

# Col. John Nixon Read The Stirring Words

For many Americans in 'these times', a Fourth of July means the first holiday of summer, the beginning of a vacation, a picnic, sports event, or maybe a street parade.

For most, the birthday anniversary of our National Independence still holds a patriotic flavor, and across the country there are yet a few Old-Fashioned "Fourth's" such as the gala celebration at Faith, N. C.

**But did you ever wonder what it was like in 1776, the first time our country celebrated Independence Day?**

People danced and paraded in the streets, blew bugles, rang bells, fired cannon. There were feasts and banquets and many a toast raised in the name of the newly-gained freedom.

From the balcony of Old State House in Boston the Declaration was read to cheering crowds. There was noisy rejoicing — along with not a few wild pranks.

Many people did not learn of the Declaration-signing for quite some time, because news traveled slowly in those days. Copies of the Declaration of Independence were ordered made and distributed July 5 to governors of several colonies and to commanders of the army.

**THE FIRST** public reading was on July 8, 1776. The bell in Philadelphia's Old State House, where the Continental Congress was in session, rang out to at-

tract the people. Never was there a more eager audience.

Col. John Nixon read the stirring words. Subsequently, the document was read in courts and council halls, on public squares and village greens, from pulpits and platforms throughout the colonies—turned new states.

Independence was actually decided on July 2, by the casting of one vote from each colony. And did you know that Thomas Jefferson's beautifully-worded Declaration sprang from a resolution made in Congress earlier that year by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia?

On June 7, 1776, Lee had proposed that the united colonies ought to be free and independent states, absolved from allegiance to the British Crown. The proposal was discussed in Congress for two days and then action further delayed, presumably until a full declaration could be drawn up, but actually to give freedom a better opportunity to win.

**NOT ALL** the colonies were ready to vote for independence. By delaying final vote on the resolution, members who favored freedom gained three weeks to sway doubtful or objecting voters.

While a committee headed by Thomas Jefferson drew up the Declaration, congressmen opposing liberty had time to change their minds.

As of July 1, delegates from

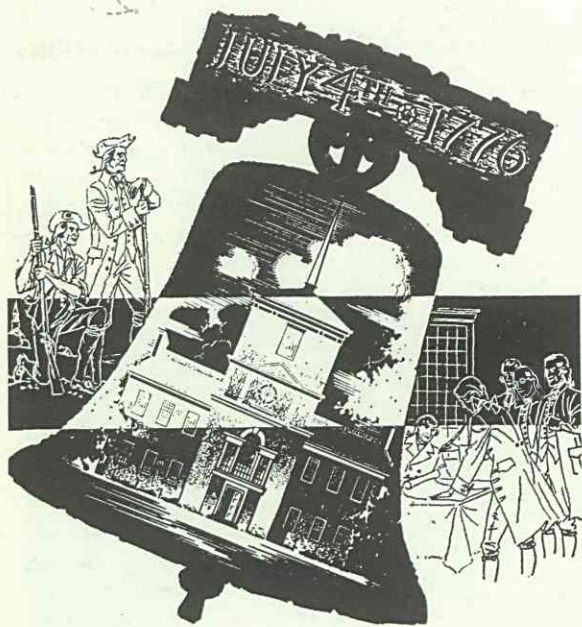
New York were without instruction from their colony on how to vote. The majority of Pennsylvania's delegates opposed independence. Delaware was equally divided on the issue and a third congressman known to favor independence was at home, 80 miles away in Delaware. That delegate rode horseback all night, to make it into Philadelphia so he could vote for liberty.

Other states delegates lined up in favor of independence, and others who were opposed stayed away from the July 2 session. So, by that date, the "Independence Party" was in control.

Lee's resolution passed unanimously among those present, except New York abstaining from casting a vote either way.

**THE DECLARATION** was adopted two days later, but no one signed it that day. Actual signatures weren't begun until August 2, and names were still being added as late as 1781. Many men authorized to sign the treasured "birth certificate of freedom" weren't even in office when the Declaration was adopted.

John Hancock, President of the Congress, put his bold signature to the document, knowing that on his head was a reward of 500 pounds sterling. His fellow patriots performed equal acts of heroism by defiantly adding their signatures to the Declaration.



## A FREEDOM-HERITAGE FEATURE FOR JULY

DONALDSON:

### 'Everything The U.S.A. Has'

Vietnam. "A faraway place I was glad to leave, but to which I feel an obligation," said Roger Donaldson upon his discharge from the Marine Corps and return home to Gastonia.

For a while he worked at Firestone in twisting (tire cord), in the same department where

his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Donaldson Sr., have been employed for many years. An older brother, Clarence Jr., is a technical assistant in process refinement and development.

Roger's tour of duty in Vietnam received wide publicity some months ago. Early last year, while on his way to Vietnam, he wrote home a letter in which he expressed some serious thoughts on family and friends, freedom, love of country, and a vision of world peace.

**THE LETTER**, "I Remember—and hope" was published in the Gastonia Gazette and in Firestone News. Portions of the story, and the letter in the plant publication were reprinted in the Disabled American Veterans magazine.

