

FIRESTONE TEXTILES PRESIDENT AT DEDICATION

Gaston Tech In New Quarters

At dedicatory ceremonies here November 7, Gaston Technical Institute was seen as a pioneer venture in education and a way-maker for a state-wide system of technical junior colleges.

Leaders in education and industry came to Gastonia for the program which launched the school in its new quarters on property donated by the Firestone Company.

At the program, some 40 senior staff members of North Carolina State College's school of engineering sat in a body, as the educators paid tribute to the donor company and forecast

great things to come for the Institute.

Heading the group were Dr. William C. Friday, president of the Consolidated University of North Carolina, and W. D. Carmichael Jr., vice president. Firestone Textiles president, W. A. Karl, made formal presentation of the property.

Valued at \$200,000 when it was donated two years ago, the property was renovated at a cost to the state of an additional \$200,000. It now provides facilities enabling the school to turn out engineering technicians. Enrolled are 156 students from 57 counties of North Carolina and three other states.

The company's gift of the buildings and land was cited by one official "as a good example of how industry has come to the aid of education in North Carolina."

W. A. Karl, Firestone Textiles president, was here from Akron in November, to make formal presentation of the plant's dormitories property as the new home of Gaston Technical Institute. Citing its new facilities, Mr. Karl saw the school as "facing a great future of service to the people and industry."

Sgt. Charles L. Waldrep and his family spent a few days recently with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Waldrep. His mother is a cloth inspector. Sgt. Waldrep has been transferred from his Marine post at Camp LeJeune, N. C., to Twentynine Palms, Calif. There, he has begun a two-year course in missiles. For the trip to California, Sgt. Waldrep and his family were accompanied by Mrs. Jennie Collins.

W. A. Karl's Talk At GTI Program

Following is a portion of the text of his talk:

This is a historic day for the institute and for Firestone. Our company has always been a believer in education. This is best demonstrated in the Firestone scholarship program for children of employees, which calls for granting of a minimum of fifteen four-year scholarships each year. The number has never been below 19 and has totaled as many as 29 in a single year.

There are 93 students now in college under this scholarship program. Six students have been from the Gastonia area. Of these, Claudette Kayler and Carl Stewart have already graduated. Those in college now are Forrest Eaker, Peggy Davis, Bobby Sellers, and Michael Stroupe.

Property Offered To University

When it was learned that the Gaston Technical Institute was out-growing its facilities, Firestone surveyed the dormitories property and concluded that it would be suitable, and would provide the space required. It was offered as a gift to the Greater University. I know we are all happy that it was accepted.

Through the division of college extension under the direction of North Carolina State College, Gaston Technical Institute will now be able to serve better the added number of students in search for higher education.

Since the Division of College Extension first set up courses in the spring of 1947 and established the school in 1952, growth has been spectacular.

Gaston County is most fortunate in having also the North Carolina Vocational Textile



Among distinguished visitors at the dedication of Gaston Technical Institute were (from left): Robert Lassiter, who represented Governor Luther Hodges; Dr. W. C. Friday, president of the Consolidated University of North Carolina; W. A. Karl, president of Firestone Textiles; and Dean J. H. Lampe of the School of Engineering of NC State College.

School near Belmont. The curriculum applies especially to the textile industry and does not conflict with that of Gaston Technical Institute. You can be proud of the growth of the North Carolina Vocational Textile School. I am sure it will not be long before GTI will have attained the same level of importance in the state, and perhaps lead the way to similar schools in other areas.

A World Dependent Upon Science

Today, more than at any time in the past, we are living in a world dependent upon science. The State College Record of June, 1956 pointed out, "This demand (for technicians) exceeds that for engineers by approximately eight to one, but technicians have heretofore been unable to receive their training in the South."

Gaston Technical Institute is providing just that training and with these splendid facilities, it will be in an even better position to serve this area, providing an opportunity for students to learn basic science, and to make available to industry well-trained technicians.

This area has been primarily devoted to the production of textiles, but in recent years there has been a diversification of industry that embraces complex manufacturing procedures requiring more engineers and more technicians.

Industrial Progress At Firestone

This industrial progress can best be emphasized by recalling

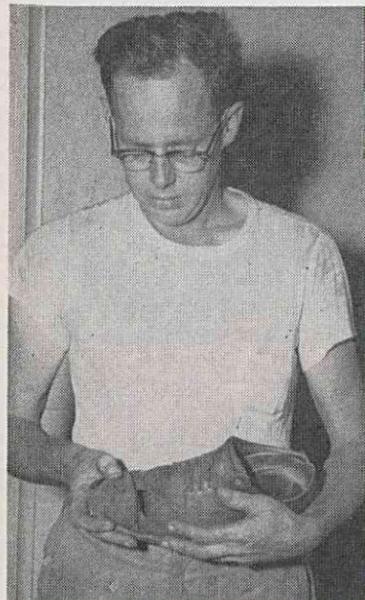
our experience here in Gastonia. When we purchased the plant in 1935, there were no paved streets; parking space held less than a dozen cars; and most of the homes were without bathrooms.

