

# 'Good Old Days' Not So Good

Now that the Firestone Company has been in business for almost 60 years, it is interesting to take a backward look at manufacturing in the "Good Old Days."

Take, for example, how jobs for employees have progressed—becoming easier, better, and more stable through the use of machines and greater productivity.

The Firestone worker today gets more than ten times the rate of pay as the person in a comparable job received 50 years ago. What's more, the present-day worker is putting forth much less effort and working fewer hours.

In an October article in Firestone News, Gastonia, tire assembly methods in 1959 were compared with those of 1907. A followup of that story led to a look at the archives for information on tire curing and highlights of the change in curing processes from 1907 to 1959.

Since tires are the principal product into which Firestone Textiles production goes, the story affords a good look at progress across the past half century.

The record shows that in 1907 autoclave-type vulcanizers were used in turning out passenger tires. Priced then at about \$1,000 each, installed, they could cure about 20 to 25 passenger tires at one time—depending on tire sizes, or about 250 to 350 a day. At best, each of those tires was destined for a life of up to 3,000 miles of service.

## Belmont Station Conelrad Outlet

Commercial broadcast station WCGC in Belmont has been authorized by the Federal Communications Commission to operate as a Conelrad outlet in time of national emergency. It is the only regular broadcast station in Gaston County so licensed, according to Robert Hilker, station manager and local Civil Defense communications officer.

In event of a national emergency, WCGC will switch from its assigned frequency of 1270 kilocycles to 1240 as a Conelrad station, to furnish information on public welfare and safety.

During national emergencies,

### Hand Operations— Cumbersome Methods

Tires were built, trucked, and loaded and unloaded from the vulcanizers—all in hand operations. Adding to the task was the fact that tires were built and cured on heavy iron cores which increased by several times the weight of the tires themselves, and the cores had to be lifted with the tires in all of the numerous hand operations. No wonder an employee on the curing line put forth so much more effort than he does today!

In 1959 much of that olden-days heavy effort has been done away with in curing of passenger car tires. Improved methods and skills and the company's ability to provide the increased needed investments have brought on mechanization. And that's where the difference is. Look at the picture today.

### Automatic Machines Make for Progress

Look at the picture today. Conveyors bring the "green" passenger tires directly to long batteries of twin bladder-type automatic curing presses. With little effort, operators are thus able to load presses. After curing cycles are completed, the molds open automatically and the tires are held in a convenient position for the operator to put them on conveyors for a trip to final inspection.

Two or three twin automatic presses can equal the production of one of the 1907 vulcanizers with their 25-30 tires capacity.

all radio and television stations not authorized for Conelrad service will cease operation. Objective of Conelrad service is to minimize navigational aid that an enemy might have from the electromagnetic radiations of broadcast stations. Conelrad stations also provide controlled service which is essential to public welfare during national emergencies from enemy attack.

Some 260 to 390 passenger tires can be cured daily by the two or three presses. And the tires turned out in 1959 offer the motorist at least four to ten times as many miles of safe service as the 1907 kind, depending on the car and the driver, speed, and types of roads, loads and climate.

### Improved Manufacture Has a Price Attached

But all this progress calls for increased investment. The two or three twin presses needed to do the same job as the 1907 equipment cost the company between \$70,000 and \$100,000, installed. That is 70 to 100 times more of an investment.

With this example of a study in progress, what of tomorrow's promise?

Ever-improving methods and ways of manufacturing at Firestone hold out hopes that curing tires and many other jobs will be made even easier than they are today.

## Poisons In Home: Constant Danger

Poisons in the home are among the greatest causes of injury and death.

Medicines and chemicals make up the biggest poison category, but a fact often overlooked is that some of the soaps, polishes and cleaning fluids in the house can be highly dangerous when swallowed, or applied to the body.

Adults aren't likely to be the victims as often as curious children.

The U. S. Food and Drug Administration is campaigning for warning labels on products, to alert parents to the danger of poisons.

HOME-SAFETY practices include keeping these dangers out of the reach of children, and reading labels carefully.

