

# Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

"No rule can measure the value of good safety habits."

Cramer Little, 3rd place winner, 1953 Safety Slogan Contest

Make reservations now for Camp Firestone which opens May 17.

VOLUME III

GASTONIA, N. C., APRIL 25, 1954

NO. 7

## Spinning, Twisting Departments Tie For Annual All-Sports Supremacy Cup



OVERSEERS Hobert Aldridge and Sam Guffey second and third from left respectively, will share the Supremacy Cup—top athletic award at this plant—for the next 12 months. The presentation of the award by General Superintendent Nelson Kessell, fourth from left, was one of the highlights of the All-Sports Banquet, April 24. Others in the picture, left to right, Ralph Johnson, recreation director; W. A. Karl, President of Firestone Textiles Division; and Joseph Thomas, Secretary and General Counsel of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company.

## Joseph Thomas Lauds Plant Sports Program In Lively Banquet Speech

AFTER seeing the Spinning and Twisting Departments win the Supremacy Cup in a tie—the first time in eight years that Spinning hadn't single-handedly walked off with this honor—Joseph Thomas, Secretary and General Counsel of the Company, spoke to the 18th annual All-Sports Banquet on the subject: "The Social Values of Athletics."

He prefaced his enthusiastically received address with the comment that the Textile Division and this plant in particular took second place to none within the Company in its program of recreation and athletics. W. A. Karl, President of the Textile Division, introduced the speaker in the absence of General Manager Harold Mercer.

A former college baseball player and otherwise all-round athlete, Mr. Thomas, now an ardent baseball fan, views athletics as an important contributor to emotional and character training of the individual. "No other activity in our educational program," said he, "gives opportunity for such direct and powerful training of the characteristics that make for good citizenship."

Team play and spirit are excellent mediums for instilling democratic ideals in the minds of youth and serve as great developers of leaders, the speaker pointed out.

\* \* \*

PRIOR to Mr. Thomas' address, 225 employees of Firestone Textiles received trophies ranging from the Ideal Athlete Sweaters through the gamut of team and individual trophies for outstanding performance during the year 1953.

Winners of the Ideal Athlete Awards were: James Mauney, Lewis

Clark, Bill Tate, Laura Medlin, Miss Joanne Westbrooks, and Mrs. Nora Crouch. The President of Firestone Textiles Division, W. A. Karl, made these presentations, which included a monogram sweater in the Company's colors to each winner.

The Johnson Awards, given annually by Recreation Director Ralph Johnson to the two most competitive athletes at this plant,

(Continued on Page 2)

## Governor Appoints Ralph Johnson To Festival Committee

GOVERNOR William B. Umstead has appointed Recreation Director Ralph Johnson a member of the National Sports Festival Committee.

Mr. Johnson is one of several recreational and sports leaders of the state appointed to this committee. Their job is to co-ordinate a National Sports Festival Observance in North Carolina this spring.

The Sports Festival, second annual national event of its kind, is designed to stress the values of well-conducted sports and recreational activities and to encourage widespread interest and support in a sound program of recreation and physical education.

## Employees Give To Cancer Society



MRS. LOIS WOOLEY, plant nurse, presents a check for \$1,471.05 to Hugh McArver, treasurer of the local unit of the American Cancer Society. Watching the presentation are Mrs. R. L. Sanborn, executive secretary of the unit, and Superintendent Francis Galligan. The gift, which was contributed by plant employees during the last United Fund drive and earmarked for this purpose, will be used primarily to further cancer treatment and cure through research. In a recent instance, this society assisted in getting medical treatment in New York for an employee of this plant.

## "Voice" To Appear 1st Time In Color

THE first color telecast of the "Voice of Firestone" radio and television program will be carried on 25 NBC television stations across the country on Monday, May 3, at 8:30 p. m., (EDT).

The same program will appear as clearly on regular black and white screens. Dorothy Warenskjold and Robert Rounseville will be featured as guest artists and Howard Barlow will conduct the Firestone Symphony Orchestra.

WBTV, Charlotte, is installing color equipment, but will not have it in operation in time to show the May 3rd "Voice of Firestone" program in color. It will be shown, however, in black and white as usual.

Producer Charles Polacheck has planned a vivid musical program with spectacular sets and costumes for the first telecast in color. The first five numbers on the simulcast have been arranged as an Arabian Nights sequence, which enables set designer Willis Connor and costume designer Edythe Gilfont to work with brilliant Oriental colors and sumptuous fabrics. Dancer Beatrice Kraft, noted for her adroit satiric adaptations of traditional Oriental dances, will be featured in the production.

Part of the commercial on the program will be a showing of the double-page Firestone advertisement on spring merchandise which will appear in the May 3 issue of LIFE Magazine, on newsstands April 30.

## Camp Firestone Opens To Employees May 17

Camp Firestone at Bridgewater, N. C., will open for the summer season on May 17. As has been customary, employees must have reservations, issued by the Industrial Relations Department, for the use of camp cabins or bunkhouses. Reservations are to be accepted anytime after April 29.

Recent improvements at the camp include the combining of Cabin No. 2 with the bunkhouse adjoining in order that the second hands, who are moving from their present smaller cabin, may have more room.

## Miss Therese Galligan Wins Music Contest's Voice Award

Miss Therese Galligan, daughter of Superintendent and Mrs. Francis Galligan, won the voice division in a state music contest sponsored recently in Chapel Hill, N. C., by the National Federation of Music Clubs.

The talented Miss Galligan, who has studied voice under local and Charlotte instructors and sings with the Charlotte Opera Association, was awarded a scholarship for six weeks of study at the Julliard School of Music in New York city.

## Mrs. Harold Mercer Passes In Pennsylvania Hospital

MRS. HAROLD MERCER, wife of the general manager of Firestone Textiles, died Monday, April 26, in the University of Pennsylvania Hospital at Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. Mercer had been in failing health for the past year and had been a patient at hospitals here and in Charlotte prior to being transferred to the Philadelphia hospital.

Funeral services were held Wednesday morning at 10:30 o'clock at Main Street Methodist Church with Dr. Wilson Weldon, her pastor; and Dr. Murchison, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Concord, N. C., officiating. Burial was held in the Oakwood Cemetery in Concord.

Mrs. Mercer, the former Penelope Cannon, was born in Concord on March 27, 1908. She attended elementary school in Concord, Fassifern School at Hendersonville, Salem College, and graduated from Holton-Arms Finishing School in Washington, D. C.

Surviving in addition to her husband and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Cannon of Concord, are her two sons, Borden Rhea and William Cannon Hallows; a stepson,



Mrs. Harold Mercer

John Mercer, and a stepdaughter, Sara Mercer, all of the home; and a brother, J. Archie Cannon, Jr., of Greensboro.