

# Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

NUMEROUS RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES GET UNDERWAY AT FIRESTONE TEXTILES THIS MONTH. IF NOT ALREADY AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT, THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO BECOME ONE IN THE EMPLOYEE RECREATIONAL PROGRAM.

THE DEADLINE IN NORTH CAROLINA FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS OCTOBER 25th! YOU MAY REGISTER ON ANY ONE OF THESE DATES: OCTOBER 11, OCTOBER 18, OR OCTOBER 25. MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU ARE REGISTERED.

VOLUME I

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NO. 8

## New Air Force Tire Meets Air Force High Speed Needs

A REVOLUTIONARY aviation tire that can hit a runway at 250 miles an hour was announced recently by R. C. Firestone, Vice-President in Charge of Research and Development of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, following a series of tests at the Wright Air Development Center, Air Research and Development Command.

This is the first tire of its size ever to meet the high-speed phase of requirements recently established by the Air Force.

By using 170-mile-an-hour race-tire construction principles that have been proved at the Indianapolis 500-mile race, Firestone has succeeded in solving the once impossible problem of making a tire that will successfully land at twice the speed now common to military planes, according to Mr. Firestone.

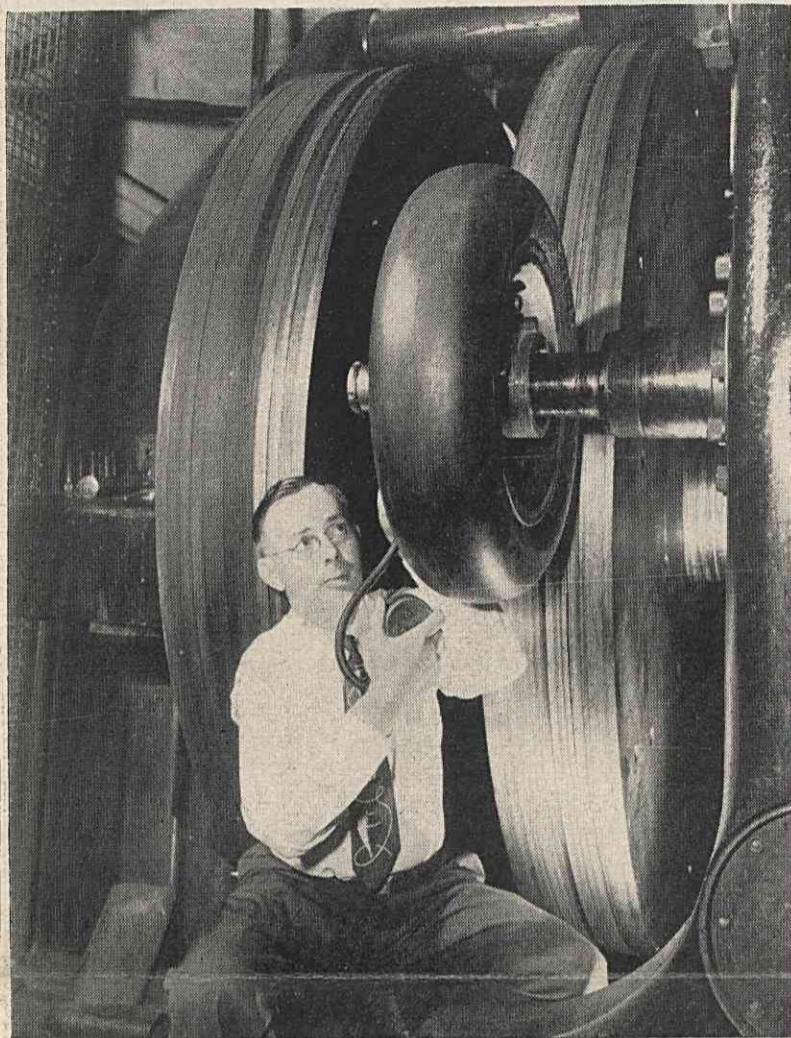
THE TIRE was developed with high-strength nylon, and gum-dipped fabric incorporating racing-type construction and compounds. Already one of these tires has survived 50 simulated landings at 250 miles an hour in tests conducted by Air Force engineers.

In the 1952 Memorial Day Race at Indianapolis, Firestone tires established a new record of going 500 miles at an average speed approximating 129 miles an hour. Top speed on the straight-away of the oval track during the record-shattering qualifying runs for the race was close to 170 miles an hour.

The background of Firestone's race-tire development program paid off during World War II when all military aircraft tires were ordered to specifications that provided for use of race-tire construction principles. Since the war, passenger car tires have incorporated many of these principles to keep pace with steadily increasing power and speeds of new automobiles.

## Bingo Games To Be Resumed At Girls' Club, September 11

THE EVER POPULAR Bingo Parties will be held again this fall and winter, starting Thursday, September 11. As customary in the past, the second shift party will be at 10:00 a. m.; the first shift party at 7:00 p. m. Children who attend the parties must accompany and sit with their parents. Bingo parties will be scheduled for the second and fourth Thursdays of each month starting September 11 and continuing until spring. Meeting place as usual will be the Girls' Club.



