

# HI-CO NEWS

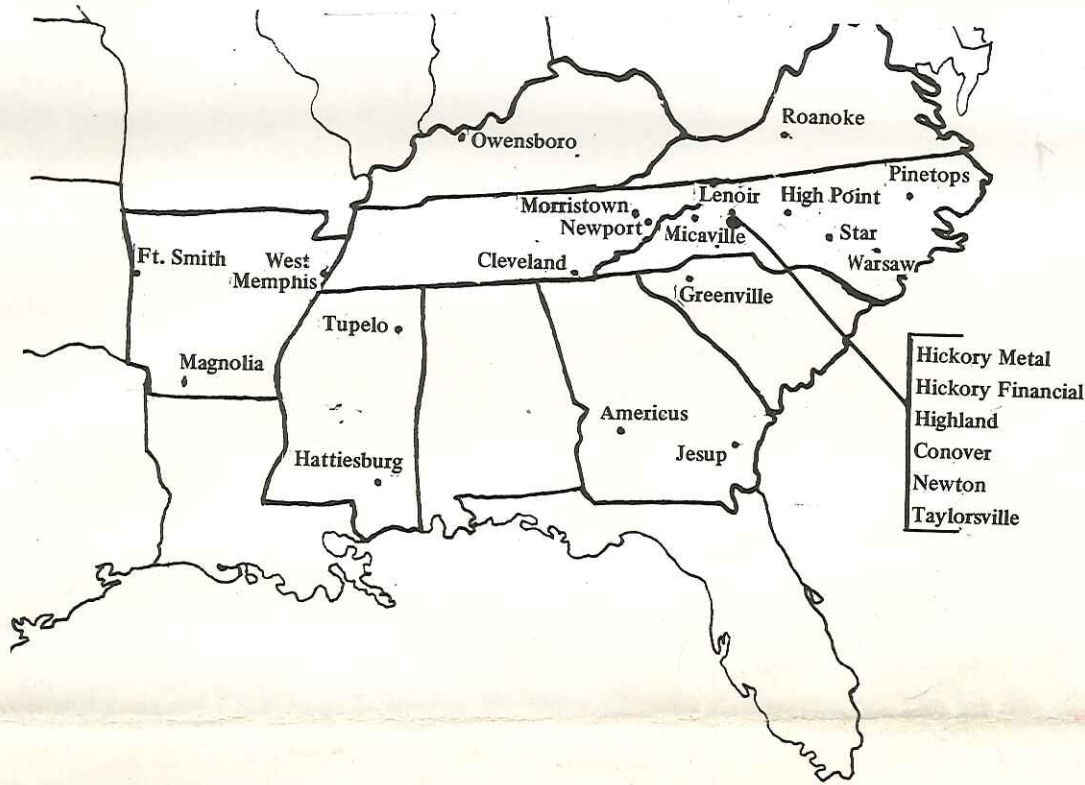


Vol. 1

Hickory, N. C., December, 1973

No. 1

## OUR 30TH YEAR: 1974 Promises Continued Growth



Less than 30 years ago, Hickory Springs Manufacturing Co. Inc. was a small operation—about 30 employees working in the manufacture of springs within a building of 15,000 square feet.

Today we are a company of some 2,400 persons. Our operations in six states function in over one million square feet of warehouse and production space.

How did we get here? Why did Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company succeed when other similar businesses did not? What has been responsible for our success?

All of us have important ties to our company. It is the source of our livelihood. Many have a personal commitment which evolved from 10, 15 or more than 20 years of service. To know more about our company and the people who guide its destiny is an important goal for our newspaper.

Ours is a company that services the home furnishings market in a wide area of the United States east of the Rockies. While our primary bedding and home furnishings markets are in the Southeast and eastern Seaboard, our customers are found in the Midwest and Southwest as well. This market is growing every day.

To understand Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company is to understand its beginning in 1944. A partnership, with Parks C. Underdown as a major partner, began a small business in cramped quarters on Main Avenue, Southwest, in Hickory, N. C. The first products were springs for the bedding and furniture industry.

It was a daring move. The world was in the midst of its most devastating war. Yet, the confidence and optimism of Mr. Underdown and other leaders overcame the uncertainty of the economy and the war-clouded future.

