

Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

Winning safety awards is getting to be a habit with Firestone—a habit each employee helped develop. (See articles on this page.)

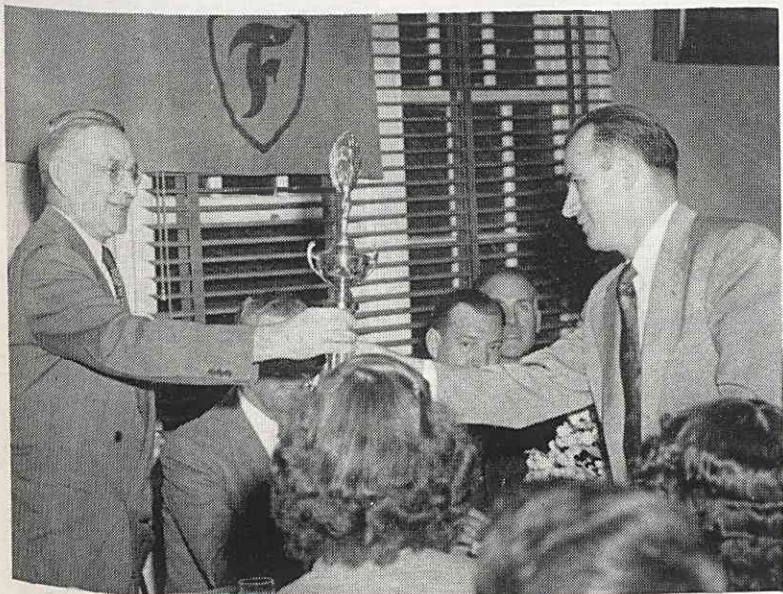
The annual Sports Banquet on April 4 honors the winners in Firestone's recreational program. Strangely enough, however, there are no losers in this program. There's something to gain for everyone who participates in recreation.

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Will They Win Again?



SPINNING OVERSEER SAM GUFFEY, above right, receives the annual recreational Supremacy Award from General Superintendent Nelson Kessell at last year's Sports Banquet. Mr. Guffey claimed the highly-sought-after award last year for the Spinning Department, thereby establishing a 7-consecutive-year winning record for that department. The announcement of the winner for this year is being eagerly awaited by sports minded employees, and the question many are asking is, "Will they (Spinning) do it again?" The answer, will as usual, provide a highlight at the Sports Banquet, April 4. (Partially obscured in the picture above, left to right between Messrs. Kessell and Guffey, Recreation Director Paul Sheek of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Akron; General Manager Harold Mercer; and Comptroller E. J. Mechem.)

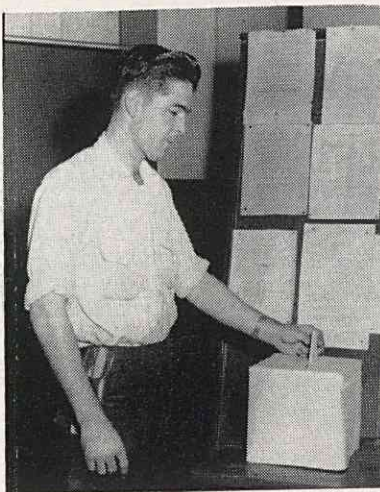
More Than 200 Champions To Be Honored At Sports Banquet

The 17th annual Sports Banquet will be an event of Saturday, April 4, at the Firestone Dining Room. The banquet, which each year honors champions in the many athletic and recreational activities sponsored by Firestone Textiles, will have for its chief speaker Coach Murray Greason of Wake Forest College.

Coach Greason's Demon Deacons recently won the Southern Conference Basketball Tournament in Raleigh, and went on to win third place honors in the NCAA Tournament which followed a week later, likewise in Raleigh. He has been invited to bring several players from his basketball team, and also Assistant Coach Bones McKinney.

The Sports Banquet, which started in 1937 with an attendance of 50 sports champions is expected to fete more than 200 of same this year. Speakers over the past several years include such outstanding collegiate sports figures as Carl Snavely (1951), Swede Nelson (1950), Peahead Walker (1949), and Roy Clogston (1948). Last year's speaker was Paul Sheek, Recreation Director for The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company in Akron.

