



One of the region’s largest employers

by JIM COX
The Clarke County Democrat

Scotch Plywood has been around for 59 years, when the first plywood mill began operations in the Southeastern U.S.

The Harrigan and O’Melia families, then the third generation of Scotch Lumber Co. owners, realized the future of plywood and began construction of a mill in Fulton, on the north side of the log yard from the sawmill.

The first sheet of plywood made east of the Mississippi River was produced at the mill in August 1965. The original mill produced 50 million feet annually and was serviced by a single dryer.

In a September 1965 issue of the Clarke County Democrat, publisher George Carleton wrote: “The new mill is a mammoth affair and,

as of now, is the only one of its kind in the state of Alabama. There are one or two others in the South and these are likely to be followed by any number of others.”

The operation went well and by 1969 a veneer mill was established in Waynesboro, Miss., to supply the Fulton mill. A second dryer was added in Fulton in 1970.

In 1979, a veneer mill with a dryer was built to the east, at Beatrice in Monroe County. The two veneer mills feed sheets of veneer via trucks, to the Fulton mill to be made into plywood.

Scotch Plywood is one of the region’s largest employers, working approximately 400 at its operations.

For more information, visit www.scotchplywood.com.



Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth visited the Scotch Plywood mill in Fullton in Oct. 2022. **Above, from left** are Tom Saunders, Alabama Forestry Association, Gray Skipper, Vice President, Scotch Plywood, Ainsworth, Paul Gibson, Susan Turner, Long Leaf Land and Timber, Tatum Turner and Lee McPhearson, Choctaw County landowner.

Left, Lt. Gov. Ainsworth hears how plywood is manufactured from Paul Gibson.



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Jackson Mill - 4585 Industrial Road - Jackson, Alabama - 251-246-4461