



THE ERWIN CHATTER



Vol. IX, No. 10

OCTOBER, 1953

Circulation 6,000

Erwin and Cooleemee Land To Be Sold in Farms & Lots

Company Employees Get First Opportunity To Buy; Marketable Timber Sold Separately At Cooleemee

Approximately 7,800 acres of Erwin Mills property in Erwin and Cooleemee will be put on sale soon by the J. W. Ferrell Company of Winston-Salem. The property includes about 3,800 acres of land at Cooleemee and about 4,000 acres at Erwin.

Most of the land to be sold adjoins the towns of Erwin and Cooleemee. The Ferrell Company values the property in excess of \$800,000.

Land Subdivided

The property to be sold has been subdivided into residence lots and small farms, for it is believed that many employees will wish to purchase them. This will enable employees to build their own homes or do some farming within a short distance of their work at the mill. Letters will be sent to all employees in Cooleemee and Erwin explaining how the land will be sold. Company employees at these plants will have the first opportunity to buy and all property not purchased by employees will be sold at both private and auction sales.

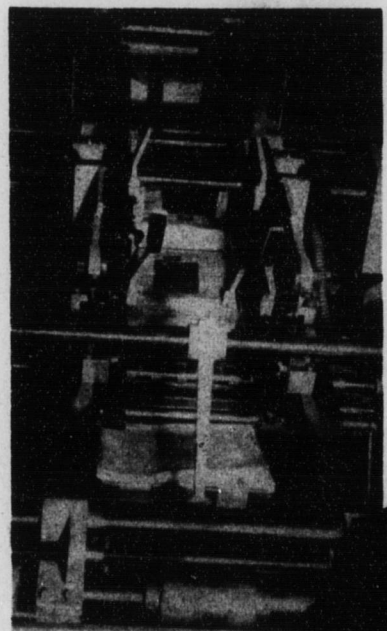
Timber Rights

Marketable timber from the Cooleemee land is being sold in four tracts; two in Davie County and two in Rowan County.

There is little marketable timber on the land at Erwin. Most of the property there is farm land, including about 75 acres in tobacco allotments.

Surveyor Marks Lots

For the past few weeks, the land to be sold has been surveyed and



HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Christmas Gift Announced

Erwin Mills will say "Merry Christmas" to each of us this year with a package of our own colored sheets. Each package will contain two percale sheets and two pillow cases. Erwin colored sheets are made in blue, maize, rose, green, pink and lilac.

DURHAM EMPLOYEES ASKED TO DONATE

United Fund Drive To Be Only Solicitation For Year In Durham Plants

Twenty-nine community services are represented by the United Fund in Durham this year. The drive for money to support these services is being held this week throughout the Durham Erwin Mills. It is conducted the same way the Community Chest drive was made last year.

Goal Is 25c A Week

The goal set up for Erwin employees is 25c a week for 52 weeks, or \$13.00 from each person, to be given during the year. The Payroll Department has arranged to deduct United Fund contributions from your paycheck if you request it.

Give ONCE For All

Company officials state that the United Fund Drive will be the only solicitation of employees for contributions to charity to be held in the Durham plants for the year. Employees are asked to give as generously as possible to the United Fund. Contributions will be distributed among twenty-nine community services in the City of Durham.

marked into lots which will be priced according to location.

In Cooleemee, the sale is expected to begin the latter part of October. Sale of Erwin property will begin about the middle of November.

NEW MACHINE USED TO WRAP SHEETS

This new machine in the Sewing Room is a sheet wrapper. It operates on the same principle as a cake-wrapping machine in a bakery.

22 PACKAGES PER MINUTE Each contains two sheets. The mechanical



Mrs. Goss, in foreground, prepares cardboard between two labeled sheets on feeder leading into the machine. Ramp above machine, Vallie Lashburn picture are Fred Langford, left, Asst. and a representative of the factory who

Returned Prisoners of War Bring Much Happiness to Erwin Families

Parents and Friends In Erwin and Durham Welcome Home Three Return PW's

The long months of worry and waiting are over for three families in our Erwin Mills community. Their sons have returned from Communist prison camps in North Korea. Sgt. William Dezern and Pfc. Fred Lane, Jr. of Durham, and Cpl. William Stogsdill of Erwin were released by Operation "Big Switch" in August.