Included in the guest list for this annual event are leading local sports personalities, members of the local press, and plant management and supervision. Heading the list, however, are the more than 200 employees who will receive one or more awards and honors for



BILLIE DEAN TATE, twister doffer, casts his vote in the Most Popular Athlete election, the winners of which will be honored at the Sports Banquet, April 4. Each participant in Firestone's recreation program was invited to vote for the four men and two women he thought most deserving of the title Most Popular Firestone Textiles Athletes.

their achievements in plant-sponsored athletic and recreational events.

Chief among the awards to be presented at the banquet is the Firestone Supremacy Award, presented each year to the plant department with the best over-all record in competitive sports. This award has been won by the Spin-

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Firestone Plants Awarded National Safety Council Award Of Honor For Seventh Time

The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company has been awarded the highest honor in industrial safety for the seventh time in eight years.

The Company has been given the Award of Honor of the National Safety Council, according to word received this week from the Council. The award is again being given on a company-wide basis, which means that all of the Company's plants in the United States and in foreign countries share in the recognition the Company receives for its outstanding safety records. Arrangements are being made by the National Safety Council for a public presentation of the award.

According to the Safety Council, 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 seven times.

State Labor Department Award In Safety Won Again By Plant

IN ADDITION to having a part in the winning of the plant-wide safety award (announced elsewhere in this issue), Firestone Textiles has qualified for the 6th consecutive year for the North Carolina Labor Department Safety Award.

The plant earned the state award on the basis of its record for the year 1952 in the field of accident prevention. Firestone's average accident frequency for the year was 92 percent below the average throughout the state for comparable industries.

According to Safety Director L. B. McAbee, there are three ways a North Carolina Industry can

qualify for the Labor Department's Safety Award. These are, (1) have no accidents for the year, (2) reduce accident frequency 40 percent as compared with the plant's previous record for one year, and (3) have an accident frequency of 75 percentage points below the average for the state in comparable industries.

Also, according to Mr. McAbee, Firestone Textile has placed fourth in the Textile Section Safety Contest conducted on a national level by the National Safety Council.

Mr. McAbee will attend the Gaston County Safety Banquet on April 14, to receive from Forest Shuford, Commissioner of Labor for North Carolina, the Labor Department Award mentioned above. This banquet, sponsored in the interest of industrial safety in the county by the Chamber of Commerce, will honor all other industrial plants in the county that have qualified for safety awards from the state.

The record of the Company's plants in 1952 was the lowest it has ever attained, the accident frequency rate going down to 1.8 from the previous year's all-time record of 2.0. The frequency rate of 1.8 lost-time accidents for each million man-hours worked is well below the latest available national frequency average for the rubber industry of 5.9 accidents per million man-hours worked.

Twenty-eight of the Company's 30 plants throughout the world had frequency rates for 1952 below the national average.

In order to qualify for honor awards, either on a company-wide basis or for a single division, industries are 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 Firestone Company's records were 69 per cent below par for frequency and 39 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 1952 record represents an improvement of .2 or 7 1/2 per cent in frequency over the previous year.

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Tubeless Truck Tire Introduced

A REVOLUTIONARY NEW truck tire which is tubeless and mounted on a one-piece, drop-center rim has been developed by The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, according to Raymond C. Firestone, Vice-President in Charge of Research and Development.

"This development will make changes of truck tires as simple and easy as the mounting and demounting of passenger car tires," according to Mr. Firestone.

"The greatest departure from conventional truck tire design in the new product," Mr. Firestone says, "is the new bead construction." A conventional tire is held on the rim by flanges of substantial height. The new tire is supported on the rim by a tapered fit so that the customary high flanges are no longer necessary. Lowering of the rim flange permits the new tire to be mounted on a one-piece drop-center rim. The forced taper fit permits a lighter construction bead. The combination of lowered flange plus forced-taper fit radically reduces the forces on the rim so that a substantially lighter rim is now possible.

To carry this simplification further, that portion of the tire normally back of the flange has

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Community Fund Aids Scouts



QUALITY CONTROL SECOND HAND ALVIN RILEY is shown above, left, presenting a check for \$694.28 to Boy Scout Executive R. M. Schiele at Piedmont Council Headquarters in Gastonia. Mr. Riley, a Neighborhood Commissioner in local scouting, made the presentation on behalf of plant employees who earmarked the money for the Boy Scouts of America during the recently conducted Community Fund Drive. The \$694.28 did not include the Company's contribution to the Boy Scouts.