

# Extensive Pulmonary Program Is In Operation

In Fieldcrest's continuing effort to protect the health of its employees, the Medical Department has screened 3,600 employees each year for the past three years in order to identify those who are "reactors" to cotton dust. This unusual sensitivity, called byssinosis, is an ailment which affects a small percentage of employees in the cotton segment of the textile industry.

Fieldcrest's pulmonary testing was started in 1970 and has been implemented in all seven mills which utilize cotton in the production of yarn. To date 55,600 individual tests have been conducted.

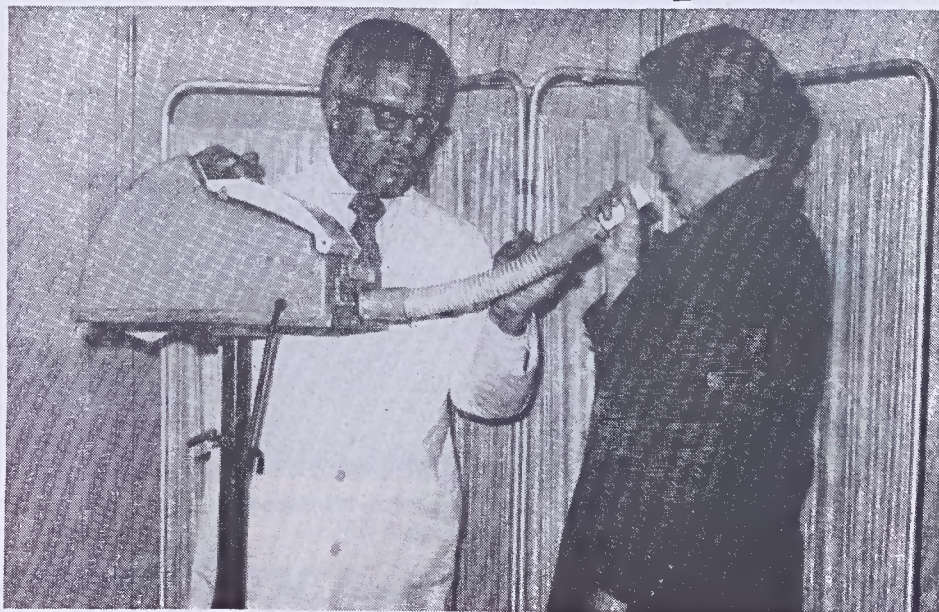
The seven mills involved in the pulmonary testing program are the Blanket Greige Mill, Bedspread Mill, Draper Sheeting Mill, Columbus Towel Mill, Fieldale Towel Mill, Mount Holly Spinning Mill, and the Alexander Sheeting Mill.

## Pulmonary Test Is Simple

The pulmonary function, or test for breathing ability, is simple and takes only a few minutes. It consists of blowing air from the mouth into a tube which is connected to a machine where it records the breathing capacity.

If the results of the test fall within a certain category, additional tests are made each day for one week, both before and after work and after six hours of exposure to cotton dust. The purpose of this testing is to determine whether or not the individual is sensitive to the cotton dust and to what degree of sensitivity.

The program also involves a respiratory history of each employee who works in an area where the dust is present and, where indicated by the



Calvin Wilkins, medical technician, conducts pulmonary function test on job applicant at central Medical Department.

results of the pulmonary function, detailed medical examinations.

Both pre-employment and annual pulmonary tests are performed.

In the Eden area, pre-employment pulmonary function tests are performed at the central Medical Department.

In the outlying locations, the tests are conducted by trained technicians in each mill. The data is sent to Eden for evaluation by Dr. J. G. Springer, corporate medical director.

There are now 18 technicians in the

outlying mills involved. All have successfully completed an eight-hour course given at the central Medical Department and have been certified by Dr. Springer.

The annual surveys are conducted by a team from the Medical Department. Members of the team are Norman Austin, supervisor of medical services, and Lloyd Bolt, Calvin Wilkins and Jerry Handy, medical technicians.

The findings to date indicate that the overall incidence of byssinosis among employees in Fieldcrest's cotton operations averages much less than reported in the medical literature. Employees in non-cotton operations are not affected.

The highest incidence of reaction to the cotton dust occurs in plant areas where cotton is initially prepared for yarn manufacturing: the opening, picking and carding departments. Weave rooms have a smaller problem.

## Related To Other Ailments

There appears to be a relationship between the incidence of byssinosis and chronic bronchitis and between byssinosis and lowered pulmonary function (breathing capacity). The diagnosis of byssinosis is often complicated by the presence of other medical factors such as smoking, emphysema, asthma and heart disease.

Research by the textile industry and cotton producers has made important progress toward the ultimate goal of identifying and eliminating the substance in cotton dust which causes byssinosis.

"The problem, however, has not been solved as yet," Dr. Springer said. "Meanwhile, Fieldcrest will continue to provide protection for its employees with the pulmonary function program until the dust and the active agent can be completely controlled," he said.

## Employee Completes 40 Years Of Service

Annie C. Murphy, an inspector-returned goods in the Storage and Shipping Department at the Bedspread Finishing Mills, completed 40 years of continuous service on March 29.

She has been presented with the Fieldcrest diamond and gold 40-year pin, a \$40 gift certificate at the Fieldcrest Store and a letter of commendation from President William C. Battle.

Mrs. Murphy began employment on March 29, 1933, as a burler in the Burling Department at the Karastan Rug Mill. She went to the Bedspread Mill in 1934 as an inspector in the Inspecting Department.

She worked in various classifications at the Bedspread Mill before going to the Bedspread Finishing Mill as a checker-weight and moisture in the Storage and Shipping Department. She became an inspector-returned goods in that department in 1971 and continues to work in that classification.

## Buy-Sell-Swap

FOR SALE: Two-panel standard door, 2-burner New Perfection oil stove, and rocking chair. Call 627-7256.

WANTED TO BUY: Small chain saw, wood lathe and saw sharpener. Call 627-7256.

FOR SALE: Short brown 100% human hair wig. Call 623-9538 or 623-8541.

FOR SALE: G.E. electric range. Call 627-1011 after 5 p.m.

FOR SALE: Hodaka 100 cc trail bike. Five-speed constant mesh. Call 623-3874 after 3:30 p.m.

FOR SALE: Sears Best adding machine. All metal parts. Retail for \$140. Will sell for \$70. Call 627-7874 after 4 p.m.

FOR SALE: Show horse. Beautiful gelding palomino ambling horse. Contact Peggy Whitten, 388-2419, Gatewood.

FOR SALE: Modern china cabinet in maple, 58" cabinet base with sliding glass doors at top. Call ext. 53316 or 627-4972 after 5 p.m.

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