

THE CLOTHMAKER

Published by and for the employees of

CLINTON and LYDIA Cotton Mills

Clinton, South Carolina

Calvin Cooper

Editor

The publishers of The Clothmaker will welcome items of interest from its readers. Turn them in to your reporters or to the personnel office.

FIFTY YEARS OF PROGRESS

Fifty years ago last Monday, March 10, seven men sat down in an office in Clinton and after serious deliberation decided to build Lydia Cotton Mills, the second textile manufacturing plant in Clinton. A year later these same men gathered and heard the first annual report from the mill's president and founder, M. S. Bailey.

Looking back into the minutes of the board of directors, we find that the original mill was built in a year of "extraordinary market conditions and in a year of excessive building costs." Nevertheless, a mill containing 5,000 spindles and 150 looms was completed and then increased to 13,000 spindles and 320 looms during the year. Net earnings for the year were \$5,000.

Most of the machinery and equipment of the new Lydia Cotton Mills was old and antiquated, but it was all that could be obtained at the time. Five years later in 1907, the directors dug deep into the meager earnings of the company and replaced all of the old machinery with the most modern available then. This policy of returning earnings of the mill into the plant and village has been followed through the years, and it will be continued for the security of the plant and each and every employee.

On this Golden Anniversary of Lydia Cotton Mills, it is interesting to look back into the past and gain an inspiration for the future. From a little mill with 40 employees at the turn of the century we have grown into one of the most modernly equipped plants in the South with a family of 850 employees. The mill has traveled the road of depression and prosperous times. It survived the lean years and took advantage of brighter days by continuously modernizing so that it could remain in a favorable position in the highly competitive textile industry.

Lydia Cotton Mills started out as a vision of local Clinton business men. The first meeting of the directors, as have all since, opened with a prayer for Divine guidance as operating policies were developed. These policies actually have amounted to translating that very old moral, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," into methods of operating a textile plant and business. These principles of doing business, placed into effect by M. S. Bailey, the founder, have proved so sound that they have been carried on down to this anniversary by other members of the Bailey family: C. M. Bailey, W. J. Bailey and P. S. Bailey.

Despite the good leadership which the mill has had during its fifty years of existence, we know that we could not find ourselves in the position we are today without the continuous interest, loyalty, skills and talents of all employees, both those in the mill today and those in past years. Elsewhere in this issue are cited instances where the loyalty of employees helped pull the plant through trying and difficult times. The plant through the years has tried to reciprocate in showing its appreciation for the loyal and unselfish acts of employees. There is no question but that this close feeling which always has existed between those who direct the affairs of the company and those who accomplish other duties has made Lydia Cotton Mills what it is today.

We have weathered the storms of fifty years' operations. Now we turn our heads from the past and look into the future. We rededicate ourselves to the task of "producing the finest goods made by the finest people."



A SCENE DURING THE PLAY presented at Lydia to benefit the school curtain fund entitled the "Old Maid's Club." Only a few dollars remain to be collected of this \$1,200 project which has been so capably handled by the women of the community.

Church Services

BAILEY MEMORIAL METHODIST
Academy-Bailey Streets
Rev. Wallace R. Terry, Jr.
Services 11, 7:30
Sunday School, 10
Epworth League, 7:30
Prayer Meeting, Weds., 7:30

CHURCH OF GOD
Elizabeth-Frances Streets
J. B. Cole, Pastor
Sunday School, 10
Services, 11, 7:15
L.W.W.B., Tues., 7:15
Prayer Meeting, Weds., 7:15
Y.P.E., Sat., 7:15

CALVARY BAPTIST
Sloan-Jefferson Streets
J. W. Spillers, Pastor
Sunday School, 10
Services, 11, 7
Training Union, 7
Prayer Meeting, Weds., 7

LYDIA PRESBYTERIAN
Lydia Community House
Rev. Homer C. Holt
Sunday School, 10
Services, 11 on 2nd and 4th
Sundays; 7 p. m. 1st and 3rd
Sunday



Lydia Plant

Dear Editors:

Our hats off to Mr. "Si" and everyone else responsible for the wonderful improvements in our village the past three years, such as the homes and the nice swimming pool. Also the little trees that were planted and are doing so well.

Mrs. Jackie Williams
No. 1 Spinning, Spooling
Third Shift

Bailey's Guide . . .

(Cont'd. from Page 3)

for six two-year terms. He is a past president of the Lions Club, the Chamber of Commerce, director of the Clinton Hotel Corporation and M. S. Bailey and Son, Bankers. He is a member of the Board of Deacons, First Presbyterian Church.

He married Miss Quida Cox in 1931 and they have one daughter, Emily Frances Bailey. They live at 224 West Main Street.



MR. T. W. SPIRES recently passed away suddenly at the age of 63. Mr. Spires worked at the Clinton plant for many years and our sympathy is extended to his family.



THE OLDEST EMPLOYEES at Lydia, in terms of service, are shown above with George Cornelison, Lydia vice-president, Miss Maude Harvey moved to Lydia in 1914. She never left and is a spooler tender in the plant today. J. D. Hairston also began work in the mill in 1914 and several years later was promoted to the office. Today he is secretary of the mill.

Tradition Of 'Lady Lydia' Lives Today

Much of the fabric produced at Lydia is sold under the name of "Lady Lydia," but many people are not familiar with the source of this name or the source of the name of this plant.

Both are named for Rosanna Lydia Abrams Bailey, wife of M. S. Bailey, founder of the mill. To those who knew her, or know of her, the name was appropriately chosen.

Lydia Abrams Bailey was very vivacious, refined and full of animation. She was loved by all who came in contact with her and was the personification of the early pioneering woman who, although handicapped by the lack of modern features which provide ease and comfort, endeared herself to those in the community who bestowed upon her the title of "Lady Lydia."

Lady Lydia was the mother of nine children, two of whom died in infancy. The sons were Joseph Abrams, Putsy Silas, William James and Cassius Mercer. The three daughters who survived were Toccoa Mars Bailey, Emma Floride Bailey and Mary Ellen Bailey.

She was the daughter of Joseph Abrams, a farmer living near Clinton, and Sara Mariah Mars.



Braswell Nears His 83rd Year

By Grace Wooten

Hats off to J. E. Braswell, Sr., who will reach the ripe age of 83 May 12.

Mr. Braswell and family have lived here 19 years, retiring from the Clinton plant four years ago. During his employment he worked in the cloth room, weave room, as watchman and retired as elevator operator.

Out of eight children, 22 grand-children and four great-grandchildren, six of his children, two sons-in-law, two daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren now are employed at the Clinton plant.

Mr. Braswell is a loved and popular figure in and around his home on Bailey Street. He always has been ready to be of help at any time, but otherwise kept out of other folks' business.

We salute you, Mr. Braswell. It is folks like you who make Clinton such a nice place to live.

CAMPBELL PROMOTED

Estess Campbell, who works in No. 2 spinning, third shift at the Clinton plant, recently has been promoted to second hand.

Mr. Campbell has been with the Clinton plant for 17 years, beginning work there at the age of 15.



MRS. KATE EVANS celebrated her 70th birthday March 8. Mrs. Evans is well known around the Clinton community.