

# Firestone NEWS

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## Kessell Marks 30th Anniversary With Company December 13; Presents 15-Year Pins To 8

Many congratulatory messages came to General Superintendent Nelson Kessell on December 13, when he completed 30 years service with The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, 19 of which have been spent at Firestone Textiles at Gastonia.

Among the statements of good will were those from Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., Chairman of The Firestone Company; William A. Karl, President of Firestone Textiles; Harold Mercer, General Manager here; and representatives of the Firestone plant in Argentina, Spain, and in Brazil.

"On the occasion of this important anniversary I want to extend to you my hearty congratulations and to tell you how much we all appreciate your fine record of loyalty and service," wrote Mr. Firestone.

Mr. Karl wrote: "Having just passed a significant anniversary, I know the completion on December 13 of 30 years with Firestone marks a milestone in your life."

Mr. Mercer presented Kessell with a check for \$100, and a 30-year gold service pin.

Mr. Kessell became associated with Firestone December 13, 1924, when he began work in a plant at

Fall River, Mass., the first textile mill owned by Firestone. He also worked in the textile industry in New Bedford and Newburyport, Mass., prior to coming to Gastonia.

The General Superintendent attended Bradford Durfee Textile School, Fall River, while employed at the textile plant there.

He supervised operation of the Roanoke, Va., unit while it was in operation there. In 1949-1950 he led in the establishment of a Firestone textile plant in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and in 1953 spent four months at the Firestone plant in Bilbao, Spain, observing methods of operation there.

In addition to his executive duties at the plant here, he has participated in community affairs. He has been chairman of the Community Fund drive at Firestone for the past three years.

Mr. and Mrs. Kessell, who live at 210 South Dalton Street, Gastonia, have a daughter, Mrs. Atkins D. Michael, 408 West 7th Avenue; two sons, Nelson, Jr., superintendent of a textile plant in Winston-Salem, N. C.; and Alfred C. Kessell, employed in the Quality Control Department here.

(See page 4 for picture of 15 year service pin awards.)



Nelson Kessell (left) accepts from General Manager Harold Mercer a \$100 check as expression of Company appreciation for Mr. Kessell's 30 years service to the Firestone organization. He also received a 30-year gold pin.

## Motion Picture Films Available From Firestone Company

Six 16-millimeter motion picture films with sound are available from the Industrial Relations Department of Firestone Textiles, Gastonia, for showing at schools, churches, clubs and neighborhood groups. This service is provided through the visual aids program of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company. The films may be obtained for showing at no cost, other than return postage.

### A DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FILMS

#### Liberia, Africa's Only Republic.

A pictorial color feature illustrating the growth and development of one of the world's largest rubber plantations, and demonstrating the economic and social progress of the Liberian people.

America's Future Progress Depends On Better and Safer Highways. In this film, Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., Chairman of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, tells about "Project: Adequate Roads," a program for modernizing our "horse and buggy" roads and streets.

The Fabulous 500. Exciting scenes, in color, of the 1952 Indianapolis 500-mile race, with all the thrills of this internationally-known contest of men and metal. It is at Indianapolis that Firestone tests its tires in the world's most grueling competition.

Firestone's Hottest 500. The 1953 version of "The Fabulous 500."

Goggles And Gauntlets. An account of the 1953 National Glidden Tour revival for antique automobiles. The film catches the nostalgia of the early 20th century and follows a tour of 330 antique cars from all states as they travel from Cleveland to Columbus, Ohio, and then to Detroit, motor capital of the world.

### Bowl Contest Ends December 30

Thursday, December 30, is the final day for submitting entries in the annual Football Contest, sponsored by the Recreation Department of Firestone Textiles.

All employees are invited to take part in the rivalry, which consists

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### The Miracle of Rubber. In color.

The vital role played by rubber in the American Way of Life. A fast-moving, highly entertaining picture produced in full color by the "March of Time." Traces the discovery of rubber, and highlights its many uses against the dramatic struggle to create the gigantic synthetic rubber industry that played such a vital part in winning World War II. A modern rubber plantation is shown as well as one of the great Firestone factories.

Requests for films may be sent to T. B. Ipock, Jr., Industrial Relations Department, Firestone Textiles, Gastonia, N. C.



The Firestone Textiles plant heralds the mood of Christmas as the lighting system on the Tower becomes a temporary landmark in West Gastonia. This photograph was taken on a rainy night, soon after workmen installed the lights atop the lofty pinnacle.

## Vocational Textile School Will Begin New Classes On January 3

New classes are scheduled to begin Monday, January 3, 1955 at the North Carolina Vocational Textile School in Belmont, Chris E. Folk, principal, has announced. These classes will be started on the morning shift, 8:20 a. m., to 1 p. m., and on the afternoon shift, 3 to 6:30.

The classes, which are designed for both veterans and non-veterans, include courses in Yarn Manufacturing, Weaving and Designing, Mill Maintenance, and Knitting and

Tailoring.

According to the announcement, there is no tuition charge for a non-veteran who is a resident of North Carolina. The non-veteran student must purchase his textbooks, which amounts to \$12 to \$16, depending on the course of study.

The veterans' classes are operated as an expanded program of the school. Veterans may draw subsistence allowance from the Veterans Administration, and are required to pay tuition. The school principal explained that the Vocational School is a non-profit organization, and that tuition is figured to cover the actual cost of operation.

"It has been our experience that the students who were advised by their overseer or superintendent to take training at the school make the best employees in the mill," said Folk.

For those interested in enrolling for the new schedule of classes beginning January 3, the school office is open from 8:20 a. m., to 5:30 p. m., Monday through Friday.

## CHRISTMAS TIME-OUT DECEMBER 23-27

The entire plant, warehouse, and general office will close on Friday, December 24, and Monday, December 27, in observance of Christmas. In making the announcement, General Manager Harold Mercer said that operations will stop at 11 p. m., Thursday, December 23; and will resume at 11 p. m., Monday, December 27.

Employees with three months service will receive pay for Friday, December 24—since Christmas falls on Saturday—provided they work their last full scheduled shift before and their first full scheduled shift after the holiday period designated.