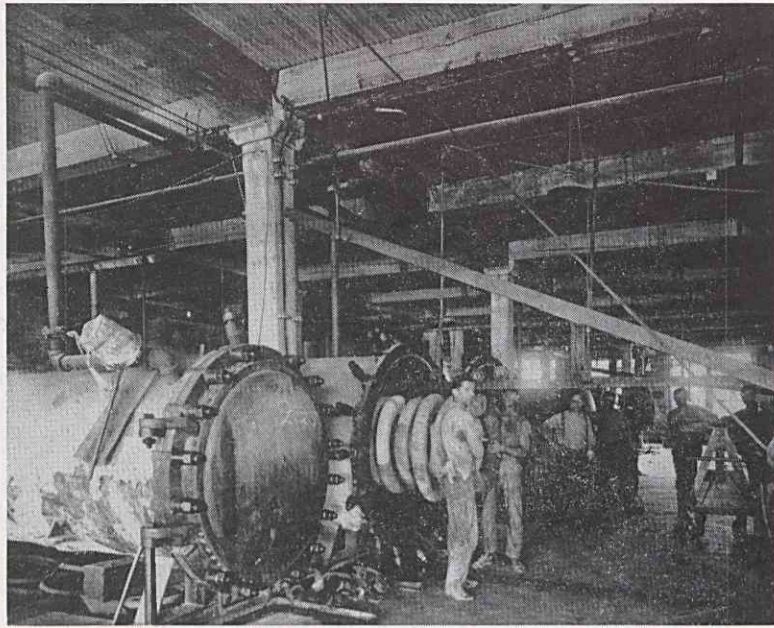
The U. S. Public Health Service's Accident Prevention Bureau suggests:

: : Keep all products not used for cooking out of children's reach.

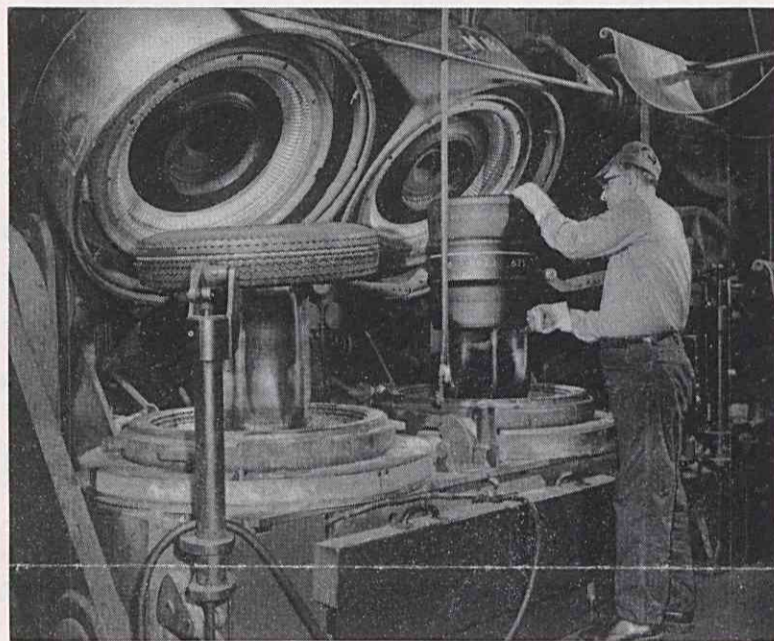
: : Don't place them with products you use for cooking.

: : Always keep house cleaning materials in their original containers.

: : Learn emergency treatment for accidents caused by household poisons. Call a doctor.



"GOOD OLD DAYS"—How would you like this 1907 job? Production was slow and much effort was required of employees, because all trucking and loading and unloading of tires had to be done entirely by hand. Long hours and low pay resulted because productivity and products demand were low compared with today's standards.



THE 1959 WAY—Green tires, conveyed directly to the operators, are easily placed in twin bladder-type automatic presses which cure and open automatically. Conveyors also take the load from employees, who must use their skills to operate controls. This is a good example of how machines are lifting the loads in industry.

## Yule Parties December 19

NORTH COUNTRY (Special)—The Peddler of Good Cheer and Merriment, more familiarly known as Santa Claus, has confirmed his 1959 stopover in Gastonia, for a pre-Christmas-Eve visit with children of Firestone employees.

