

# Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

The time has arrived for "paint-up, fix-up, clean-up" around the house. Remember Gastonia's slogan, "City of Growing Beauty", and do your part to uphold it.

The Company's liberalizations in employee benefits are important to you. In order that you might better understand and appreciate these benefits, portions of a speech delivered here by Firestone's Mr. Murphy are being published in this issue.

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## W. R. Murphy Speaks Here; Explains New Benefits

### Sports Banquet, Easter Events Mark Busy Week

A full program of Easter weekend activities was scheduled by the Recreation Department starting Friday, April 3, with an Easter egg hunt and ending Easter Sunday with a sunrise service on the lawn of the Girls Club.

Between those two activities was the big annual Sports Banquet on Saturday. The Sports Banquet was held in two sections as has been the custom for several years. The first section was at 12 noon for the benefit of second shift employees; the second, at 7 p. m. for first and third shift employees.

Coach Bill Dole of Davidson College was featured speaker at the noon banquet. Mr. Dole came to Davidson after completing one of the most successful high school coaching jobs in recent state-wide history at Fayetteville, N. C. He was introduced by Bob Hood, editor of Firestone News and an alumnus of Davidson.

Coach Murray Greason of Wake Forest College was featured speaker at the evening banquet. Mr. Greason has a long and successful coaching record at the Baptist institution, just recently capped by his Demon Deacons in their winning of the Southern Conference Basketball Championship in Raleigh.

Coach Greason talked to an estimated 200 employee athletes and guests. He was introduced by Wake Forest Alumnus Tom Ipock, Industrial Relations Director for Firestone Textiles.

Recreation Director Ralph Johnson was master of ceremonies at both sections of the Sports Banquet. General Superintendent Nelson Kessell, and Superintendent Francis Galligan assisted in the presentation of trophies to outstanding participants in the Firestone Textiles Recreation Program for the year 1952.

### Sports Tourney Announced

The first in a 1952 series of state-wide industrial sports tourneys will take place in Winston-Salem on April 24. This will be a women's duck pin bowling tournament to be held at the Twentieth Century Bowling Alley. Each team shall consist of five women who will bear their own expense and alley fees. Joby Hawn, recreation director of P. H. Hanes Knitting Company, will act as chairman for this event.



**SPEAKS HERE**—W. R. Murphy, third from right, Industrial Relations Director for The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, made the principle address to a meeting of Gastonia plant supervisors and North America plant managers on March 26, at the Girls' Club. Mr. Murphy spoke on the new liberalizations in employee benefits. Others on the picture, left to right, T. B. Ipock, Industrial Relations Director; Francis Galligan, superintendent; W. A. Karl, President of Firestone Textiles Division; Harold Mercer, General Manager; Nelson Kessell, General Superintendent.

### On Opening Day . . . .

### Employees, Officials Visit Branch Bank



**JAMES SWAYNGHAM**, picketer tender and resident of Firestone Dormitory at 1025 West Franklin Avenue, was the first man to open an account at the new West Branch of the National Bank of Commerce. His comment on the bank's opening day, "It's wonderful to have a bank right next door."

### College Choir To Appear In Local Church April 19

The 27-member choir of the Wesleyan Methodist College of Central, S. C., will sing at the Firestone Wesleyan Methodist Church, Sunday, April 19th at 7:30 p. m.

The choir, under the direction of Prof. E. Stanley Banker, is noted for its fine "a cappella" singing. The public is invited to attend this service.



**CONGRATULATIONS**—General Manager Harold Mercer shakes hands with National Bank's Vice-President J. G. Reading on the Grand Opening of the West Branch of the bank. W. A. Karl, right, President of Firestone Textiles Division was present at the opening to congratulate bank officials including the President of the institution, Kay Dixon (not pictured). Harold Voyles, left, is the manager of the new branch bank.



**AMONG** the first customers at the new bank were Thor Giles, at teller's window, and Ben Davis. Mr. Giles, a spinning doffer and 18-year Firestone employee, said, "This is what the folks at Firestone have needed a long time." His companion, Ben Davis, Men's Club clerk, was even more enthusiastic. Said he, "It's one of the best things we've ever had on this end of town." The teller on the right is Mrs. Ann Barkley.

W. R. MURPHY, Industrial Relations Director for The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, addressed supervisors from the Gastonia plant and general managers from all North American plants of Firestone Textiles Division at the Girls' Club, Thursday, March 26.

Mr. Murphy's address included a detailed description and explanation of the new liberalizations in employee benefits. The text of his speech, in part, follows:

"It is nice to talk to this group of supervision. You know I have spent most of my time at Firestone—since 1907—in Industrial Relations. . . .

"It has been quite a long time since I was in Gastonia—and I can't help but note some of the changes. I don't want to try to cover all these changes but the improved lighting certainly is fine and should help everyone. Then there are the new parking lots. Of course, when I was first here, in 1934 or 1935 before we bought the plant, I am sure the employees did not own enough automobiles to need a parking lot. I also remember the streets in the village—unpaved and with deep ruts. So much for the past, lets get on to the present.

"I would like to talk to you in some detail about the points involved in our new vacation and holiday pay schedules. In addition, I would like to touch upon some other matters which involve all of us as members of the Firestone supervisory or management group.

"My first impression on this visit to Gastonia is one of change, not only in our plant but in the town of Gastonia itself. We all know of the physical changes that have taken place in and around the plant and of the changed conditions under which our employees work today.

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### Sunrise Service Attracts Crowd

A large crowd of community people attended the Easter Sunrise Service on the front lawn of the Girls' Club. Ministers from all Firestone community churches participated. Music was furnished by a church choir under the direction of Clyde Moss.

The program was arranged by the Recreation Department for the benefit of everyone regardless of church affiliation. Ministers appearing on the program were: the Rev. Frank H. Malone, Loray Baptist Church; the Rev. F. B. Denard, Wesleyan Methodist Church; the Rev. R. M. Hardee, West End Methodist Church; and the Rev. W. C. Neel, West Avenue Presbyterian Church.