It was almost inevitable that Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company would have its beginning in Hickory, N. C. The community is in the heart of the nation's furniture manufacturing center. The first employees understood furniture manufacturing and knew the needs of our first customers.

Because the company began with capable leadership, loyal employees and customers within a convenient area, the growth was significant from the start. And because of this growth and development—along with wise management decisions—the company was able to withstand two major fires that struck within the first 10 years of operation.

In 1951, the company took the first step that was to lead to its regional development. It formed a wholly-owned subsidiary, Chattanooga Spring Company, which manufactured springs and metal bed rails at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

The introduction of metal bed rails at Fort Oglethorpe was the first major diversification of the company's product line. It gave the company an opportunity to serve case goods manufacturers in the furniture industry. Today President Neil Underdown looks back on this as one of the major steps taken by the company.

The manufacturing operations of Chattanooga Spring Company were soon moved to Hickory, but the company had made its commitment to regional expansion. In 1956, it took another step in this direction by opening a warehouse in High Point.

Growth was steady and before long manufacturing facilities were scattered in several buildings in Hickory—Main Avenue, Southwest, Brookford, and Highland Avenue. In 1959 these operations were consolidated into a new large plant in Southeast Hickory.

Also in 1959 the company established Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company of Arkansas Inc., a subsidiary company and warehouse in Fort Smith. A second major diversification was introduced to the company's product line when the company purchased urethane foam buns and then fabricated them for resale to furniture manufacturers in the southwest.

Based on its experience with polyurethane foam in Arkansas, and to build a hedge against loss

Continued on page 4

## Hello

This is Volume I, Number 1, of the HI-CO NEWS. You'll be seeing issues every quarter, courtesy of Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company. All employees in all offices and plants will be receiving HI-CO NEWS regularly and we hope it will be a continuing source of interest, information and entertainment for you.

HI-CO NEWS can be successful only with your help. It's your newspaper and we want you to enjoy it. Let us know your comments and criticisms so we can make it the best possible newspaper. We particularly want news from you. News about you, your job, your family. Ask your supervisor or department reporter for "news sheets" on which you can write your items. All we need is the facts, we'll do the writing.

Now enjoy Volume I, Number 1 of HI-CO NEWS — YOUR newspaper!

## A Christmas Message

Dear Fellow Employees,

As another Christmas Season draws near, allow me to express my sincere wish for a Joyous and Holy Christmas Season.

And, as the year comes to an end, I want to express my appreciation to all of you whose talents, energy, and loyalty contributed in a substantial way to a successful year.

Our progress during the upcoming new year will be determined by how well each of us meets the problems and challenges of his individual job. We face many uncertainties in the months ahead caused by government controls, higher interest rates, and shortages in fuel, steel and chemicals just to name a few. Those things which are beyond our control will affect the national market which of course will determine how well our products are accepted.

With each of us giving attention to quality, workmanship, and service in our jobs and keeping the customer's interests foremost in our minds, I have confidence that we can make 1974 a secure and prosperous new year in spite of the uncertainties we face.

Again, thank you and best wishes to you and your families for the Holiday Season.

Sincerely,  
Neil Underdown

## Underdown Announces

### New Vacation Plan Instituted

P. C. (Neil) Underdown Jr., President, announced on November 6, a new and vastly improved vacation plan for plant employees and truck drivers, company-wide.

Details of the new plan were outlined in a letter mailed to the

homes of Hickory Springs employees. The highlight of the new plan lowered the waiting period for eligibility so that most all employees over the company would receive vacation pay. Many employees will take home larger vacation checks

also.

Mr. Underdown in his letter to the employees, stated, "I am happy to announce this plan, which is a welcome addition to our ever increasing employee benefit plan."

## Survey Reveals :

# How Absenteeism Affects You

How does absenteeism affect you?

Absenteeism is a serious problem for any company, and Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company is no exception. Recently we asked a number of Hickory Springs employees how they felt about absenteeism, what inconveniences it caused them, and what they thought the company could do about it.

We learned that our employees have strong feelings about absenteeism. They don't like it, and they told us why.

"My work is doubled," says **Coleen Stafford**, a foam cutter in the Conover plant with more than five years' experience. "The production is cut in half, and you slow other people down when you have to ask them to help you carry material."