What do we see today? Fine paved streets, houses with modern conveniences, parking facilities at our plant for nearly 300 cars per shift. That is progress, but there is more to the story . . .

Before World War II, Firestone decided that its employees should have opportunity of home ownership. A plan was developed to allow purchase of the homes workers lived in. We are happy to say that while sales were temporarily interrupted by the war, all houses have long since been sold. The best reward is the way the owners have improved and are maintaining their properties.

Firestone not only believes in education—it believes in improved living standards for its employees. Both conditions make for better citizenship and community relationships.

I express deep regret that Mr. Raymond C. Firestone, president, and Mr. J. E. Trainer, executive vice president, were not able to attend these dedication exercises. But they join me and the Firestone company in proudly presenting this property to the Greater University of North Carolina. We wish its affiliate—Gaston Technical Institute and its graduates—a great future of service to the people and to industry in this community and this area.



A FOOT SAVED

Joseph Cote of Twisting (Synthetic) has believed in the merits of safety shoes ever since he came South from Worcester, Mass., and began working at Firestone nine years ago.

His recent experience with a chain saw occasioned a special testimonial for safety footwear. While operating the saw on a logging job near his home at Alexis, it slipped and ripped across the toe of his shoe. The metal plate saved his left foot from injury.

When he brought in the damaged shoe for this photograph, he pointed out, "I always keep a new pair in reserve."

GOING PLACES . . . SEEING THINGS

December Sparkles With Travel Suggestions

Sunshine and Christmas decorations are not the only things that give sparkle to life across the mid-South in December. A full calendar of special events of interest to Firestone travelers makes the twelfth month a time for sightseeing and visiting—especially in North Carolina.

Travel information service of Plant Recreation is always ready to make helpful suggestions for your off-job time on-the-go.

In North Carolina by mid-December over 4,000 lights are burning on the world's largest living Christmas tree, at Wilmington. Christmas is accompanied by a round of sports and social events for vacationists and homefolks. Projecting into the following month, there is another Yuletide—Old Christmas, at the village of Rodanthe on Hatteras Island, January 5.

IN THE western part of the State, Tryon is as famed as a winter resort as it is for summer attractions. Its unusual "Thermal Belt" makes winter climate milder than that of the surrounding area, although it is located in the mountains at an elevation of more than 1,000 feet. Horseback riding and hunting are big attractions there, though the excellent golf course and the beauty of the village and surrounding country make it equally popular with those who do not wish to ride and hunt.

From the Sandhills it is only a three-hour

drive to the Southeastern Coast, where fine fishing is enjoyed the year around.

The plant travel information service offers this suggestion for an interesting trip:

On December 17 at Kill Devil Hills and Kitty Hawk on the Northeastern Coast, ceremonies will commemorate the 55th anniversary of powered flight.

Wilbur and Orville Wright made their first successful powered flight near these small communities on December 17, 1903. Honoring their achievement, hundreds of North Carolinians and visitors from other states gather at Wright Brothers National Memorial just before Christmas each year for Aviation Anniversary ceremonies. This year's observance will feature a fly-over of modern aircraft at Wright Memorial, which overlooks the all-year seashore vacationland of Dare County.

THE MEMORIAL to powered flight is 75 miles south of Norfolk, Va. You may drive to it by US 17 or 158 to Elizabeth City, N. C., and then by US 158 to Kill Devil Hills. There is bus service to the memorial. You may visit the memorial from 8:30 a.m., to 5 p.m. daily. Wright Brothers National Memorial is administered by the National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior.

She Played Music For Own Wedding

When Harriet Joyce Redding became Mrs. John O. Van Dyke on November 19, nuptial music for the ceremony was provided by the bride herself. The daughter of Earl Redding, Shop, and Mrs. Redding of Main Office, played organ selections by tape recording.

The Van Dykes were married at Love Valley Baptist Church in the Dixon School community, near Kings Mountain.

After a wedding trip to Asheville, Mr. Van Dyke left for a term of service in the US Army. His wife returned to Boone and Appalachian State Teachers College where she is a senior, majoring in education.



Mrs. John O. Van Dyke