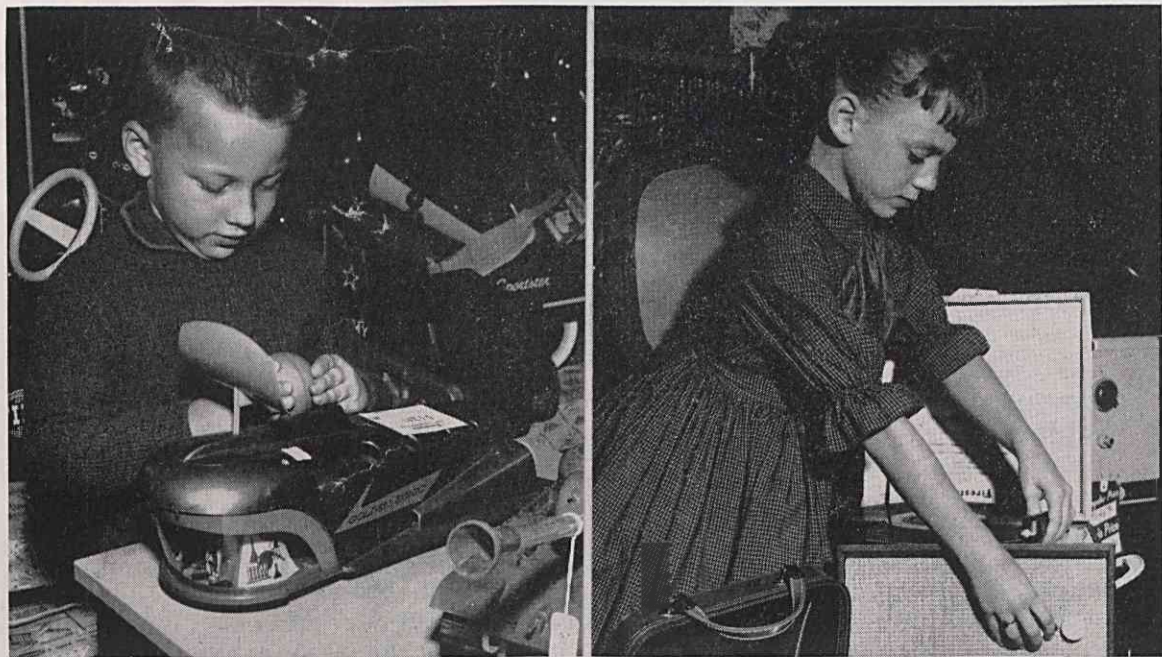
It will be St. Nick's 20th annual trip to the Southland for the special children's parties, staged through the years at the Webb and Palace theatres.

Children through 13 years of age who are members of Firestone employee households will

be honored guests at the traditional company parties on Saturday morning, December 19.

As in past years, shows will be staged in three performances—two at the Webb theatre downtown with beginning time 9 and 11 o'clock; and at the Palace (Negro) theatre on North York street at 10.

At all performances, Santa's visit will be preceded by a session of lively entertainment made up of several movie cartoons and short features.



## Foretaste Of Christmas

Long before December arrived, these children had been entertaining visions of Christmas gaiety... of reindeer and sleigh... the Good Visitor from the Northland who journeys across rooftops once a year. Here, amidst merchandise dis-

plays at the Firestone Stores at Franklin and Marietta, Ricky Rumpfelt and Jill McDaniel preview the Yule gift situation. Ricky's father, R. L. Rumpfelt, and Jill's father, Cramer McDaniel, are electricians in the Mechanical department. Each year the company's network of retail stores enlarges the stock of toys and other items especially appealing to youngsters.

## Carbon Monoxide Is A Winter Killer

That notorious wintertime killer is back again. Odorless, tasteless, colorless—but deadly. It is carbon monoxide. Danger of CM poisoning increases in winter months because houses and garages are likely to be closed tight, preventing fresh air from circulating.

Health authorities have these additional points to make about carbon monoxide danger:

With small amounts present, there are usually warning signals: Nausea, dizziness, headache, muscular weakness.

But in large amounts CM can produce unconsciousness quickly—and without warning. Keep these simple safety measures in mind:

Watch out for defective gas stoves and furnaces. Never run auto or other gas powered engines in closed places. Wherever there is possibility of gas, always have plenty of ventilation. See that heaters are in good working order and that they have fumes outlets.

Check autos to safeguard against faulty mufflers or exhaust pipes that could cause a deadly leak of fumes.