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NEW INVENTION IS DEMONSTRATED

John M. Morrow demonstrates the use of his newly-patented floor-sweeping device, mounted under the standard roving box, which sweeps the floor while the box is in normal use.

—Staff Photo.

John Morrow Patents Plant Floor Sweeper

John M. Morrow, 36, superintendent of production for Wiscassett Mills Company here, has been awarded a patent on a new floor-sweeping invention expected to have wide application in the textile industry.

On December 26, 1961, he was awarded from the United States Patent Office a patent on a combination load-hauling vehicle and floor sweeper.

His invention has proved highly satisfactory at Wiscassett Mills here where it has been in use for some time.

Basically, the invention is a specially-designed brush which is attached underneath the regular roving and bobbin boxes in constant use throughout the mill operations. Running the full width of the box, the brush swivels so as to be effective whichever direction the box is headed. It has vertical adjustments to compensate for bristle wear.

Since these movable boxes are in constant use in the aisles and

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around the floors in the yarn manufacturing operations, the brushes sweep the floor during this normal use.

Waste Is Problem

Lint and other forms of waste has long been a problem in textile operations. In addition to being unsightly, this waste creates a fire and safety hazard as well as accumulating around, entangling, and binding the wheels or casters of the boxes. Air currents can circulate this loose lint and cause it to be caught in the yarn which reduces quality.

Now, by the use of Mr. Morrow's invention and without any extra effort on the part of the plant personnel, the floors can be kept much cleaner, reducing the number of employees assigned to this task.

Thus, the device is hailed as a boon to both economy and quality in textile operations.

Development of the brush device has been underway for several years.

Of course, some degree of regular, traditional, manual sweeping is still necessary.

Well aware of the lint and waste problems in the spinning rooms at Wiscassett, John said the idea occurred to him one day as he watched the roving and bobbin boxes being moved about the floor.

Why couldn't a sweeper attachment under the boxes be used to sweep and clean the floors while the boxes were in normal use?

Many Requirements

With the help of the machine shop, John toyed and experimented with the idea. From the original rubber flap they attached beneath the boxes, many additional refinements were made until they perfected the adjustable bristle brush arrangement.

Convinced of its effectiveness and potential, John applied for a patent in March, 1958.

Take it from him, obtaining a patent is a complicated and trying endeavor. But perseverance won. A few weeks ago, the patent became a reality.

In clearing the patent—the legal work was handled by Eaton, Bell, Hunt & Setzler, patent attorneys of Charlotte—John's invention was checked against seven other patented inventions, one dating back as far as 1889.

John has entered into a contract with Excel, Inc., of Lincoln, granting this firm exclusive rights to manufacture and sell his invention on a royalty basis.

The outlook is for John's novel device to be used wherever movable, wheeled boxes are used in plant operations in the textile industry — and this is practically everywhere.

A native Albemarle man, John is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. "Doc" Morrow. He is a graduate of Albemarle High School, N. C. State College, School of Textiles, and is married to the former Miss Ticksa Senter of Albemarle.

They live at 828 North Sixth Street and have two sons, Mac, 13, and Michael, 11.

John joined Wiscassett Mills in August, 1949.

Patent Is Awarded For Floor Sweeper

ALBEMARLE, Jan. 19—John M. Morrow, superintendent of production for Wiscassett Mills Co., has been awarded a patent on a revolutionary floor-sweeping invention expected to receive wide acceptance in the textile industry.

The invention, the addition of specially designed brushes on the bottom of regular roving and bobbin boxes, does much of the job of keeping the floor clean and free of lint in a yarn mill such as Wiscassett, where it is credited with doing a good job since it has been in use.

The patent came through during the Christmas holidays and arrangements have been made with a Lincoln concern to manufacture and sell the sweeper on a royalty basis.

The specially designed brushes are so mounted that they are effective in sweeping, no matter which way the carts are rolled. They are fitted with vertical adjustments to compensate for wear of the brushes.

Morrow, a native of Albemarle, and a graduate of State College School of Textiles, joined Wiscassett in 1949. It was three years ago that application was made for the patent.

Mill executives say that the mill is now being kept much cleaner without additional work on the part of employees, through the use of the new sweepers. The device is hailed by local textile men as a boon to both economy and quality in yarn production.

Morrow's Idea

More than 100 years ago a bill was proposed in the Congress to abolish the U. S. Patent Office. The reason given was that everything had already been invented and there would be no further need for the office.

To those who live today that reasoning is, of course, absurd.

An example very close to the people of Albemarle can be found in the newly patented plant sweeping device invented by John M. Morrow. We congratulate him upon the ability to see a need and invent something which meets that need.

This proves, once more, that ideas are important. Ideas must be conceived before action toward developing them can be carried out. So long as agile minds are able to conjure up ideas there will be a need for the Patent Office.

And we hope there is use for it for a long, long time.

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Combination Load-Hauler, Floor Sweeper Developed



John M. Morrow demonstrates use of his newly-patented floor-sweeping brush mounted beneath a roving box.

John M. Morrow, superintendent of production for Wiscassett Mills Co., Albemarle, N. C., has been awarded a patent for a combination load-hauler and floor sweeper.

The unit is a specially designed brush attached beneath a regular roving or yarn box. Covering the full width of the box, the brush is designed to swivel to accommodate box turns. It also has vertical adjustments to compensate for bristle wear. As the box is pushed during normal operations, lint and dust is swept from the floor.

Morrow has granted Excel Inc., Lincolnton, N. C., exclusive rights to manufacture and sell his invention on a royalty basis.

(Request Item No. C-17)

TEXTILE BULLETIN reaches the key administrative official and the superintendent of every spin-weave mill and dyeing-finishing plant in the South, and also more than 4,500 operating executives including overseers, master mechanics, and plant engineers. No other journal supplies such thorough coverage of this enormous market, where over 80% of the nation's active spindles and looms are located.