"What did you look forward to most before you got back home?" asked a newspaper reporter of Roger.

"Everything the U.S.A. has," he replied. "I can appreciate what I have here more than ever before."

**Vanishing Scene**—Seasoned countryman at Gastonia variety-store lunch counter, saucerin' n' blowin' and unmistakably relishing his cup of coffee.

**Sign in window of Gastonia's shoe-repair shop: WE BRING BACK DEPARTED SOLES.**

**Overheard: Two whittlers'-bench men discussing the sun-fun season now upon us. Said one: "My hands never did fit the handle of a plow, hoe, rake and lawnmower. But they're cupped just right to hold a fishing pole."**

### HemisFair: Goodwill Show

Cultures of two continents join forces this year to create the first major international exposition ever held in the Southwestern United States.

This show of goodwill between North, Central, and South America also makes HemisFair the first exposition anywhere to have as its theme the history, culture, industry, commerce, art, and economic development of the Americas.

This year, when it's all taking place, is also the 250th anniversary of San Antonio. More than 9,000,000 people are expected to be feted during the HemisFair's 184 days of gaiety and spectacle.

When the AtmosFair of Fun has cleared its 90 acres, the HemisFair complex will be devoted to fostering the twin worlds of education and intercommunications between the family of Americas.

### Future Of Tire Industry

From Page 1

The recent announcement of our revolutionary LXX concept in tires for the 1970s is another example of what a progressive development and research program can do to make driving safer and more enjoyable for the millions of motorists on our highways."

Drastically different in construction and appearance from any present-day tire, the LXX has a radically-different shape with a narrow, large-diameter rim which combine to give it safety advantages never before realized in a pneumatic tire.

"We recently announced our first six-month sales and profits," the president continued. "For the first time in our history we exceeded a billion

dollars in sales in the first six months of a year. Through the extra efforts of all our people we also improved our profits for this period by 20 per cent over the similar period last year.

"We are quite optimistic that this trend can continue for Firestone for the balance of the year and that the close of our fiscal year will set still another record in sales and profits."

JACK ANDERSON



### 25 Years

A father and son, both employed at the Firestone Bennettsville plant, are in a class of distinction when it comes to service records.

Jack Anderson recently received his 25-year service pin and the company appreciation gift of \$100, presented by Ralph King, plant manager.

Jack is the second recipient of the 25-year award at Bennettsville—the first one having been his father, Garl Anderson.



### STE Coming In October

Lists of exhibitors in the 25th Southern Textile Exposition at Greenville, S. C., Oct. 21-25 have been distributed to management of some 1,600 mills in the U.S. and Canada.

Lists and accompanying floor plans are an aid for those attending the exposition to study the machinery, equipment and supplies to be displayed by almost 600 manufacturers and suppliers.

Representative members of management and other functions

"The Earth and Its Seasons" is theme of the planetarium program for the month of July at Gastonia's Schiele Museum of Natural History. The program features a cause-and-effect demonstration of the four seasons of the earth year. There is a simulated trip to the Arctic Circle for comparison of seasonal variations.

at Firestone's Gastonia plant traditionally attend the giant textile show every two years.

Size of the exposition makes it necessary for textile people to plan their tour of Textile Hall, to make best use of time and avoid overlap travel over the 315,000 square feet of exhibits.

Aisles in Textile Hall are designed "avenues" (lengthwise of building) and "streets" (crosswise of the structure), to allow easy orientation in exhibits.

### Textiles Advanced Our Civilization

Development of textiles paved the way for civilization, points out a filmstrip which the American Textile Manufacturers Institute has distributed free in recent months to more than 1,000 schools across the country. The strip, of some 40 color frames of original art, shows how textiles aided many major advances in man's history.

● Primitive man developed crude textiles. This is one frame from the ATMI filmstrip.

### Firestone NEWS

Volume XVII July, 1968 Number 7 Page 2

### GASTONIA

Claude C. Callaway, Editor

Monthly publication of the Gastonia, N. C., plant of Firestone Synthetic Fibers and Textiles Company, a division of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio. Division headquarters, Hopewell, Va. Robert W. Rice, president. John V. Darwin, Gastonia plant manager.

Plant Offices Warehouses

Carding—Payton Lewis  
Industrial Relations—Rita Maye  
Main Office—Bea McCarter  
Mechanical Dept.—Rosie Francum  
Quality Control—Louella Queen, Leila Rape  
Twisting (synthetics)—Elease Cole, Katie Elkins, Catherine Fletcher

REPORTERS

Warp Preparation—Elmina Bradshaw, Nell Bolick  
Warehouse—Harold Robinson, Israel Good, Roosevelt Rainey  
Weaving (cotton)—Ruth Veitch  
Weaving (synthetics)—Ann Cosey, Mayzelle Lewis

BENNETTSVILLE PLANT  
Ruth Covington—Correspondent  
Mary H. Oliver, Ruth V. Sikes, Louise S. Preston—Reporters.