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Du Pont's Local 'Sheep' Begins Growing Dacron Monday

Dacron Baling Begins Locally Monday



Above at left J. D. Jenkins of Trenton and Hugh Parks of Goldsboro are seen watching the DACRON come from the machine which has given it the final stretch, permanent wave and a heat treatment. This is the final step insofar as chemical changes in the structure of DACRON are concerned and from this machine it goes out to be packaged for the processor either in the staple cut baled sizes or boxed in long sections so the processor may cut the staple fibers to his own specifications. The "rope" coming out of the machine here is about three inches wide and mashed practically flat. It contains 133,000 individual DACRON fibers.

DACRON is the name chosen by the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Company of Wilmington, Del., for the newest member of its synthetic fiber family. The significance of the name, if any, has not been passed on to the public, but DACRON is expected by the Delaware Branch of the Du Pont Family to do to the sheep what NYLON did to the silk worm.

Those who speak for the Du Ponts of Brandywine Creek, and they are few, speak with a caution that is almost scientific in its completeness. Exaggeration is not one of the habits acquired from association with the Dukedom of Delaware. The Lenoir County branch of the family is no exception to that silent, golden rule.

However, if one has an adjective or two and half an eye it is easy to see that considerable confidence in this new Du Pont baby, DACRON, is shared. From a distance one can see on Highway 55 a tremendous reflection of this confidence in the largest single industrial effort in Eastern North Carolina: To wit, the plant where DACRON this week went into commercial levels of production. Test runs have been made over the past several weeks.

The size of the plant and the admitted scope of its cost—40 million dollars—stagger even the tobacco-dazed minds of Eastern Carolinians, whose primary industrial concern in the past has seemed tiny when set beside a single million "iron men."

Yet unless one has the privilege of walking the miles and miles that make up this "only one of its kind" plant. For in those many walls are contained huge 45 foot "test tubes" in which tons of chemicals perform their molecular magic with a silent but staggering efficiency while professorish looking young men flit about like scientists (which they are) in a king-sized laboratory of electrical controls, super-perfect heats, stainless steel vats and pipes and an occasional odor or two that reminds one that 20th Century alchemy is being performed over one's head, at one's side or beneath one's feet.

This fantastic "sheep" grows "wool", or will when it hits peak production late this year, at the rate of 35 million pounds per year. It eats a combination of glycol, methol and a dazzlingly white powder called "DMT." The digestion of these basic materials is helped along through the thousands of feet of stainless steel "intestines" by other chemicals, pressures, vacuums and temperatures.

In much less time than it takes a sheep to grow a full "head of hair" this Du Pont sheep is turning out "wool" in the aforementioned staggering amounts; at something near 4,000 pounds per hour.

The Du Pont spokesmen have not made any vast "brags" about DACRON. It still has some kinks in it that cause it, at this time, to work best in combination with other natural fibers. To mend this weakness in the DACRON character a three million dollar laboratory will be built on the plant site where this DACRON "sheep" eats its chemicals and grows its "wool."

Already a considerable section of this handsome plant is devoted to experimentation with the DACRON fiber and the answer to some of the problems that still cause DACRON to be used in combination rather than alone, may be perking as you

Watching Dacron Come From Oven



Above Mike Lindner of Kinston at left and Hugh Parks of Goldsboro are seen watching the DACRON come from the machine which has given it the final stretch, permanent wave and a heat treatment. This is the final step insofar as chemical changes in the structure of DACRON are concerned and from this machine it goes out to be packaged for the processor either in the staple cut baled sizes or boxed in long sections so the processor may cut the staple fibers to his own specifications. The "rope" coming out of the machine here is about three inches wide and mashed practically flat. It contains 133,000 individual DACRON fibers.

Dacron Enters Last 'Stretch'



In this picture 19 separate "ropes" of Dacron fiber, each containing 7,000 separate DACRON threads are going into the final blending and stretching machine from which they will emerge as one piece of 133,000 threads.

read this atop the Bunsen burner of some young chemist who's riding under the Du Pont colors.

The arrival at the rear of the plant of the three basic materials which cause the molecular shiftings which produce the synthetic fiber, DACRON is by rail. The powdered "DMT" and the glycol and methol which act upon it to cause its structural changes go into stainless steel vats where a constantly regulated "Dowtherm" heat "cook" the mixture for the prescribed times and under the prescribed pressures. From this original mixing vat the mixture is pumped to the "still" where more heat and more pressure remove the methol first and then in another the

glycol which have performed their digestive operation on the "DMT" and converted it into a heavy viscous substance that looks about like some of grandma's taffy candy, only it's whiter.

The glycol and methol having completed their job in the "stew" they are pumped back to "used" vats from which they are taken later for further purification and are then used over and over again. They are to the DACRON "sheep" about what water is to the real "sheep."

After this boiling and sucking off of the glycol and methol and various other catalysts has been completed then under the same constantly controlled heats

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Lenoir's 7th 1953 Highway Fatality



Above Cecelia Dick, 19 year old Kenton, Ohio, girl is seen being rushed into Memorial General Hospital in Kinston on Tuesday morning a few minutes after she suffered what proved to be fatal injuries in an accident eight miles west of Kinston on US 76. Miss Dick was riding in her father's car which was being driven by Jo Marie Whitacre of Zanesville, Ohio. Miss Whitacre suffered a broken shoulder but was able to fly home Tuesday afternoon. Margaret Ann Comer, also of Kinston, the third person in the car did not suffer any major injury. Miss Dick died an hour and 25 minutes after the accident from head injuries, a part of which was believed to have come from her being thrown into reed stubble where the right-of-way had recently been cut. Miss Dick's death brought to seven the Lenoir County total for traffic deaths in 1953. Investigation blamed slick tires, speed and a wet highway as the combination which claimed Miss Dick's life.

Charleston Gardens in Full Bloom

Azaleas in Charleston's Famous Gardens are in full and glorious bloom. Spokesmen for Cypress, Magnolia and Middleton Gardens say the period of full bloom can be expected to last another two weeks or more, depending on the weather. Unusually warm temperatures are bringing the flowers out much faster than had been expected. The Wisteria and the Bankia roses, which usually

bloom at different times, are both opening now. The lavender, purple and white of the Wisteria blend beautifully with the yellow of the roses. For some strange reason, the Fairy Lilies are also coming into bloom now. These are the "Naked Ladies," so called by Charleston Negro flower women because of the nakedness of the leafless stem; there is only the lily-like bloom at the top.