

PHI PSI CONVENTION HELD IN LUBBOCK

Phi Psi, a national textile fraternity for textile engineers and textile science students, held its annual convention in Lubbock at the end of February. "Jeans to Genes in the Global Marketplace" was the theme with visits to the ITC and to American Cotton Growers denim mill (ACG). Seventy-five students, faculty, and alumni from Clemson, NC State, Auburn, Georgia Tech, Philadelphia College of Textiles, Southern Polytechnic, University of Mass at Dartmouth, Institute of Textile Technology and Texas Tech attended the meeting. Highlights included a talent show Thursday night, a country and western dance and barbecue at 4BarK, and a Mexican fiesta banquet on Saturday night. At the banquet, Dr. Ethridge was inducted in as an honorary member of the Kappa-Phi Psi West Chapter along with Danny Davis, plant manager of ACG, Joe Thompson, owner of Southwest Textiles, and Cal Brints, owner of Oak Creek Products.

NEW OPEN-END SPINNING MILL FOR SNYDER

By summer, a new textile mill will be spinning open end yarn on the edge of the world's largest cotton patch. The new mill, Lorber Industries Texas, is located in Snyder and will be operating by mid-1998. Yarn from the mill will be shipped to Lorber Industries of California, the parent company, to supply its own knitting machines and to sell to other knitters.

The mill is located on the edge of Snyder, near the intersection of Highways 82 and 180, in a new area called SnTx Industrial Park. The building will be finished in April with equipment to be installed immediately.

Jack Whitworth is plant manager and Dwight Jackson is director of administration and cotton buyer.

The Snyder location gives good access to the High Plains and Rolling Plains cotton crop. Yarns produced will be open end spun, 16 to 18's singles, knitting yarn going into golf shirts, T-shirts, polo-type shirts, and other knit apparel.

Phase I of the project includes a 70,000 square foot facility employing 50

people. Three to six more phases could be added in the next five years. Eventually, there may be as many as 200 employees.

Lorber has purchased a complete line of Reiter open-end rotor spinning equipment. From the 65 bale laydown, cotton will go to two levels of cleaning equipment. Draw frames will be RSB-30's and spinning will be six frames of R20's, each with 260 spinning positions.

The ITC is supporting Lorber and other Texas mills with research, consultation, technical assistance, testing and evaluation. An R20 spinning frame has been purchased by the ITC and will be used for training and support of the Lorber facility.

The first group of employees spent a week in March training at the ITC learning the short staple textile processing system. James Simonton, textile engineer, Bill Cole, manager of short staple processing, Pauline Williams, manager of materials evaluation, and the technicians in the various labs helped the students with hands-on learning, lectures, and a large reference manual.

TRAVEL NEWS

In March, Dr. Dean Ethridge, director, and Eric Hequet, assistant director, went to Bremen, Germany to attend the International Committee on Cotton Testing Methods (sponsored by the International Textile Manufacturers Federation), followed by the Bremen International Cotton Conference. Afterward, they visited the Institute for Textile Production Systems within the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), as well as the Mulhouse National School of Textile Industries in France (ENSITM) within the University of Haute Alsace in France. Also, they visited the Rieter Corporation and the Sultzer Corporation in Switzerland, and the Suessen Corporation in Germany.

Dr. Ethridge also traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, in March to participate in a meeting of the Committee on Cotton Quality Measurement. This is hosted by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

HISTORICAL COAT RECREATION

The ITC is now working on a project with a California costuming company to recreate fabric for military coats dating from the late 1870s. The garments, which will be used in an upcoming film, are based on an original post-Civil War jacket on loan to the costuming company from the Smithsonian Institute. Historical correctness is a concern to the company, and it is the ITC's responsibility to accurately reconstruct the lining on the jackets. This gray flannel shirting material is made of a two-ply cotton pima warp with a filling of wool/cotton blend. After production of the film, the jackets are to be donated to a cavalry reenactment group.



MEETING HELD BETWEEN TEXAS COTTON PRODUCERS AND CONE MILLS

On April 8, 1998, the ITC hosted a meeting between Mr. J. Patrick Danahy and a group of Texas cotton producers from the Texas Plains. Mr. Danahy is the President and CEO of Cone Mills, as well as the current President of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute. The Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers association organized the meeting. Its purpose was to enable a free and informal exchange of ideas on how the cotton production sector and the U.S. textile manufacturing sector can better work together.