

# Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

One of life's most prized virtues  
is the ability to disagree without  
being disagreeable.

—P. H. Welshimer

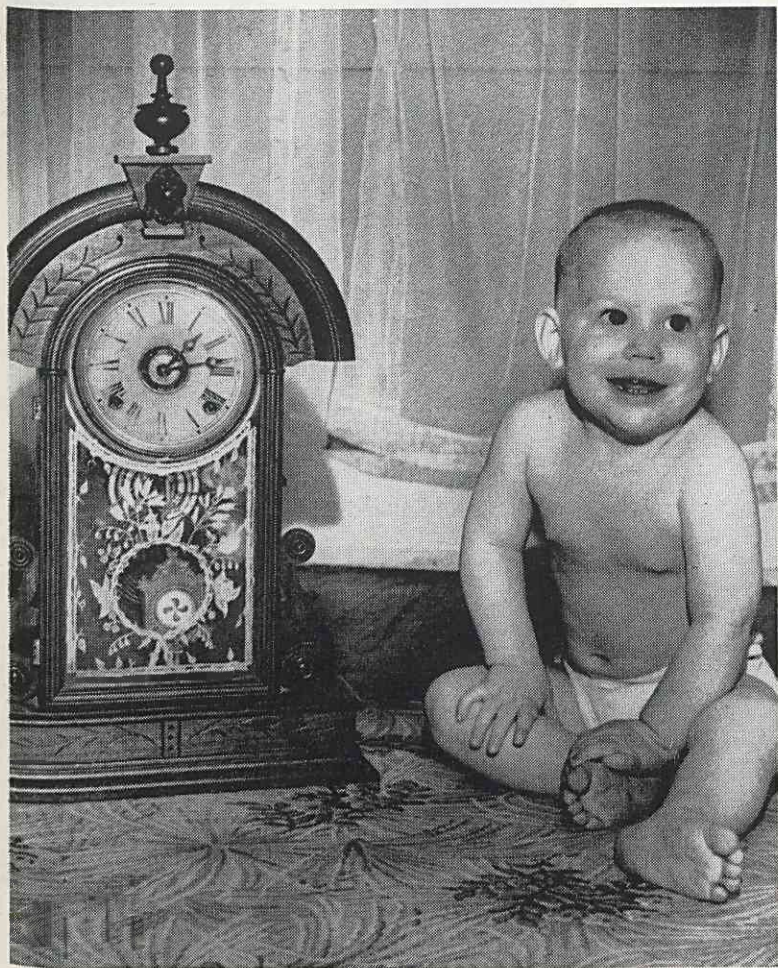
From a worldly point of view,  
there is no mistake so great as  
that of being always right.

—Samuel Butler

VOLUME VI

GASTONIA, N. C., JANUARY, 1957

No. 1



## AT THE GATE OF A NEW YEAR

With the old year of 1956 gone and its opportunities out of reach, 1957 looms before us, offering its challenge of new and greater promises. Here Michael Purkey suggests the wisdom of the good stewardship of time and symbolizes a clean page on the ledger of life in the New Year. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Purkey of 416 North Edgemont avenue, Gastonia. His father is the plant's Assistant Director of Recreation.

## Vocational Textile School Has Free-Tuition Courses

New classes in all departments at the North Carolina Vocational Textile School, Belmont, began January 2. The departments include Yarn Manufacturing, Mill Maintenance, Weaving and Designing, Knitting and Tailoring. Classes run from 8:20 a.m., to 1 p.m.; and 3 p.m., to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For those interested in enrolling for the new term, it is not too late to contact the registrar's office, Principal Chris E. Folk said.

**IN MAKING** the announcement of the new term, Principal Folk pointed out that within the

—Turn to Page 2

## Two Preparations Of Vitamins Available Through First Aid

Two preparations of vitamins in capsule form are for sale to all employees. Available at the plant First Aid Room, the dietary supplements are being sold at cost, on a cash basis.

The capsules on hand are packaged by a leading American drug manufacturer, and are marketed here on the following basis:

Vitamins, in bottles of only 50: \$1.15.

Vitamins and minerals, in bottles of 50 only: \$1.25.

**THIS SALES** program was begun December 5. The preparations may be obtained at any time during the three working shifts at the plant.

An announcement on the opening of the vitamin program here said:

"Usually, persons who suffer from vitamin and mineral deficiencies receive considerable benefit through taking vitamin capsules.

