

MACHINE HYPNOSIS

## Routine Familiarity Can Be Dangerous

Let the experienced lion tamer stay on his guard and usually all is well. Let him "get so used to" his job that he no longer lives in an atmosphere of potential danger—and the Big Cat is after him for sure.

The same goes for the most careful automobile drivers who are prone to "highway hypnosis", the sense-dulling menace of the road. They've become so familiar with routine that they no longer recognize danger.

Thousands of workers in industry, too, are injured at their jobs each year—all because of routine familiarity.

They become accustomed to the machines that lift burdens from their hands and shoulders. And in the "freedom" and ease of the working machines, the operators tend to become careless and unaware of would-be peril.

The man with a safety record that is consistently good knows that mishaps and injuries have causes. He doesn't learn the hard way.

The hobbyist in his home workshop and the housewife in the kitchen know the dangers of the mechanical aids at their command. And knowing the dangers, they stay alert.

### Rhythm and Routine: "Machine Hypnosis"

But on the job, they are often lured into "machine hypnosis" by the smooth, easy rhythm of production and materials-handling equipment.

Conveyors are used more widely throughout industry than any other type of heavy machinery, yet less than one per cent of all injury compensation cases involve conveyor equipment, according to the Conveyor Equipment Manufacturers Association. This good record exists because conveyor manufacturers realize the potential danger in any power machinery—and do all they can to educate operators to the facts.

What are some of the factors that lead to safe operation of materials-handling equipment, such as conveyors?

Even before you begin work around a conveyor, learn where controls are located—and use them well. Stop motors before attempting to clear a conveyor. For repairs, call the foreman or maintenance man.

THEN, there are these additional suggestions by the Conveyor Equipment Manufacturers:

:: Use a conveyor for its designed purpose only. This means:

Don't ride on a conveyor if intended for materials alone.

:: Avoid loose clothing and accessories that may be caught in machinery or moving materials. Neckties, open sleeves, open jackets, watch chains invite trouble. Long, loose hair, bracelets and other ornamentation can mean tragedy for women.

:: Do a good housekeeping job. Have aisles as clear as possible at loading and unloading points. Spilled grease or powdered materials, liquids, demand cleanup immediately, lest someone slip and fall onto moving equipment.

:: Load carefully so materials will not fall off. Don't overload, and watch for corners and low clearances overhead. Shut off machinery when it will be unattended.

## School Addition Nears Completion

The two-story addition to the North Carolina Vocational Textile School plant at Belmont is scheduled for completion in late January. Begun the past summer, the 36x61-foot unit will be the first capital improvement at the school since its beginning in 1943, principal Chris E. Folk noted.

Ground floor of the new unit will allow additional space for the mill maintenance (machine shop) course. Equipment for practice in sheet-metal work and a classroom will also be located on the ground floor. The top level will have folding doors between divisions, so that the whole area may be converted from classroom to an auditorium, or conference area.

### More Space: More Service And Added Instruction

This will make available the original school building as space for instruction in cotton testing in the yarn manufacturing course, and for cotton classing.

Machines will be installed for practice in cutting and sewing

:: Away with horseplay! A practical joke is the least excuse for an injury.

Whether conveyors or any other power equipment, familiarity with your mighty mechanical workmates can breed danger. On the other hand, familiarity with their accepted rules for operation is your means of safety.

of knitted outerwear apparel, this to be a part of the course in knitting. Mr. Folk said that demand for this instruction is increasing, since several plants in this kind of manufacturing have begun operation in the area served by the school.

The new auditorium will be available for meetings and conferences of textile groups. "We encourage all textile groups to avail themselves of this service in the new school unit," said the principal.

New classes in all five courses of the school curriculum began January 3. This term, courses are offered in yarn manufacturing, weaving and designing, knitting, mill maintenance, and tailoring.

As the new term began, Mr. Folk sent out this announcement to textile mills:

"Since we will have a good conference room in the new addition by late January, we cordially invite individuals and groups of employees from textile plants to make appointment, and come for a visit. When you come, we will be able to show what the school is doing, and what it has to offer. We believe this to be the most effective way of getting employees interested in taking courses here."

