

Lillian May Fournier

100th BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE

This folder has been prepared to help make your trip through the mill more enjoyable. All of us are most happy to have you as our guests during this Open House in observance of our 100th Birthday and hope you will find your visit interesting and informative.

The guide who will conduct you is thoroughly familiar with the various operations and will do his best to answer your questions. Please stay near him at all times. During your tour you will see the very latest machines in operation actually turning out the beautiful fabrics for which William Skinner & Sons is famous. These fabrics will soon be on their way to fine stores and fashion creators all over the country.

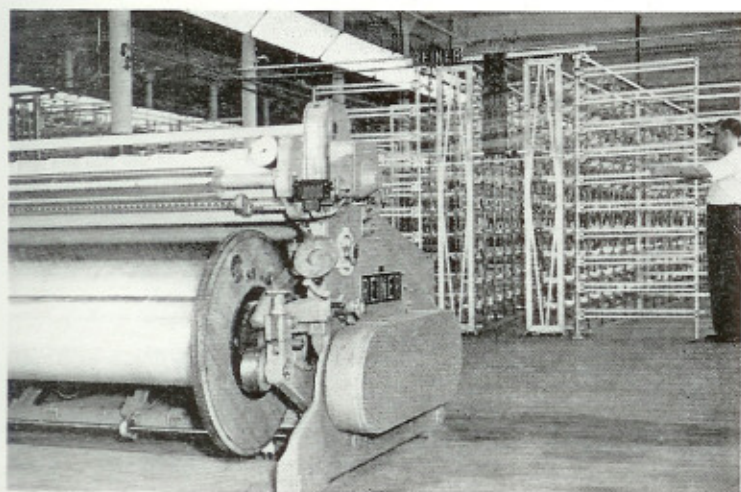
At the end of your tour there will be a souvenir for you at the Registration Desk.



SEPT. 29, 30, OCT. 1

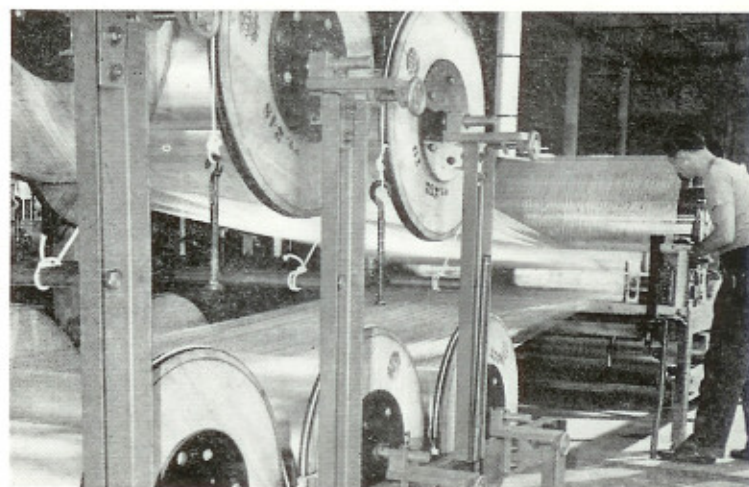
HOLYOKE, MASS.

Come with us now, behind the scenes, and see how the beautiful fabrics shown in the display room are created. . .



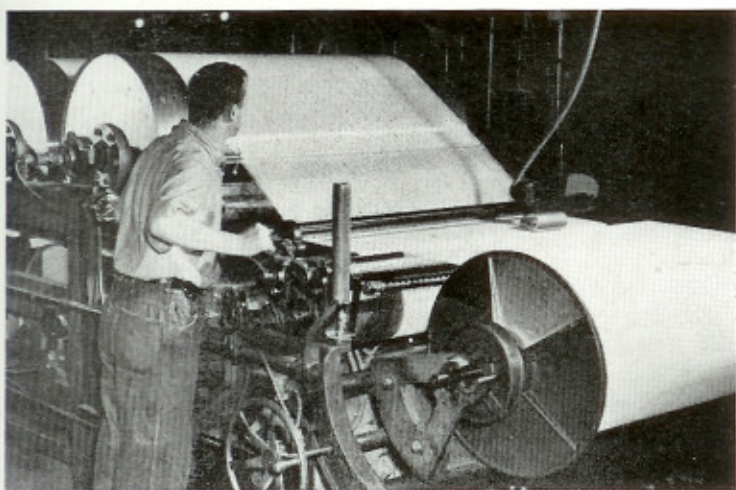
1. SECTION BEAMER

This machine takes 1,000 ends (threads) of yarn and winds them on a huge cylinder called a section beam. These threads combined with other section beams become the warp of the fabric. The machine stops automatically if a single thread breaks.



