

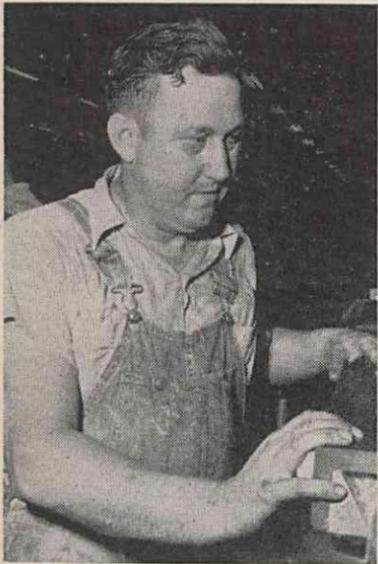
The Inquiring Reporter Asks . . .

# What Can Be Done To Make Local Fishing Areas Safer Against Drownings?

THE SERIOUS fishermen and boating enthusiasts at this plant are concerned, as are many others, at the alarming number of drownings occurring in the Catawba River in recent summers. According to the Gaston Life Saving Crew, an increasing number of lives are being lost each year by drowning in Gaston County with the Catawba accounting for practically all of them. While this increase in drownings might in some measure be explained by the growth in popularity of boating and water sports in general at this river, it appears from comparison with other areas that

drowning frequency has been for some time abnormally high here.

Thus it has become a matter of concern to everyone, and especially to those who spend many leisure hours fishing and boating hereabout. All seem agreed, including the employee-fishermen interviewed below, that some way must be found to reduce river accidents and drownings. The Inquiring Reporter's Question: "What can be done to help prevent drownings in the Catawba River?"



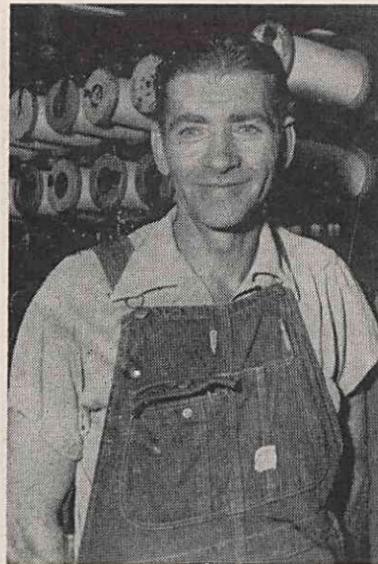
**LEE OWENS**, overhauler, says boat pilots should be licensed to insure the safety of themselves and passengers while operating powered craft on any body of water. "Might even require licenses for riders," he adds seriously. "Everyone in a boat should have a life preserver—and have it on," he emphasizes. Mr. Owens keeps a boat at Seven Oaks and wants to see an improvement in the accidental drowning picture at the Catawba. "If driving and drinking don't mix," he observes in conclusion, "it's doubly true for boating."



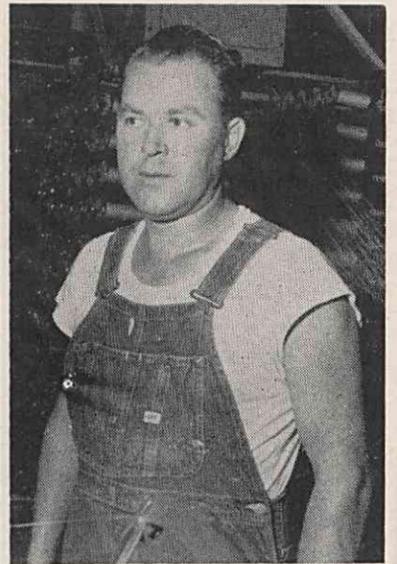
**CHARLES McARVER**, Winding Department clerk, does a lot of fishing on the Catawba. "Just good common sense should be enough to persuade the average boating enthusiast to keep life jackets in his boat. That along with some regulations aimed at eliminating drinking while boating will reduce drownings in the Catawba by 90 per cent," says Mr. McArver. He also thinks that more courtesy on the part of boat pilots when in the vicinity of fishermen would help matters.



