

Employees' Children Feted At Yule Parties

The Patron Saint of Children—this year with an overabundance of whiskers—kept his traditional appointment with more than 2,000 Firestone employees' children under 14 years of age. It was the occasion of the three Christmas parties at the Webb and Palace theatres in Gastonia, Saturday morning, December 15. The children's

Christmas observance was the 17th annual program sponsored by the Company.

Approximately 1,800 children attended the theatre shows. Those who did not attend a theatre party received gifts at the plant Industrial Relations Office. At the Webb, there was a show at

9 and another at 11 a.m. At the Palace, the show began at 10 a.m. The program for all three shows consisted of selected cartoons and short movie features. At the close of each performance at both theatres Santa Claus appeared and directed distribution of gifts, handed out according to the children's age groups.

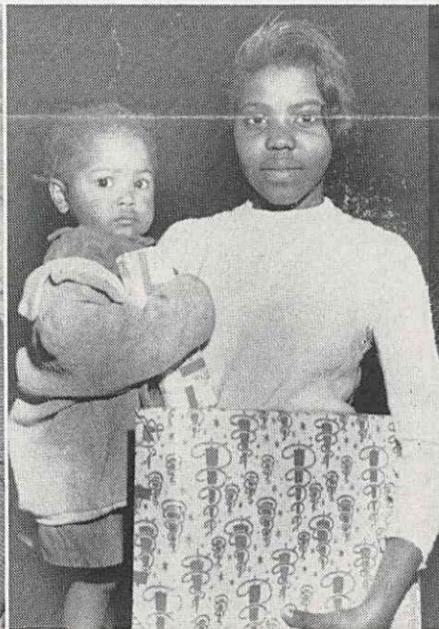
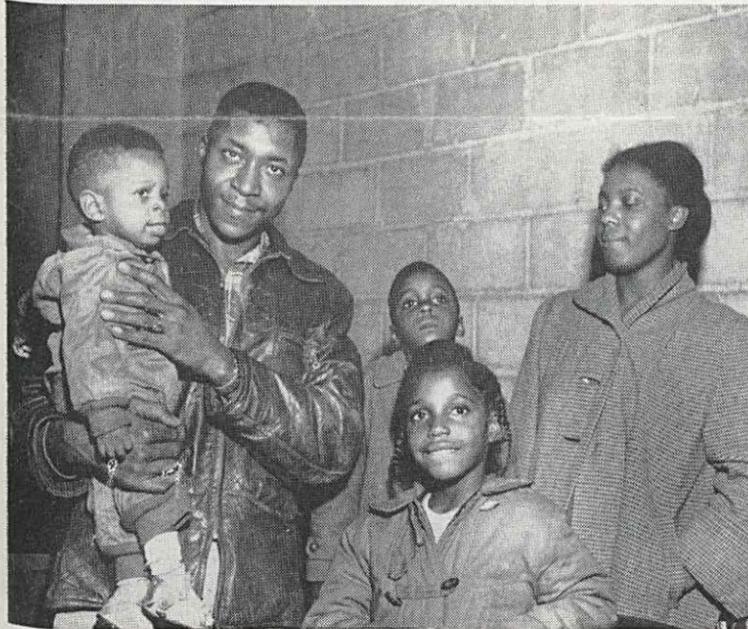


Above: Mixed reactions are registered on the faces of these children as they watch a "Big Bad Wolf" cartoon from among the collection of short movie features shown at the Webb Theatre. Steve Tomberlin holds Donald Earl Howell, while James Howell sits

at right. Standing are Ronnie Howell and Betty Tomberlin.

Center: Thomas A. Grant, Time Study, gives his daughter Sharon a hand for a very personal welcome to the bewhiskered visitor from the North Country.

Right: First Shift Nurse Grace Reeves passes out packages of yuletide cheer to Brothers Dana Phillips (left), and Terry.



Above: Typical of the family groups at the Palace Theatre party: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Thompson, along with sons Douglas James (held by father), Fred Allen; and daughter Delores Ann.

Center: Rosa Marie Muskelly, in the arms of her sister Naomi, was a mite skeptical of Santa Claus, but even more so of the photographer.

Right: Somewhat weary of flashbulbs, St. Nick crouches behind these youngsters waiting in line to receive their presents. From left: Jackie Hogan, Susan Craig, Bill Hogan.



Above: Of course she'd been good. Tena Deloris Merritt lists her wants for Christmas, as the North Pole's most famous citizen lends an ear.

Center: Among the several young women who helped spread holiday cheer at parties in both theatres were Barbara Abernathy, Industrial Relations secretary; and Nancy Gragg Cloninger, Cotton Office secretary.

Right: Although anxious to see what was behind the wrappings, these Beaver Brothers pause long enough to exhibit their gifts. From left, front row: Ralph, William and Arthur. Second row: Alfred and Stanley.