

# Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

DON'T BE A FOOL; OBEY  
THE SAFETY RULES.

—Roy Hutchins, Ply Twisting,  
winner in the 1954 Safety Slogan Contest.

OUR TARGET IS NO  
ACCIDENTS; WHAT'S YOURS?

—Juanita McDonald, SYC Weaving,  
winner in the 1954 Safety Slogan Contest.

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## Fall River Unit Has Added New Equipment

To help meet an expected record demand for foamed rubber products in 1955, Firestone Industrial Products Company completed installation in January of 30 presses which will increase by one-third the capacity for production of Foamex pillows and furniture cushions at the Company's Fall River, Mass., factory.

According to P. P. Crisp, President of the Industrial Products Company, the new production units at Fall River will have a capacity of 275,000 pounds of foamed rubber products each month. The presses and other equipment in this unit represent an investment of more than \$900,000.

The new automatic units supplement other foamed rubber manufacturing equipment at the Fall River plant, which is one of the nation's largest producers of transportation seating, mattresses, pillows, furniture cushions and molded and slab stock for use by furniture manufacturers and do-it-yourself homemakers.

According to Mr. Crisp, demand in 1955 for these products is expected to be the highest in history.

## Plant Here Receives Certificate Of Merit For Outstanding Safety Record

For significant achievement in industrial safety, Firestone Textiles has been awarded the Certificate of Merit of the North Carolina Industrial Commission. Presentation was made at the regular quarterly meeting of the Blue Ridge Safety Council in Shelby, February 10. This is the first time that the Industrial Commission has awarded this particular type of certificate in recognition of industrial safety.

In selecting Firestone for the honor, the Commission noted the overall safety performance of the plant. Through a study of the plant's application to the Commission, an appraisal was arrived at, which included a check of the number of accident-free man hours, quality and performance of the safety program, and the plant's cooperation with the state Industrial Commission in the safety activities it sponsors in industry.

THE NORTH CAROLINA Industrial Commission, which administers the Worker's Compensation Act, has from its beginning stressed a program of safety education and promotion with the industrial establishments in North Carolina. The Blue Ridge Safety Council is one of eight regional organizations existing in the in-

terest of industrial safety and sponsored by the commission. In addition, the Commission sponsors an annual statewide Industrial Safety Conference, five statewide safety contests; teaches industrial safety courses, supplies industrial safety films, and organizes safety committees.

L. B. McAbee, Director of Safety here, was elected Chairman of the Blue Ridge Safety Council at the February 10 meeting in Shelby. Referring to the Certificate of Merit which Firestone has received, Mr. McAbee pointed out that the honor represents safety performance here during the calendar year of 1954—the period in which Firestone Textiles operated more than a million man hours without a lost-time accident.



H. S. BAUCOM (right), Safety Director of North Carolina Industrial Commission, presents L. B. McAbee, Safety Director here, with the Commission's Certificate of Merit recognizing outstanding safety performance at the plant during 1954.

## Employees Featured In Journal Ten, Five-Year Service Records For March

Eight Firestone employees are featured in a Company advertisement in the Journal of College Placement for March, 1955.

The magazine is published for college placement directors who advise and counsel college graduates in choosing their life work, thereby helping them to succeed.

The eight men are featured as representative of the thousands of

college men who are finding success in their jobs at Firestone.

The ad states that in the years ahead the Company will need thousands of other young men whom it can develop for key positions in the fields of production, development, time study, engineering, research, sales and accounting.

Thirty-one names of employees have been added to the list of long-term service record holders here. Nine of them had completed 10 years service; and 22, 5 years, as of March 1. As of that date, 831 employees had received their 10-year service pins; and 1,903 had received 5-year pins.

Following is the list of employees' names who completed five and 10-year records by March 1:

### Ten Years

Carding: Laura F. Wiley; Spooling: Jessie Kelly, Margaret L. Head; Rayon Twisting: George Enlow, Jr.; Allie Bell Jones; Rayon Weaving: James E. Gaultney, Willie W. Styles, Robert Neely, Willie L. Geter.

