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Carolina Dress Now Among Most Modern Dress Factories

By Dave Bruce

A recently installed work transporter is the latest addition to equipment that makes the Carolina Dress Corp. plant near Hayesville one of the most modern operations of its type in the south.

The transporter is a twoway belt system that takes material to the machines of the individual workers. When the garments are finished, the worker puts a container back on the transporter and it is sent to the area where the final touches are put on the garments prior to shipment.

A light panel indicates which workers are in need of more material and the transporter operator pushes a button which throws a bar across the belt system to force the container off at the operator's machine.

Carolina Dress Corp. provides employment for workers from a four county area -Cherokee and Clay in North Carolina and Towns and Union

in Georgia.

Employees of the firm commute from as far away as Andrews, Suit and Blairsville. President Walter Fuller said the company now employs 230 persons - 145 at Hayesville

and 85 at another plant in Hiawassee, Ga. When Carolina Dress began operations in February 1966, only 18 workers were employ-

The building on Qualla Road was once a dairy barn. Floor space has been substantially increased with an addition to the original structure.

Dresses, coats and suits are made in the plant. It is one of "only a few manufacturers in the south" to make the coat and suit combinations, Fuller said. He estimates that an aver-

age of 12,000 garments are turned out by his company each

Inspite of Clay County's isolated location, Fuller said

Mosteller awaits the shipment at her working area. The work transporter provides a more

efficient way of taking material to and from each individual worker. (Photo by Dave Bruce)

transportation is not a problem. Deliveries are made to New York in two days by truck, He said shipments are made three times weekly.

Fuller said his company has made steady gains and will continue to be able to offer employment opportunities to workers in the area.

"Right now we have more business than we can handle," he added.

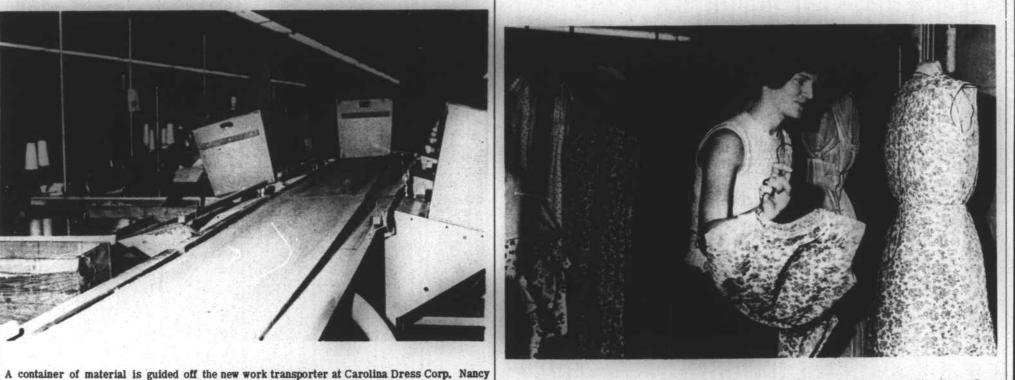
He pointed out that the company has never been closed, even one day, for lack of work, Fuller came to Clay County

eight years ago and decided to go into business for himself afterspending almost six years here. While Clay County is not

known as a heavily industralized area, it is the location of Carolina Dress Corp. - a company its owner proudly describes as "one of the most modern dress factories in this



Buttons are sewed on automatically at Carolina Dress Corp. The operator is Linda Gayle Shelton, (Photo by Dave Bruce)



Dresses are pressed in less than a minute on the garment finisher at Carolina Dress Corp. Sarah Louis Ledford holds one dress while another receives its finishing. (Photo by Dave Bruce)

73 People Drowned In TVA Lakes Last Year

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. -Seventy-three people drowned in TVA lakes in 1967 while using the lakes for recreation, the highest total since 1960, according to D. E. Nolting of

the TVA Safety Staff, "The number of drownings in the 1960's continues to be less than would be proportionate to the increased recureation use of the lakes, so we feel that the public generally is more aware of water safety practices," Nolting said. "Yet it is still disregard of wellknown safety rules that leads

to most of these deaths, and each of them is a needless tradedy.'

Two persons drowned in 19 in the turbulent waters at ma stream dams, and at least others nearly lost their liv in boat accidents in these da

gerous areas. TVA records show that addition to the 73 drownin in 1967 at least 50 other peop saved themselves or were re cued from water accident Many others were involved near-drownings which were n



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