2. SECTION BEAM SLASHER

Here the warp threads are put through a sizing solution and dried. This helps them to resist chafing and breakage. The sizing is removed later. This machine is the very latest type available and only one month old.



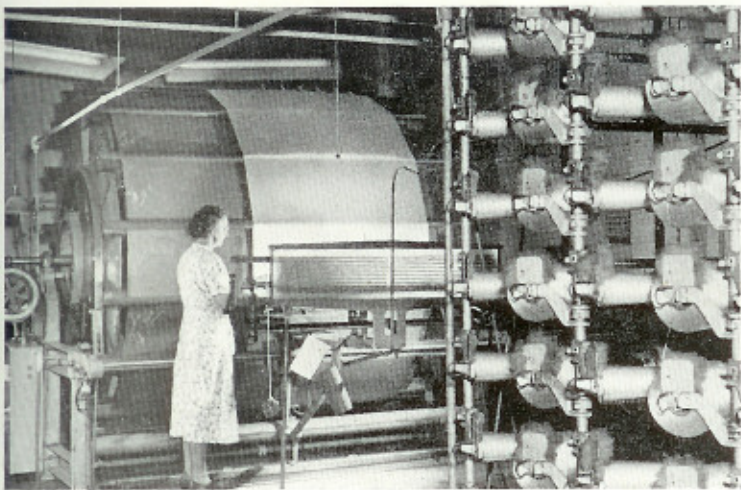
3. SILK SYSTEM SLASHER

Basically the same as in No. 2 but the ends are wound on a huge creel (reel) first as shown in No. 5. Automatic moisture control is achieved in this process.



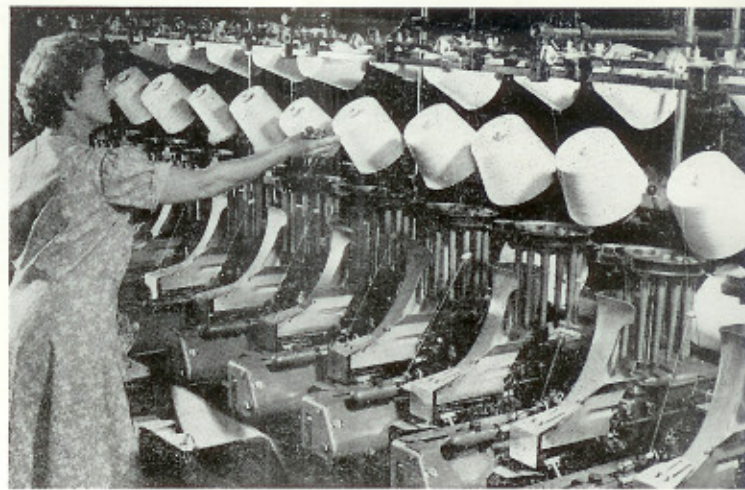
4. STOCK ROOM

About a 3-weeks supply of yarn from the best suppliers is stored here. Different fabrics require different yarns.



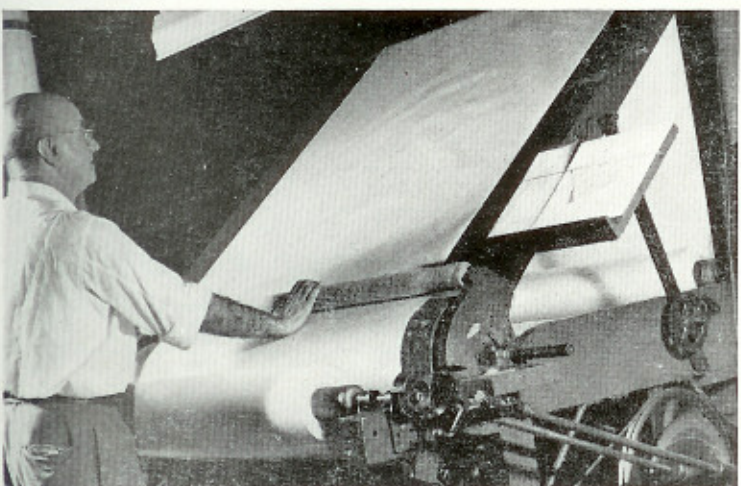
5. SILK SYSTEM WARPERS

With this system the ends are wound on a large creel in sections. As many sections as needed are added and then wound on a beam which goes to the silk system slasher prior to weaving.



