



January

Some Thoughts

On A New Year ● I recall that it was the Roman poet Virgil who said "The best days are the first to flee." And Goethe, the German poet-author, looked at time as a fabric swiftly-woven. "Thus at Time's hurrying Loom," he wrote.

Henri Bergson, the French philosopher, understood time as not so much measurements on clocks and calendars, but in terms of people's experiences and accomplishments. To him, time was a ball of yarn, the line winding onto it as the past grows bigger, and more and more of the present becomes past.

Along a country road in the N. C. mountains the other day, I noticed this on a sign in front of a church: **TIME IS BUT THE FRINGE OF ETERNITY.** Have a good year. ● The Loomchanger

Since 45 B.C.

● The ancient Romans marked March 1 as beginning of the year until 45 B.C., when Julius Caesar declared Jan. 1 as New Year's Day. The month of January is named for the Roman god Janus who has 2 heads—1 to look forward and the other to gaze backward. Other people, long ago and today, had and have different dates for New Year's.

Even though the world doesn't observe the beginning of the calendar year on the same day, most people do look at it as a holiday to signify a new beginning and a fresh way to start anew.

The British used to clean their chimneys on New Year's Day, believing it to bring good luck to their households. The old saying "cleaning the slate" comes from that tradition and is associated with making resolutions for the new year.

Jacqueline Wyatt is into her sophomore year at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green. Attending WKU on a Firestone Scholarship, she is majoring in computer science.

At the end of her first year in school, Jackie was elected vice chairperson of the Association of Computing Machinery.

ACM is a national club for the Worldwide organization with members involved with or associated with computing machinery and equipment.

Jackie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Travis C. Wyatt. He is a unit operator in fabric Treating at Bowling Green Firestone Textiles.

'79 Scholarship program

March 1 is deadline for applications in the Firestone company's College Scholarship program. Due in the Akron scholarship office on that date are completed applications, test scores and all other required material.

Among requirements are the SAT scores. SAT tests were administered Nov. 4 and Dec. 2; and the last one in the 1978-79 program is Jan. 27.

High school seniors who are sons/daughters of employees and retirees are eligible to apply for the scholarships, if they are in the upper half of their class scholastically, and a brother or sister has not been awarded a Firestone scholarship.

Winners are usually announced by early April.

G. F. Grant of Boston invented the golf tee and patented it in 1899. Otto Zachow and William Besserdich of Clintonville, Wis., invented 4-wheel brakes for motorcars in 1908. They were great ideas that changed things and made history.

Your ideas turned in to the Company Suggestion System can work a big difference . . . make things better. Suggestion boxes are near your workplace. Change things for the better and get paid for your ideas, too.

People doing . . .

● For the past 21 years Jack Faile, bobbin changer in TC Twisting, has taken vacation time and devoted it to working with the Salvation Army empty-stocking program in the Christmas season. Jack has worked at Firestone, Gastonia, 34 years. A 'doing' member of the Salvation Army Citadel, he

is director of the SA Christmas Aid program, is a Sunday School teacher and does other volunteer service.

During the Christmas season, he helped ring the bells at a contribution station in one of the shopping centers. He and his wife Mary helped in the food/gifts distribution.

● Ronnie Parks, Shop mechanic, helped raise money

Flying high

● ● Late in 1978 Gastonia Firestone Textiles began flying a new Stars and Stripes and North Carolina Flag atop the plant tower. The retired banners had been in use since 1973.

Robert G. Spencer, plant buyer, produced some cost figures, showing the price of flags is going up just like most everything else. The 1973 cost of the U. S. Flag, size 8' x 15'2", was \$53.70. The new one in late 1978: \$80.85. Five years ago the North Carolina Flag, size 4' x 6', cost \$23.80. The latest one was \$30.94.



SS rate now 6.13%

Social security (FICA) takeout from your paycheck is higher in 1979. The rate is 6.13 percent (was 6.05 last year.) Also, the wage base (maximum amount of earnings on which social security taxes are paid) rose from \$17,700 last year to \$22,900 for this year.

These increases come from legislation in 1977 to insure financial stability of the social security program into the next century.

The increased deductions pay for protection for wage earners and their families, for retirement, disability and survivors benefits, medicare hospital insurance.

Increased deductions also pay for "inflation insurance." The law provides for automatic increases in social security benefits, attempting to keep pace with rises in cost of living.

PEOPLE EARNING less than \$17,700 a year won't notice as much increase in deductions as those earning higher incomes. Example: If your earnings are \$10,000 a year, you pay \$8 more into social security in '79 than you did last year—or about 15 cents more a week. If your pay is \$17,700 this year, you pay \$15 more into social security, or about 29 cents a week.

But on earnings of \$22,900 or more the SS tax in 1979 goes to \$333, or \$6.40 a week. This bigger increase reflects the higher taxable wage base this year.

But workers in higher income brackets can count on higher benefits when they are eligible

for social security. Monthly checks will be higher because amounts are based on amount of earnings on which SS taxes are paid.

Employers also are paying more into social security this year, since they match dollar-for-dollar the SS taxes paid by employees.

The 1977 law also provides for other increases in the tax rate and wage base for upcoming years. This is to keep social security financially "able."

In the Year:	Employers and Employees Pay:	On Earnings Up To:
1980	6.13 percent	25,900
1981	6.65	\$29,700
1982	6.70	*
1983	6.70	*
1984	6.70	*
1985	7.05	*
1986	7.15	*
1987	7.15	*
1988	7.15	*
1989	7.15	*
1990	7.65	*

*Wage base will increase according to average wage-level increases

● This table shows tax rate for 1980-1990 and wage base for 1980 and 1981. Beginning with 1982, earnings base will rise automatically according to increases in average wage levels.

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January, 1979 28052

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