

School Days And Safety

THE advent of school opening always—and now more than ever—brings with it reminders from various safety sources to the effect that “the kiddies will soon be coming and going along our streets to school, so please, please be extra careful Mr. Motorist.”

And why shouldn't we be so re-minded?

With more cars, more traffic conjection as a rule, and—this is important—more children, it is clearly the duty of motorists to be on the lookout for school children crossing streets as school opening day approaches.

To help make your child's walk to school a safer one, the Gastonia Police Department in cooperation with local press and radio has issued the following instructions to parents, motorists, and school children. The advice, if heeded, can make the school year 1954-55 less nerve rending for drivers, less uneasy for parents, less dangerous for children.

For Parents

- 1—Select the safest route to school and point out the dangers on the route.
- 2—Teach the child to use the streets safely. Warnings are not enough—Instruct them and tell them why and how.
- 3—Teach the child to play in safe places.
- 4—Enforce home and legal rules for safe conduct.
- 5—Make sure the child has the necessary skill and maturity before allowing him unsupervised use of a bicycle.
- 6—Always set a good example in both driving and walking, a good example is the best form of teaching.
- 7—Cooperate fully with the police and school officials in enforcing safety rules for the child.
- 8—Support the program of the safety committee of your school PTA.

For Motorists

- 1—Drive with extra care when children are playing or walking near a street or highway.
- 2—Slow down in residential areas and near schools or playgrounds.
- 3—Watch out for youngsters on bicycles, tricycles, scooters, wagons.
- 4—Be prepared to stop on a moment's notice.
- 5—Obey all traffic laws and safety rules.

For Bike Riders

- 1—Never treat your bike as a toy but always as a means of transportation.

- 2—Never let anybody ride with you on your bike nor should you ever ride on a bike with someone else.
- 3—Keep to the right side of the street or road when riding.
- 4—Keep a straight course, don't zig-zag.
- 5—Never hang on the back of any moving vehicle.
- 6—Give proper hand signals when making right or left turns or when coming to a stop.
- 7—Walk your bike across busy or dangerous crossings.
- 8—Always have a bell or horn on your handlebars, sound it to warn pedestrians.
- 9—Never park your bike where someone may fall over it.
- 10—Obey all traffic and safety rules just as though you were driving an automobile.
- 11—Keep bicycle in good mechanical condition.

For Child Pedestrians

- 1—Cross streets only at intersections or designated crosswalks.
- 2—Look both ways and for turning traffic before crossing a street.
- 3—Cross streets only on the green traffic light.
- 4—Make sure the way is clear, then, walk—don't run across street.
- 5—Do not walk or stand between parked cars.
- 6—Walk only on the left hand side of a highway in rural areas.
- 7—Wear or carry something white at night.
- 8—Don't play in the streets.
- 9—Be alert at all times—don't trust drivers too much.
- 10—Enter and leave cars on curb side only.
- 11—Obey all police officers and school patrol boys when they are directing traffic.

Textile School Opens

The North Carolina Vocational School in Belmont opens September 1, offering morning and afternoon classes in yarn manufacturing, weaving and designing and other textile subjects of interest to textile people of this section. North Carolinians may enroll free for the fall session as late as September 13.

Chairman Comments

(Continued From Page 1)

“Beyond the period of reasonable stability during the next few months, the consensus of most business leaders is that the prospects for a long period of growth and expansion are favorable. I am in complete agreement with this point of view.

* * *

“THERE are three dynamic factors which are contributing to the long-range optimism regarding business. They are the rapid growth in population, the great need for improvement in our highway system, and the developments in new industries such as atomic power, electronics, aircraft, plastics and new metals.

“The remarkable achievements of California in recent years in industrial growth indicate clearly that this state will be an outstanding leader in this future era of progress.

“The rubber industry is in good condition. The demand for our products continues strong and inventories are in good balance with demand.

