

## GOOD RULES—

## FOR A FIRE-SAFE CHRISTMAS

"Every year, from a few days before Christmas to the week following New Year's Day, a plague of fires rages up and down the country," comments the National Fire Protection Association. "Little careless acts that seem so unimportant at the time cause these holiday fire tragedies."

To impress the truth that Christmas is the time to be extra careful, the National Fire Protection Association lists the following rules to help make your Christmas fire-safe:

## THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Cut a growing tree or try to buy one that hasn't dried out from prolonged storage. When too dry, tree branches are brittle and should the needles.

Stand the tree in water or snow outdoors until you're ready to use it indoors. Bring the tree indoors just before Christmas and take it out as soon afterwards as possible. December 26 is recommended.

The larger the tree the greater the hazard, so don't get one any larger than you need.

Just before setting up the tree saw off the trunk at an angle at least one inch above the original cut. Place the freshly cut tree trunk in water and keep level of water above the cut the entire time the tree is indoors. Check the water level at least once a day for absorption and evaporation.

Support the tree well. Don't put it near sources of heat, or where standing or fallen, it could block the way out of a room and out of the house in case of fire.

## LIGHTING

Do not use candles on the tree or nearby where there is any chance for an open flame to contact the tree or combustibles piled beneath the tree. Use only electric lighting sets that bear the UL (Underwriters' Laboratories) label. Check lighting sets each year before using for frayed wires, loose connections, and broken sockets. Be sure the fuse on the electrical circuit you use is not over 15 amperes. Cord sets with a fuse on the plug, bearing a UL label, are available.

If any extensive holiday wiring is planned, call a competent electrician; don't try to do it yourself unless you are so qualified.

Don't plug too many cords into one outlet. Make certain that all tree lighting is turned off before retiring or leaving the house.

## DECORATIONS AND WRAPPINGS

Don't let Christmas wrappings accumulate in the house; place them in your metal covered trash barrel or burn them in your incinerator as soon as possible.

Use non-combustible material—metal, glass, asbestos, etc.—to decorate the home for Christmas wherever possible. When you must use combustible materials, be sure they are "flameproofed," particularly if they are to be anywhere near the tree. Untreated cotton batting, paper and certain cloth costuming will ignite easily and burn with great intensity unless they are "flameproofed." Santa Claus whiskers have caused tragedies; be sure they're "flameproofed," too.

## GIFTS

Don't buy pyroxylin plastic dolls, toys or non-flameproofed cowboy suits, etc. Toys operated by alcohol, kerosene or gasoline are especially dangerous; they may upset and set fire to children's clothing, the tree, or to the house itself. Look for the Underwriter's Laboratories label when buying electrical toys. This means they have been tested for fire and shock hazards and may be considered safe if properly handled and maintained.

Don't set up electric trains or spirit-fueled toys under a Christmas tree.

## OTHER REMINDERS

Don't allow smoking near the tree amidst decorations or piles of wrappings. Have plenty of safe ashtrays around and use them.

Plan on what you must do if fire breaks out.

Guard against flying sparks from a fireplace, with a substantial screen and don't use the fireplace to burn up wrappings and decorations.

Keep matches, lighters and candles away from tiny hands. Have water-type fire extinguishers that work, buckets of water or even your garden hose connected to a faucet, within reach of the tree. Unless you can put a fire out immediately, call your fire department at once.

During Christmas, smoking and inflammable decorations in public buildings are a dangerous combination. Waste should be removed, aisles, exits and fire doors must be kept clear and usable. Exits should be plainly marked and easy to reach. Report any blocked exit or fire hazard in public buildings to your fire chief. You can render a good service by helping to discourage the use of wax candles at church candlelight services. Electric candles are safer.

For Your Safety On The Roads. . . .

## Motor Vehicles Department Offers Winter Driving Suggestions

"I didn't see," is the most over-worked excuse for automobile accidents, according to assistant commissioner Joe W. Garrett of the North Carolina Motor Vehicles Department.

Garrett said that expert drivers know that operating a moving vehicle in modern day traffic calls for full attention to the job at

hand. "Effective vision begins in the driver's head. When a motorist is mentally alert he notices things other drivers may not see, and he is ready instantly to exercise good judgment in whatever action may be necessary," he said.

The wise motorist also takes good care of his eyes, Garrett noted. If he needs glasses to catch the



In the Tire Assembly Department at Akron, Mr. Tubman and Mr. Firestone examine a green tire just removed from a tire-building machine, preparatory to being placed in a bagomatic mold.



The four Firestone brothers and other Company officials were hosts to President Tubman and his party at a luncheon in the Research Building of the Firestone Company in Akron. On the terrace of the building, from left, are: Raymond C. Firestone, Lee R. Jackson, Clarence L. Simpson, Liberian Ambassador to the United States; Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., Mr. Tubman, Leonard K. Firestone and Roger S. Firestone.

various messages on road signs, he will wear glasses. And he will avoid driving when his eyes become tired.

Obscured vision, Garrett pointed out, was responsible for 143 of North Carolina's 977 fatal accidents last year.

"These death dealing mishaps were caused for the most part by rain or fogged and dirty windshields," he recalled. Other obstructions to clear vision like signboards, buildings, parked vehicles and trees accounted for only 39 of the fatal accidents.

The assistant commissioner repeated a suggestion the Motor Vehicles Department has offered

North Carolina drivers many times. It is more important now than ever to have headlights and windshield wipers in good working order.

"A dependable defroster is another item necessary for safe winter driving," he said.

"And to assure visibility to the rear, the rear window should be cleaned off frequently."

Garrett concluded his recommendations for winter time driving by stating that the driver who conscientiously makes an effort to see danger in time to avoid it will insure his own continued safety on the road.

## President Of Liberia Visits Firestone

The University of Akron (Ohio) has bestowed its highest honor—the honorary degree of doctor of laws—on William V. S. Tubman, President of the Republic of Liberia. This honor came to Mr. Tubman when he was guest of the city of Akron and The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company for a day-long visit in late October. Mr. Tubman and his party, including the Liberian Ambassador, Clarence L. Simpson, were greeted at Union Station by Mayor Leo A. Berg and his official party to start the day's activities.

After a motor tour of the city, the President and his party went to the Firestone for a tour of one of the plants, where Mr. Tubman watched the processing of Liberian rubber as it was converted into tires.

The party then visited the Harvey S. Firestone Memorial and after a tour of the Research Building, a luncheon was held in the Exposition Hall of the Research Building where Company officials acted as hosts to the group.

During the afternoon at a special convocation, the University of Akron bestowed the degree on the Liberian President. Lee R. Jackson, President of the Company and chairman of the board of trustees at the University, introduced Mr. Tubman to Dr. Norman P. Auburn, President of the University, who bestowed the degree.

In his talk, Dr. Auburn said that he was bestowing the degree on "an inspiring teacher, respected legislator, courageous soldier, distinguished jurist and devoted public servant."

President Tubman paid tribute to Ohioans who have aided his country. He singled out Harvey S. Firestone, Founder of the Company. "It cannot be denied that the Firestone Plantations Company, which he founded, has played an incomparable role in the economic and social development of Liberia and in further strengthening of mutual friendship between the United States and Liberia," he said.

During the evening, President Tubman was guest of honor at a private reception and dinner given by Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., a long-time friend of the President.

Attending the dinner were Governor Frank J. Lausche, Congressman William H. Ayers, Mayor Leo A. Berg and many other civic and business leaders of the community.

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