



"I Wonder As I Wander", folk-carol with its tender Nativity theme, is most at home in the pine-covered hills of Western North Carolina, because it was here the song was preserved and given to posterity. Mr. and Mrs. H. L.

Hughes of Martins Creek Road, Murphy, look across a Cherokee County landscape, suggestive of the mood in the beloved Christmas carol. The Hughes are the parents of Elmina Bradshaw who works in Twisting.

A GIFT FROM THE HILLS

A chance meeting of a folkways collector and a wandering family has left a beloved song in the living tradition of Christmas the world over

ONE of the world's most beloved folk-carols of Christmas is a gift from the hills of Western North Carolina. Back in the early 1930s John Jacob Niles, well-known American folklorist, was recording the old ballads handed down from generation to generation to the people in the Southern Highlands.

It was near Christmas. Wandering along the main street of Murphy, Niles heard a young girl singing a plaintive little song in minor key.

The folklorist had not heard it before. . . "I wonder as I wander out under the sky. . ." He pushed through the listening crowd and

asked the little girl to sing it again. As he made a recording of the song, he was sure he had heard something new . . . and somehow, something very old and rare, yet common as the eternal blue haze over the Smokies, spring water, mountain sunlight, and the rugged hills themselves.

THE LITTLE GIRL said she had no idea who might have written the "piece" she was singing. She'd always known it . . . didn't know that it was especially unusual.

Her name was Annie Morgan, and she was a member of a transient family, leaving Murphy that very day. The family headed west. When Niles tried to follow it up, nobody west of Murphy could remember seeing

More on page 3

Off-Job Safety For December

At quitting time on your shift, you can't tuck away safety-awareness-and-practice in your locker, desk drawer or toolbox as you head for home. At least if you do, you are a choice candidate for injury yourself, and you may be the cause of injury to someone else. This is the truth behind observance of Off-the-Job Safety Month in December.

Every year, all Firestone plants in the United States set aside the months of May and December for stressing away-from-the-job injury control. Within or near these two months are five major holidays and each one takes its lion's share of toll in injury and death every year. Most of these injuries and fatalities occur at home, at play, on the highways, or other places beyond the job.

"Our company is vitally interested in its employees as people 24 hours of every day—not just while they're on the job in factory, store, or wherever else

they may work," said Gastonia plant general manager Harold Mercer.

Figures gathered in the company's safety department show that in a typical month, injuries taking place away from the job and leading to lost time at work outnumber on-job injuries at least 30 to 1.

ANNOUNCING the annual emphasis on control of holiday-season injuries, company safety manager M. R. Batche said the main purpose of the effort is the reduction of pain and suffering to employees and their loved ones. Mr. Batche pointed out

—More on page 4



Firestone-Ohtsu Plant In Japan To Produce Tires

The Firestone company plans to produce tires in Osaka, Japan, in cooperation with the Ohtsu Rubber Industry Company, Ltd. An agreement signed by the two companies gives Firestone its fourth facility for production of tires and tubes in the South Pacific and Eastern Hemispheres. A plant was opened in Bombay, India in 1940; at Christchurch, New Zealand in 1948; and at Manila, The Philippines in 1957.

Under the agreement, Firestone will provide technical information and assistance and share its knowledge of new developments with Ohtsu. Both Firestone tires and the Ohtsu brand will be produced in the

—More on page 3



• Faye Kennerly with a timely message. She works in Weaving (synthetics).

December 16

Children's Yule Parties Set

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. And he's on his way for a pre-Christmas Eve visit with Firestone youngsters in the Gastonia area. This will be St. Nick's 22nd annual whirlwind flight to Christmas parties for children of Firestone households here.

By special arrangement, Santa loads up many nice things somewhere south of the Arctic Regions and has them piled high at the parties here. Members of the industrial relations department at the Gastonia plant serve as special agents for the fun and frolic.

The parties will go according to traditional schedule — this

year, on Saturday, Dec. 16. As in the past, shows will be staged in three installments, two at the Webb Theatre downtown, with beginning time 9 and 11 a.m.; and at the Palace Theatre on North York street, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

At all performances Santa will be on hand to see that gifts are handed out. His appearance will be preceded by a program of sparkling movie fare, including cartoons, short-length comedy and other features.

Children through 13 years of age who are members of Firestone households will be honored guests.