“In regard to the future: we are optimistic. We anticipate that the demand for tires to service motor vehicles on the road and the farm will be about one-third higher in 1960 than in 1954. This will necessitate further expansion in our facilities for production.

“We expect the demand for our products other than tires to grow at the same rate. The demand for foam rubber should be even greater.

“Supplies of new rubber, both synthetic and natural, and the demand for it are in approximate balance at this time. But we are concerned with a prospective shortage of rubber in relationship to the anticipated increase in demand for rubber products. And unless there is a substantial expansion in synthetic rubber facilities and in natural rubber acreage, there will be a world rubber shortage in the next five years.

“Early decision by the Government on the sale of the country's synthetic rubber facilities to private industry will make it possible for synthetic plant owners to plan for adequate expansion.”

Sports Quiz

(Answers On Page 3)

1. Three of the last five world middleweight boxing champions were not born in the Continental United States. Do you know who they are?
2. During the Yankees' five straight pennants, the Cleveland Indians were runners-up three times. Which Clubs finished second the other two years?
3. The winner of the Masters Golf Tournament this year was:
 - a. Sammy Sneed
 - b. Ben Hogan
 - c. Billy Joe Patton
4. Match College and nickname:

Mississippi State	Big Red
Cornell	Crimson Tide
Harvard	Maroon
Alabama	The Crimson
5. Who is the Commissioner of the minor leagues?
 - a. Frank Shaughnessy
 - b. Clarence Rowland
 - c. George Troutman

They Race Too. . . .

Dan Scism Has Flock Of Winged Wonders With Homing Instinct

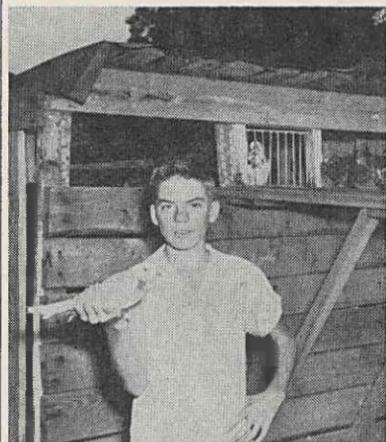
The best aerial navigators in these parts own no compasses, in fact have no visible means of long distance direction finding. But they seldom get lost on their cross country flights over unfamiliar territory. Such navigators would be homing pigeons; and Dan Scism, 322 South Hill Street, has a loft containing 25 of these uncanny creatures.

Sending boxes of his pigeons to points as far away as Washington, D. C., and beyond in competition with other local homing pigeon fanciers, young Dan Scism has developed a flock of strong-winged and directionally keen birds. “Some of these birds,” he points out, “have been flying ‘distance’ for as many as seven years and know the routes like airliners.” Any flight outside of local exercise flying is a “distance” flight as far as Scism is concerned.

Dan's pigeons, for the most part, are registered with the American Racing Pigeon Union, an organization devoted to the encouragement of uniform racing rules for homing pigeons. Many of them, in addition, are pedigreed. Dan, who is the son of Mrs. Lillie Scism, winner tender, started raising pigeons four years ago.

Each pair of birds, according to Scism, can raise 10 to 15 squabs a year. Within eight weeks after hatching, the fledgling is ready for “primary” training, which means the bird can be started on a daily practice flight program starting a block from the loft and gradually increasing the distance until the bird is at home in the air within 5 miles of the loft. After this phase, the pigeon is ready for his first real cross country flight of 25 to 50 miles.

Dan and his pigeon fancier friends in Gastonia are thinking of forming a club for themselves and others who might become interested in the hobby. With stop watches



HOLDING one of his favorite birds, Dan Scism, above, stands in front of his pigeon loft at his home, 322 South Hill Street.

and sky-scanning eyes, and pigeons that have only one consuming desire: to get home as swiftly as possible, these pigeon racers find thrills aplenty in their pastime.

Even the express agents seem to get a kick out of pigeon racing. They, according to Scism, willingly free the birds shipped to them at the exact time requested. No doubt it's because this is one item of express that delivers itself automatically. “All they have to do is turn the birds loose and throw away the shipping crate. One circle overhead and they're on their way home at 60 miles-per-hour,” concludes Mr. Scism.

