



PLANT MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By: J. Anand

We are coming close to the end of this fiscal year and need to look with optimism at the next year. A question asked by a lot of folks recently has to do with the short weeks. These were a result of reduced production at the tire plants, a two week shutdown at Bloomington and reduced demand from the Venezuela plant. The requirements from all these plants are projected to be back to normal by November so you can look for a full schedule.

In this edition of the newsletter you will also see our Quality Policy. Remember, it will take everyone's commitment to convert this statement into reality.

Our priorities for the new year are not different than what they have been, namely:

- Improve quality (reduce rework)
- Attain daily production
- Safety & housekeeping

Of course none of this can be done without all of us working harder and smarter towards this common goal---AS A TEAM.

SAFETY NEWS

Incidents            2  
 Lost Time            0  
 Incident Rate - Month: 4.8  
 Year to Date: 5.2

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

By: Jeff Heavner

A trip was made to South and Central America to visit the tire plants in Chile, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Mexico. It was a very informative trip, but there is a lot of work to do. Chile and Costa Rica had reported that they were receiving poor quality fabric from Gastonia so we did not know what to expect when we arrived. However, there were not that many complaints with the Gastonia material.

The most important area that needs improvement is in communications between Gastonia and these plants. Gastonia needs to improve the woven headers on the material going to Chile. During the weaving of the header we either miss a pick or we are allowing a thin area to form. Costa Rica had complained about too many splices in its HP122 material. Again, Gastonia is producing to the spec. and if Costa Rica needs something more, then they must revise the spec.

Gastonia continues to receive a large amount of chargeback from Oklahoma City. The reasons for the chargebacks are light edges and splits at the shell.

It finally looks like we are getting some of the projects completed at Reeves which means some business for the West End.

Overall Gastonia had a good September.

JUST REMINISCING

By: Sammy Crawford

February 3, 1950, was my first day to work at our plant. I came to work on the second shift as a refreshment clerk or better known as "the dope boy."

In looking back, my thirty-seven years here have passed very quickly. When you are working with wonderful people time does fly. Having the opportunity to be associated with so many fine employees has been the most rewarding aspect of my employment. No doubt, some of the best people in our country are working or have worked at our plant. If, while working, we achieve job satisfaction and at the same time put bread on the table, there is very little left to be said. I have experienced both--job satisfaction and provided a living for Eva Nell and myself.

Through the years the Gastonia plant has been blessed with good leadership and loyal, dedicated employees; otherwise, we would not have been here for over fifty years. In order to survive these many years, many changes have taken place and will continue in years to come. Probably the most significant change that I have experienced was changing our process from cotton to synthetics.

I am thankful that on February 3, 1950, Firestone Textiles gave me a job and that my health has permitted me to continue to work. If it were possible to recall the past thirty-seven years, I would again step in the direction of Firestone.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank each of you for your friendship and support through the years. Just knowing each of you has been a highlight of my life. Please remember that friendship doesn't stop at the gate--the welfare of you and our plant will always be a concern of mine.

By the way, if you are out on Crowders Creek Road after January, please stop by for a visit.

SEPTEMBER PRODUCTION

Department*	Pounds per Day	
	Required	Actual
Ply Twisting	158,000	151,461
Cable Twisting	158,000	155,038
Sales Yarn	3,000	3,012
Tire Cord Weaving	158,000	155,576
Industrial Weaving	1,000	1,000
Treating	170,000	160,000

Total Pounds Shipped for Month 3,163,311

\*Operating days vary by department.

Seventy-five percent of the strength of a tire comes from textiles.

FIRESTONE FIBERS & TEXTILES DIVISION  
 GASTONIA PLANT  
 QUALITY POLICY

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OUR POLICY IS TO MANUFACTURE PRODUCTS THAT MEET OR EXCEED CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS AT A COMPETITIVE COST. EVEN WHEN CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS ARE MET, ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY WILL BE SOUGHT AS A NEVER ENDING OBJECTIVE.

IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET IS "PEOPLE" AND WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROVIDING THEM WITH THE NECESSARY RESOURCES, SUPPORT AND TRAINING IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A QUALITY PRODUCT AS SPECIFIED BY OUR CUSTOMERS.

THROUGH THE EDUCATION AND COOPERATION OF ALL EMPLOYEES WE WILL DEVELOP A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR MANUFACTURING PROCESSES AND OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL THEM.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY MAKES IT ESSENTIAL THAT EACH PERSON BE COMMITTED TO PRODUCT CONSISTENCY AND MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE.

QUALITY IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY.

*J. Anand*  
 J. ANAND  
 PLANT MANAGER