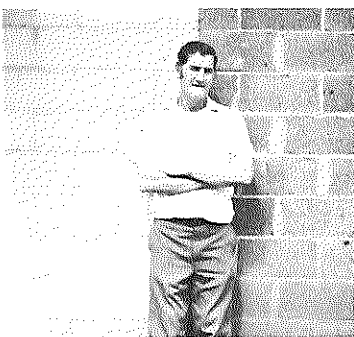
**James Morgan**, a slitter operator in West Memphis agrees. He says that when a fellow employee fails to report for work it "increases my work load and reduces my output and efficiency."

How does absenteeism hurt? **David Church**, shipping supervisor and truck dispatcher at Tupelo says that it "requires extra effort on my part and fellow employees' to maintain production and make shipments on time."

**Madge Johnson** of the Hickory Metal plant parts department agrees. "It means the rest of the employees have to do more work to make up," she says.

"Everyone present has to work harder and longer," observes **Janet Mull**, lead key punch operator and a six year veteran at the Hickory Financial Office. "Quite often it is necessary to work overtime."

Even with the overtime, says **Laura Belle Couch** of Cleveland, Tenn., customers may feel the effect. "It may cause customers to be late in getting orders," she says, "and that is not good business."



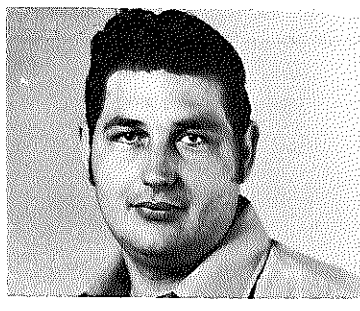
Jesse Bowlin



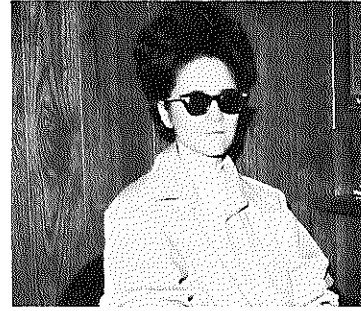
Laura Belle Couch



Coleen Stafford



David Church



Betty Carr



James Morgan



Roy Whitaker



Norma Jean Long

Another way absenteeism can hurt is to disrupt the coordination between sections or departments. **Charlene Bollinger**, who has spent two years in the sales department at Americus, Georgia, says "Production is cut. Being in sales, I cannot anticipate the volume that will be available for customer shipments."

Absenteeism by another employee also hits you where it hurts the most—in the pocketbook. **Betty Carr**, of Ft. Smith, Arkansas says it this way, "It hurts everybody. One experienced person absent from my line means all the rest of us can't make our incentive."

**Carl Byrd**, a 21 year veteran at Hickory Metal agrees: "I lose money as well as the company."

Another serious damage absenteeism does is to the morale of other employees. "Each person," says **Robert Lee Wilson**, a fixer at Micaville, N. C., "feels he or she has been let down because of having to do more work than his job requires."

In spite of all that can be done to cover the jobs normally performed by the employee who is absent, many jobs just don't get done at all. **Jesse H. Bowlin**, a supervisor at Morristown, Tenn. notes that "when employees are shifted to someone else's position, the small day to day jobs are put off until a later time."

"Some jobs are left undone," says Janet Mull. "The more important ones, or the ones scheduled for that day get priority."

Perhaps Robert Lee Wilson sums it up when he says, "Each employee is hired for a function or task and if they fail to report to work it puts a burden on others, slows down production and the plant fails to operate at full capacity. The employee loses money and the company loses production and money."

So we can see that absenteeism is a problem. It

costs time and money, and is felt by employees, the company, and customers. What can be done about it?

Once again, the employees had some strong feelings and some good ideas.

Several employees suggested that more effort should be spent letting employees know how important their jobs are. **Roy R. Whitaker**, a baler operator at High Point and a seven year Hickory Springs employee says, "Stress to each employee that his job is important to him and the company, and that both lose when he is out."

**Jesse Bowlin**, of Morristown said, "Try to get all employees to see the need to be at work every day and see the strain it puts other employees in when someone is out—or the small jobs that have to be put off when one is out."

Some of the people we asked thought that employees with good records should receive recognition for it. **David Church** of Tupelo suggested, "better understanding between employees and Personnel. Set up some kind of yearly bonus for good attendance."

