Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

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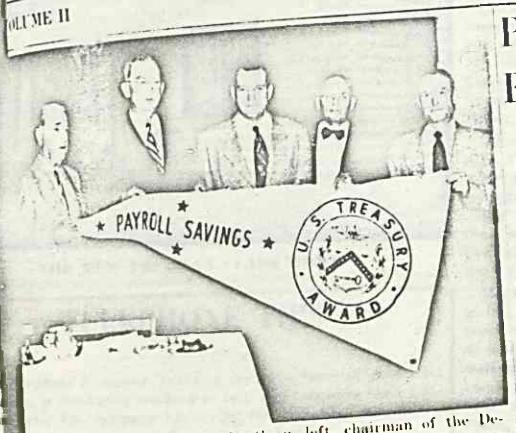
Future ... expenses can be taken care ... the Payroll Savings ... S. Savings Bonds today!

During 1952 an average of 61 per cent of all employees were enrolled in the payroll savings plan. As a result this plant is now entitled to fly the Treasury Award Flag. (See story this page.)



TREASURY AWARD—C. D. Gray, left, chairman of the Defense Bond Program for Gaston County, presented the Treasury Award to Firestone Textiles for having 50 per cent or more employees on an average for the year 1952 participating in the pay roll savings plan method of purchase of United States Defense Bonds. The presentation was made at the Chamber of Commerce Safety Banquet at the Masonic Temple, April 14. In the picture, in addition to Mr. Gray are Forrest Shuford, Commissioner of Labor for North Carolina, General Manager Harold Mercer, B. T. Dickson, Executive Secretary of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce, and Overseer O. K. Forrester, who is plant chairman of the Defense Bond Program.

Plant Wins Sixth Consecutive Safety Award From North Carolina Department Of Labor

FIRESTONE TEXTILES for the sixth consecutive year has received the North Carolina Labor Department's Safety Award. Starting in 1947, the first year the award was given, and continuing through last year the plant has shown an annual safety record which was either 75 per cent below the state average in accident frequency, or was 40 per cent below the preceding years record for the plant. Safety Director L. B. McAbee accepted the sixth award, which is a bar to attach to the Plaque won last year, in ceremonies at the Masonic Temple on April 14.

Only two industrial plants in Gaston County have qualified six times for the Labor Department Award, according to Mr. McAbee. Firestone, of course, is one; the Belmont Throwing Company is the other. Approximately 75 county industrial plants were honored, however, at the award ceremonies April 14, most of them qualifying for the first time.

The presentations of awards were made following a banquet at the Masonic Temple. The Gastonia Chamber of Commerce has developed the banquet into an annual event of importance for the cause of industrial safety. The banquet and presentations serve to publicize the good work in industrial safety being done in the county, and are intended to spark safety efforts to greater heights in plants which as yet have not qualified for the award.

* * *

IN PRESENTING Firestone Textiles with its sixth award, N. C. Labor Department Commissioner Forrest Shuford was high in his praise of the consistently good safety record this plant has maintained over the years since his Department started giving the award. He pointed to this plant, and others with similar records, as ideal examples for industry in general to pattern their safety programs after.

Since 1947 Firestone Textiles' frequency rate for lost time accidents has never exceeded 1.39 lost

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LABOR DEPARTMENT SAFETY AWARD — Commissioner Forrest Shuford, of the North Carolina Department of Labor, presents Firestone textiles with a bar to attach to its safety plaque (won last year) showing that this plant for the sixth time has won the Labor Department's Safety Award. Safety Director L. B. McAbee accepts the award which was won this year as a result of a plant lost time accident frequency which was 75 per cent or more below the state average for comparable industries. General Manager Harold Mercer looks on at right.

Employee Bond Buying In '52 Merits U. S. Treasury Award

...eral Manager Harold Mercer ... Overseer O. K. Forrester accepted the United States Treasury award on behalf of the employees of Firestone Textiles at a special presentation coincidental with the presentation of the awards of ... at the Masonic Temple ... 14.

The award was won on the basis ... plant's 50 per cent employee participation in the purchase of defense bonds through the payroll savings plan. The award was made ... C. D. Gray, Gaston County bond ... man.

According to Mr. Forrester, who ... bond chairman for the plant, 64 ... cent of the plant's employees ... ticipated in the payroll savings plan in 1952. In order to maintain and perhaps better, this excellent average another bond drive is being planned for next month. In the meantime a beautiful white Treasury Flag has been added to Firestone's distinguished collection of awards for outstanding achievement in this and other fields of activity, notably safety.

