

THE EAST BUILDING of the new GTI property used to be the plant women's dormitory. The Recreation Department office has been located on the lower level.

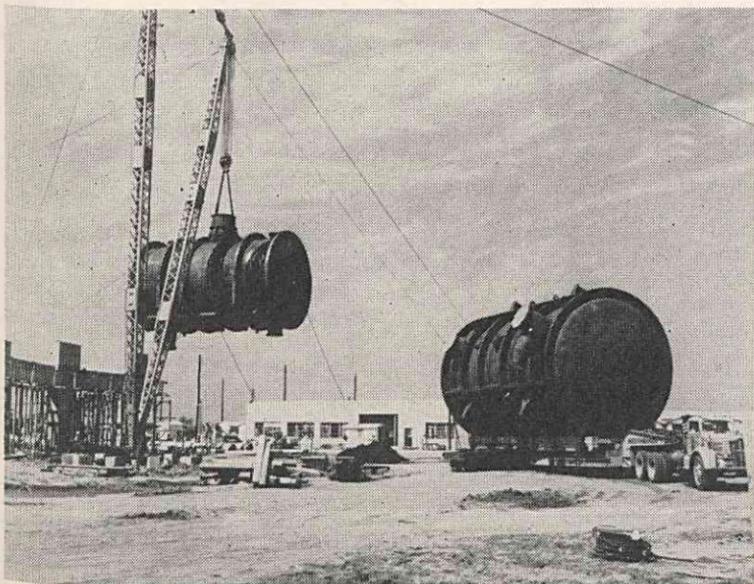


THE CENTER STRUCTURE, joined to both the East and West wings, has served a number of years as the plant Recreation Center and meeting place for social events.



THE WEST WING on the Franklin Avenue and Firestone Boulevard corner has served as the men's dormitory. Quarters for the Men's Club were in the basement.

New Home Of Tech School A Gift Of Company



BUTADIENE PLANT IN TEXAS

Construction on the Company's large butadiene plant at Orange, Texas, is progressing on schedule. The plant, scheduled for completion in early 1957, will utilize materials from the Texas oil fields in the manufacture of butadiene, a component part of synthetic rubber. Here, the first of three 87-ton reactors to be installed is being lifted into position. The skeletonized structure in the left background will house this equipment.

The former Firestone dormitories and Recreation Center, together with land upon which they are situated, will become the new home of Gaston Technical Institute in early 1957. Tentative plans are to move into the property by the beginning of the winter term on January 2.

It will take that much time to remove partitions and rearrange the buildings for classroom purposes, according to James I. Mason, director of the Institute. Mason said partitions on the first floor of the east and west dormitories will be removed for laboratory and classroom facilities.

The dormitories will provide space for radio and television, electrical, and physics laboratories, two mechanical drawing rooms, and five classrooms. The laboratories will also be used as classrooms.

Shop space will be provided in the basement. The former Recreation Center will be converted into offices, a library, assembly hall, teachers' lounge and dining room facilities.

This will be the first time in the Institute's history that it has had dining facilities. It will also allow students to board at the school for the first time. The second floor of the east and west dormitory will be used as living quarters, and altogether will house about 150 students.

At the time the Firestone property was given to the school, the Institute had around 100 students eligible to board. Another 100 students were attending evening classes and living at home.

In addition to the classroom, shop and other facilities, Mr. Mason said other provisions of the property would allow for a more varied program of recreation.

Gaston Technical Institute was established in Morehead City, N. C., in 1947. It moved to Gastonia in the fall of 1952, offering one-year technical courses to high school graduates. During the past four years, the school has graduated several hundred trained technicians in the fields of radio-television, mechanical, electrical and automotive technology.

The Institute has been occupying the Todd house on West Airline Avenue, and a leased building also on West Airline.

Director Mason has stated that the new property given by the Company "will make a more attractive school and provide better storage." Work will also be more efficient by having equipment, classrooms, laboratories and other facilities all located together.

When the Company officially turned over the property to the school, General Manager Harold Mercer pointed out that, in his opinion, the new physical plant would be adequate for the Institute for many years to come.

As a member of the advisory board during the entire period, since 1952, that the Institute has been operating in Gastonia, Mr. Mercer was high in his praise of the outstanding work which has been accomplished by Director Mason and the entire faculty of the School.

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When the Company made its recent grant of property to Gaston Technical Institute here, it made possible tripled facilities for the North Carolina State College extension school, which has operated in Gastonia since 1952.

