

# Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

"The happiest men in the world are those who are making their jobs mean more than simply an endless routine of work and wages."

—Harvey S. Firestone.

Names make news and news will be welcome by your FIRESTONE NEWS reporters. Names of departmental reporters listed in masthead on page 2.

VOLUME I

GASTONIA, N. C., MAY 5, 1952

NO. 1

## Progress Marks Firestone's 17 Years In Gastonia

### YOUR PAPER

To the Men and Women of Firestone Textiles:

We are proud to present to you this first issue of your plant newspaper. It will be published twice each month for the purpose of bringing to you interesting news of your fellow employees and of the Firestone Community. Also its columns will inform you of company activities, products and processes, safety achievements, recreation, and other items of general interest and importance.

In order to make the Firestone News as attractive as possible, our editor and staff of reporters solicit your help in supplying them with interesting stories and pictures. Also, your frank suggestions for improvement will be appreciated.

Again, we say this is your paper and your wholehearted cooperation will insure its success in bringing a measure of enjoyment to your fellow employees. The Management pledges its best efforts in this direction.

*Harold Mercer*

General Manager  
Firestone Textiles

See Insert Page of Selected Picture Highlights Covering Important Activities and Events at Firestone Textiles Since 1935.

THE STORY of Firestone's operations in Gastonia is a story of unbroken progress!

Paralleling an era of general improvement and modernization in the textile industry, these 17 years envelop a program of change that in many respects overshadows the typical textile plant progress story.

Thus in this first issue of our plant newspaper, we pause to review the outstanding milestones of this period. A period that has left the certain marks of progress in the plant, the community and in the large family of people, who over the years, have found employment here.

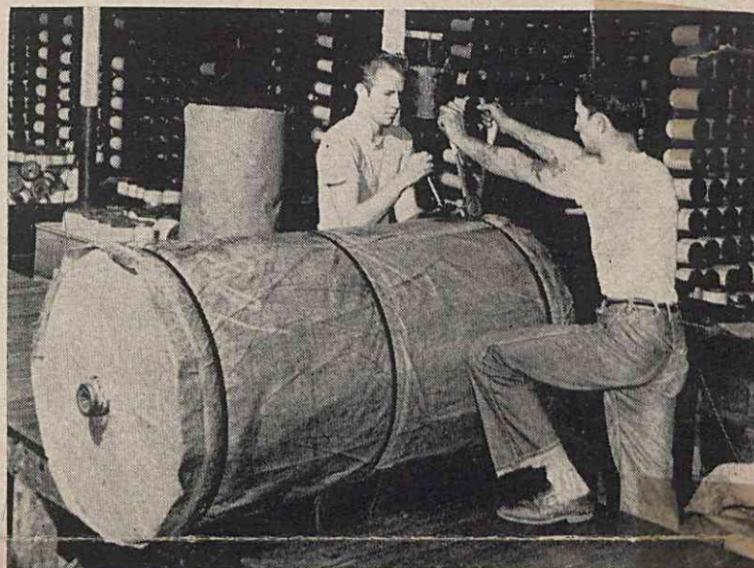
It goes without saying that these things didn't just happen as simply the natural course of events. They were "caused", or perhaps better said, "planned for", by the men and women of the Firestone organization whose vision and skill have made this a better day for all concerned.

Among others, the group pictured on this page shares the credit for providing the leadership during this period. . . the kind of leadership so vital to progress in any organization. These men and women of the administrative and supervisory staffs hold the distinction of having joined Firestone's Gastonia plant during the first year of operation in 1935.

\*\*\*\*\*

NOT ALL the milestones of progress that stand between the years 1935 and 1952 can be dated, inasmuch as some came about gradually. But, to the extent possible, these events will be reviewed

(Continued on page 2)



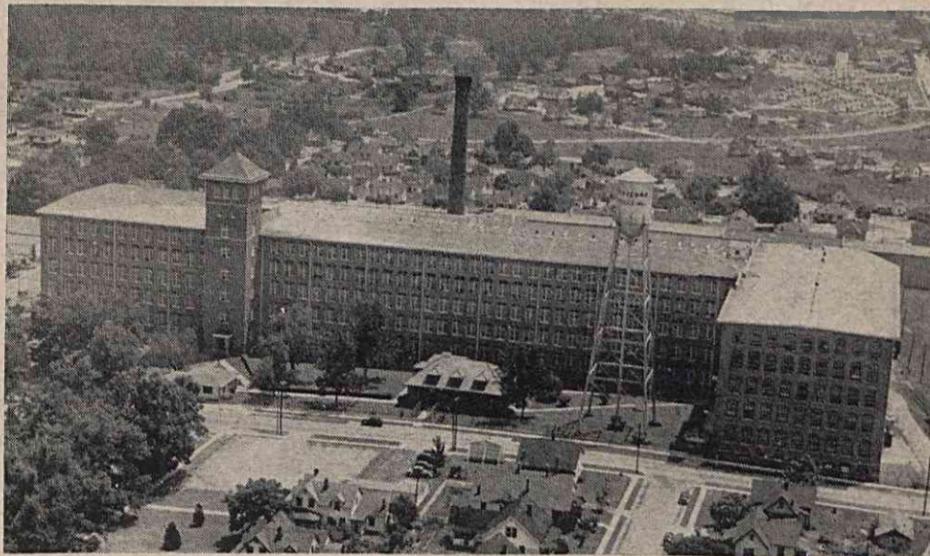
MORE than one half million (an estimated 650,000) rolls of tire fabric like the one above have been produced here since operations began in June 1935. Balers Jesse Crane, left, and Hampton Howell are putting the final banding seal on this roll making it ready for shipment to one of Firestone's domestic or foreign tire plants.



LEADERSHIP that spans the years from 1935 to 1952: Assembled above are members of the administrative and supervisory staffs of Firestone Textiles who were employed (or transferred here) during the year 1935. Reading left to right, front row are: W. G. Henson, plant engineer; Mrs. Clayton Wilson, supervisor payroll and time keeping; Harold Mercer, plant manager; Nelson Kessell, general superintendent; and F. W. Davis, cotton buyer.

Second row (L to R): Ben Davis, men's club; Ray Thomas, second hand spinning; Charlie Ferguson, plant officer; A. O. Ammons, second shift superintendent; and F. T. Morrow, warehouse overseer.

Third row (L to R): R. E. Conrad, weaving overseer; R. L. Tompkins, purchas-



AERIAL VIEW OF FIRESTONE TEXTILES PLANT

ing agent; Coy Bradshaw, carding second hand; R. F. Piercy, spinning second hand; and Hazel Cauthen, assistant plant engineer.

Fourth row (L to R): H. T. Aldridge, overseer twisting; J. E. Spencer, employment interviewer; Paul Walker, supervisor roller shop; and W. B. Ward, spinning second hand.

Fifth row (L to R): Hugh Wright, cable respooling second hand; Sam Guffey, overseer spinning; and Dr. W. B. Parks, plant doctor.

Sixth row (L to R): Grover Hollifield, twisting second hand; Vernon Lovingood, twisting second hand; Jess Parks, spooling second hand; Milton Nichols, spooling second hand; Sam Honeycutt, quality control second hand; and W. H. Dilling, weaving second hand.

Seventh row (L to R): Claude Taylor, twisting second hand; Tracy Whitner, weaving second hand; Raymond Mack, weaving second hand; Robert Spencer, supervisor receiving and stores; and Odis Thompson, twisting second hand.

Eighth row (left): Ralph Johnson, recreation director; and (right) S. L. Owens, carding overseer.