"The company should offer some merit awards for employees with perfect attendance records," states **Helen Weathers**, a five-year veteran of the Greenville, S. C. shipping office. "I think it might help."

**Ruth Fox**, a Taylorsville, N. C. foam cutter agrees: "Post a list each month of all those with perfect attendance. At the end of the year, those with complete perfect attendance should be given a prize, such as fruitcake, fruit basket, free dinners, etc."

**James Morgan** suggests that sharing responsibility might help by "encouraging group participation and by working as a team."

Other employees believe that better working conditions would cut down on absences. "Working conditions should be as pleasant

know. We have as good a benefits program as one could want."

**Betty Carr**, Ft. Smith: "Maybe reward the people with good attendance by paying them a higher base rate."

**Joel F. McMahon**, Hickory Metal: "You gave raises that helped but were soon forgotten about. Some people just don't want to work."

There are a lot of different opinions about absenteeism and no one feels the same way about it. But everyone has an opinion about it, because everyone knows that it hurts the company and the employee.

Of course, Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company recognizes that there are many legitimate reasons for being absent. Employees may be unable to work because of illness, family problems, or some other good reason. That is a fact of life, and will always be with us.

But when an absence is not necessary it is a problem. We know from what these employees have just told us that it does present problems—not just to this company, but to you. It makes your job harder, and even cuts into your paycheck.

By making Hickory Springs a healthier company, we are giving each employee a chance at a better paycheck, better working conditions, and better job security.

Remember, if your job weren't necessary — it wouldn't exist.



Janet Mull



Helen Weathers



Ruth Fox

as possible," suggests Janet Mull, "so the employee will enjoy coming to work each day."

**Norma Jean Long**, a cushion and foam cutter in Lenoir seconds the motion. "Better working conditions," she says, "and less heavy lifting for your women employees."

**Robert Lee Wilson** of Micaville believes that much absenteeism could be prevented through a better relationship between employee and supervisor. "Each supervisor has the responsibility of knowing each of his employees and his feelings and temperament," he says. "Each employee has the responsibility to his or her supervisor of discussing each dislike and complaint with him and not going around discussing it with other employees." he also suggests that, "the company ought to give a small bonus to the person in each department with the best work record, attendance, production and quality of work and this reward will be publicized."

Other employees had other good ideas:

**Coleen Stafford** of Conover suggests an attendance bonus plan.

**Laura Belle Couch** of Cleveland, Tenn.: "Some kind of small award or something to show appreciation of good attendance."

**Wilma Newton** of Hickory: "Offer a person a better or different job, maybe with more pay."

**Charlene Bollinger** of Americus, Ga.: "I am very much against welfare. If this was cut off, these employees would be present every day."

**Blanche Canipe**, ten-year Hickory veteran: "Try showing some kind of an appreciation for the employees for the years they have been with the company, such as extra bonuses, five and ten year pins, dinners."

**Arney Scronce**, 18-year veteran of Hickory: "I don't

## 25-Year Vets Give Views

How does it feel to watch Hickory Springs grow over 25 years from a small company to a 25-plant operation?

The six people who know how it feels gathered recently and we were able to ask them this question. Company founder and presently Chairman of the Board Parks Underdown and the five 25-year Hickory Springs veterans will soon be the charter members of a Quarter Century Club which is to be initiated at Hickory Springs in the near future.

The other "old-timers" are Joe Neal, who joined the then-young company in July, 1945; his wife Myrtle, September, 1945; Harold Ledford, October, 1946; Wilburn Benfield, September, 1948; and Homer Poovey, September, 1948.

All of the employees express pride and satisfaction at the dramatic changes in supplies, personnel and products since their arrivals on the scene.

"It was just two buildings when I started," remembers Myrtle Neal, a press operator at the Hickory Metal Plant. "I never thought I'd stay this long."

Her husband Joe, a supervisor of factory general help at the Metal Plant,



**VETERANS GATHER**--These six Hickory Springs employees have watched the company grow since they began here more than 25 years ago. Standing from left: Homer Poovey, Harold Ledford, Joe Neal, Myrtle Neal, Wilburn Benfield. Seated: Parks Underdown.

expresses similar feelings. "How it has grown is remarkable," he says. "I have always enjoyed working here. It makes me feel good to know I had a small part in the growth of the company, which has given a lot of people jobs." He remembers that he liked the company immediately after he joined it, and within two months his wife was also a Hickory Springs employee.

