



# THE ERWIN CHATTER



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No. 5 Card Room employees enjoy themselves at a barbecue chicken supper given in honor of their Overseer, B. F. Aiken. Mr. Aiken retired August 28 after

working twenty-six years as Overseer in No. 5 Card Room. His fellow employees presented him with a Masonic ring as a retirement gift.

## 3 Retiring Overseers Honored, Erwin Plants

**Byrd, Hughes and Aiken Given Watches, Parties; 97 Yrs. Combined Service**

On Friday, August 28, three supervisors in the Erwin plants retired from active work after a combined service of 97 years. They were E. J. Byrd, Overseer of the Yard; R. A. Hughes, Overseer of No. 5 Spinning, Spooling and Warping; and B. F. Aiken, Overseer of No. 5 Card Room.

On the morning of their retirement, a brief ceremony was held in the Manager's Office. Plant Superintendents, on behalf of the Company, presented the three men with gold watches in appreciation of their many years of service. E. H. Bost, Manager of the Erwin plants, praised the work the three have done.

### Working Since 1909

E. J. Byrd, Overseer of the Yard, has been working continuously for Erwin Mills since 1909. His first job was that of Cotton Weigher and he helped some with the farms. He was Overseer of the Yard about thirty-five years. During that time he has had a hand in building many of the Company houses. Now that he has retired from his job, he says that he is going to look after his farm and is going to enjoy fox and coon hunting, and fishing.

On Friday afternoon at stopping time, the men in his department presented him with a handsome pen and pencil set.

### Recalls One-Shift System

Times have changed since B. F. Aiken came to work here in 1927. He recalls that the mills were running only one shift a day. Work started at 7:00 A.M., and ran until 6:00 P.M., with one hour off for lunch, five and one-half days a week. Each Overseer did his own paying off in cash which was carried in a little box from the Main Office. No. 5 Mill had been in operation about two years when Mr. Aiken came as Overseer of the Card Room.

Mr. Aiken says that he is going

to stay around Erwin for a while and see what people do who aren't working. He says he wants to see how it feels to hear the whistle blow in the mornings and know that he can turn over and go to sleep instead of having to turn out. Later, he is going to Florida for an indefinite visit with his daughter in Orlando, and his son in Tampa.

Saturday afternoon, the employees of No. 5 Card Room gave a barbecue chicken supper at the Park Center honoring Mr. Aiken. At the close of the supper, Mrs. Stella Caldwell, on behalf of the Card Room employees, presented him with a Masonic ring.

### Going in Chicken Business

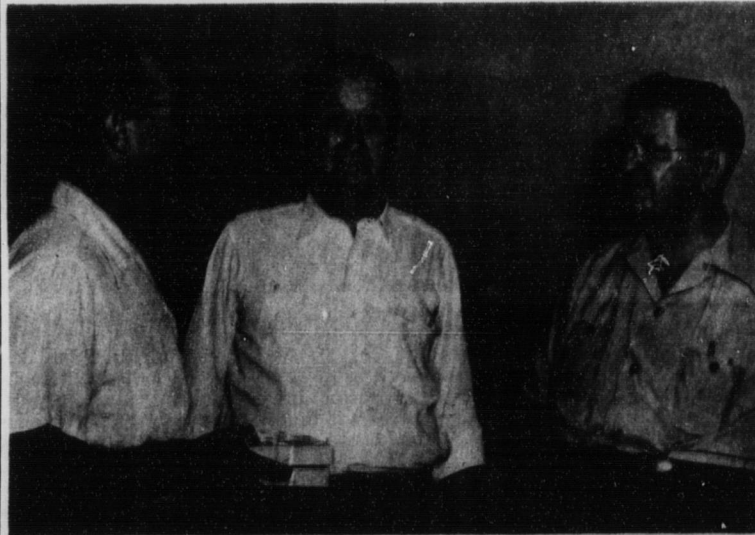
R. A. Hughes plans a busy life in his retirement. He is moving to his new home near Haw River and start making money with his chicken farm which is located on Highway 49, between Washington and Haw River. He has 250 chickens and is planning to sell eggs, broilers and fryers. By turning on the hen house lights at four o'clock in the morning, he plans to work his hens 14 hours a day!



E. J. Byrd, Overseer of the Yard, receives a gold watch from W. H. Miley, General Superintendent of the Erwin Plants. Mr. Byrd retired August 28 after working continuously for Erwin Mills since 1909.

In leaving, Mr. Hughes passed along these words of advice: "I've never had a patch on the seat of my pants but I've worn out lots of half soles on my shoes!"

On Saturday evening, the employees of the Spinning and Spooling and Warping Departments gave a barbecue chicken supper for Mr. Hughes at Maynard's Lake. At the close of the meal, Superintendent J. K. Bruton presented Mr. Hughes with a certificate entitling him to 300 baby chicks for his farm, from the employees in his department.



J. K. Bruton, Superintendent of No. 5 Mill, presents gold watches to R. A. Hughes (center) and B. F. Aiken, in appreciation for their many years of service to the Company. Mr. Hughes was Overseer of No. 5 Spinning, Spooling and Warping Departments; and Mr. Aiken was Overseer of No. 5 Carding, before their retirements on August 28.

DEAR FOLKS,  
FREED FROM THE REDS AT  
LAST. AM FEELING OK. ON  
MY WAY HOME BY BOAT.

LOVE,  
BILLY

This is a copy of the telegram received in Erwin on August 20 by Mr. and Mrs. Fayette Stogsdill. Mr. Stogsdill is a Loom Fixer in No. 2 Weave Room. Billy had been a Communist prisoner of war since May 18, 1951.