Mr. Forrester says that any employee may start saving through the payroll savings plan, if not already participating, by asking his overseer to fill out a payroll deduction application specifying the amount he wishes withheld weekly for the purchase of defense bonds. The payroll deduction plan may be started, stopped or changed at the wish of the employee.

Fishing Club Rules

WHEN TO JOIN?—Between now and June 6. (No members after that date.)

HOW TO JOIN?—By signing membership blank at Firestone ... Office or from any member of Fishing Club, (a prize will be given to person signing up most members) and paying membership ...

PRIZES FOR BEST CATCHES!—A prize will be given to each member who catches biggest fish in each of the following nine classifications (between now and October 31). Small ... Large Mouth Bass—Calico Bass—Crappie—Yellow ... Trout—Catfish—Carp—Pike.

GRAND PRIZE in each club will go to member who catches ... bass.

"TOUGH LUCK" STORY—A prize will be given in each club ... "Tough Luck" Story submitted.

HOW TO ENTER THE CONTEST

Contest is open for fishing club members only.

Official blanks from clerk in Men's Club.

Fish are to be caught with hook and line.

Weight of the fish is to be written in ink by the weigh ... operator.

Blanks should be turned in at Men's Club where they ... be judged until the contest ends on October 31, 1953.

Candid Camera

ALTON MEDLIN is a twister tender in the new second floor section of the Twisting Department. He is shown above with a full box of plied rayon yarn just after he had doffed it from a twister frame. Mr. Medlin thinks it is a fine idea to show people at work through the medium of photography. "It lets people know what you do in the plant." He also thinks it is a good way to show that employees are proud of their ... "I'm ... ing with ... like it."

Spinning Wins Supremacy Cup; Holds Top Award For 8th Year

THE Spinning Department has done it again. For more years now than Carding, Twisting, or any of the other plant departments would like to remember, the Spinning Department has claimed the highest sports award at Firestone Textiles The Supremacy Cup. They won it again at the April 4th Sports Banquet to make the eighth consecutive win on their part.

The Carding Department wasn't to be entirely outdone, however, as they won the sportmanship cup for having displayed the best all-round spirit in competitive athletics during the year 1952.

Other outstanding awards presented at the Sports Banquet were: (1) The Ideal Athlete Awards presented to Junior Lancaster, Marty Briggs, Moses Player, Hubert Morris, Mrs. Minnie Kilby, and Mrs. Jane Rice.

(2) The Most Competitive Athlete Awards presented to Miss Sue Van Dyke and Tommy Gibson.

This year's banquet, according to Recreation Director Ralph Johnson topped all former banquets in size ... there being nearly 300 employees ... athletes and invited guests in attendance. The banquet is an annual affair held in honor of outstanding achievement in athletics and recreation in the Company's athletic and recreational program for employees.