"I guess 25 years is a long time to work at the same place," laughs Wilburn Benfield, a coiler operator. "I just can't seem to

get away from here. I hate to think about quitting."

Homer Poovey, who is now customer services manager for metal products, states that he has always enjoyed being a part of Hickory Springs. "I enjoy working with all the people here," he says.

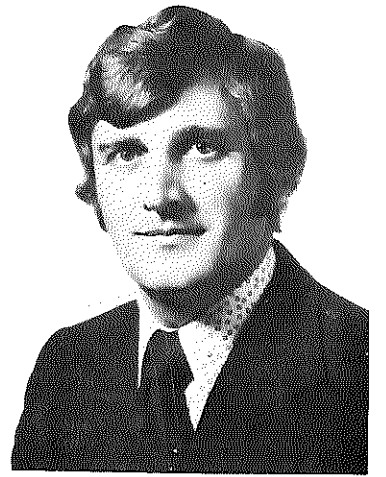
"It has been a long time," Harold Ledford observes. Now a project supervisor, he is awed by the company's growth and success as anyone, commenting, "We certainly have come a long way."

"It seems just like yesterday when the company was started," remembers Parks Underdown, with a smile.

Another thing the employees agree on is how they feel about the man they work for. "Mr. Underdown is the best man we ever worked for," Joe Neal says. "I think we all agree on that."

Along with these 25-year veterans, Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company has a number of loyal employees who have been with us for more than 20 years. Zeno Martin joined the company in October of 1950; Wilma Cook, March, 1950; Viola Beaver, September, 1953; Lester Lail, May, 1951; Edith Abernathy, May, 1953; Geneva Fredrick, January, 1952; Howard Lemmons, January, 1952; Carl Byrd, May, 1953; Judith Cook, November, 1952; Harold Goins, July, 1951; Wayne Abernathy, July, 1950; Bob Bush, 1953; Carmie Cook, January, 1951; Jeanette Butler, June, 1951;

"I am very happy to be associated with each and every one of them," Parks Underdown says. "I'll always be grateful to them all."



### Hendrix Joins As Service Center Manager

James F. Hendrix has joined the Hickory Springs Company as Service Center Manager as of November 26.

In this capacity, Hendrix will direct and coordinate the fabrication, sales service, personnel, and warehousing functions in Jesup, Cleveland, Greenville, Morristown, Newport, Owensboro, and Roanoke. He will report directly to Bob Bush.

A native of Hudson, North Carolina, Hendrix attended Hudson High School and Carolina Business College. He brings to Hickory Springs Manufacturing Co. experience gained as personnel director in the Singer Company's Furniture Division with responsibility for four plants.

He and his wife Judy are the parents of two children.

Join us in welcoming Jim to the company by giving him our cooperation.

## Old And New Meet In Fort Smith

Ft. Smith, Arkansas is a study in contrasts between the old and the new.

The area played an important and famous part in America's westward growth, and the courthouse in which Isaac C. Parker, the famous "hanging judge" heard cases is now a tourist attraction.

However, Ft. Smith is also the home of two of Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company's largest operations, housing a foam plant and a metal plant.

The town grew up around a fort built in 1817 to quell disturbances caused by warring Indian tribes. Located on the border of Oklahoma,

which was then the Indian Territory, the fort became a supply post for other army units as pioneers moved farther west, and played a very important role in bringing peace to the frontier.

As lawless bands came into the Indian Territory, only the Western District Court at Ft. Smith, aided by a handful of U. S. deputy marshalls and Indian constables, had jurisdiction in the area. In 1875 Judge Isaac C. Parker arrived, bringing with him dedication, incorruptibility, and a sympathy for the Indian. For years, Parker's court opened at 8:30 a.m. and continued until dusk or later, and during his 21

years on the bench, Parker saw more than 13,000 cases docketed in his court. Of these, 344 defendants were tried for capital offenses, and 79 were in fact, hanged.

