

# Mount Holly Improvements Cost Over Half-Million

One year ago, in April, 1963, Fieldcrest Mills, Inc. bought the Kimberly Yarn Mills, now called the Mount Holly Spinning Mill, making combed yarns for the Towel Mill. In the brief period of purchasing the plant, Fieldcrest spent more than a half-million dollars on improvements designed to bring about greater efficiency and economy of operation, higher quality and more attractive and comfortable work conditions.

The major expenditures were made to change the product of the mill from combed to combed yarn, to gain additional space and to change a part of the production to beam packaging instead of 100 per cent cone packaging, as before.

## Two Additions Built

To gain additional space that was needed, additions were built at the end of the mill. The Opening and Picking Department was enlarged by an addition of 3,000 square feet to relieve congestion and to make room for putting down more bales in order to obtain a better blend.

An addition of 5,800 square feet was added to the Storage and Shipping Department for the storage of beams ready for shipment and a lift truck was purchased for stacking the beams in high-bay trucks to be transported to the Towel Mill.

Seven combers and a lapwinder were installed in the Carding Department in order to be made available by moving out a number of the cards. Crush rolls were installed to the remaining cards for better quality and increased speed.

Also installed in the mill were six spindlers for making ply yarns and a mangle for supplying the yarn on beams. In order are two Barber-Colman spoolers which will replace the present six spoolers. It is expected that

Howard is supervisor of mill accounting and is shown with Gwen. Other office personnel not shown are ... and Elizabeth Grose.



the spoolers will be shipped before the end of this month.

The Quality Control Laboratory was relocated in larger quarters and new testing equipment was purchased. The laboratory was air conditioned in order to maintain controlled testing conditions.

The Canteen room, already equipped with late-model vending machines, was refurbished and improved to provide attractive surroundings for employees during refreshment "breaks." Miscellaneous smaller projects have been completed to improve the appearance of the mill, both inside and outside.

The Mount Holly Spinning Mill was established as Kimberly Yarn Mills in 1960 in a 55,000-square-foot building purchased from the American & Efir Mills, Inc., for the manufacture and sale of carded yarns to weaving and knitting mills.

## Machinery Is New

At that time the building was completely renovated and air conditioning with refrigeration installed. All principal machinery was purchased new at that time with the exception of the cards which were modernized with metallic clothing and other improvements.

The spinning consists of 11,520 spindles of Whitin Model N and Piedmont frames, Whitin drawing and roving frames, all delivered in 1960.

Practically the entire output of the Mount Holly plant is used by the Towel Mill and replaces large purchases of yarn which were made from outside spinners over the past several years. The Mount Holly operation lowers costs for Fieldcrest and provides greater control over the quality and delivery of yarn for the Towel Mill.

D. A. Purcell, manager of the Towel Mill, also has responsibility for the Mount Holly Spinning Mill. Joe G. Connelly is superintendent of the Mount Holly plant, reporting to Mr. Purcell. Bruce Robinson is supervisor of maintenance.

The foremen are A. H. Justice, first shift; R. L. Gardner, second shift; and C. O. Kuykendall, third shift. Richard Howard, formerly of the General Offices at Spray is supervisor of mill accounting and is in charge of the office at Mount Holly.

## ADD TELEPHONE NUMBER

In your Fieldcrest telephone directory please add:

Barbara Janney ..... 5356.

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J. O. THOMAS

## Last Rites Held For J. O. Thomas, Retiree

Friends throughout the Fieldcrest organization were saddened at the death of James Oscar Thomas, 67, in Haven Rest Home at Lexington, where he had been a patient for six weeks. He had been in declining health for several months.

Mr. Thomas retired under the Pension Plan as employment manager of Fieldcrest Mills in Leaksville, Spray and Draper in June, 1961, after having been associated with the company for 42 years, during which time he held many positions of responsibility and trust.

He first joined the mills in 1919 and served as a clerk in the Cost Department until he was promoted to personnel director. He next was named assistant manager of the American Warehouse and the Bleachery and was manager of the American Warehouse prior to becoming administrative assistant to Luther H. Hodges who was then the production manager.

## Held Many Posts

Mr. Thomas also held the posts of training director, personnel manager, assistant to the director of industrial and public relations, and personnel manager of the Bedspread and Karastan Mills.

A native of Rockingham County, Mr. Thomas attended public and private schools in the county, and Trinity College, now Duke University. He served as an enlisted man in the regular army in France in World War I. As a member of the Officers Reserve Corps he was ordered to active duty and served with the Third Service Command for four years in World War II.

A man of many interests and of outstanding public spirit, he was active in a wide range of civic, religious, educational and governmental affairs. He gave much of his time to military and veterans matters, vocational education and activities in the field of personnel administration.