

THE ERWIN CHATTER

Published monthly in the interest of the employees of the Erwin Cotton Mills Company. K. P. Lewis, President; W. H. Ruffin, Vice-President and Treasurer; Carl R. Harris, Vice-President and Assistant Treasurer; Frank T. DeVyver, Vice-President and Industrial Relations Director.
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HOW FIT ARE YOU?

The surprisingly low average of physical fitness among men and women of the nation is being publicized more and more each day as service statistics are released. Now we know something of the physical fitness of those who happened to come before examining boards of the various branches of the armed services, and it doesn't take much looking about us, particularly in a mirror, to realize what the state of the home front must be.

Physical fitness—that full o' pep feeling—that drive to ambitious endeavor to do and to succeed at whatever is undertaken—is something every industrial employee owes himself. But then if this is a job for everyone, just how much does it take to reach something of that toned up feeling and streamlined body? Not as much as most men and women think, though more for some than others. Too many shrug and say something about being tired or not being good at athletics, etc., etc. Alibis are very cheap and easy to throw around.

Mild exercise, proper posture, proper precautions in working movements all are easy and keep the body toned. Diet has something to do with this business, too. Not *how much* is eaten, but what. What is good for one in both quantity and choice is not necessarily good for another.

This business of being fit is a personal problem—one every employee ought to do something about. Spring and summer are great times for storing up winter vitality; so after work freshen up and loosen up. Play and recreation, not amusement and wreck-recreation, will make life a little more on the sunny side.

Why don't you take an inventory of your health and recreation today? Get in the drive to be physically fit.



GENEROSITY

"Give and it shall be returned unto thee tenfold."

We are called upon these days for so many things. We are asked to contribute financially to a great many causes and we shall likely continue to be called upon to join the Home Front in its drives against disease and the campaigns of preventive and curative medicine, of relief and prevention of social disasters. All this, while it is difficult for most of us to make ends meet. We do not have much, but since so little can go so far, it is imperative that we give what we can to each of these causes. It isn't the amount that matters so greatly as the spirit back of the gift and the fact that everyone gives something. In truth one isn't giving—for each contribution is but a good investment. Be generous and be rewarded.



INTER-PLANT SAFETY CONTEST

	1944 Accident Rate	Improvement Over Last Year
Cloth Room— Erwin	0.0	Perfect
No. 6 Mill— Durham	0.0	Perfect
No. 4 Mill— Durham	6.9	70% Better
No. 3 Mill— Erwin	10.3	55% Better
Bleachery— Sewing Durham	8.0	42% Better
No. 5 Mill— Erwin	10.0	20% Worse
No. 1 Mill— Durham	17.8	34% Worse
No. 3 Mill— Coolee	16.5	160% Worse
Finishing— Shipping Coolee	22.8	416% Worse
Total All Mills	10.6	23% Better

Again this record is about 25% better than the national average. WE CAN STILL DO BETTER

The Safety Column

SAFETY CONTEST NEARS END

Only two months remain in the current Safety Contest between mills and between individual departments of the mills in Durham and Erwin. By June 30th we will know which mill has made the greatest improvement in its record, and in each mill the Department making the best improvement will be eligible for a suitable prize.

The amount of interest shown in these contests clearly indicate that teamwork is a definite reality in our mills and that the spirit of preventing accidents is being fully accepted by all employees. From the looks of the present records considerably more in the way of prizes will have to be awarded at the end of this period than was first bargained for. The contest rules state that the Department making the greatest improvement is eligible for a prize, but in addition if any Department has a perfect record they too will share in awards. So far this year we are amazed at the number of Departments which have perfect records which in some cases may mean that virtually an entire mill will finish the contest period with flying colors.

To those who are not successful in building a good record or sharing the honor of winning it may be pointed out at this time that there is a strong possibility that a second contest period may follow immediately after June which will again give them an opportunity to compete and be among the winners.

Let's all pull together and see if by June 30th we can show a reduction of accidents great enough to be an example for all textile mills in this State.—W. G. Marks.

DON'T BE AN ACCIDENTEE!



WHO GETS THE CREDIT?

We have all seen a great deal of improvement in our accident records so far this year. When we stop to consider how many painful injuries have been prevented we naturally wonder who played the greatest part in bringing about these safer working conditions.

There appears to be only one answer to this question if we are honest with ourselves in trying to determine who had the greatest share in our fine achievement for this year. It is true that executive management has done everything possible to make the job easier, and has offered every possible encouragement to reduce injuries in our mill. It is likewise true that our managers and superintendents have, by their act of participation in the program, done a fine job in bringing about greater safety consciousness throughout our organization. Considering this further, our overseers and assistants have been on the home front line day and night doing everything possible to develop safe work habits and to eliminate any unsafe condition that they might find.

All of this quite naturally brings us to the only other person who has a part in accident prevention—"the worker on the job." To the employee who is cooperating closely with all others in our organization and assisting his or her supervisor should go the greatest single honor for the final act of preventing injuries. No matter how much management and supervision may try to avoid accidents it is only through the efforts of the individual employee that safe work places and habits can become a reality.

V-MAIL DIVIDEND



In the Pacific

Dear Sir:

I have just received my latest copy of the paper. Although I have been receiving it right along, I have just found time to write you and thank you. I do appreciate the paper and find it very handy in helping me to remember old friends.

Sir, I think that the people of Coolee, Durham, and Erwin are doing a wonderful job on the home front. I want to express my deepest appreciation to all of them. Out here I've noticed that quite a bit of our "Uncle's" supplies are of Erwin quality, which means they are of the best.

Time and space are both limited out here, so until next time

Sincerely yours,
Willis E. Byrd.

Somewhere in Germany

Dear Sir:

I just received THE ERWIN CHATTER. It is great to hear that everything is going fine back home. I thoroughly enjoyed this copy just received and I hope that I shall receive one each month.

Most of the people back there have forgotten me, I guess. I am one of the boys that left Erwin in 1942. I am now somewhere in Germany with the Sixth Armored Division.

Keep up the good work back there. We over here know that the Erwin Family are doing their part and won't let down until this whole war is over. They won't let us down.

Pfc. Hubert Lucas.

Germany

Dear Sir:

Just a few days ago I received a copy of THE ERWIN CHATTER. I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me a paper. I am hoping that you will continue to keep a copy coming my way.

Although my home is not in Erwin now, I stayed in the town for a number of years and I knew just about the majority of the people there. It is nice to read in the paper about my friends and where they now are.

Just remember that I have not forgotten Erwin and I never will. I hope it won't be long before maybe I will see the town again.

Pfc. R. L. Cramer.

Northern Italy

Dear Editor:

I received the March edition of THE ERWIN CHATTER and was indeed pleased to get it. Each month since the paper was first published, I've received a copy and I look forward to the time each month that I will get another.

Sending the paper to the boys so far from home, to me is one of the many things the people back home are doing to help the morale of the G.I. I think that the people of Coolee, along with everyone else is doing a wonderful job toward the war effort. If they will but continue to do so, I'm sure it will help as we try to do our best to bring about a speedy victory at any an early date.

"Keep up the good work and don't let us down."

Pfc. J. D. Hellard.



Pfc. J. D. Hellard, a former Weave Room employee, is now in Italy with the Fifth Army. J. D. recently received the Infantryman's Combat Badge. He has been in service since April, 1944, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hellard of Coolee.

A bathing beauty is a girl who has a wonderful profile all the way down.



"WE OUGHTN'T TO BE MAKING THIS TRIP BECAUSE IT ISN'T ESSENTIAL—BUT GRANDMA MISSES US SO!"