

RETIRED IN NOVEMBER—Second hand W. B. Ward chats with Grover Woody on Mr. Woody's last day of work. The retiree looks over a department store gift certificate, presented by his fellow workers in Spinning.

Retirement A Full-Time Life For Former Section Man

When in November he worked his last shift as a section man in Spinning, Grover Woody stepped into a world of retirement with a long list of plans to keep him happy and busy in the "home-stretch" years.

Behind him was a span of some three decades within walls of textile mills in North Carolina. Before him: New places to

visit, new friends, flowers to cultivate at his 1121 West Third avenue home, upcoming summers of baseball games, and seasons around the calendar of other sports to consume his interest. Then, too, there would be many fruitful hours spent at the Firestone Recreation Center, participating in the activities there.

"I've made a lot of friends since I came here in 1923—seven years before the Company started operating in Gastonia," he reminisced.

The retiree's first work in industry was on a job in a cotton mill at Marion, N. C. Then a while in a similar job at Rutherfordon.

THE NATIVE of Clyde, Haywood County, N. C., was a foot soldier in World War I. He saw action in some of the famous battles of Europe, including Argonne Forest. After his discharge, he reenlisted twice before settling down to his life job in textiles.

Throughout his years on the job here and at other places he has been in Spinning, with exception of a brief time as a weaver. He has been section man for the past 13 years.

Textile Industry Has Opportunity

A wide-open field of career opportunities may be found in textiles, a Carolinas textile leader told the freshman class at NC State College in November.

Carl R. Harris, manufacturer, said that the industry offers seven or eight jobs to every textile graduate. He said that the starting salaries range from \$350 to \$475 a month.

Emphasizing the importance of the textile industry in the North State, the speaker pointed out that of the more than 476,000 factory employees in North Carolina, approximately 228,000 work in textiles.

December is Off-the-Job Safety Month at Firestone Textiles.

From Gaiety To Tragedy In A Puff Of Flame

Color and gaiety of the happiest season of the year can turn to tragedy in a puff of flame.

This stark reminder from the plant Safety department points up the fact that danger of home fires is increased at the Christmas season. Overworked lighting systems, Christmas trees, gifts, decorations and wrappings are but a few hazards on the list.

Safety Director Alvin Riley calls attention to the efforts of the National Fire Protective Association at this time of year, in urging householders to be especially careful of fire.

These familiar rules of safety, listed here, can help you avert tragedy and disaster from fire this Christmas season:

The Christmas Tree

Choose a tree as fresh as you can find. If obtained early, keep it outside with the trunk in water until you are ready to decorate it inside—preferably around December 24. Remove soon after the 25th.

The smaller the tree, the better. When you set it up, saw off the trunk at an angle at least an inch above the original cut. Anchor in a sturdy base and provide a way to keep it watered all the time it is inside the house.

Place tree away from heat sources, or where standing or fallen, it could block passage from a room or out of the house, should fire break out.

Home Lighting

Eliminate all open flames wherever you can. Candles on the tree or other flames near combustibles invite tragedy. Use only lighting systems that have the Underwriters' Laboratories label. Before putting into use, check lighting sets for frayed wires, loose connections and damaged sockets. Don't overload any wiring system.

If you're not experienced, leave lighting arrangements to the licensed electrician. Overloading of extension wires is a chief danger. Turn off tree lights during sleeping hours and when

you leave home for any length of time.

Decorations and Wrappings

Never allow wrappings to pile up. Burn in an incinerator or put in a covered metal trash can. It is dangerous to burn paper in an open fireplace.

Non-burnable materials such as glass, metal, asbestos are safest for home decorations. If you must use combustible materials, insist on "flame-proofed" items. Paper decorations and materials for clothing usually ignite easily. True of Santa's whiskers, too.

About Those Gifts . . .

Put these at the top of the list as good fire-starters: Non-flameproofed articles such as cowboy suits, pyroxylin plastic dolls and other toys, and toys operated with alcohol, kerosene or gasoline. Insist on the Underwriters' label on electrical toys. This assures that they have been tested for fire and shock hazards and may be reasonably safe if properly used and maintained.

Among Other Reminders . . .

Careful with that cigarette, pipe, cigar! No smoking in bed. Plenty of large ashtrays are good fire control equipment.

Screen open fireplaces.

Especially watch children around matches, lighters, candles, all open fires.

Have you inspected those home fire extinguishers lately? Now is a good time. Have handy some buckets of water and your garden hose, just for an emergency.