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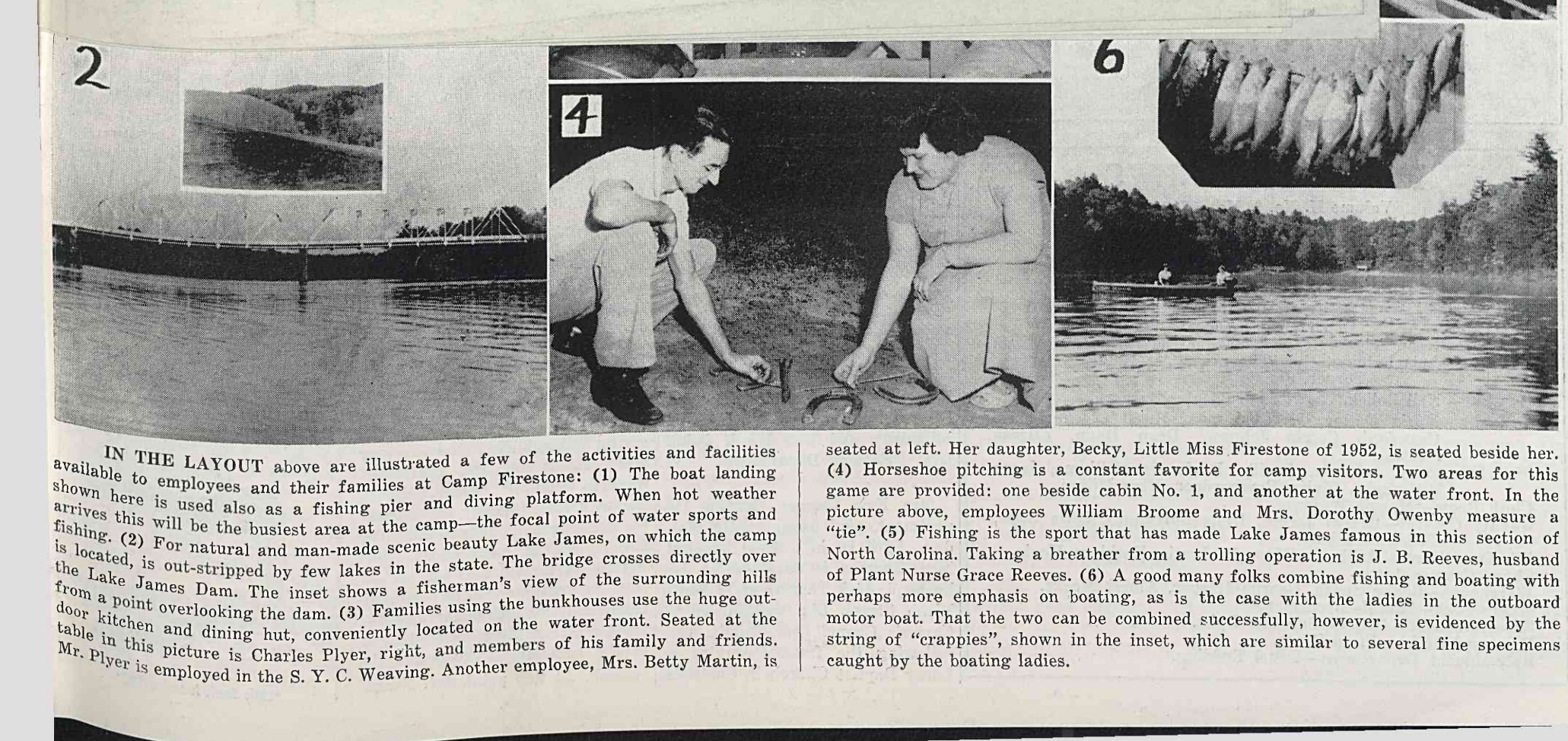
Photo Contest Announced; Entry Deadline May 30th

THE Recreation Department has announced an Employees' Photo Contest for the best three photographs turned in to that department by employees during the month of May. The photograph can be any size, it can have been developed and printed by the employee himself or by a commercial company, but it must have been taken by the employee who enters the photograph. Prizes of $5, $3, and $2 have been offered for first, second, and third place winners respectively. A panel of judges outside of Firestone Textiles will do the judging. The winning photo ... will be printed in a future ... of Firestone News.



IN THE LAYOUT above are illustrated a few of the activities and facilities available to employees and their families at Camp Firestone: (1) The boat landing shown here is used also as a fishing pier and diving platform. When hot weather arrives this will be the busiest area at the camp—the focal point of water sports and fishing. (2) For natural and man-made scenic beauty Lake James, on which the camp is located, is out-stripped by few lakes in the state. The bridge crosses directly over the Lake James Dam. The inset shows a fisherman's view of the surrounding hills from a point overlooking the dam. (3) Families using the bunkhouses use the huge outdoor kitchen and dining hut, conveniently located on the water front. Seated at the table in this picture is Charles Plyer, right, and members of his family and friends. Mr. Plyer is employed in the S. Y. C. Weaving. Another employee, Mrs. Betty Martin, is seated at left. Her daughter, Becky, Little Miss Firestone of 1952, is seated beside her. (4) Horseshoe pitching is a constant favorite for camp visitors. Two areas for this game are provided: one beside cabin No. 1, and another at the water front. In the picture above, employees William Broome and Mrs. Dorothy Owenby measure a "tie". (5) Fishing is the sport that has made Lake James famous in this section of North Carolina. Taking a breather from a trolling operation is J. B. Reeves, husband of Plant Nurse Grace Reeves. (6) A good many folks combine fishing and boating with perhaps more emphasis on boating, as is the case with the ladies in the outboard motor boat. That the two can be combined successfully, however, is evidenced by the string of "crappies", shown in the inset, which are similar to several fine specimens caught by the boating ladies.