



SATURDAY DOWNTOWN—Afternoon on Lincolnton's Main street, looking west. Lincoln County court house (end of the block) stands impressively in the center of Court Square.

EMPLOYEES' HOMETOWN

Lincolnton: 'The City With A Future'

Yesteryear and Tomorrow walk hand-in-hand at Lincolnton. Her people—industrious, loyal, efficient, and having strong religious ties—are justly proud of their community's gift to the past. But they are even more proud of her optimistic slogan: "The City With A Future".

Located on the banks of the South Fork River and on junction of highways 2, 150, and 321, Lincolnton is in the heart of the highly-industrialized Piedmont of North Carolina. It is the seat of government, geographical center, and leading community in Lincoln County.

Outstanding Community Before Revolution

At the time of the War for American Independence, the town was already a cultural and commercial center. Many of its original homes still stand. Through the years the town has remained a trading center for a

rich farming and industrial area reaching beyond the borders of Lincoln County.

The town is named for Benjamin Lincoln, hero of a Revolutionary battle which was fought on land within the present city limits.



The majority of Firestone Textiles people call Gastonia "hometown". But several hundred employees commute to their work here from outside communities in both Carolinas. Of these dozens of hometowns, some are of such significance as to merit feature stories in the plant newspaper.

This is the second of a series.



Lincolnton was settled largely by German and Dutch Protestant refugees seeking rest from oppression because of their religious beliefs. The community

today bears lasting testimony to the sturdy faith of its settlers. Almost all religious denominations are represented among the many churches.

There is Plenty of Room For Expansion

Lincolnton lays claim to its motto, "The City With A Future" partly through its good location, resources, abundant labor supply, suitable climate, and its diversified industry.

Although in a leading industrial area, it is not hemmed in by industrial expansion. While it enjoys plenty of room for growth, its easy access to the connecting network of federal and state highways places it in a good location from both business and pleasure standpoints.

At 860 feet above sea level and its closeness to the cool mountains to the west, Lincolnton enjoys an average temperature of 58.6 F.

Textiles the Leader In Industry

Labor is highly productive. This is supported by the fact that every industry has increased appreciably from its original size.

Textiles predominate, with furniture production ranking second. Lumber products, textile machinery and supplies, flour and feed, concrete materials, poultry and eggs are also produced. Machine shops and some mining add to the industrial scene.

Transportation facilities include freight and bus service.

There are other features which help make Lincolnton a good hometown. It has two well-equipped hospitals. An outstanding school system is maintained through 12 grades. Teacher certificate renewal courses are offered at the high school, and adult educational courses are available through the University of North Carolina extension service.

Two semi-weekly newspapers are published. Southern Textile News, a leading trade journal, is published in Lincolnton.

Radio station WLON has been

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"TEA TABLE" BOULDER—On the court house lawn, Mrs. Jack Hall and son Daryl study a landmark commemorating the Battle of Ramsour's Mill in 1780, site of which is one-half mile north. The stone itself is sometimes called "Tarleton's Tea Table" because British General Tarleton is said to have taken his meals off the boulder during the Revolutionary War.



HISTORICAL TREASURES—W. G. Hall of Weaving (synthetics) visits among a rare collection of historical items in the Old Academy Building. Exhibiting two pieces reminiscent of the spinning-weaving home arts of a century ago is Mrs. Joseph Graham, president of the Southern Stars Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy. Museum boasts unusual collection of Confederate mementoes.



CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL—Jack Hall of Twisting (synthetics) and daughter Phyllis Ann at entrance to Confederate Memorial Hall on Academy Street. The house is sometimes referred to as the Old Academy Building because it first housed Pleasant Retreat Academy in 1813. The Mary Wood School was here in 1900. In 1908 the local UDC chapter acquired use of the building which now houses the public library and museum.



TIME OUT—Leonard Tench of Weaving (synthetics) pauses for a deep draught of well water on his 30-acre, Lincolnton, Route 4 farm. The second shift weaver cultivates 19 acres with the help of his "steel mule".