Slow down in the holiday rush enough to give thought to what you would do in case of fire.

Should fire break out, keep calm, and extinguish the blaze if you're sure you can. Memorize the telephone number of your fire department before an emergency arises. Should you forget or fumble for it in case of fire, have that number written down in a prominent place near your telephone.

People and Places

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Louella Queen, Cable Twisting and Respooling inspector, and her mother, Mrs. Emory Isham, went to Halifax, and Weldon, N. C., in November for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sweat and family and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Willis. Mrs. Sweat is a niece of Mrs. Queen.

Warehouse

George Pendergrass and **John Jenkins** have returned to work after a few days of illness.

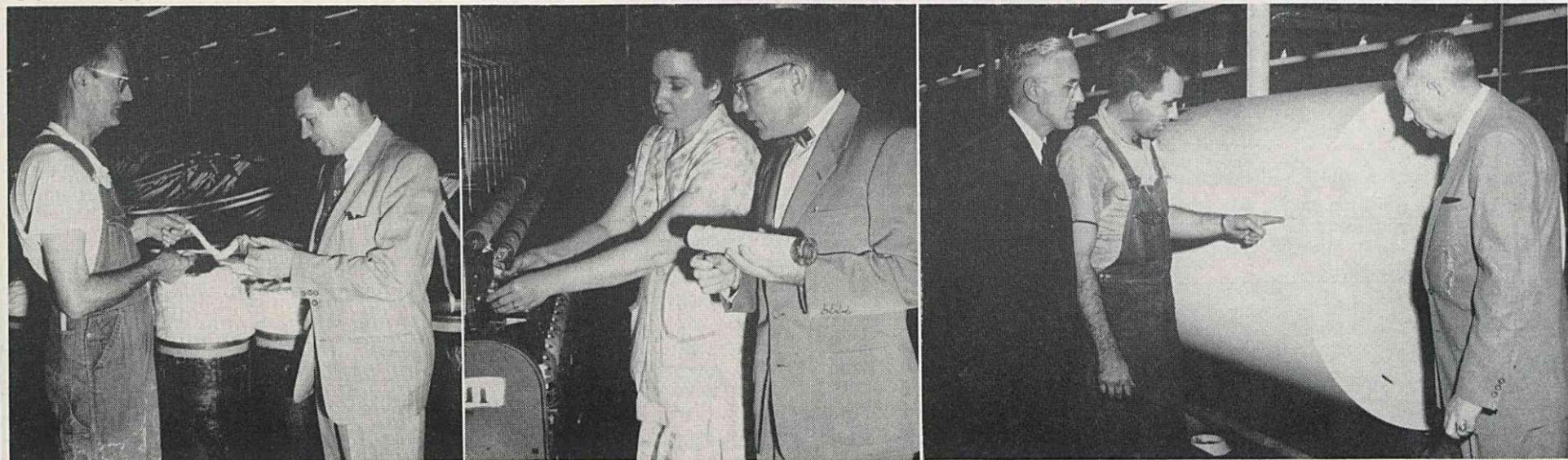
Fellow workers of **William Byrd**, picker tender, express their sympathy upon the death of his sister, Christine Byrd.

Winding

Louise Sutton, creeler, spent a week end in November visiting her father in Dillsboro, N. C.

Faye Kennerly, winder tender, and Mr. Kennerly took a fall trip to Tennessee for a visit with relatives.

In November, **Lillian Scism** underwent treatment at Gaston Memorial Hospital.



School Teachers Visit Plant On BIE Day

High school teachers and people in business, industry and other professions swapped scenes for a day for Gastonia's annual BIE Day, November 13. The Business-Industry-Education event is sponsored by the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce. Its purpose is to acquaint school students with the business-industry-professions picture, at the same time allowing their teachers to find

out first-hand what makes the wheels of industry and business go 'round.

T. B. Ipock, Jr., director of Industrial Relations here, spoke to students at Ashley High School on textile manufacturing. Three teachers from Ashley went on a tour of the Firestone plant, ending with a conference at which Company staff members answered questions concerning operations

here.

The photos above—Left: In Carding, employee Fred Chastain shows card sliver to R. L. Denton, algebra teacher at Ashley High School. Center: Walter Wray, Ashley cabinetmaking instructor, studies cotton spinning, as operator Eula Church explains the process. Right: Loom fixer J. B. Warren shows nylon fabric to literature teacher Robert Riddle, Jr., (right). With them is J. V. Darwin, Plant Sales, tour guide for the visiting teachers.