



Boy Scout Leadership

•• A charter was recently granted to Boy Scout Troop 298, sponsored by Evans Metropolitan Methodist Church of Bennettsville, S. C. Leadership in this troop and in Firestone-sponsored Troop 631 comes from the company's Bennettsville plant.

In photo, Tyrone Abraham (front), member of Troop 298; and (from left): Benny Hendrix, Shop mechanic and Troop 631 Scoutmaster; William H. Belin Jr., Ply Twister cleaner and Troop 298 Cubmaster; James Abraham, Cable Twister bobbin changer and Troop 298 Scoutmaster. Another employee Scout leader is Charles Sweatt Jr., Ply Twister operator and Cubmaster of Troop 631.

Savings Bonds Rate Up

Interest rate on U.S. Savings Bonds advanced to 6 per cent last month. The increase is retroactive to December 1, 1973. Both old and new bonds will benefit from the higher rate.

The Treasury Department said the higher interest on bonds will be accomplished by having a shorter maturity date — the new time requirement being 5 years.

Before this most recent change approved by Congress, maturity for bonds was 5 years and 10

months, and yielded 5 and one-half per cent annual interest.

Eula (Mrs. Clayton) Wilson, payroll supervisor at Firestone, Gastonia, explains:

Take this example. A \$25 bond at the initial \$18.75 price will mature to \$25 in 5 years from date of purchase, instead of the old time requirement of 5 years, 10 months.

Series E bonds, the most common and most-purchased, are sold in amounts from \$25 to \$1,000.

Eight Retired AT GASTONIA

Length of company service averaged a little more than 31 years for the eight people who retired at the end of December and beginning of January at the Gastonia plant.

Gentry V. Tindall, Shop, led the list, timewise, with 35 years and 2 months. Next was J. Hoyt Blackwood, TC Weaving, with 33 years and 7 months.

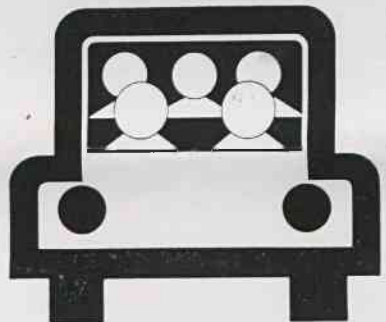
Others were Dealva S. Jacobs, Quality Control, 32 years and 2 months; Horace C. Conrad, TC Twisting, 31 years and 7 months; Sallie M. Brewer, TC Twisting, 30 years and 11 months.

Also Francis B. Galligan, Supervision, 30 years and 1 month; Cola M. Stacy, TC Twisting, 30 years; and Evelyn A. Parham, Chafer Weaving, 28 years and 3 months.

Energy From Page 1

plant will help employees in organizing car pools, and will be a clearing house for suggestions from employees on how fuel and power can be conserved in company operations.

These employee ideas will be considered under Firestone's established suggestion award system and if the suggestions are adopted, employees will be paid in relation to savings realized.



POOL IT!

New Source Of Polyester

The new \$-multimillion plant producing polyester began operating last month at Hopewell, Va. The Firestone Synthetic Fibers Company plant is the first full-scale facility designed exclusively for manufacture of polyester tire yarn.

Annual production is expected to exceed 20 million pounds of polyester tire yarn. Robert W. Rice, division president, said the modular construction of the new plant was designed so that it can be expanded to four times its first capacity. At full capacity, the plant could employ up to 225 persons.

Polyester tire yarn has been produced at Hopewell on a semi-commercial basis since 1968.

The new plant is on a 47-acre site, and part of the Firestone

Hopewell complex. Said Mr. Rice:

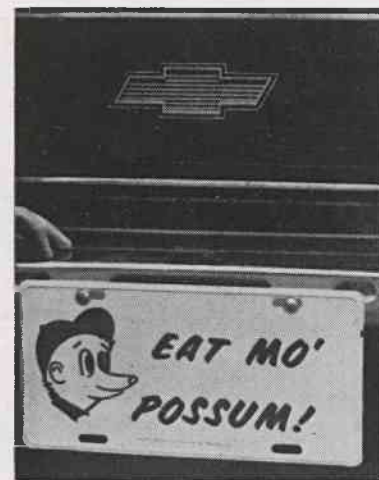
"Construction, completion and start-up time of this newest plant is indication that polyester is and will be the dominant body material in passenger tires."

Long Service

Three at Bennettsville completed long service records last month. With 30 years: Robert L. Grooms, fabric baler and changer; and Faye K. Shankle, Laboratory testing technician.

And with 25 years: Archie Leviner, section supervisor in Cable Twisting.

