

Santa Came South With Loads Of Merriment— And Memories

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CHRISTMAS comes but once a year" echoes an old favorite poem. But the fun which Firestone employee children had December 19, was enough to last all the way across the 1960 calendar.

The almost 2,000 children of Firestone households represented at the Gastonia plant, were honored guests at the company's traditional Christmas parties staged at the Webb and Palace theatres. It was Gastonia's 20th annual program of fun and merriment, put on for children through 13 years of age.

Festivities, gaily packaged in two parties at the Webb and one at the Palace, unloaded bags and bags into the eager arms of more than 1,600 children who came for the shows.

Those not attending the parties received their gifts from the Industrial Relations department.

At the Webb, the shows beginning at 9 and 11 a.m. featured a collection of fun cartoons and short films. At the 10 o'clock Palace show, children enjoyed "Tom Thumb" a full-length color movie.

Each performance at both Gastonia theatres reserved the spotlight for St. Nicholas himself, who hurried down from 'way above the Mason-Dixon line to oversee the distribution of gifts—according to the children's age groups.

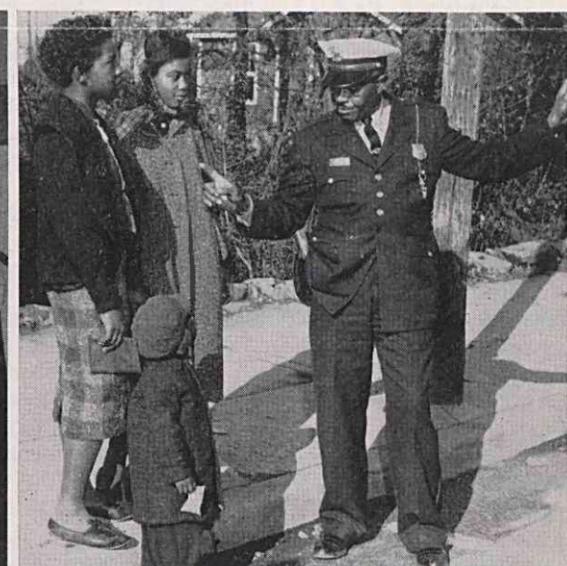
Photographs on this page are representative of the activities at all three Christmas parties in 1959.



READY FOR THE FUN—Among early arrivals for the first of two shows at the Webb theatre were (from left): Jack Alford Shannon and his sisters Nancy and Amanda Shannon, and their cousin Johnnie Shannon.

AROUND THE YULE TREE—The Mechanical department set a towering tree—all aglitter—in the Palace and Webb theatres. Here, eager to peek at gifts under the tinsel were (from left): Linda Ramsey, Gail and Teresa Chastain.

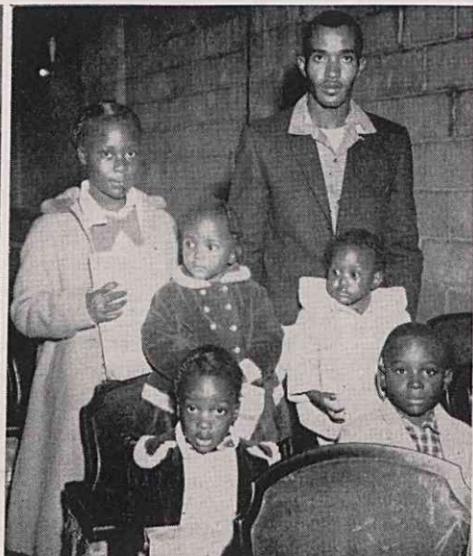
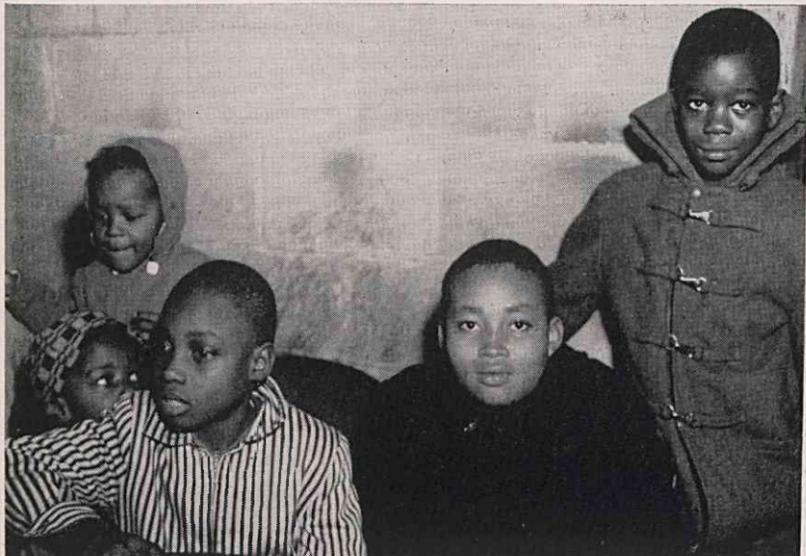
CONFERENCE WITH SANTA—The Supervisor of Gifts was on hand early to add some more names and lists of things to his catalog of millions of pages. Robert Stephens Jr. and Jan Dellinger were assured that their requests would have due attention.



BENEATH THE FANCY WRAPPING—Kathryn Parks envisioned hours of pleasure from her embroidery kit. David Rhyne (left), and Robert Lee Parks shared a look. Robert, David had a sports kit.

GIFTS UPCOMING—Police Capt. Roy Short delivered gifts to (from left): Jean, Wynema and Charlene Woody. At the Webb parties Capt. Short reminded the children of Christmas safety.

HELPING HAND—At Palace theatre, policeman M. J. Rainey helped children across the street. With him here are Jerome Montgomery (foreground), Shirley Wilkes (left), and Ruth Montgomery.



GOOD ENTERTAINMENT—Among youngsters enjoying the movie "Tom Thumb" were (from left): Kitty Mason (back), Alma Mason, Dennis Bratton, Gregory Hallman and Russell Mason.

FIVE IN FAMILY—Typical of brother-sister groups enjoying the merriment were the children of David Meeks (from left, front-to-back): Wanreta, Michael, Elsie, Bobbie Jean, Marjorie, and Mr. Meeks.

JEST IN PARTING—Before St. Nick headed back to the North Woods, Ava (left), Jatana and Richard Jackson wanted to know if the Jolly Visitor's whiskers were the real stuff.