6. AUTOMATIC FILLING WINDERS

These machines wind the yarn onto a slim bobbin called a quill. This is the first step in making the filling (the cross threads in fabric). It's almost human in its operation.



7. GREIGE GOODS INSPECTION

All goods are "greige" goods before they are dyed or finished. Every yard of "greige" goods must pass this inspection. The trained eye of the operator notes any defects and the cloth is graded accordingly. His standards are unbelievably exacting.



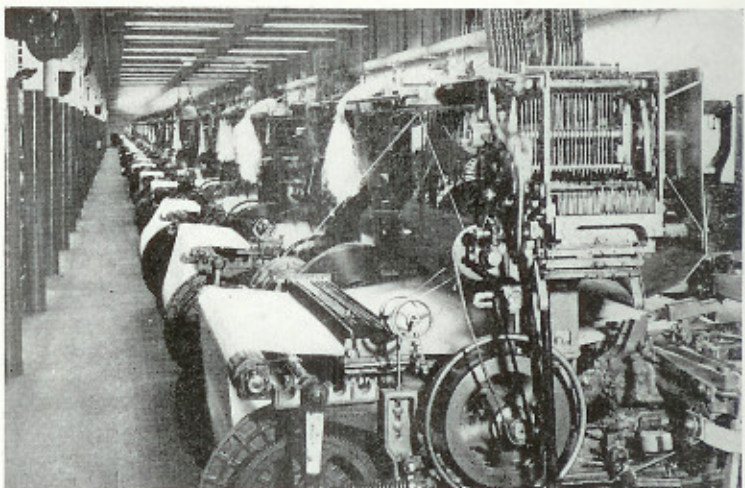
8. PICKING

This operator checks each yard of fabric a second time, clips off loose ends, removes bits of thread or any other irregularities which might be encountered.



9. SHIPPING ROOM

Here all woven goods are sorted by style number and listed for shipment to any one of a dozen quality dyeing and finishing plants. All goods move by gigantic Skinner trailer trucks.



10. WEAVING — DRAPER LOOM

On these completely automatic high speed looms are woven satins, Tackle Twill[®] and linings. The shuttle carrying the filling travels 25 m.p.h. When a warp runs out a knotting machine ties in a new one. Empty quills are replaced automatically as you will observe. If a thread should break anywhere the machine stops automatically.

New fabrics . . .

New methods . . .

bring new horizons

The name Skinner has been identified with Massachusetts and fine textiles ever since 1848 when the founder, William Skinner, set up his first mill with a mere handful of employees at Skinnerville about 18 miles north of Holyoke. This mill was destroyed by a disastrous flood in 1874. In 1875 the company was invited to move to Holyoke where it has grown to be one of the largest fine-fabric mills in the world. Grandsons of the founder continue to operate on the same sound business principles which have brought it to its present size and importance.

Throughout its history William Skinner & Sons has had many "firsts" to its credit. It was the first to develop a new weaving method which brought down the price of silk satin so the average family could afford it,—the first to weave its name into the selvage of its goods, thus protecting the buying public. Skinner pioneered in shoe and slipper satins—developed Tackle Twill* and Sunbak*—created the first rugged nylon fabrics now widely known and used in the sports world.

During World War II Skinner won repeated citations for outstanding new weaves, new fabrics and new processes for the Armed Services. Today, as always, the search for new fabrics and better ways to make them goes on.

Among fashion creators the world over Skinner fabrics are famous for their beauty and perfection. Among women no other manufacturer of rayons, satins, crepes and special fabrics is better known than William Skinner & Sons. Uncompromising high standards, modern machinery and methods plus the skill of the Skinner people assure continued growth and ever-widening acceptance.

