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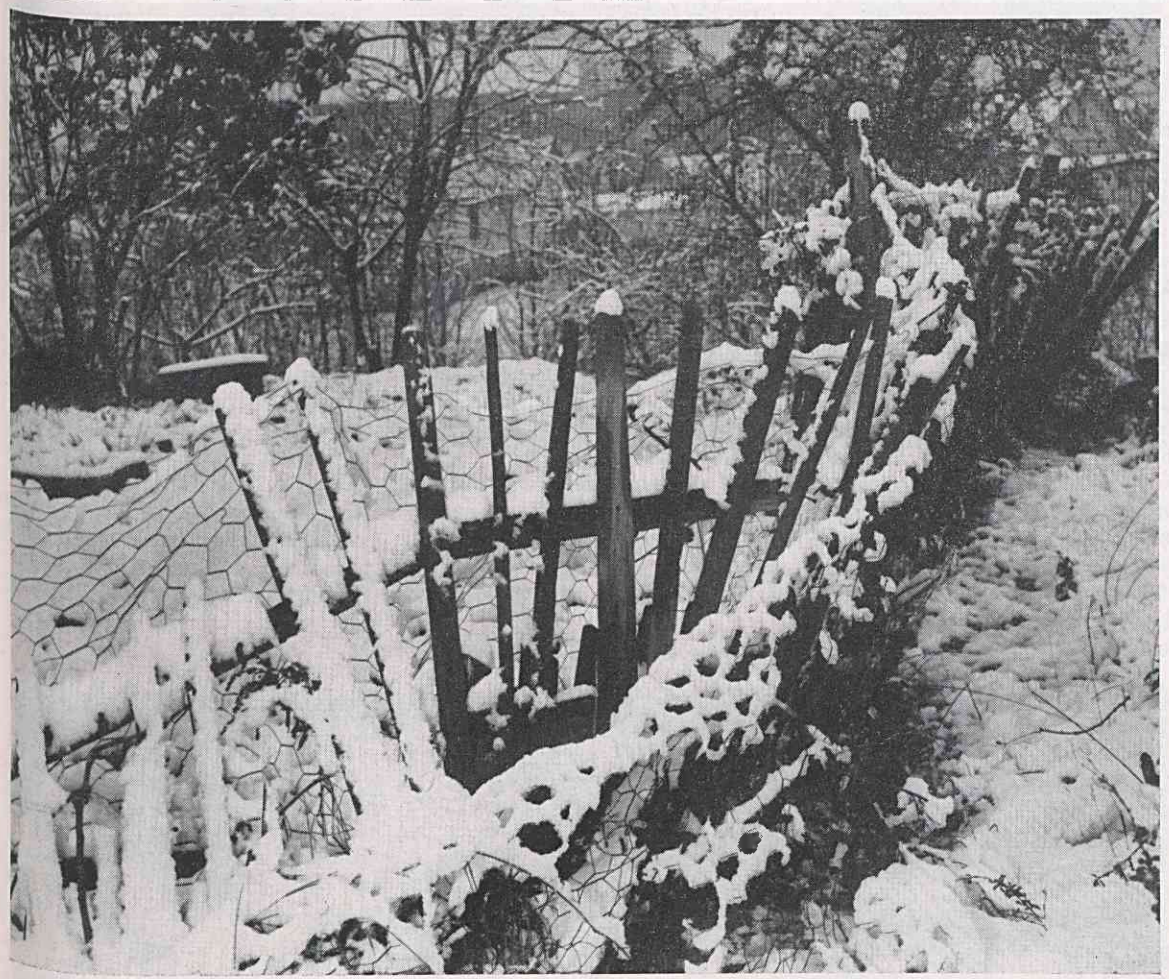
GASTONIA • NORTH CAROLINA  
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# Firestone NEWS