Not bad, it should be said, for a bird.

Bowling's Forerunner. . . .

Ancient Game Bocce Gets Boost From Enthusiastic Employees

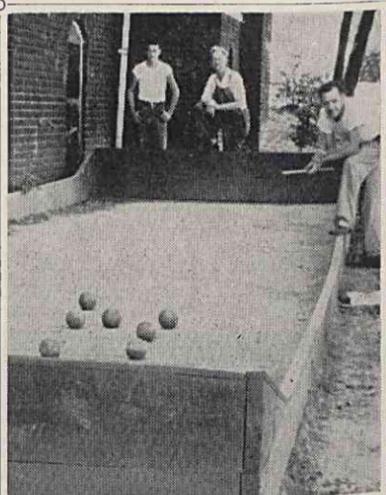
WHEN the dozen or so men who play Bocce here gather at the Bocce court next to the Girls' Dormitory, they are keeping alive a sport that dates back 4,000 years according to historians. It's as unusual as it is old, yet very simple to play.

The game as played here is played on a 10-by-50 foot clay court surrounded by a 10-inch retaining wall. The players (2, 4, 6, etc.,) take turns rolling wooden balls toward what is called the “jack” ball, a smaller white ball which is thrown out at the start of the game to some point on the court. The object of the game is to get as close to the jack ball as possible. To do so, other players' balls must frequently be knocked away from the jack ball. After all players have had turns, the one having the closest ball to the jack ball wins the point for that round. The game continues until a player, or team, has scored 12 points.

* * *

THE word Bocce is the Italian equivalent of the early English word “bowles”. Later the name became bowling and finally lawn bowling to distinguish it from the very popular game in which balls are cast at wooden pins. Lawn bowling and bowling, incidentally, are now unrelated games.

In the current revival of interest in the game in this country the original Italian name, Bocce, is coming back into use. And playing the game throughout the country are an estimated 2,000,000 people.



IN BOCCÉ, above, there are no pins as in bowling; just wooden balls which are rolled as close as possible to a smaller ball, called the jack ball.

Adding to that estimate are four leagues active in the game at this plant. What was practically an unheard of thing here until last year now has a small but enthusiastic group of employee-players who play like veterans. Thus it appears that an old, old game has come recently to Firestone; and seems likely to stay.

FIRESTONE NEWS

Volume III, No. 14, August 25, 1954
Published by The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company
Firestone Textiles Division
Gastonia, North Carolina
Department of Public Relations

Editor R. H. Hood

Department Reporters

- CARDING—Edna Harris, Jim Ballew, Jessie Westmoreland.
- SPINNING—Ray Thomas, Mary Turner, Maude Johnson.
- SPOOLING—Nell Bolick, Helen Reel, Rosalee Burger.
- TWISTING—Hazel Foy, Annie Coese, Dean Haun, Carrie Johnson, Lorene Owensby, Dorothy Baber, Kathleen Clark.
- SALES YARN TWISTING—Bonnie Dockery.
- SYC WEAVING—Vivian Bumgardner, Lucille Davis, Sara Davis, Nina Milton, Juanita McDonald.
- CORD WEAVING—Roy Davis, Irene Burroughs, Mary Johnson.
- QUALITY CONTROL—Dealva Jacobs, Leila Rape, Catherine Isham, Louella Queen.
- WINDING—Mazelle Lewis, Dorcas Atkinson, Ann Stevenson, Christine Stroupe.
- CLOTH ROOM—Margie Waldrop.
- SHOP—Rosa Francum.
- WAREHOUSE—George Harper, Albert Meeks.
- PLASTIC DIP—Frances Huffman, Helen Guffey.
- MAIN OFFICE—Mozelle Brockman.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE—Sue Van Dyke.
- PERSONNEL OFFICE—Barbara Abernathy.