"Much has been written by State and Federal Departments of Agriculture concerning the need for proper mineral content in the soil and the increased resistance that people build up after eating foods grown in mineral-rich soils. A high percentage of persons need vitamins or vitamin-mineral diet supplementation because many factors deprive foods of these essential needs."

## Social Security Changes Affect Employees



Several major changes in the Social Security program concern Firestone employees. These changes mean revised benefits for some persons covered by the law, and increased Social Security payroll deductions.

On January 1, 1957, the tax went up from two per cent to two and one-quarter per cent for both employees and the Company. This tax is paid on the first \$4,200 of the employee's annual earnings.

What does this mean? If your annual earnings amount to \$3,000 in 1957, you will pay \$67.50 for Social Security, as compared with \$60 in 1956 for the same \$3,000 earnings. This year, if you make \$4,200 or more, a total of \$94.50 will be taken for Social Security, or \$10.50 more than in 1956.

### Benefits For Women

Under the new provisions, women can start receiving Social Security benefits at age 62 instead of 65. This is subject to the following conditions:

A woman covered by Social Security by reason of past or present employment will receive a smaller monthly benefit if she retires at age 62 instead of 65. At age 62 the amount she will receive is 80 per cent of the amount she would receive at age 65.

The longer a woman waits after age 62 and before age 65 to draw benefits, the larger the monthly benefit will be until it reaches full benefit at age 65.

If she retires and applies for benefits between age 62 and 65, the amount of her monthly benefit is set, depending on her age at the time she begins to draw

benefits, and will not increase thereafter by reason of increasing age.

A woman can start drawing benefits at age 62 instead of 65 in case she has been provided with Social Security through her husband. Regarding the amount of benefit, the same rules apply as in the foregoing paragraph.

Beginning in November, 1956, widows eligible for Social Security benefits were entitled to start receiving full benefits at age 62 instead of 65. "Full benefits" means this: The amount she receives is equal to three-fourths the primary amount to which her deceased husband was entitled.

### Benefits Upon Disability

After a six-month waiting period, eligible men and women who are unable to work because of permanent and total disability can start receiving Social Security benefits at age 50. July, 1957 is the first month for which payments can be made under this provision of the law. Those in the disability classification will receive the same amounts as if they had retired at age 65. To collect benefits at age 50, the disability must prevent the individual from holding a job. Benefits are not payable to the eligible person's dependents.

To be eligible, a worker must have six quarters of coverage in

—Turn to Page 5

## Technical Institute To Move In Time For Fall Opening

The Gaston Technical Institute will move to Firestone this summer, in time for the opening of the fall term next September. The school has been scheduled to move earlier in the year, to the new quarters in the old Firestone dormitories and recreation center, a property gift of the Company.

Gaston Tech, operated in Gastonia since 1952, has been offering courses on a one-year basis. Near the close of 1956, plans were begun to convert the school to a two-year program. The new plan for each course is being scheduled for integration with the re-opening of the in-

stitute at the Firestone location.

**STUDIES** and recommendations for converting the institute were made by Dr. Leo F. Smith, dean of instruction of the Rochester, N. Y., Institute of Technology, and K. L. Holderman, assistant dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture of Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Smith, co-author of the book, "The Technical Institute," and Mr. Holderman met with James I. Mason, director of the school, and members of the advisory board, which include Firestone General Manager, Harold Mercer.

## Driver Award To Be Annual Recognition

A \$25 Savings Bond award to Alonzo Setzer in late 1956 established special recognition to be given a Warehouse fork truck driver each year, for outstanding safety practices and performance.

At the recent presentation, Safety Director Alvin V. Riley commended all fork truck drivers "for improved operation practices and a growing awareness of safety on the job."

For the annual award, the driver of the year is selected on the basis of his competence on the job. Among points considered are: Observance and practice of all safety rules, alertness, maintenance of vehicle assigned

the driver, and pride on appearance of his truck.

Throughout the year fork truck drivers are under constant observation on the job, and operation records are kept on each

individual. To determine the employee to receive the award, records of the drivers are carefully checked, with the top scorer being designated to receive the honor.



**A SAVINGS BOND** from Safety Director Alvin Riley (left), goes to Alonzo Setzer, Warehouse Manager Fred Morrow looks on.