# Meet the Foremen

Harry T. McKinney is foreman of the Washing Department at the Karastan Mill. The department he supervises is responsible for the expert chemical washing of the rugs to give them their full beauty. An exclusive machine process and skillful floor washing techniques are employed to bring out the colorings of the patterns and the beautiful lustre of the worsted yarns.

As a pioneer member of the Washing Department, Mr. McKinney's long experience and accumulated know-how make a distinct contribution to the Karastan operation. As a supervisor he has maintained, through the years, a splendid record in employee relations, housekeeping and safety.

A native of Caswell County, he joined the Karastan Mill in 1927 just after completing four years in the Navy. He first worked as an inspector of finished rugs but in 1929 was transferred to the Washing Department when the first continuous washing machine was installed.

He operated the washer for three or



HARRY T. McKINNEY

four years and then became an assistant foreman on the second shift. He was promoted to night foreman in 1937 and served in that capacity until 1943. He has been foreman in charge of the department for the past 20 years.

Mr. McKinney is married to the former Frances Layne, a native of Halifax County, Va. They have three sons: Harry, Jr., who has served in the Marines for 15 years and is making a career of the service; Bobby, employed in the Setting Department at Karastan; and Jerry, a student at Morehead High School.

The McKinneys own their home at 215 Oakwood Drive in Hampton Heights, Leaksville, and are members of the Leaksville Christian Church.

## THE SLIGHT EDGE

Recently, an employee publication which comes regularly across our desk repeated "The Slight Edge," an illustrated editorial which it had first run in 1959.

The re-run was prompted, the publication said, by the fact that three of that company's largest customers in 1959 are no longer purchasing its products. The "slight edge" the company had in supplying those three customers had been dissolved in the months since the editorial was first used.

The editorial said the "slight edge" is "that little extra something a company gains through its own initiative which permits it to do a better job for its customers and itself."

More specifically, the editorial said, the "slight edge" is:

- Willingness to accept new ideas and changes.
- Ability to keep up with and make changes and improvements in machinery and methods.
- Loyalty, interest and enthusiasm among all company personnel.
- Ability to maintain a favorable position when in direct competition with other companies producing similar products.
- On-time delivery of goods that are the best it is possible to make.
- Efficient control of supplies, waste, machinery maintenance and all other items of cost.
- Enthusiasm, imagination and effectiveness in all levels of management and production.

The "slight edge," obviously, doesn't "just happen," and having it once doesn't mean you'll keep it. Ask the company which has lost three of its largest customers in the past four years.

# THE MILL WHISTLE

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Thy word is a lamp unto and a light unto my path. -PSALM 119: