

## TRAFFIC SAFETY

## Will You Be One Of 10,000 Killers?

Ten thousand killers on the loose, deceptively law-abiding in appearance, will take the lives of more than 32,000 Americans of all ages during the coming 12 months.

Police and FBI are powerless to cope with these slayers. The armed forces couldn't help, even if called into action. Indeed, the assassins themselves don't know what they'll do to snuff out someone's life. They don't know whom they'll kill . . . or when . . . or where.

Who are these killers? They're all motorists and all pretty good drivers, too. Someone you know may be one of them.

Whom will they slay? Strangers. Friends. Even members of their own families. Why? Because right now, even if they're reading this article, they don't know that tomorrow's burst of extra speed . . . or next week's decision to teach that "wise guy" on the road a good lesson . . . or last month's failure to have the car properly serviced

. . . Will result in death.

The National Safety Council says that the majority of the 32,000 fatalities and 348,000 injuries on the road in this country every year are avoidable.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO** that you will not be the one driver in 382 who will be involved in an accident this year? For an approach to some answers, comments and suggestions from the National Safety Council, the American Automobile Association, and safety experts of several of America's leading industries, led to this eight-point program. Read it, and let it help you stay out of the killer category:

1. Be reasonably sure you are physically fit to drive. Feeling under-par? Stay from under the steering wheel. For example, a simple headache can upset your judgment, interfere with "road attention." If you ought to wear glasses, wear them, and keep them up-to-date with your eye needs. If you don't wear glasses, a visit to an optometrist once a year will help you play

safe. So simple an ailment as an upset stomach can make you take chances on the road you would ordinarily avoid. If you suddenly take sick on the go, pull off the road until you feel better. A cup of coffee and a little relaxation may help you recover.

2. Be mentally fit to drive. Shrug off worries before you release the brake; consciously avoid "taking out your spite" on the road. The machine you command is a would-be death weapon. Be especially alert for children crossing the street, unexpected side-road traffic, speedsters.

3. Know your car. Automobiles—like people—have their peculiarities. As a car grows older its individual traits are exaggerated. Whether it's your own, a friend's or a rented vehicle, be certain you know such facts as: The size of its turning circle, where its "blind spots" are, just how quickly it can accelerate—and decelerate—in an emergency, how much pressure on the brake it takes to halt it. Some preliminary tests before a long trip could save your life.

4. Keep your vehicle in good mechanical condition. Check brakes, battery, fan belt, windshield wipers, wheel alignment, lights, horn and rear-visibility mirror. Run well-mated tires with good tread, and keep air pressure up to standard. Stick to one reliable mechanic. He will know your car as a physician gets to know his patients.

5. Know fundamentals of turnpike or freeway driving. Don't be lulled by the broad, smooth road—you can still smash into the rear of a slower-moving truck or be side-swiped by some driver out to pass you. "Highway hypnosis" can sneak up on you through monotony of straight, uninterrupted roads. Take frequent breaks—every 50 or 100 miles.

6. Master principles of night driving. Have a good pair of special night-driving glasses, to reduce glare of oncoming headlights. Avoid sun glasses after dark—they'll fool your good judgment. If you have no night glasses, the best way to face lights is to look straight ahead. Most experts recommend "glow tape" on rear bumpers so other drivers can see your parked car at night.

7. Learn to handle your car in bad weather. Ride out a skid by steering in the direction of the skid and keep off the brake. Use chains on snow. Carry along a couple of bags of sand and an ice scraper.

8. Don't speed. Don't speed. Don't speed. Don't speed.

### FROM THE BELGIAN CONGO

## Traveling South: 'Monganga' Saw Firestone

In the Belgian Congo, methods of textile manufacturing—surprisingly enough—are almost as up-to-date as they are in the United States. On the other hand, there is much evidence of a remaining primitive culture in the vast reaches of Belgium's Colony in Africa.

That was part of the story which the famed missionary-

physician of the TV film "Monganga" told when he visited the plant in late November.

Dr. John E. Ross, in the Charlotte-Gastonia area on a five-day speaking tour and radio-TV circuit, took time out to make his first visit inside a tire fabrics plant.

"Operations here are much like those in the textile plants

of such centers as Leopoldville and Elizabethville. There, cotton is the principal fiber processed," he noted.

A missionary-evangelist as well as physician, Dr. Ross went to the Congo in 1948 and took up work at Lotumbe, a settlement some 8,000 miles east of the mouth of the Congo River. For most of the time since, he has been the only medical doctor in an area of several thousand square miles. Today, he and three other doctors serve among almost a half-million natives.

**HE SUPERVISES** a hospital, two rural dispensaries and a leprosarium. Dr. Ross preaches, does construction work, and among his teaching duties, is an instructor in French.

Most of Lotumbe is inaccessible except by water—and bicycle.

"There you bargain with your bicycle," he said. "You ride a while and then you carry your bike, for the trails often end in swamps."

Dr. and Mrs. Ross and their 11-year-old son live and work alongside 90 other missionaries of their denomination, the Christian Churches (Disciples), and some 1,275 native teachers and preachers in a north-central area of the Congo, comparable in size with the state of Kansas. Mrs. Ross is a dietitian at the hospital.

After 11 years in pastoral work in this country, Dr. and Mrs. Ross decided to study medicine, following the deaths of



Mrs. J. B. Reeves, second-shift nurse, visits with Dr. John Ross (left), and Lewis Filewood Jr., in the First Aid department. While in Gastonia the missionary-physician toured the NC Orthopedic Hospital and spoke at First Christian Church, where Mr. Filewood is minister. Before returning to his hospital in Africa, Dr. Ross will go to Carrville, La., to study advanced techniques in the treatment of leprosy.

## CITATION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



AWARDED TO

THE EMPLOYEES OF FIRESTONE TEXTILES  
1959 CAMPAIGN

\$8.48 PER EMPLOYEE

In Recognition of Outstanding Achievement In Serving The  
Human Needs of Our Community.

GREATER GASTONIA UNITED FUND  
AND COUNCIL, INC.

*L. Robert Shi*  
Campaign Chairman

## Plant Gets Honor Citation For Contribution To UF

For the second consecutive time Firestone Textiles has been cited for "Outstanding achievement in serving the human needs of our community."

The citation came in late November, when Nelson Kessell, general superintendent, presented \$18,220.70 to O. J. Stenstrom, executive secretary of the Greater Gastonia United Fund. The employee-company gift to the UF drive this year was—for the second consecutive year—the largest single contribution to the campaign.

The Firestone contribution, amounting to \$8.48 per employee, represented approximately 15 per cent of the total goal of \$119,000 for the Greater Gastonia campaign, conducted under the slogan "One Goal, One Gift, One Time."

The annual United Fund appeal is the only plant-wide solicitation of funds at Firestone during the year.

Firestone received its first Citation for Community Service last year, when the employee-company gift for the support of community health, welfare and recreation services was \$16,830.00.

**THE UF** drive here each fall is conducted along with the Greater Gastonia appeal. It coincides with the nationwide solicitation of Community Chests and United Funds each year from early September through Thanksgiving Day.

"It is gratifying to recall that our people have set records of giving to the Fund each year," said Cotton Division superintendent F. B. Galligan, who assisted Mr. Kessell in the campaign chairmanship.

"The United Way of giving is one of America's settled traditions," Mr. Kessell added.

"We are proud of the contribution our people have made in helping to meet the needs which the 21 UF agencies here seek to satisfy," he continued.

"Because of your concern for others, these agencies can better provide for the needy and the homeless, the blind and the crippled, the poor in health and the poor in spirit; provide for such good causes as recreation, safety, character-building programs,

their three children from a disease for which medical science has not yet found a cure.

The story which Dr. Ross told on his visit to Firestone had been told before in the color documentary "Monganga" (white doctor). The film was produced for the March of Medicine and shown three times over American television networks, and in thousands of churches and schools in the United States and other lands.

medical research, counselling and a multitude of other things designed to help people toward a better life and to make the community a better place for all who live in it."

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## These Will Share Your UF Gift

Agencies which will benefit from your United Fund gift:

American Red Cross, Carolinas United Community Service, Children's Home Society, Florence Crittenton Home, Gaston Big Brothers, Gaston Life Saving Crew.

National Agencies: American Social Hygiene Association, National Travelers Aid Society, International Social Service, National Social Welfare Assembly, National Recreation Association.

North Carolina Mental Health Association, Pioneer Girl Scout Council, Red Shield Boys Club, Regional Mental Health Center, Salvation Army, United Medical Research Foundation of North Carolina, United Cerebral Palsy Association, United Service Organization, United Fund and Council.

At Firestone's Gastonia plant, employees, especially on the tire-fabric production line, can well take pride in their workmanship of building highest quality into the product they make. The following letter, addressed to Raymond C. Firestone, company president, is typical of many customers' testimonials in behalf of Firestone products:

"I put a set of Firestone tubeless tires on my new car more than two years ago. I now have 42,000 miles on the car and am still driving on those tires. The spare is still brand new. As you can plainly see, I am a Firestone customer from this day forth." The letter was written by Lloyd Deen of Johnson City, Tenn.