To each of these employees, plant manager E. E. Fuller presented a service pin and the



SIGN OF THE TIMES

•• Bumper placard noted recently on pickup truck in parking lot at Firestone, Gastonia.

company appreciation check of \$100.

Companies Involved In Retirement-Planning

•• It's possible to take lessons in almost anything nowadays, from painting to preserving peaches to playing a recorder (the ancient musical instrument). Name it, and someone can teach you, often with no tuition, observed a recent editorial in Park City DAILY NEWS, Bowling Green, Ky.

There's a notable exception, contends the editorial:

• Virtually no one gives a course in how to prepare for living in retirement. Many retirees discover they don't know what to do with the never-ending days they suddenly have stretching ahead of them.

Not having to get up every morning to go to work loses its appeal after a couple of weeks.

Rare is the man who can happily spend his time doing nothing, or playing golf or fishing—or getting under his wife's feet. The editorial went on:

"When enforced leisure becomes the reality and not the dream, boredom and depression often set in. One state is doing something about the problem, however.

• Early this summer Connecticut established an Office of Pre-Retirement Education, believed to be the first in the country. Funded with \$50,000, it will develop a program to ease the way into retirement, modeled after a successful pre-retirement program that has been conducted since 1964 by Scovill Manufacturing Co. in Waterbury and Local 1604 of the United Auto Workers.

"Hundreds of employees of this diversified manufacturer and their spouses have completed the eight-session course in which, with the help of trained leaders, they explored such topics as health, financial planning, leisure, Social Security, Medicare, legal problems, living arrangements and nu-

trition. The new state program will cover much the same ground.

"None of these concerns is unique to Connecticut, of course. Thus, its pre-retirement education program could become a model for other states."

WHAT IS the Firestone company doing in this area of preparing for living in retirement? It's made a good start. In time, it will become more concerned and involved with retirement planning for its people.

From time to time the company on the local plant level offers courses or material within courses on retirement subjects.

Most of all, it encourages employees to take courses available in this field. Under the tuition-refund program in education, the company refunds tuition charges to a maximum of five credit hours for courses in colleges, technical schools and other adult-education programs.

Studies in preparation for retirement are included in this program.

Employees within five years of normal retirement age may be reimbursed for courses which would contribute to a more satisfactory and fulfilled retirement. Examples of such courses are investments, household finances, home enterprises as part-time employment; arts and crafts, and other hobbies.

LFO • let's find out

• I lost my Social Security card and hadn't memorized my number. What do I do next?

Call your nearest Social Security office and ask the people there to send you an application for lost cards. Soon as you get the application blank, fill it out and return it to the office where you got it. The office will send it to Baltimore to find our your SS number and make you a new card. All this may take four to five weeks.

• Somewhere I saw a reference to a newly-published finding guide for birds of Kentucky. Could you give more information, so I can find the book?

The book, published by the University Press of Kentucky, is titled KENTUCKY BIRDS: A Finding Guide, by Roger Barbour, Clell Peterson, Delbert Rust, Herbert Shadowen and A. L. Whitt Jr. It is newest of the Kentucky Nature Studies, containing 239 color photos and description of every species reliably recorded in the state. Birds are described in concise, non-technical terms. Book available at bookstores, public libraries and from University Press, Lexington.

New SS Base

In the year just ended, the Social Security taxable wage limitation was \$10,800.

January 1, 1974, was changing time again. The maximum amount of earnings used for Social Security tax-figuring purposes increased to \$12,600.

This means that the top amount of SS tax per wage-earner has been upped from 1973's \$631 to \$737 for this year. Social Security tax is currently based on 5.85 per cent of the dollar in wages or salary.

For every Social Security tax dollar the Government sets aside from a person's pay, the employer must also pay an equal amount.

Firestone NEWS

Volume XXI January, 1974
Number 1 Page 2

• GASTONIA

Claude C. Callaway, Editor

Plant

Offices

Warehouses

Industrial Relations—Betty Summitt

Main Office—Bea McCarter

Mechanical Dept.—Rosie Fletcher

Quality Control—Louella Queen, Leila Rape

Twisting (synthetics) — Elease Cole, Katie Elkins

REPORTERS

Warp Preparation—Elmina Bradshaw, Nell Bolick

Warehouse—Harold Robinson, Israel Good

Weaving (cotton)—Ruth Veetch

BENNETTSTVILLE PLANT

Frances Fletcher, Redona David, Margaret McCaskill, Jimmy McCaskill,

BOWLING GREEN

Fred De Hoag

Monthly publication of the Gastonia, N. C., plant of Firestone Textiles Company, a division of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio. Division headquarters, Gastonia, N. C. 28052. James B. Call, president, Member South Atlantic Council of Industrial Editors.