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# Firestone people at the Gastonia plant made pledges amounting to \$31,653.15 in the October United Appeal Campaign.

The contribution is among the largest in the Greater Gastonia UA effort to reach the 1970 goal of \$498,000.

Total pledges of 1,446 through payroll deduction put participation at 90.75 per cent of employment at the time of the campaign.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** averaged \$21.89.

Chairmen for the annual in-plant collection were Alvin V. Riley, manager of industrial relations; and Ralph F. Johnson, manager of employee relations. Assisting them were several dozen volunteer helpers throughout the production facilities, offices and warehouses.

The chairmen announced that this outstanding record of sharing through United Community Services of Gaston County once more entitles Firestone to the UA "Citizenship Award," presented to organizations having 80 per cent or more participation. The plant has received this recognition for the past eight years.

The fund chairmen called this year's campaign "a great gesture of real concern for others."

"THIS IS an outstanding report, again showing your great spirit of cooperation and compassion for the needs of others."

"You can have the satisfaction of knowing that thousands of people will be helped and encouraged, giving many a new start in life."

Said John V. Darwin, plant manager: "We are justly proud of our people who, each year, share their material blessings with so many people whose hope is in the United Appeal and its agencies."

"SINCERE THANKS to all who worked and gave to make our United Appeal effort so successful."

As in many past years, this 1969 contribution at Firestone is a major single portion of the county-wide goal. This is the third year that the UA giving program has been expanded beyond Gastonia, to include several other communities in Gaston County.

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## Retired Frank Austin Visited

Frank Austin, a member of the Gastonia Firestone management staff for 14 years, stopped to renew old acquaintances here recently. The retired manager of Firestone's Woodstock, Canada, plant, with Mrs. Austin visited in the Gastonia area.

They had come from their retirement home at Orange City, Fla.

At the beginning of his Firestone career of almost 30 years,

Mr. Austin worked 3 years at New Bedford, Mass., then transferred to the Gastonia plant supervisory staff. After 14 years here, he became manager of the Woodstock textile plant. He retired after 12 years in that assignment.

Now the Austins are "taking it easy" in Florida where the climate is mild the year-round. They are located south of Lakeland in the heart of the state's citrus region.

# Firestone NEWS

NOVEMBER • 1969

GASTONIA  
NORTH CAROLINA



THOMAS BRITTON DAVIS JOHNS JOHNSON YATES

## New Job Assignments In Supervision

Six men at the Gastonia Firestone plant have new appointments in management and production supervision: D. Ray Thomas, Fred J. Davis, David Britton, Richard Johns, Dennis Johnson and Samuel Yates.

Plant manager John V. Darwin announced the appointments in October.

D. Ray Thomas, employed here for more than 34 years, was made department manager of carding-spinning, replacing

W. S. Guffey who retired in September.

Thomas, as a child, moved from his native Virginia to Rock Hill, S. C., where he attended high school. In Gastonia since 1926, his Firestone employment dates to the summer of 1935.

AFTER a 25-year stay in spinning production, he was transferred to the development department where he worked five years.

A subsequent assignment in

quality control made him plant supervisor of inspectors for nearly three years. Since 1967 he had been scheduling expediter, until promoted to a department manager.

Thomas has a diploma in yarn manufacturing from North Carolina Vocational Textile School.

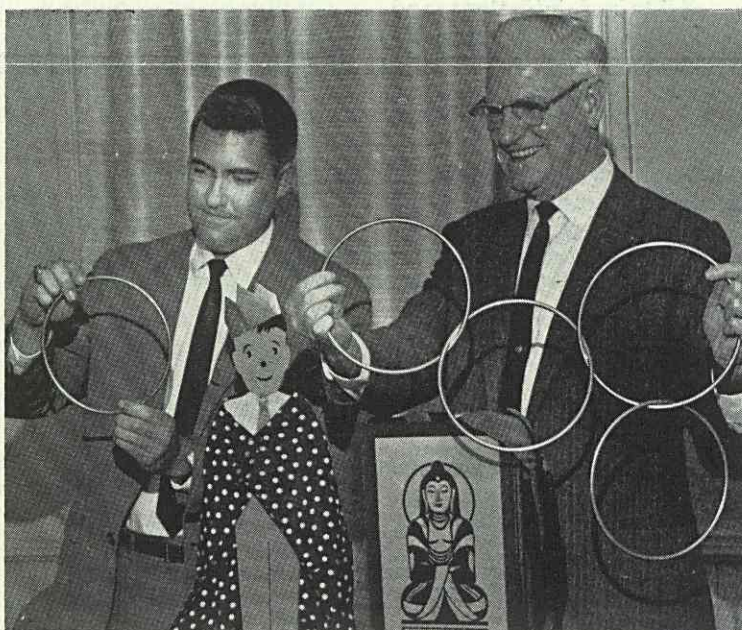
He and Mrs. Thomas have one son who is married and lives in Gastonia.

TAKING OVER duties of production expediter was Fred J. Davis, employed here for the past 18 years. He started working in spinning production, and after several years in that department, was made a shift supervisor of inspectors in quality control. On that job until 1960, he was then assigned as production scheduler.

Davis attended North Carolina Vocational Textile School five years, earning diplomas in yarn manufacturing and weaving & designing.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis and their sons, ages 13 and 15, live in Gastonia.

• Walter Franklin, local Liberty Mutual Insurance representative (left), shared a trick with Chinese linking rings manipulated by K. Thomas Call, safety lecturer. See 'No Magic', page 3



## Bernie Farmer Oxen Wouldn't Go—So They Built Lujan Cathedral

The people said it was indeed a miracle. So, there in the wilderness they erected a religious shrine to weather the ages. Majestic and serene stands Lujan Cathedral, some 40 miles outside metropolitan Buenos Aires, Argentina.

To it, people come from all over the world to marvel and pray and to visit the great edifice and its museum.

THE STORY of Lujan's great Cathedral is recalled by Bernie Farmer, a member of the Projects & Refinement staff at Firestone's Gastonia plant.

Mr. Farmer and his family lived from 1964 to 1968 in South America, where he was assistant manager and later manager of Firestone's Buenos Aires textile facility.

Farmer, translating from a Spanish version of the history of Lujan Cathedral, recently made notes which developed into some interesting highlights

Lima, Peru was the cultural and economic capital of all South America. Farmer said that in that age, many immigrants and their supplies arriving on the Atlantic seaboard of the continent would travel by wagon to Lima.

Within this framework the Lujan story began. More than

300 years ago there was an owner of a large ranch in Northern Argentina who purchased from Europe a marble statue of the Virgin Mary.

The landowner had in mind to place the statue on the altar of his ranch chapel. That was in the year 1630.

At Buenos Aires the sculptured image arrived. Safe in its sturdy box, the artwork was loaded onto an oxcart to join a caravan proceeding to the ranch some 1500 miles away.

The caravan, breaking camp on the fourth morning out of Buenos Aires, was ready to continue the journey.

But there was a strange intervention. The two oxen which were hitched to the cart refused to proceed.

• See Lujan, page 3