See next month's CHATTER for the full story on the released PW's who are members of our Erwin family.



Group of employees at the supper given for Mr. Hughes by No. 5 Spinning and No. 5 Spooling and Warping Departments. The entertainers, the Johnson Brothers, are shown in upper right corner.

## Erwin Mills Making Plans To Change Selling Agent First Of Next Year

**September 4 Stockholders' Meeting Approves Change; Contract with Woodward, Baldwin Proposed for 5 Years**

The stockholders of our Company met on September 4 and voted two to one in favor of appointing Woodward, Baldwin and Company, Inc., of New York, as selling agent for Erwin Mills. They also voted to purchase stock in Woodward, Baldwin.

The change would be effective January 1, 1954, possibly on a temporary verbal basis as is often done in the textile business, because of appeal that one of the stockholders instituted to the Supreme Court. You will recall a recent letter from President Ruffin explaining the Company views on the proposed change in selling agents. Proposed contract with Woodward, Baldwin is for a five-year period.

### Alternatives Named

In case the lawsuit now in court is not settled within a reasonable length of time, the officers of the

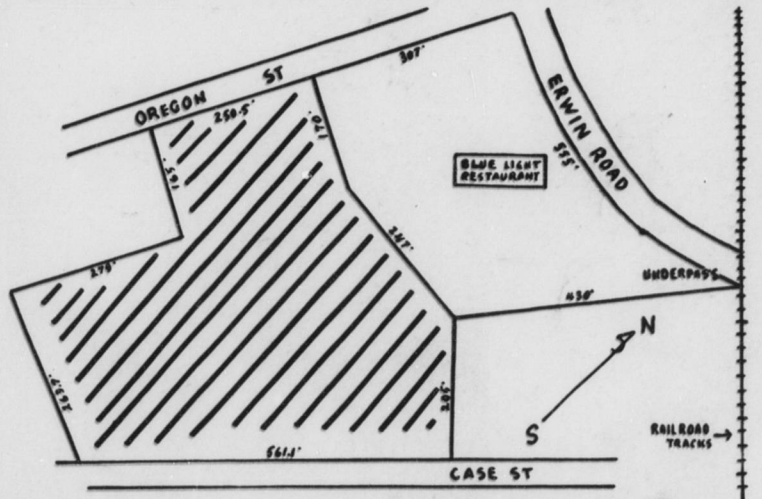
Company have stated they would recommend a temporary agreement with Woodward, Baldwin and Company. If, for any reason, we are unable to make the change, the officers plan to recommend that we form our own sales department.

### Number of Directors Changed

The stockholders voted to increase the number of directors on the Board from ten to eleven. As a result of this change, Mr. F. E. Grier, Chairman of the Board of Directors, was unanimously voted as the eleventh member of the Board.

### Board Offers Land to City

The Board of Directors, which met on September 3, authorized officers of our Company to donate to the City of Durham a tract of land just off Erwin Road, provided it be developed within a reasonable time for public recreation purposes as an athletic field site.



**LAND OFFERED TO CITY OF DURHAM:** The shaded area of this map indicates the plot of land which Erwin Mills is offering to donate to the City of Durham, provided it be developed for public recreation purposes within a reasonable length of time. This is a five to six acre tract and has been appraised by the Durham Real Estate Board at \$10,000. The City Recreation Director, C. R. Wood, said that it will be up to the City Council to determine what use, if any, the City of Durham will make of the area.

## COOLEEMEE BOND DRIVE IN OCTOBER

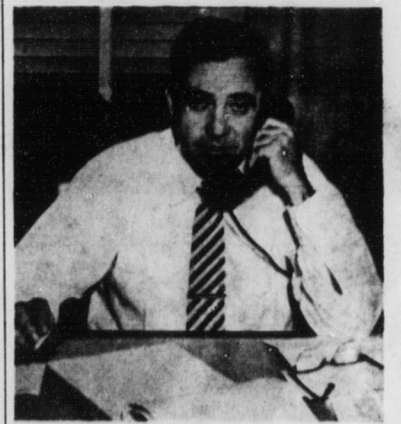
Beginning October 12, there will be a drive to enroll more Cooleemee employees in the Company Payroll Savings Plan. This is an extension of the drive held at all plants except Cooleemee last Spring. At that time it was decided to delay the Cooleemee enrollment of bond buyers until after the selling of the Company houses there, so that employees could better plan their financial futures.

The U. S. Treasury Department, in cooperation with Erwin Mills, will distribute information about the drive to all employees. "We generally agree that the purchase of Savings Bonds is good business on the part of our employees," said President Ruffin. "Of course, we want it clearly understood that participation in this program is entirely voluntary. However, anyone buying bonds will find that it will add to their future security."

### Bond Savings Add Up

If you authorize a deduction from your paycheck to buy Savings Bonds, the Payroll Department automatically starts you toward the purchase of bonds. For example, if you have \$2.50 deducted each

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B. O. CREEKMORE

## COTTON BUYING IS UNDER NEW HEAD

B. O. Creekmore replaced F. B. Wilkinson as Manager of the Cotton Department for all Erwin Mills, effective September 1. Mr. Creekmore formerly was a cotton buyer for Riegel Textile Corporation of Ware Shoals, S. C. Before that he was associated with The Abney Mills of Greenwood, S. C. He has been buying cotton for twenty years and was a cotton classifier for six years.

Mr. Creekmore expects to visit all mills of the Erwin chain in the near future in order to become more

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