Announcement of the gift was made by Edward W. Ruggles, director of the State College
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Suggestion Contest Extended Through Month of December

An extra full month has been added to the Suggestion Contest, moving the concluding date to December 31. It was decided to extend the ideas competition to the end of the year, on indications that interest in the program would increase during December.

Prizes in the contest are:

First: A Firestone clock radio;
Second: An electric mixer;
Third: An automatic toaster.
These will be given to the suggesters ranking first, second and third in the highest amount of awards for the total number of adopted suggestions submitted during the contest period, September 15 through December 31.

AWARDS will be in addition to the cash premiums which are always paid for approved ideas, on the basis of their value to the Company.

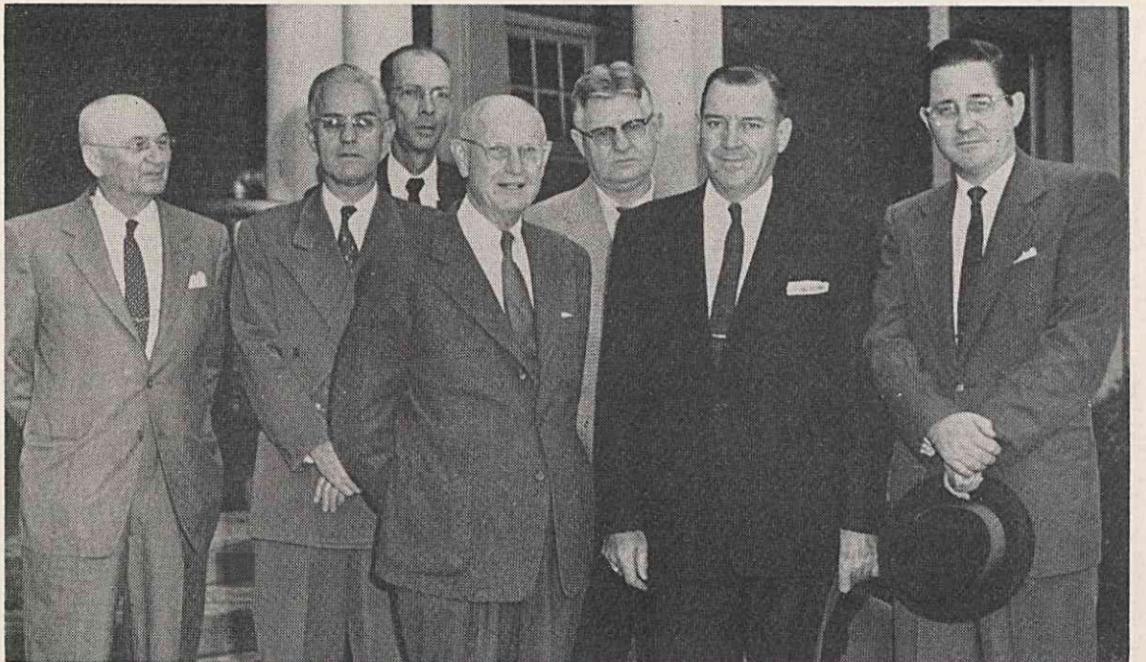
Besides the three top premiums, a portable barbecue grill will be awarded as a "consolation" gift. During the contest, every person turning in one or

more suggestions will be given a ticket for deposit in a box located at the main entrance of the plant, near the contest prize display case. A drawing at the end of the contest will select the barbecue grill winner.

Winners will be revealed as soon as possible after New Year's Day.

At Electrical Conference

Assistant Plant Engineer Irvin S. Bull was among representatives from state industries attending the annual Conference on Electrical Equipment for the Textile Industry. The two-day November meeting at State College, Raleigh, was presented by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers through its textile sub-committee and its North Carolina section, in co-operation with the Department of Electrical Engineering of the School of Textiles at State College.



THE PRESIDENT of the Consolidated University of North Carolina, William C. Friday (extreme right), came to Firestone to look over the new home of Gaston Technical Institute, after announcement of the gift of Company property to the school. With him in front of one of the buildings, first row, from left: B. T. Dickson, executive secretary of the Gastonia Chamber of Com-

merce; J. V. Darwin, manager of sales at Firestone here; C. C. Dawson, chairman of the advisory board of GTI; and Firestone Textiles General Manager Harold Mercer. Behind them are James I. Mason (left), director of GTI; and Edward W. Ruggles, director of the North Carolina State College Extension Division.