

# HISTORY MAKER

## PLEASANT HUBER HANES JR.

**Born:** Jan. 23, 1915, Winston-Salem

**Died:** Jan. 31, 1974, Winston-Salem

**Known for:** Leading Hanes Corp. as president

and CEO, civic leadership as Forsyth County Commissioner and spearheading fundraising to buy and preserve Pilot Mountain as a state park.

When P. Huber Hanes Jr. stepped to the helm of PH Hanes Knitting Co. in 1954, he began a building an expansion program that eventually employed 9,000 workers in six plants across the region.

Eleven years later, he oversaw the merger of PH Hanes and Hanes Hosiery (owned by cousins) to form Hanes Corporation, creating one of the largest and most influential manufacturers of pantyhose and other hosiery products in the country.

At his death, the N.C. General Assembly remembered his service as a member of and chairman of the Forsyth County Board of County Commissioners “during some of the most dynamic periods of that county’s growth, with his characteristic firmness, honesty and outspoken candor.”

The youngest of P. Huber and Evelyn (Hazen) Hanes Sr.’s two children, Huber had the advantage of a private education at Virginia’s Woodberry Forest School before pursuing degrees in business administration at Duke and Harvard Business School.

He worked in the family business before World War II, during which he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. After the Axis powers were defeated, the U.S. Department of Commerce used his expertise to gather intelligence on the German textile industry.

Huber was active in civic and industry leadership with the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, Wachovia Bank



COURTESY OF FORSYTH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Gordon Hanes (left) and P. Huber Hanes when the announcement was made of the merger of the Hanes Hosiery and Hanes Knitting Companies in 1965.

& Trust, the state Textile Manufacturers’ Association and the American Textile Manufacturers Association.

He understood how vitally important education was to the future of the industry and was an active supporter of the School of Textiles at N.C. State University as well as co-author of an industry text.

An avid outdoorsman, one of his first leadership roles was on the N.C. Recreation Society’s industrial division, organized in 1948 in Winston-Salem. The group recognized the role active

recreation played in a healthy life.

In 1967, he headed the committee to raise money to buy and develop Pilot Mountain into a state park. The General Assembly resolution lauded his efforts “which acquired and turned over to the State of North Carolina at no cost to its citizens, an entire mountain, two river islands and connecting corridors” and noted his devotion “to building things to make life better for people, the City of Winston-Salem, the County of Forsyth and the State of North Carolina.”