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## Group Insurance Guards Against 'Welfare' Health



Voluntary health insurance is a good example of industry's ability to forestall any movement toward a welfare state, believes Dr. W. L. Hogue, medical director of the Firestone company. Speaking recently before Polk County Medical Society in Des Moines, Iowa, he said:

"Important involved groups in the economy are committed to making our health insurance program work well enough that a comprehensive state program is unnecessary. It is in the fields of costs and responsibility that we are concerned."

THE BURDEN of costs of medical care has been shifted from individuals to organizations, Dr. Hogue noted, and added that the total amount of money available for medical services has increased many-fold.

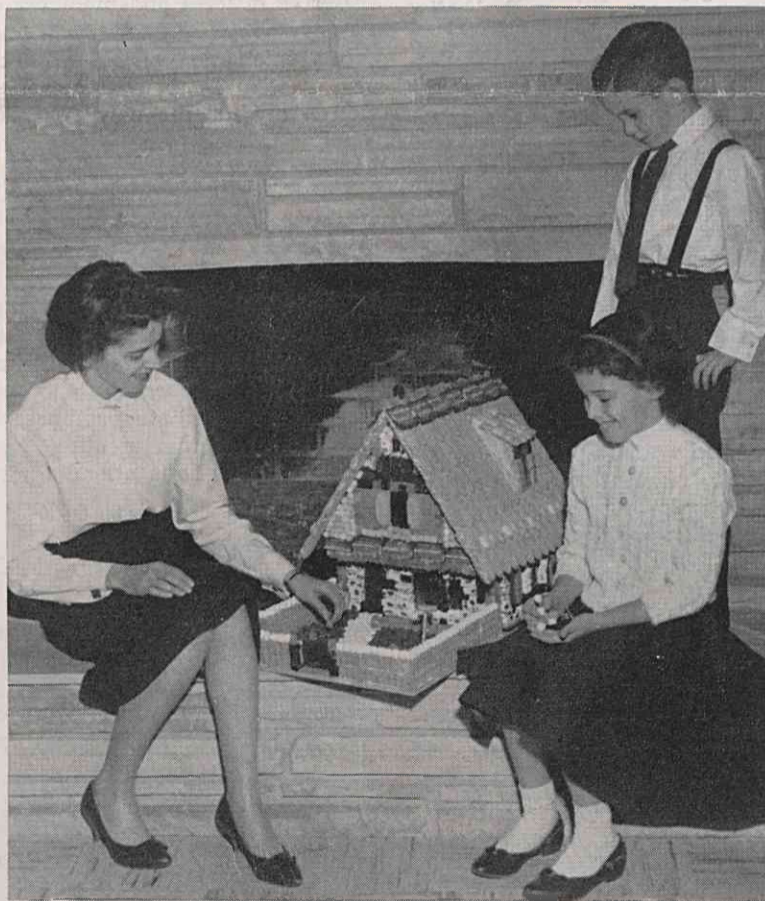
Of several additional observations which Dr. Hogue made, these were emphasized:

- All private expenditures for medical care amount to \$15 billion annually, according to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This amounts to as much as two-thirds of the value of all residential construction in a given year.

- Health insurance benefits are up 8 per cent this year, compared with last year. At Firestone the cost per man hour worked for hospital and surgical benefits has almost doubled since 1956. Sickness and accident benefits have increased 40 per cent.

- Abuses of health insurance tend to inflate the benefit costs of insurance. Industrially speaking, the cost of health insurance is a cost of doing business. When an employee is off the job, for any reason, he is non-productive, thereby affecting productivity. If absence is necessary for his health and well-being, it is accepted as a natural part of cost. If it is over and above that cost, it is contributing to an inflationary trend.

- Holding the line on costs of industrial health insurance is a responsibility to be shared by the employee, the employer, medical organizations, physicians, and the general public.



## 'The Sweetest Little House In The World'

Mrs. Bill Mills of Shipping, Mr. Mills and children Marilyn and David built this "sweetest little house in the world", to help brighten the recent holiday season at their home on Rt. 1, Clover, S. C.

The project began when they read in McCall's magazine about a legend from France, of childhood expectancy associated with "The House" which mothers fashioned of goodies and hid until Christmas morning. From the magazine article the Mills faithfully reproduced "The House" on a 16 x 32 inch base, using hundreds and hundreds of cookies, gumdrops, cream wafers, marshmallows, sugared peanuts and candy pebbles.

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