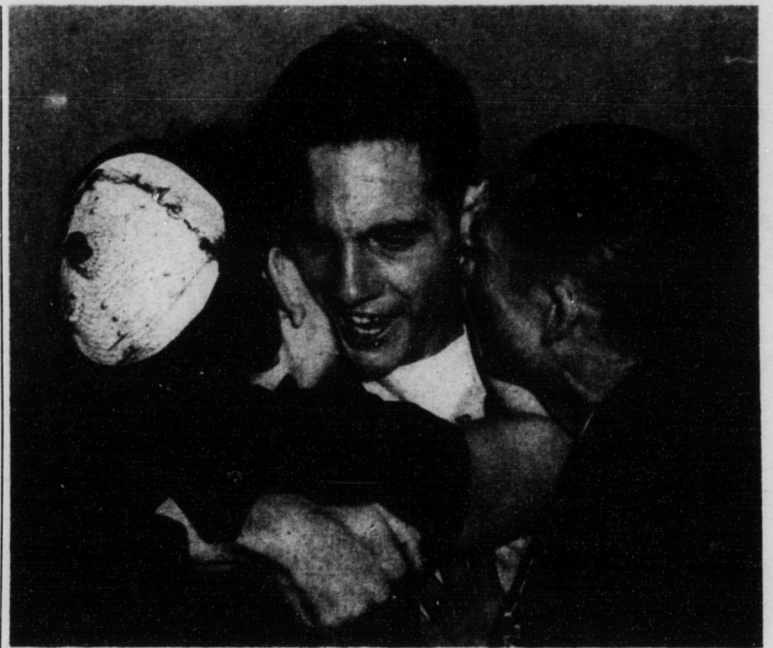
Tried To Escape

Fred Lane, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lane of No. 4 Spinning Room, made three attempts to escape from his Communist captors. Once, Koreans took him back and the second time, he was tracked down by the Chinese. After two escapes, the Reds placed him in Prison Camp No. 1 which was the "roughest" camp. Three days before the Korean truce was signed, Fred tried to escape again but was caught. Later at Freedom Village when reporters asked him why he tried the last escape, he said, "We hadn't any news for three days. I wasn't taking any chances."

Fred joined the Army in 1949 and was captured in the winter of 1950 by the North Koreans. He said the Reds fed them rice, steamed bread and soybeans. "Of course, I missed American chow."

Awarded Bronze Star

Billy Stogsdill of Erwin was a private first class when he was captured May 18, 1951, in the vicinity of Kang-Yi, Korea. During the 27 months he was a prisoner, he was promoted to Corporal and was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery. Billy volunteered to stay



We're All Together Again

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lane embrace their son, Pfc. Fred, Jr., as he stepped from a plane at Raleigh-Durham Airport. Fred Jr. was released on August 21 after being a prisoner of war of the Chinese Reds for 38 months. He made three escape attempts while a prisoner, the last being only three days before the Korean armistice was signed. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lane are employees of No. 4 Spinning, 3rd shift.

behind when riflemen withdrew, in order to help rescue his wounded buddies. He was surrounded by the enemy and forced to surrender. When last seen, he was marching northward with the enemy.

Mr. and Mrs. Stogsdill heard on December 18, 1951, that Billy was a prisoner, and they received their first letter from him on January 11, 1952. They were allowed to write him one brief letter a month and send no packages. They were cautioned not to write anything in their letters which might get Billy in trouble with his Red captors. His letters did not give much news

except to say that he was well and not to worry about him. In all, they received 15 letters from him before the happy telegram he sent from Freedom Village saying he would be home soon.

Trapped By Red Road Block

Sgt. William Dezern was captured on November 5, 1950, at Unson, North Korea, about 60 miles south of the Manchurian border. The Chinese set up a road block behind his task force so they couldn't get out. He reports that the Red treatment of prisoners was "pretty bad." At first, about two out of three prisoners died and there are only three of his platoon now living. They ate corn and turnips and sometimes, rice. At one time, he weighed only about 100 pounds. The Reds told him when the Korean truce was signed, and a few days later he and his fellow prisoners began their trip to Freedom Village by truck.

While in Korea, Sgt. Dezern received the Purple Heart, Korean Campaign Ribbon, United Nations Medal and the National Defense Ribbon. He plans to stay in the Army and expects to be sent to Germany.

"Bill" is a former employee of No. 1 Spinning Room. He is the son of Mrs. Blanche Dezern and the late Mr. George Dezern of the Electric Shop.



M. William V. Stogsdill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fayette Stogsdill of Erwin, reflects his happiness at being home again. "Billy" was a prisoner for 27 months and was released on August 17. He is a former employee of No. 5 Spinning Room. His father is a Loom Fixer in No. 2 Weave Room.

EMPLOYEE CLASSES START FALL TERMS

Women Attending Weaving Classes For First Time; Loom Fixing Popular

Employees who are interested in improving their skill or learning a new job, have enrolled in classes this month at Cooleemee and Durham. Approximately 125 employees are studying Loom Fixing, Weaving and Warper Fixing.

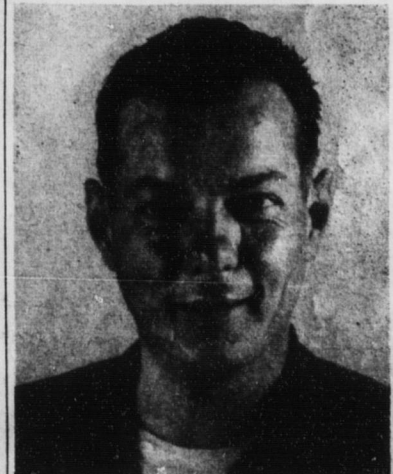
Women In Durham Classes

This year, for the first time, women are enrolled in the Weaving classes at Durham. Classes are scheduled for the first and third shifts. Weaving instructors at Dur-

ham are Charles Turner and Marvin Jackson. Loom Fixing instructors at Durham are Ralph Carrington, Malcolm Blackman and Milton Anderson. It is not too late for any interested employee to sign up for these classes.

Four Cooleemee Classes

There are two classes in Loom Fixing at No. 3 Mill under the instruction of Ed Clawson and Barney Foster. There is also a class in Weaving and one in High Speed Warper Fixing under the supervision of John Barber. Instructors are Henry Cook, Lawrence Smith, Eugene Richardson and Everett Land.



Sgt. William M. Dezern is one of three men now living who were in his platoon in Korea. He was captured on November 5, 1950, and was a prisoner for 33 months. This picture was taken by the American Red Cross in Inchon, Korea, before he boarded a ship to come home.