

Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

Your Group Insurance and Pension Plans are now better than ever. You will want to read carefully—and perhaps clip—the article on this page which describes the improved benefits.

The Safety Department announces in this issue a big, new Safety Slogan Contest. See next issue for complete contest rules.

VOLUME II

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NO. 18

Company Increases Pension And Insurance Benefits



AT SUPERVISORS MEETING—W. A. Karl, second from left, President of Firestone Textiles, congratulates J. V. Cairns following Mr. Cairns' talk to plant supervisors at the Girls' Club on September 30. Mr. Cairns, of the Akron Industrial Relations Department, explained the improved benefits being put into effect in the hourly pension and insurance programs. Others in the picture, Industrial Relations Director T. B. Ipock, Jr., at left, and General Manager Harold Mercer, at right.

W. A. KARL, President of Firestone Textiles, announced several important changes in the Company's pension and group insurance programs at the first fall meeting of plant supervisors on Wednesday night, September 30. These changes, which provide increased benefits to all employees, were explained in detail by J. V. Cairns of the Akron Industrial Relations Department. General Manager Harold Mercer presided at the meeting.

Employees In Service Asked To Inform News Of Change In Address

All employees in service are being asked to advise the Firestone News of any changes in military addresses in order that they may continue to receive this newspaper as long as they are in service. Families and friends of such persons may be of assistance in this connection by volunteering change of address information. Service people who never worked at Firestone Textiles may get this paper by having their parents or friends who work at Firestone forward their copies to them. For this purpose extra copies of Firestone News are available for the asking at the Firestone News office.

Sixty-three supervisors and visiting officials from Akron attended the meeting which was held in the Firestone Girls' Club. Among the visitors, in addition to Messrs. Karl and Cairns, were F. B. Schell, N. E. Eisenhart, G. A. Spencer and J. G. Stoneburner, all from the Akron office.

Mr. Cairns, in making the principal address of the evening, stressed the value of daily on-the-job contact between supervisors and employees as an effective means of "two-way communications between management and worker, and an essential link in the chain of good employee relations."

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A RESUME of the changes in the hourly pension and insurance programs follows: Minimum normal pensions for employees retiring with 25 or more years of service will be increased from \$100 to \$125 per month. Minimum normal pensions for employees retiring with 15 or more years of service but less than 25 years of service, will be increased proportionately.

The above amounts include the primary social security benefits, and will become effective October 1, 1953. The enlarged monthly pension benefits cannot be paid, however, until required governmental approvals have been received. The increase will also apply to former employees who have been retired with pensions since the original plan became effective, but no adjustment will be made in the pension payments which were made prior to October, 1953.

Firestone Textiles employees will also benefit substantially from the changes which have been made in the group insurance plan. Effective November 1, 1953, insurance coverage for employees only will be provided by the company without cost to the employee.

The present coverage for employees will remain the same except that the hospital room and board benefit of \$10 per day will be provided for a period up to 70 days instead of the previous 31 days. Employees who wish to carry insurance for their dependents will continue to make the same contributions for dependent coverage. The hospital room and board benefit for dependents will also be increased to 70 days at no extra cost to the employee.

How Much Are Your Toes Worth?

Ask a group of men or women how large the payment of money would have to be before they consent to have a heavy weight purposely dropped on their toes—a weight which would make sure of even a temporary fracture or mangling. Would they accept \$116, the average indemnity? \$1,000? \$10,000? \$100,000? At what point would they consider the return worth the pain and probable loss of toes?

There are a few who might be money-minded enough to consider some high price for their toes, but it is doubtful whether much enthusiasm could be worked up for such an offer. Even if one agreed to have his toes crushed for a consideration, if given a little time to think it over, it is quite certain he would back out before the day of execution.

Anyone who is not sold on wearing safety shoes, should think seriously about this.

Studies have proved that the majority of painful, disabling toe injuries need never have happened if the victim had only been wearing safety shoes at the time of the accident.

Harmony Echoes. . . .

Recreation Center Available For Weekly Community Singing

IF YOUR ear detects the distant strains of "Sweet Adeline" on a Monday night, to be followed on Tuesday night by the clear and rhythmic tones of some good gospel song, you're in the vicinity of two of the most unique and interesting activities in the community. These would be the "Barbershoppers" (members of SPEBSQSA) and the "Community Gospel Singers" in that order.

Meeting at 7:30 on Monday nights in the Band Room are the chorus members of the Gastonia Chapter of The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singers in

America. The group, consisting largely of Firestone employees, is under the direction of Clyde Moss, assistant to the superintendent.

In addition to the chorus there are two quartets in the local chapter named, "Cotton Chords" and "Tune Twisters." Plant employees in the two quarters are: Clyde Moss, Jr., and Bob Hood, with the "Cotton Chords"; Clyde Moss, Sr., Deuel Redding, and James Moss, with the "Tune Twisters."

Both chorus and quartets participate in a number of community

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Honors U N Secretary-General



HARVEY S. FIRESTONE, JR., chats with Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at a dinner held in Mr. Hammarskjold's honor, Monday evening, September 14, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. Mr. Firestone was the presiding officer at the affair which was attended by over 1,000 people including delegations from member United Nations countries and top United Nations officials as well as such prominent Americans as John D. Rockefeller, III; Henry Ford, II; Paul G. Hoffman; Thomas J. Watson, Sr.; Thomas J. Watson, Jr.; Mrs. Wendell Willkie; Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt; Ralph J. Bunche and Under Secretary of Commerce Walter Williams.