



Bill Stanton, Purchasing Agent

"You've got to look for value as well as price in purchasing," says Bill Stanton as he checked a series of price quotes from vendors interested in selling supply items to Clinton Mills.

"We're a cost conscious department," stated Stanton as he outlined the functions of being purchasing agent for the company's six weaving plants.

At Clinton Mills, Stanton's primary function is to work with various departmental managers to requisition supplies and select vendors which can provide service and quality merchandise at competitive prices.

Stanton assumed the purchasing position in 1973 following the retirement of the late W. E. Johnson.

Armed with a major in accounting from the University of South Carolina, Stanton's previous work experience as a public accountant at Cannon Mills and as office manager at Clinton, gives him a distinct advantage in being able to handle the detailed accounting and reports required in the purchasing position.

Various Activities

During the course of the day, Stanton may be called upon to purchase items such as a \$.05 bolt or a battery of new equipment costing thousands of dollars each.

"I try to always be available," stated Stanton. Often times a manufacturing superintendent needs a precise measurement or an alternative solution to a problem. If I have the expertise to help, I will."

Stanton Looks For Values As Well As Price In Purchasing

Plant Acquisition and Modernization

Since 1977, Stanton's purchasing department has grown rapidly. During the acquisition of the Geneva operations, he played a key role in purchasing new production equipment, disposing of used machinery, coordinating various contractual services, and restocking plant supply rooms.

As the Bailey Plant modernization progresses, Stanton is at the forefront of placing new machinery orders, disposing or redirecting the use of used machinery and spare parts, and other activities.

"The areas which we are now involved

with are changing rapidly," he added. "A few years ago, we were a simple operation, but now we are moving to become a high technology company. Chute feed cards, high speed drawing, shuttleless weaving and other improvements place additional burdens on those responsible for maintaining the new equipment. Since much of the machinery is not available in this country, we must be constantly aware of the fluctuations in the dollar as we purchase replacement equipment and parts."

Interested in Local Economy

"We deal with over 750 vendors and

attempt to purchase supplies and services which contribute to the betterment of the local economy. We depend heavily on local contractors and providers as much as possible," continued Stanton.

Other Responsibilities

Vast numbers of reports are generated for control purposes by the purchasing department staff. Supply parts, vehicle costs, operational expenses all must be properly charged and accounted for.

Cost areas which appear to be excessively high are reviewed and corrective measures taken when necessary.

"Our department purchases almost everything the company uses except office supplies and cotton," he continued. "The amount of synthetic fibers the department purchases has increased eight fold in the past 10 years," noted Stanton.

Supply Clerks

"We are moving fast to get as much of our work on computers as possible," he noted. "This decreases the amount of time required to manually compile data, increases accuracy of the data, and affords better control."

"We work closely with the plant supply clerks in an effort to maintain a workable inventory of supply parts."

"Items not in stock are acquired as soon as possible to minimize machinery downtime and production delays."