

Causes Of Absenteeism

A sizeable number of Fieldcresters worked every scheduled day in 1970. Some of these employees have records of up to nine years of perfect attendance on the job. Congratulations are in order to the attendance champions and to many others who worked every day except when prevented by sickness or other unavoidable circumstance.

Absences that result from sickness, deaths in the family or legitimate personal emergencies are to be expected and are not the basis for any real problem of absenteeism. But some other causes are not so readily excused and are of concern to any company because of the effect absences have on efficient operation.

Some of the absences that cause concern are:

First, there are indications that the general excuse of sickness is being abused. Then, there is the pattern absentee who fails to show on Mondays or Fridays. There is some indication of alcoholism as would be expected in a company employing thousands of people.

Second, observations show that moonlighting, transportation problems and domestic affairs are resulting in absenteeism. The records indicate that such things as night sports events, county fairs, and social activities have a direct bearing on absenteeism. Farming duties and hunting and fishing give a seasonal flavor to absenteeism.

Employees who work every scheduled day are demonstrating that they take an interest in their work and feel that they are needed on the job every day. On the other hand, those with poor attendance records apparently do not realize the importance of their own jobs and how their absence affects the overall operation.

Think it over: while it does require effort to be on the job every day, the successful operation of the company and its ability to provide jobs, pay wages and benefits is made possible by the interest and dependability of its employees.

Meet the Supervisors

Fred T. Duke is foreman of the Blanket Finishing Mill Supply Room at Eden. He has responsibility for receiving, storing and issuing all supplies used by the Blanket Finishing Mill and the Blanket Warehouse. He also stocks all office supplies used at the Company's southern locations.

In addition to his supply room duties, for 17 years until it was moved in 1970 he had responsibility for the fusing machine, used to cut binding for blankets and automatic blankets.

A native of Rockingham County, Mr. Duke recalls that he worked for a few months as a weaver at the Karastan Rug Mill in 1931 before transferring to the Bleachery as a helper in the Cloth Finishing Department.

He became a clerk in the Finishing Mill Supply Room in 1935 and in 1942 was promoted to foreman of the Central Supply Room. He had responsibility for both the Central Supply Room



FRED T. DUKE

and the Finishing Mill Supply Room until they were combined at the Finishing Mill in 1949.

A member of the First Baptist Church (Leaksville) for the past 38 years, he was ordained a deacon in 1937 and has been on the church board since that time. He attends Sunday School regularly and formerly taught a boys' class. He served as president of the Men's Brotherhood for two years.

He married the former Catherine Edwards, whose father, the late J. A. Edwards, was a long-service employee of the Finishing Mill. The Dukes live at 504 Moir Street in Eden. They have a son, John Carvil, of Roanoke, Va., and a granddaughter, Colleen Elaine.

THE MILL WHISTLE

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SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Thirty Years

Lorene H. Casey	Columbus
David E. Simons, Jr.	Fieldale
R. Edwin Lea	Blanket
Essie C. Hampton	Blanket
Gilbert Jarrell	Blanket
J. Edward Gillie	Blanket

Twenty-Five Years

Susie T. Cheney	Columbus
Albert Thomas, Jr.	Columbus
Sadie C. Martin	Blanket
Henry Vaughn	Columbus
Kathleen J. Bullard	Columbus
Grace C. Nichols	Karastan

Twenty Years

Lester Gates	Columbus
Annie J. Pace	Alexander Sheetting
Shirley R. Black	Automatic Blanket
Melvin U. Harmon	Blanket Finishing
Willie M. Kennedy	Columbus
Ione S. Vick	Karastan Spinning

Fifteen Years

Thomas G. Bentley	Karastan Sales
Kenneth R. Vernon	Blanket Finishing
Madeline C. Boulding	Karastan
William R. Scales	Fieldale
Eunice S. Vestal	Bedspreparing
Homer Gray Hundley	Karastan
Matt D. Redd	Fieldale
John M. Baker	Karastan Spinning
Jammie F. McLawhorn	Karastan Spinning

Bobby R. Hawkins	Karastan
Mildred B. Cook	Karastan
Green Penn	Domestics Quality Control
	Fieldale

Ten Years

William Stringfellow	Columbus
James N. Vincent	Karastan Worsteds
Grady S. Belcher	Fieldale

Making Ends Meet

From the time an infant first tries to get his toes in his mouth, life is a continual struggle to make both ends meet.

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