

YOU ARE INVITED TO EN-  
GAGE IN OUR RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT'S SUMMERTIME  
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES.

# Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

THE BEST SAFETY DEVICE  
IS A CAREFUL MAN OR  
WOMAN.

VOLUME I

GASTONIA, N. C., MAY 20, 1952

NO. 2



W. A. KARL, President of Firestone Textiles, receives from General Manager Mercer the first copy of the FIRESTONE NEWS. Looking on as Firestone Textiles becomes the sixth plant in the Firestone organization to have a house organ, is Nelson Kessell, general superintendent.

## Firestone Plants Rate Among The Nation's Safest Industries

OUR PLANT shares with the entire Firestone organization the honor of receiving the National Safety Council "Award of Honor" for distinguished service in the field of safety for the year 1951. This is the sixth time in 7 years that Firestone has been cited for this award, the highest and most sought after one offered by the council.

According to council reports, Firestone plants are among the safest in all industry. Firestone is the only rubber company that has received the nation's top award as many as six times and is the only rubber company to qualify this year on a company-wide basis.

The record of the Company's plants in 1951 was the lowest it has ever attained. The frequency was only 2.0 lost time accidents for each million man hours worked, well below the national frequency average for the rubber industry of 7.1 accidents per million man hours of work. The Firestone severity rate, or average number of days lost due to accidents was .29 per thousand man hours worked.

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IN ORDER to qualify for honor awards, either on a company-wide basis or for a single division, industries were required to have records far below a "par" set by the National Safety Council—40 per cent below for frequency and 30 per cent below for severity.

The award is given only to those industrial organizations which have done an outstanding job in improving their safety records. Firestone's 1951 record represents an improvement of .2 in frequency rate and .12 in severity over the previous year.

For safety records achieved in 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1950

Firestone received the National Safety Council's Award of Honor for Distinguished Service to Safety. For 1951 the title of the highest award was shortened to "Award of Honor".

In addition to contributing to the winning of the top company-wide award for 1951 and other years, our plant has received plaudits from the North Carolina Department of Labor in the form of certificates of achievement for excellence in safety—received each year since 1948. To qualify for this award a plant must either reduce its accident frequency by 40 per cent or maintain an average of 75 per cent below the state average for plants doing similar work. Twice in the last six years Firestone Textiles has won third place in the National Safety Council's Textile Division Contest. In 1951 our plant placed fourth in this division and received a certificate of achievement for reducing our accident frequency over the previous year's record.

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OUR PLANT has also copped the top honors in the safety contest sponsored annually by the North Carolina Cotton Manufacturers for the years 1948 and 1949. For the last two years we have placed second in very close contests.

These outstanding records in safety attained by Firestone Textiles have been possible by the excellent cooperation of all employees and supervisors. This cooperation has enabled Safety Director McAbee (and former Safety Director Tom Ipock, now Industrial Relations Director) to point the way to the ultimate goal of complete freedom from accidents.

(Continued on page 2)

## Improved Camp Firestone Now Open; Carl Sparks To Act As Custodian

### BEACH RETIRED SERVED 23 YEARS

CAMP FIRESTONE at Bridgewater, N. C., opened May 1 with a new caretaker, Carl Sparks, who replaces Joe Beach, recently retired after 23 years service to the camp (including several years under previous management).

The camp has long been a favorite summer retreat for FIRESTONE employees and families. Its 9 cabins and bunk houses, open-air mess hall, boathouse, playground and lake make it one of the best equipped company-owned summer camps in our area.

Located 12 miles Northwest of Marion, N. C.—easy driving distance from Gastonia—it offers a choice of fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, nature lore and horse shoe pitching. Lake James, a big attraction with its fish-laden pools and inlets offering an irresistible attraction to fishermen, is but a stone's throw from the cabins.

A number of camp improvements were completed prior to opening the camp for this season. To insure a constant supply of good drinking water, a deep well (150 feet deep), complete with modern pumping system has been installed. A sanitation improvement program has also been completed which brings to the camp all the modern conveniences one finds in the city. New steel entrance gates have been erected and road improvements undertaken to enhance the appearance and usefulness of the camp area. Twelve new life jackets have been provided at the boat landings in several sizes so that all campers may enjoy the water sports in safety. Five row-boats are available at all times.

The bunkhouses, of which there are six, will sleep 12 people each. In addition to the bunkhouses, there are three cabins of which Cabin 1 is for overseers and Cabin 4 for second hands. Cabins 2 and 3 accommodate 10 and 4 people respectively. A centrally located mess hall completely out-fitted with modern kitchen facilities will accommodate 80 campers.

### SUPERVISORS ATTEND SAFETY CONFERENCE

Industrial Relations Director Ipock along with Supervisors Guffey, Lovingood, Rape, Bradshaw, and Nurse Roxie Newton attended the Statewide Safety Conference in Asheville, May 4-6. The three day meeting brought together safety leaders from all major N. C. industries. Speakers included a number of outstanding national experts in the field of industrial safety.



LAKE JAMES, most popular attraction at Camp Firestone, is famous for its fishing opportunities. Campers have six boats at their disposal to explore the numerous inlets and coves—all said to be thickly populated with fish.



BUNKHOUSE row at Camp Firestone. A rustic, yet modernly equipped, kitchen and mess hall is available for use by bunkhouse occupants. Playground swings and seesaws are near-by for the youngsters.

## Loray Baptist Church Newest And Largest In West Gastonia

A DILIGENT and patient group of Baptists saw the fulfillment of a goal—set for them in 1939—when the Loray Baptist Church was dedicated this Easter. It was in July, 1939 that a building fund was announced for the purpose of erecting a new church sanctuary.

The original plan for a new church was executed under the

guidance of the late Dr. J. W. Whitley, former pastor of the Loray Church. W. G. Henson, plant engineer for Firestone Textiles, served under Dr. Whitley and more recently, under Dr. Malone, present pastor, in the key post of Building Committee Chairman.

(Continued on page 2)



THE NEW LORAY BAPTIST CHURCH located at the corner of Firestone and West Franklin Avenues in Gastonia. The \$300,000 structure was dedicated Easter Sunday.