Best Today  
Still Better  
Tomorrow

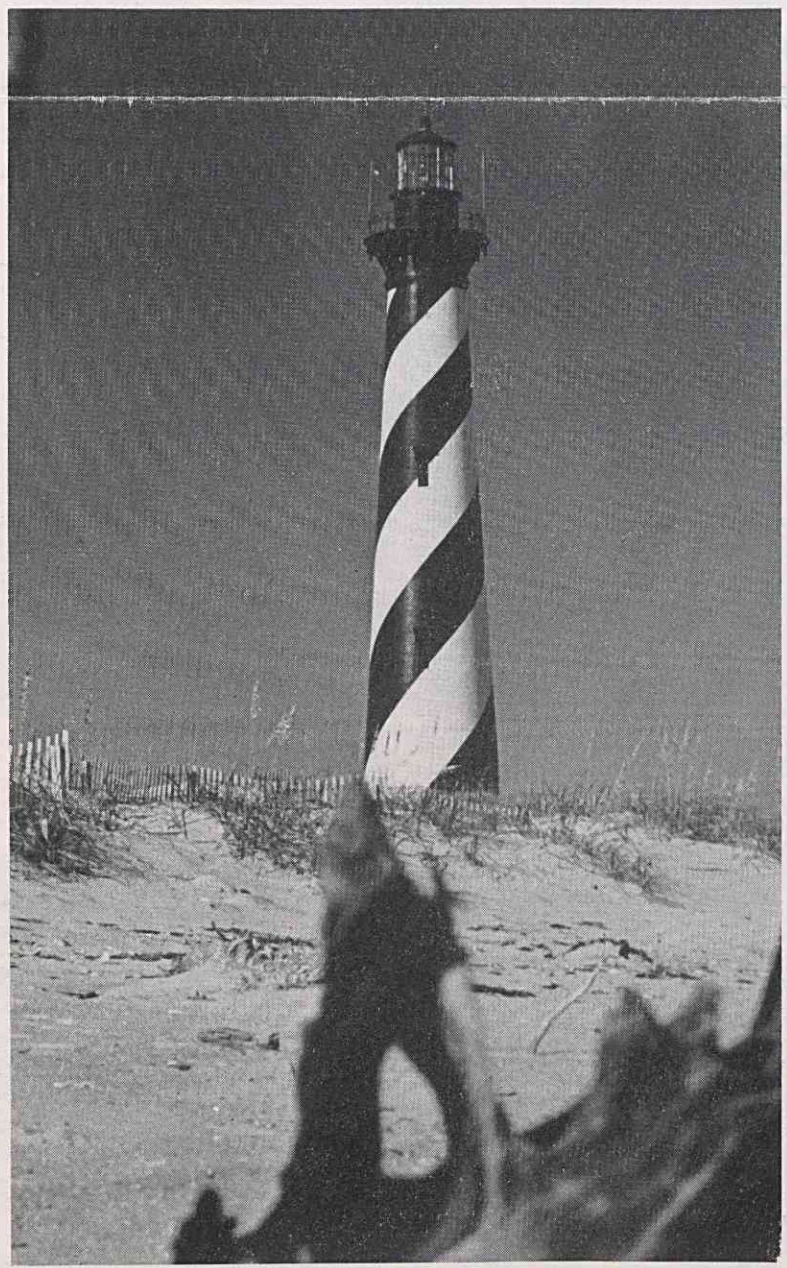
Rubber • Chemicals • Textiles  
Synthetics • Metals • Plastics



## WINTER IN PATTERNS NORTH CAROLINA

In any season of the year, North Carolina lives up to its reputation as The Land of Variety. Winter is a time when you can take your choice of a wide range of scenes and weather conditions.

Examples on opposite ends of the scale are the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, where the sun brightens the balmy ocean strand; and a winter wonderland further west toward the mountains.—Photos by NC News Bureau (the lighthouse) and Firestone News (snow patterns).



## Now More Money Going Into Your SS Program

You and the company that employs you are putting more money into your social security program in 1963. And according to the latest law, social security tax is scheduled to increase again in 1966 and in 1968.

