mill, and Cecil R. Barker, Towel Mill.

Student Tours Set At Towel Mill Oct. 29-30

High school seniors from Martinsville high school and the John D. Bassett high school at Bassett will visit the Towel Mill in Fieldale Monday and Tuesday, October 29-30 as part of a program of industry tours and essay contest sponsored by Martinsville and Henry county members of the Virginia Manufacturers Association.

The Martinsville seniors will be at the Towel Mill on Monday. They will hear a welcome by D. A. Purcell, mill manager, and will see a display of Towel Mill products. They will then be divided into small groups for guided tours through the mill. At the completion of the tour the entire group will gather for a discussion period during which mill officials will answer the students' questions.

Bassett Group To Visit

The John D. Bassett group will follow a similar schedule on Tuesday.

The seniors will return to their schools and write essays based on their visits to the local industries. The subject will be: "Our American Free Enterprise System at Work in Our Local Industries and What It Means to Our Community."

officials.

Special guests at the meeting were Douglas Booth and J. D. Knight, local Duke Power Co. officials; Harry Davis, president of the Tri-City Chamber of Commerce; and A. E. Fair, president of the Tri-City Merchants association.

William B. Lucas, attorney for Fieldcrest Mills, is chairman of the industrial division, embracing Fieldcrest and other textile firms in the Tri-Cities. Richard Robertson, editor of The Leaksville News, is chairman of the over-all campaign and has appointed chairmen to handle the solicitations in various sections of Leaksville-Spray-Draper.

At Fieldcrest, the superintendents will have charge of the drive in their mills. A canvas will be made in each department, offering every employee an opportunity to share in the campaign. The mill managers will direct the solicitations among clerical and other salaried employees.

The suggested schedule of giving at Fieldcrest and elsewhere is one day's wages and contributions on this basis throughout the community will assure the success of the campaign. At Fieldcrest the donation may be in the form of a pledge for an amount to be withheld from wages over a period of time. Installments may be as little as one dollar each week for 10 weeks.

"If we all pledge the equivalent of one day's pay, we will reach our quota at Fieldcrest Mills and this will be a fair share for our people," Mr. Lucas said. "Also, such donations at Fieldcrest will go a long way toward reaching the over-all goal of \$31,505.04."

In announcing the goal for the Tri-Cities, budget chairman Hugh Bundy said that in the opinion of the directors this sum represents a fair share of this community's responsibility for the support of all the worthwhile health, welfare and recreational services to be included in this year's United campaign.

Falls Aren't Fun

If you suffer a disabling injury this year, the chances are about one in five that it will be due to a fall of some kind. And there is a chance (too much of a chance) the injury may be serious.

See pages four and five for picture-story on falls—how falls can happen in the mill and how you can avoid injury from this cause.