THIS revolutionary aviation tire has landed on a laboratory "runway" at 250 miles an hour in 50 simulated landings conducted by Air Force engineers at the Wright Air Development Center, Air Research and Development Command. Developed by The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company on race tire principles proved in the Indianapolis 500-mile race, this is the first tire of its size ever to meet the high-speed phase of requirements recently established by the Air Force. R. D. Van Arnam, aviation tire engineer, is pictured above as he prepares a tire for a high-speed landing test in the Akron test laboratories of Firestone.

## Rise In Civilian Demand For Truck Tires Seen By H. S. Firestone, Jr.

A SUBSTANTIAL rise in civilian demand for replacement truck tires is foreseen by Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., Chairman of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, in a statement issued recently. Mr. Firestone's statement follows:

"The long period of slow replacement demand for truck tires is substantially over, and a marked recovery is anticipated in the next several months. For more than a year, the civilian replacement demand for truck tires has been substantially below normal and a recovery of at least 35 per cent from current levels is anticipated.

"Three developments underlie the expected recovery in truck tire demand. Truck operators' inventories of tires have been reduced to normal, dealer inventories are relatively low and activity in a number of industries that are large shippers by truck is again on the upgrade.

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"Following Korea, truck opera-

tors purchased tires far in excess of normal requirements. This protective buying was stimulated by the fear of a tire shortage and the fear that war conditions would reduce the amount of natural rubber in truck tires which would reduce their recapping possibilities.

"Retail demand for passenger tires returned to 'normal' in the first quarter but truck tire demand lagged because the consumer overbuying of truck tires was much more extensive than was the case with passenger tires. For this reason, it has taken a longer time to work off the larger volume of consumer stocks accumulated in the post-Korean buying spree.

"Because of the slowdown in consumer buying of truck tires, dealers have followed a cautious policy on inventories. Present low dealer inventories are an element of strength in the forward picture and will need to be rebuilt as demand picks up.

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## Akron Plants Set New Safety Record In Tire Manufacturing Industry

A new world record in industrial safety—5,300,000 accident-free hours—has been set for the tire manufacturing industry by the Akron plants of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, J. E. Trainer, Vice-President in Charge of Production, announced August 29.

In establishing the new world record, the Firestone Akron plants have surpassed their previous record by 1,500,000 hours set in 1948. The world record just broken was made last year by the Memphis tire plant of Firestone when it completed 4,397,000 hours of accident-free work. The Firestone Des Moines plant held the world record of 3,528,900 hours before Memphis.

This outstanding safety record for the Akron plants started more than two months ago, on June 27.

The safety record of Firestone employees in all plants throughout the world is the best in the industry and has earned for the Company the Distinguished Service to Safety Award of the National Safety Council in six of the last seven years.

During the record-breaking safety period in the Firestone Akron plants, approximately 14,000 men and women were employed.

Mr. Trainer, who recently served as Chairman of the Engineering Committee of the President's Council on Industrial Safety, in announcing the exceptional safety record set by Firestone, said:

"The fact that no one suffered any injury during the past two months makes all of us happy. The men and women of Firestone, through their wholehearted cooperation in our safety program, have made our plants the safest in the industry—safer even than our homes."

## Annual Hobby Show Set For October 6-10

THE ANNUAL FALL Festival and Hobby Show will be held this year from October 6 - 10, at the Firestone Dining Room. There will be eight classifications of hobby entries, which in turn are to be subdivided into 24 divisions. W. G. Henson, plant engineer, will act as chairman for this event. Employees are reminded to start getting their entries ready for exhibition at the show. Complete details on the Hobby Show will appear in the September 20, issue of the Firestone News.

## New Club To Be Set Up For Firestone Couples

THE RECREATION Department has announced a "Once A Month Club"—a new club to cater to Firestone couples, single or married. The club will meet for the first time on Friday, September 12, 7:30 p. m. at the Girls' Club. The club will decide for itself what kind of entertainment and refreshments it wants for its monthly meetings.

## Starts To School



The first day of school each year, like the last, is a day to remember. Second Grader Tommy Turner, 7, shown above, contemplates the school year ahead as he approaches Abernethy School for the opening exercises of the fall term. Tommy's father is Firestone Carpenter Thomas Turner.

## Finishes School



MISS LOUISE ALDRIDGE, daughter of Twisting Overseer Hobart Aldridge, graduated from Mercy Hospital Nurses Training School in Charlotte on August 21. Miss Aldridge is a 1949 graduate of Gastonia High School. She plans to pursue her nursing career in one of the Gastonia Hospitals. The three-year nurses training course was completed by Miss Aldridge with a scholastic average of "B plus", placing her in the top third of her class.

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