Jan. 1 was effective date for the hike in tax rate from 3 and 1/8 per cent to 3 and 5/8 per cent, applicable both to wage earners and employers on earnings up to \$4,800.

For persons who earn the maximum of \$4,800 — or more — in 1963, the tax will increase to \$174, with an equal amount paid by the company.

The original social security law set a tax of 3 per cent for worker and employer to pay costs of retirement benefits.

This was effective in 1949. Since then, Congress has enlarged the program to include broadened benefits. This naturally called for an amendment to the law, to provide increased contributions for the added cost. The Jan. 1 increase to 3 and 5/8 per cent is part of that schedule.

Under the present social security law, maximum employee tax will be \$198 in 1966 and \$222 in 1968. In any case, the employer pays a matching amount to that of the wage earner.

### CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

## 1963 Seen Promising For Rubber Industry

Outlook for the rubber industry in 1963 is excellent, according to Harvey S. Firestone Jr., company chief executive officer and chairman of the board.

In his forecast for 1963, Mr. Firestone said the record-breaking fourth-quarter recovery in general economy activity in 1962 points to opportunities for our industry in the new year.

"At Firestone, we have just completed the greatest sales year in our history and the momentum that has been building up is helping us start 1963 at a pace which, if continued, should again set new sales records," Mr. Firestone said.

He went on to point out:

- We are continuing to improve efficiency in our manufac-

turing processes and working to eliminate excessive costs in distribution and sales operations. The recent price increase of 3 to 6 per cent on all sizes and types of tires is another factor that points to profit in 1963.

- Outlook for sale of new tires in 1963 is encouraging. The industry expects to ship 132 million passenger, truck and tractor tires. An estimated 91.7 million of these will be replacement tires, of which total 80 million will be passenger car tires.
- Other factors in the economy that give confidence are the upturn in steel, the estimates of some 4 per cent increase in capital goods, additional defense spending and advancing department store sales.
- The rubber industry has available a broad field of synthetic compounds from which it can make an ever-increasing array of products. These materials will permit the industry to improve its existing products and to move into new product fields through more research and development.
- Synthetic rubber, reaching new levels of accomplishment through research, will take a larger share of the rubber market.
- The industry has expanded its production base to serve the growing foreign markets which represent additional tire sales as car populations grow and highway systems continue to increase in countries around the world.

tween James Slechta of the shop and Paul Clark of twisting (synthetics). The award, made in August, was the largest suggestion payoff here in recent years.

## 357 Suggestions Approved Here Past Fiscal Year

People who work at the Gastonia plant turned in 357 ideas during the past fiscal year, and the 12-man suggestion board approved 90 of them. The time period represented is from Nov. 1, 1961 to Oct. 31, 1962.

Board Chairman F. B. Harrison pointed out that this is a 51 per cent increase over suggestion participation during the 1960-61 period.

Of the 90 which made the grade in the last fiscal year, ideas ranged from the minimum \$10 award for (example) a suggestion to erect a guard rail for safety, to details for overhauling a twister-frame lubrication system.

This one brought \$325, with payment divided equally be-

End Of February

## Scholarship Deadline

Only a few days remain in which to apply for the 1963 Firestone College Scholarship awards. Completed application forms, required character references, certification of high-school grades, aptitude test results and other required information as outlined in the Scholarship booklet, must be received at the Firestone headquarters in Akron, Ohio, by the end of February.

Those who have neglected to complete application requirements have missed out on an early start, but yet have time, according to the Industrial Relations department.

**Information booklets and application papers are at the IR office.**

To be eligible for a college scholarship the applicant must presently be a high school senior, the son or daughter of an employee who has completed five years of continuous service with the company by this January 1; and in the upper third of his or her class in grades.

Only children of those employees whose average income does not go beyond \$850 a month without overtime, will be eligible.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** are allocated to various sections of the country on the basis of proportionate Firestone employment. Because of the large number of worthy applicants each year,

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