This number was often cited as proof of Parker's severity by persons who did not notice the great number of cases Parker heard, and he gained a reputation as "the hanging judge." But Parker's philosophy of law and government, expressed near the end of his career, was this: "It is not the severity of punishment but the certainty of it that checks crime nowadays."



## Hickory Springs Trucks Highlight Local Parade

When Hickory High School held its annual Homecoming Parade on October 26, two Hickory Springs trucks, covered with elaborate decorations and high school students, were included in the procession.

In fact, one even won first prize for the best float, after being beautifully done up by members of the Hickory High chorus.

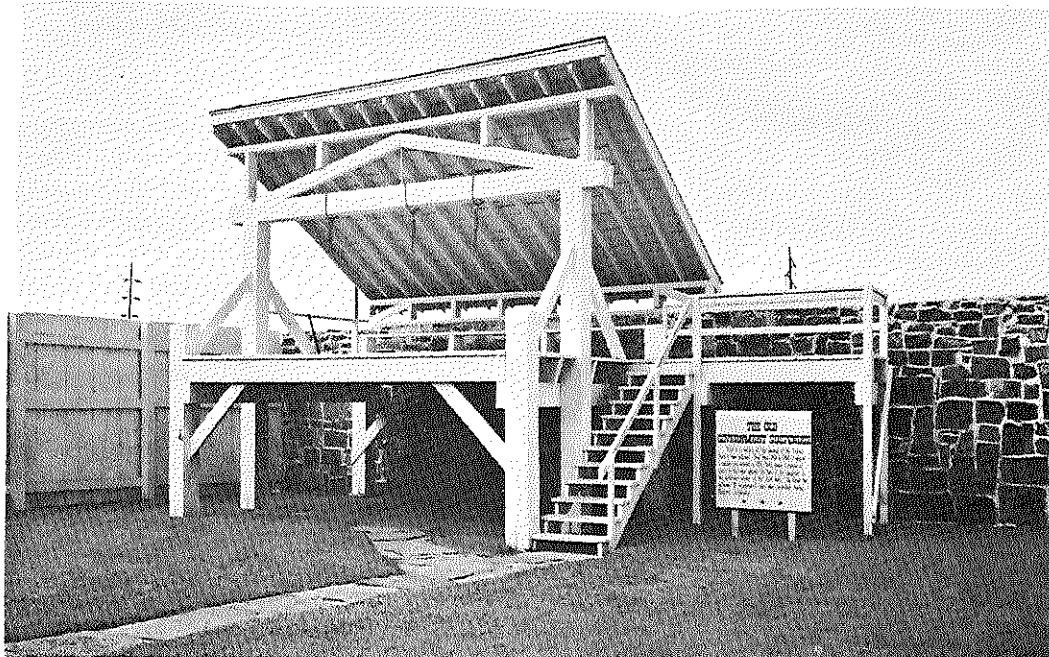
Hickory Springs drivers Glen Townsend and Wayne Mitchell drove the vehicles through the streets.

It's all a part of Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company's effort to be a contributing and responsible member of the communities in which we are located. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve in such a fashion, especially when it is this much fun.

Customer Services Manager Homer Poovey received this letter of thanks from the high school:  
Dear Mr. Poovey,

The Chorus of Hickory High School would like to extend our appreciation for the use of your flatbed. Our float was a first place winner and we know that you played a great part in our winning a beautiful trophy. Our float could not have been built without your help. Thank you so much for your time and patience.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Truitt, President  
and all the members of chorus



**FT. SMITH HISTORY**--A gallows of this type was used to spring into eternity many of the 79 souls who had been found guilty by the juries of the crimes of murder or rape during the 21 years that Judge Isaac Parker served as Federal Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, having criminal jurisdiction in the Indian Territory.



PEGGY DOLAN

## Homemade Gifts Brighten Christmas

Christmas is a time of giving, and one thing that makes giving mean even more is a gift that is the creation of the giver.

Two employees of Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company's Foam Plant in Hickory have brought joy to others with gifts created by their own hands, and this Christmas will continue this custom.

Peggy Dolan, a cutter in Department No. 66, enjoys the hobby of painting. "I started painting seriously and selling the paintings about four years ago," she recalls. She estimates that she has painted more than 200 pieces in the last few years, working a large variety of styles. She has painted portraits from photographs for her friends and has also painted flower designs on velvet, creating unique gifts.