**MRS. ANNIE HUBBARD**, spinner, thinks life jackets, if worn by boat riders, would result in an immediate and drastic reduction in river drownings. Say she: "I've never been in a boat without a life jacket on. In my case it's a necessity because I can't swim, but even if I could I'd want to wear one." Mrs. Hubbard witnessed a boy fall from a boat recently who was saved by his life jacket which he had put on minutes before he needed it. Incidentally, she feels that the state needs a law requiring boat riders to wear life jackets.



**LUTHER BLAYLOCK**, section man, wants to see local fishing and boat riding continue to grow in popularity. To do so, he realizes, the dangers of drowning or boat collision must be lessened. The occasional reckless boat operator and the fellow who thinks he must drink while motor boating are menaces to the sport of fishing, in Mr. Blaylock's estimation. With respect to the need of regulations or laws governing boating he says: "Our state, like South Carolina, should have laws requiring persons in boats to wear life jackets."



**FRANK SPENCER**, cord weaver, believes that overloading is the big cause of boating accidents. "Boats should be tagged showing the maximum weight and number of passengers to be carried. Game wardens should have the authority to inspect boats at any time to see that they are safe to operate and are not being overloaded. And, of course," he continues, "they should be equipped with life jackets for everyone aboard." Mr. Spencer says he has seen instances of dangerous overloading of boats with unprotected children.

## New Truck Tire

(Continued From Page 1)

Tompkins, Firestone Vice-President in Charge of Trade Sales. The new tire will deliver long, trouble-free mileage and will mate with any original equipment tire.

The tire has a rib-type tread and tension-dried, gum-dipped cord for increased non-skid traction and greater strength than other competitively priced tires, he added.

Newly developed tire cords have added strength assuring that the B-112 may be recapped safely and economically many times, Mr. Tompkins said.

The Transport B-112 Heavy Duty tires are being manufactured in sizes 6:00 x 16 through 10:00 x 22.

Made By Holiday Line . . .

## New Velon Life Preserver Cushion Stays Dry Inside

**ELECTRONICALLY** sealed Velon plastic is used for the first completely watertight life-preserver boat cushion, just introduced. Made by Holiday Line of New York and approved by the Coast Guard, the cushion is manufactured entirely without stitching holes so that seepage is eliminated. The unique strap design provides utmost safety, as the strap cannot come loose from the cushion and because it can be adjusted for utmost convenience in case of injury.

The Velon plastic used throughout is a product of the Firestone Plastics Company, Pottstown, Pa.

The Holiday cushion is designed to provide utmost safety in all possible circumstances. It is the only cushion that, because of its distinct construction, is absolutely watertight. When stitched cushions are submerged in water, seepage through the holes increases their weight by as much as 50 per cent.

The air cells break down when the kapok is wet and the efficiency of the cushion as a life preserver is thereby impaired. This danger, however, is completely eliminated with an electronically welded cushion. Even apart from emergencies, stitched cushions that accidentally become wet require weeks to dry completely and return to useful condition.

A unique feature of construction of the Holiday cushion provides for the straps to pass around the entire cushion with the supporting panels extending the full length of each side. This arrangement eliminates the necessity of having the straps pass through small stitched loops which more readily give way under stress. Also adding to the safety is the unique strap design which permits the user to slip it over his head in case of injury to one or both arms.

The Holiday cushion, which is Coast Guard approved, is kapok filled and is equipped with a self-inflating valve. With the special air valve, it is a simple matter for the user to rejuvenate the air cells in the cushion merely by opening the valve. The cushion is



A completely waterproof life-preserver boat cushion has just been introduced by Holiday Line of New York. Made of Firestone Velon, it is electronically heat sealed throughout so that there are no stitching holes to permit water seepage.

available in assorted colors, and is sold for approximately \$4.50 in sporting goods and boating accessory stores throughout the country. The Velon plastic used throughout is a product of the Firestone Plastics Co., Pottstown, Pa.

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