

# This Scout Group Has Lively Program

Within a few days after school is out this spring, members of Firestone Explorer Post 323 will be tramping and camping along a lengthy stretch of the Appalachian Trail. The well-known hikers' trace stretches 2,050 miles from Mt. Katahdin, Me., to Mt. Oglethorpe in North Georgia. Since October, members of the Post have been saving money toward the Nature trip.

This is just one of the varied activities and specialties of the Explorer group, organized here three months ago and already off to such a good start that its program has come to the attention of Boy Scout National Headquarters.

**POST ADVISOR** Jesse Liles, loom fixer in Weaving (synthetics), points out that the Firestone Explorer group is the only one in West Gastonia.

It had its beginning when several boys outgrew Scout Troop 28 of Firestone Wesleyan Methodist Church, where Mr. Liles had been scoutmaster. When the boys requested him to help organize a post, he discussed the proposal with Firestone production manager F. B. Galligan, long identified with the Scouting movement here.

Mr. Galligan thought it an excellent idea and, in turn, obtained official company sponsorship of the post.

Fourteen boys from Troop 28 became charter members and soon there were others from neighboring troops.

John Fender, the post's associate advisor, explains that the Explorer movement is a recent

development in Scouting, with a program which encompasses what used to be the Senior Scouts. It accommodates boys 14 years and through high school, and does not require members to have had previous Scouting experience.

"In Exploring, young men organize themselves into companionable groups called 'posts' for planning and participating in meaningful activities that contribute to strong and dedicated citizenship," says Mr. Fender.

Every member is an active participant. Like all others, the Firestone post elects its own officers, and through a functional committee setup, carries on its own projects.

Behind the group is a post committee appointed by Firestone, which helps to guide the work. Key men are Mr. Liles as advisor, and Mr. Fender, associate.

**POST 328** drew up its own Constitution to implement the Explorer Code. The group meets at least once a week at the Firestone playground. The company has plans to enlarge the present recreation building at the playground for a permanent meeting place.

Program areas of Exploring lead to "balanced experience" through post activities, super-activities, specialties, vocational endeavors, social experiences, service and citizenship projects.

Post activities of the Firestone group thus far have included a last-summer outing to the Qualla Reservation of Cherokee Indians, for studying Indian lore and reptiles. A winter encampment of three or four days on the South Fork River is planned for early 1962.

Outstanding of post specialties here are the Indian tepee completed recently, and a vocational project with a 1948-model Chevrolet, as a "lab" for the study of auto mechanics. To buy the auto, members earned money through a car-washing project.



**AUTO MECHANICS** — With motor "lab" (above and from left): Johnnie Stockton, Richard Liles, associate post advisor John Fender, Gary Grant and Jerry Buchanan. Mr. Fender is a doffer in Twisting (synthetics).

**NATURE STUDY** — Looking at reptile specimen and minerals collection (from left): Randy Lewis, Jerry Webb, Ray Hawkins and Johnnie Nichols.

**INDIAN TEPEE** with authentic markings. Checking explorer section of Scouting book (from left): Post advisor Jesse Liles, James Givens, Jackie Morris, Ricky Brendle and Billy Warren. Post members not in pictures: Reggie Cunningham, John Flower, Wayne Gaddis, Johnnie Lowery, Mike Rogers, Gray Rowland, David Sanders, Bobby Williams and Raymond Whitfield.

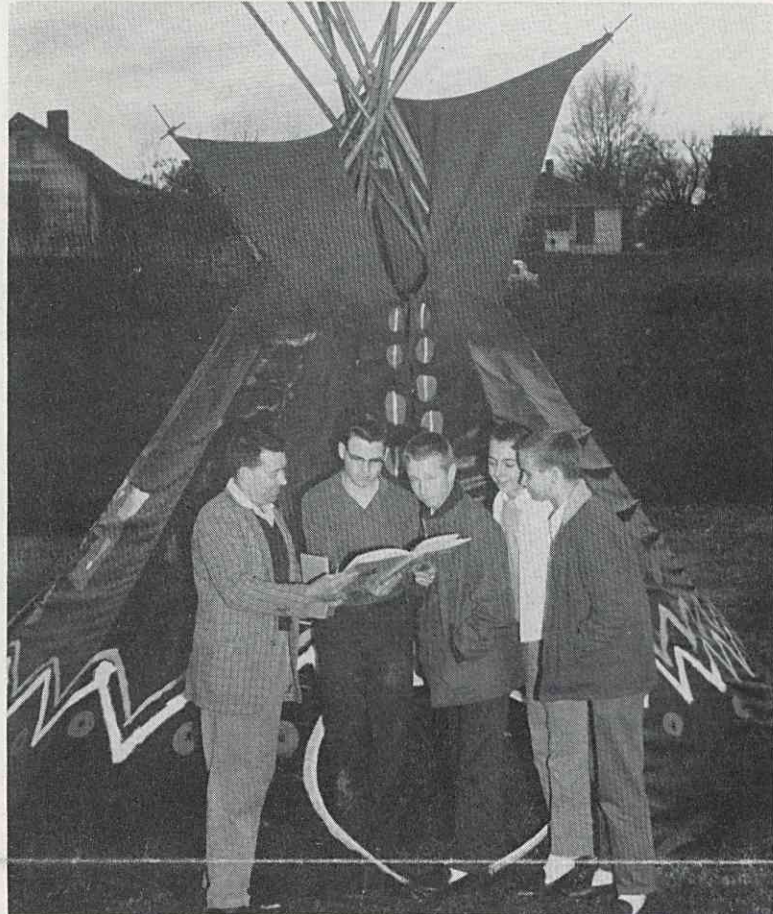


Another specialty is an extensive collection of rocks and minerals.

A major specialty in prospect is a life-rescue project, complete with a trailer fitted with emergency equipment. Plans call for the trailer to be parked at the Firestone playground — ready for any emergency mission.

**Money collected from a post fish fry in the playground in late January will go for this rescue undertaking.**

Of service projects, the post sponsors a skating party for itself and all youngsters in the West Gastonia area every other



Saturday throughout the year. It rents Skateland on Highway 321 and invites the youngsters along for wholesome fun and recreation. The word is passed around through schools, churches, and by telephone.

**AS SPONSOR**, the Firestone company promotes the post program in various ways besides providing a permanent home for meetings. It helps with transportation, supplies leadership direction, and offers encouragement in special ways, such as helping members to meaningful

pursuits through the YMCA.

Right now, several young men of the post are enjoying six-month memberships in the Y as a gift from some Firestone employees who made the donations during the last "Join-the-Y" campaign. At a recent meeting, post members brought a resolution, which their advisor passes on here:

"On behalf of Explorer Post 328, we express appreciation to the Firestone people who made possible our several gift memberships at the Y."

## Mr. Karl Retires

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### Honored By Textile School

In 1954 Mr. Karl received the first honorary degree of Master of Science ever given by The New Bedford Institute of Technology.

He delivered the commencement address to the graduating class of North Carolina Vocational Textile School at Belmont in 1956.

The retired president was a member of the New York Cotton Exchange from 1940 to 1960. He served a three-year term beginning in 1954 on the Board of Trustees of The Textile Research Institute, a non-profit organization with headquarters at Princeton, N. J.

The Institute is composed of people in textile mills, suppliers, and research groups for the purpose of conducting long-range study for the benefit of the textile industry.

Mr. Karl was a member of the National Council for the Young Men's Christian Association. He also is on the board of Trustees and a past president (1952) of the Akron YMCA.

He belongs to a number of other organizations, among which is an honorary life membership at Craigowan Country Club of Woodstock, Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Karl have one daughter, Mrs. Carl Weber of Akron, and two grandsons.

### Textiles

## Division Has New President

Richard M. Sawyer became president of Firestone Textiles Company, a division of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Jan. 1. Mr. Sawyer, 56, had been assistant

manager of the division for four years. He succeeds W. A. Karl, who retired at the end of 1961.

The textile division includes 2500 employees in the home office at Akron, Ohio and plants in Gastonia, Bennettsville, S. C.; Woodstock, Ontario, Canada; Sao Paulo, Brazil; and Buenos Aires, Argentina. The plants produce cotton, rayon and nylon fabric for use in Firestone tire manufacturing and for sale to outside consumers.

A member of Firestone's 1929 college class, Mr. Sawyer was assigned to the company's textile mill in New Bedford, Mass.



**R. M. Sawyer, president of Firestone Textiles Company, a division of the parent company.**



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In 1935 he was named comptroller of the Gastonia plant and remained here until 1943, when he transferred to a textile operation in Fort Worth, Texas, which Firestone then owned.

From 1945 to 1957 he served as plant manager of the textile facility at Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Mr. Sawyer, born in Salem, Mass., was graduated from Lowell Textile Institute with the degree bachelor of textile engineering. He earned his master's degree in textile research from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles says you can never be sure of what will happen when you're driving a motor vehicle. Traffic conditions can — and do — change quickly. So, never let familiarity lull you into a false sense of confidence. You can travel the same road every day for years without incident. Then suddenly, an emergency which could lead to an accident, an injury or a fatality.

## Company To Askim

Firestone has a technical-assistance agreement with Aktieselskabet Askim Gummivarefabrik in Askim, Norway, for manufacture of tires and other rubber products.

The Norwegian company will continue to build tires under the Viking name and will assume manufacturing Firestone tires. Firestone has had its own outlets in Norway for the distribution of tires and other products which will now be made for them by Askim.

The American company will send technical and production coordinators to Norway so that Firestone production methods will be followed.

The Norway company is one of the most important works in the country. It employs 1,700 workers in the main plant at Askim, near Oslo. It is the only producer of tires in Norway and employs around 3,000 people in all of its three plants.

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