"Portraits I do for friends and to sell," she says. "I do abstracts for myself."

In her many works of art, Peggy has experimented with a great variety of paints and materials. "I used oil until I found out about acrylics," she remembers. "Acrylics dry almost instantly; oil is messier."



TURLEY HOLLER

Two of her favorite models are her young sons Duke and Tommy.

Last Christmas, she estimates, she gave about 20 paintings as gifts and sold a number of others. "I found that everyone liked the paintings better than anything else I could have given. And I came out cheaper, too."

Something quite different is made by Turley Holler. She just calls them "arrangements," but they include wood, artificial flowers, sometimes paint, and a variety of other things, all put together into an attractive display.

"I saw a small arrangement in a grocery store for \$2.98 and decided I could do better than that," she recalls. "That must have been 15 years ago. Then I sort of gave it up, but I started back doing a lot of them when I was looking for something to take up some time after my husband died."

Turley begins by searching through the woods to find the right piece of wood. "The heart of pine where the outside is rotted off is the best," she says. She sprays it for insects, then begins the decoration by spraying the wood to look burnt.

"I've tried spraying it gold and silver," she states, "but I like to make it look natural."

She then adds artificial flowers, greenery, sometimes such things as tiny figurines and bird's nests, and a vast assortment of decorations to make the finished product. She gives many of the arrangements to friends, who use them as centerpieces and decorations for windows and tables. She often sells others, and has raised money this way for choir robes and a bus fund for churches. She observes that Christmas and Mother's Day are the busiest times of year for her.

Peggy Dolan and Turley Holler are two people who have found interesting, enjoyable and inexpensive ways to get the most out of Christmas and delight their friends the year 'round.

Certainly they are not the only Hickory Springs Manufacturing Co. employees who use their talents to make their own Christmas gifts. But they are great examples of people who have found that the true spirit of Christmas is the spirit of giving.



**CONVINCED**—Danny Hicks, a fixer in the Micaville, N. C. plant, was working at this vise when a piece of material broke off and hit his safety glasses. The glasses prevented serious injury or blindness. Danny will be admitted to the Wise Owls Club, sponsored by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, which is made up of persons whose vision has been saved because they were wearing safety glasses on the job, a lesson we should all remember.

## 1974 Promises Continued Growth For Company

Continued from page 1

of sales of spring cushioning materials to foam cushioning, the company decided to begin manufacturing polyurethane foam. The first foam pouring operation was in one of the old buildings vacated when the company moved into its consolidated plant.

In 1960, a new building was erected adjacent to the metal plant which had been built two years earlier. That was the first permanent home of the foam pouring operation. Today urethane foam is sold at all of the company's locations and has become one of our larger product lines.

Chattanooga Spring Company returned to the Tennessee-Georgia area in 1961, this time as a warehouse operation for the company's full line of products and for fabricating latex and polyurethane foam.

As with vintage wine, 1962 was a very good year for the company. The Arkansas subsidiary purchased the assets of the old Mitchell Spring Company in Fort Smith and began its own manufacturing operations. Limited production of springs was begun at the warehouse facilities in High Point. A warehouse and foam fabrication facility was opened at Owensboro, Kentucky. Arkansas added the pouring of urethane foam buns to its production. In the following year, the third major diversification of the company was undertaken in Arkansas with the introduction of rocker swivels and swivels with legs.

A chronological look at the rest of the 1960's shows that Hickory Springs Manufacturing was accelerating in its decade of progress. Consider:

--1964—Warehouse and foam fabrication facility opened in Tupelo, Miss., to enable company to expand service to home furnishings industry; new building completed for Chattanooga Spring Company in Cleveland, Tenn.

--1965—New 70-acre site acquired for major expansion between Hickory and Conover.

--1966—New plant built for High Point operations; warehouse opened in Morristown, Tenn.

--1967—New foam plant completed on 70-acre site near Hickory; warehouse, and foam

fabrication facilities opened in Jesup, Georgia.

1968—Warehouse and foam fabrication operations begun in Memphis, Tenn.; Hickory Springs of South Carolina Inc. formed to supply metal items and fabricated foam to the Piedmont South Carolina area from Greenville, S. C.

