



CONGRESS STREET—Running north and south is the town's main thoroughfare, built along the original coach line between Charlotte, N. C. and Augusta, Ga. Crossing Congress is Liberty street, part of the old coach line from Camden, West.



HISTORIC BUILDINGS—At least a dozen fine old houses dating to the Revolutionary and Civil War periods help York to live up to its title "Charleston of the Up Country." This is the Congress street side of the Latta Mansion, built in 1799. Bricks originally served as ship ballasts from England, were hauled by oxcart from Charleston.

EMPLOYEES' HOMETOWN

York: A City Of Traditional Charm

A town of rare and distinctive beauty," says Hammond's Handbook of South Carolina.

"An excellent example of a combination of the Old and the New South," is a description by National Geographic Magazine.

"The Charleston of the Up Country," people hereabouts call it.

The county seat of York in north central South Carolina is all this—and much more.

This employees' hometown has watched the parade of America's history for two centuries. The battles of Kings Mountain and Huck's Defeat were both fought a short distance away. Patriot leaders like Cornwallis, Sumter, Morgan and others passed through Fergus' Crossroads—the town's name during the Revolutionary era.

Confederate president Jeff Davis and his cabinet visited here near the end of the Civil War. Thomas Dixon's novel, "The Clansmen", and the classic movie from it, "The Birth of a Nation", had their setting in

Several hundred employees commute to their work at Firestone in Gastonia, from outside communities in both Carolinas. Of these dozens of hometowns, some are of such significance as to deserve feature stories in the plant newspaper. This article is third in a series.

York during Reconstruction Days.

Settled by Pennsylvanians

York County was formed from the Old Camden District of 1785. The area was settled by people from York, Pa., and the town name, Yorkville, honored the city in the Keystone State. Settlers were members of the House of York in England, and to this day, the town is known as "The White Rose City".

Yorkville was incorporated in 1849 and soon became a main stopover on the coach roads from Charlotte to Augusta, and from Camden, West.

In 1916 the town's name was changed to York. Its weekly newspaper, The Yorkville En-

quirer, is a reminder of that period in the town's history.

Marks of the New South

York's city government is the mayor-council type, administering progressive leadership in a community of balanced living. Population, including two new residential areas and one textile village, stands at around 6,000.

Close to 3,000 are enrolled in the three public schools.

Last year, York was selected by Washington University, St. Louis, to represent the entire South through two-hour educational programs on television. Sponsored by a Ford Foundation grant, the programs allowed York to represent the cultural and historical values of the South. The series, titled "American Values", ranged from interviews with dignitaries in Washington to a study of the Navajo Indians in the Southwest.

Other features which enhance the attractiveness of this employees' town are a 34-bed hospital, six playgrounds operated year-round, a municipal swimming pool, churches of all major

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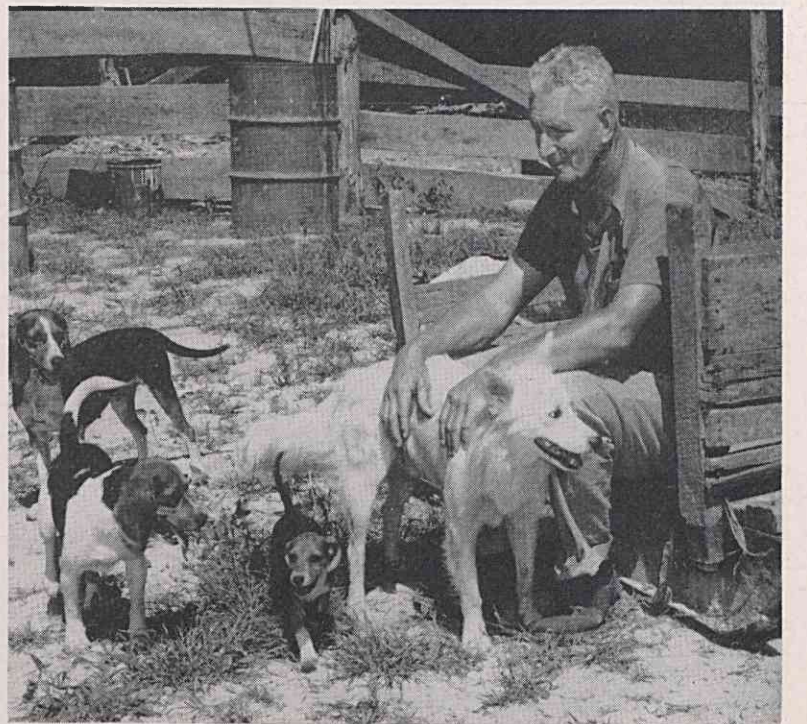
STOREHOUSE OF THE PAST—Alden Haas of Twisting (synthetics), Mrs. Haas and children Norita and Ronnie visit in War Memorial Museum, temporarily housed at Kings Mountain avenue and Wright street. The Haas family studies a display of equipment together with some of the work of John R. Schorb, a York resident considered to be America's first commercial photographer. Exhibit includes a magazine article of Schorb's time, describing him as the "Genius with the Magic Box."



FARM RELIC—The Robert Wallace children, shown with a horse-drawn hayrake which was retired from the meadow several years ago. Children are, from left: Marjorie, Jerry, Lena, and Connie.



RESIDENT—Finley P. Williams is a life-long resident of York. The Warehouse fork-truck operator of five years employment says of his hometown, "It's unhurried living, with plenty of friendly folks."



RURAL LIFE—Shop employee Robert P. Wallace lives on Route 1, York, in a house with its original portion known to be at least 150 years old. He raises dogs as a hobby, shares beagle hounds with rabbit-hunting friends.