--1969—Hickory Springs of Virginia, Inc. begun in Roanoke; urethane fabrication operation started in Taylorsville, N. C.; 20-acre site purchased for new foam plant at Fort Smith, Ark.

The 1970's have been equally dynamic with construction of new facilities in Arkansas, development of manufacturing facilities in Micaville and Lenoir, N. C., and expansions at Hickory, and Tupelo, Miss. locations.

Other expanded locations include those at Pine Tops, N. C., Americus, Ga., Hattiesburg, Miss., Newport, Tenn., Star, N. C., Warsaw, N. C., West Memphis, Ark., and Magnolia, Ark.

Neil Underdown credits the dedication and interest of employees with making the company growth possible. He also cites customer service as a leading factor.

"Our success pattern has been tied to service to customers, even to the detriment of our profit. This commitment has been shared with the employees of the company."

"We are conservative in a financial sense, but we are not afraid of new ventures," Underdown observes. Stockholders in the company have never received a common stock dividend, always reinvesting the profit in new facilities and the personnel.

New ideas . . . new opportunities . . . new facilities . . . all have been interwoven into the story of Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company Inc. Today there is no reason to believe that the future will be any different.

## HI-CO Personals

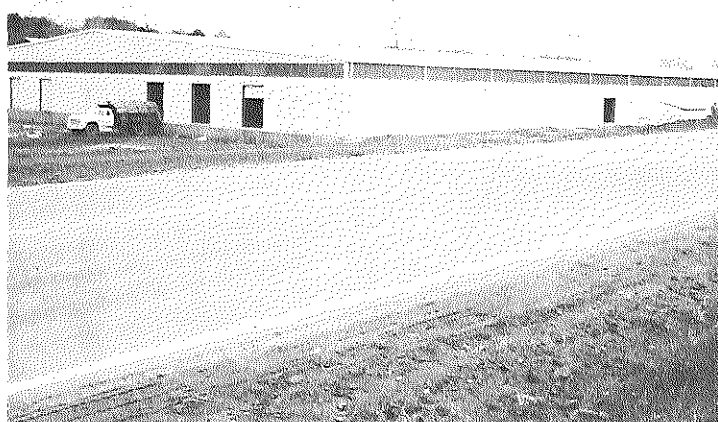
Stella Rakes spent part of her Thanksgiving holiday singing at a revival at the Full Gospel Church in Clayton, N. C. Stella is a seven-year veteran at High Point Metal.

Cathy Hayworth enjoyed her Thanksgiving holiday at Surf City Beach. Cathy works in the assembly department at High Point Metal.

Our congratulations to Mike Evans, shipping supervisor at Hickory Metal Plant and his wife upon the recent birth of a daughter.

Maria Warren of the Hickory Metal parts department is proud as can be since the recent birth of her first grandchild.

Our very best wishes go to two Hickory Metal Plant employees, Betty York of coiling, and Darrell Trivette of the parts department, who plan to be married over the week of Christmas.



## Lenoir Expansion Nears Completion

A new modern plant to house the Lenoir branch of Hickory Springs Manufacturing Co. is expected to be fully operational by February 1, according to Plant Manager Bob King.

The structure will be located on a six-acre tract on Highway 321-A. A one-story building, it will contain some 60,000 square feet, and according to King, "was built to provide the most desirable and modern facilities for customer service and employee working conditions."

The Lenoir operation will

continue to be primarily a polyurethane fabrication and service facility, but will also be a supplier of the firm's metal products to the furniture and bedding industries of the area.

"The company will start moving from their present location on Harper Avenue to the new plant as quickly as the new facility completion will permit," King stated.

King stated that he expects to add about 25 people to the more than 100 persons already employed at the Lenoir site.

## High Point Addition Will Provide More Space

The High Point, North Carolina branch is nearing completion of a 20,000 square foot addition to the present complex.

According to plant officials, the new addition will provide 30 per cent more room for manufacturing and storage, 30 per cent more room for shipping both metal and polyurethane, and some 40 per cent more space for the constantly growing polyurethane operation.

Upon completion of the new addition, a new one-way drive system will be installed to insure a more safe and even flow of traffic to and from this complex.

Henry Kennedy, General Manager, Eastern Central Division, states that they are most eager to move into the new addition and are confident that it will ensure better working conditions and a more direct flow of materials.