### Five Years

Carding: Fred E. Deal, Jr.; Spinning: Mary E. Herring, Lawrence R. Brown; Spooling: Ophelia I. Wallace, Ruth V. Neal, Bryant Elders, Jr.; Rayon Twisting: William J. Rhyne, Edgar Bruce, Boyd Gibby, H. F. Bradley, Azaleen Loudermilk, Early Head and Frances Lytton.

Rayon Weaving: Christine M. Davis, Arley H. Hogan; Cotton Weaving: Eula F. Davis, Addie H. Powers, Pauline A. Moore, Blake Deanhardt, Sara E. Davis; Cloth Room: Ruby V. McAllister; Wind-ing: W. S. Huffstetler.

## President Sees Increases In Use Of Synthetic Rubber

Substantial increases in the use of synthetic rubber by foreign countries, as well as by the United States, combined with a higher 1955 rate of production of natural rubber, assures the rubber industry of plentiful supplies of its principal raw material, L. R. Jackson, President of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, stated in early February.

In an analysis of estimated requirements of rubber in the 12 countries where Firestone operates rubber plants, Mr. Jackson called attention to the fact that foreign countries are planning on using 30 per cent more synthetic rubber in 1955 than in 1954. This significant increase in use of synthetic rubber abroad is viewed as just the beginning of a movement toward utilizing the superior qualities of synthetic cold rubber in passenger tire treads.

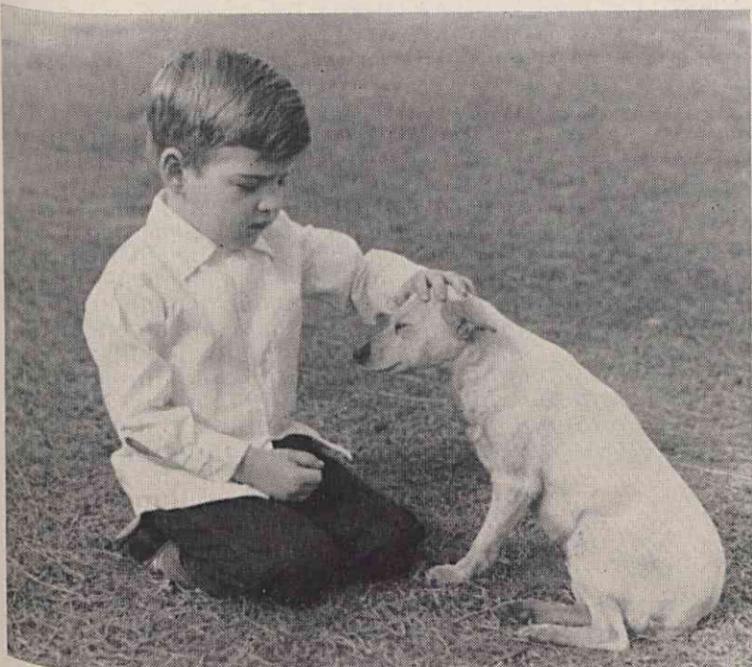
Present indications are that the rubber industry in the United States will use 750,000 tons of synthetic rubber in 1955, which is 115,000 tons more than used in 1954.

THE TREND toward use of greater amounts of synthetic rubber by manufacturers throughout the world is also accelerated due to its ready availability and lower price. It is apparent, Mr. Jackson added, that recent increases in the price of natural rubber have been responsible for the larger synthetic rubber requirements of United Kingdom, South Africa, Switzerland and other countries.

The Firestone President predicts there will be a world surplus of natural rubber over consumption requirements for 1955.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE,  
KEEP WIDE AWAKE.

—Ralph Dalton, Shop



A FELLER AND HIS DOG need to have a man-to-man talk ever now and then. Here Danny Ray Kelly, three and a half years old, discusses a few things with Frisky, on the lawn of their home at 409 South Vance street. Danny's father, Don Kelly, is a loom fixer at Firestone. His maternal grandmother, Mrs. Arley Hogan, is a tie-in-hand, and Floyd Kelly, his grandfather, is a second hand in SYC Weaving.

## L. K. Firestone Honored By BSA

Leonard K. Firestone, President of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company of California, has received the Silver Beaver Award of the Boy Scouts of America, highest honor for service to boyhood given by a Scout Council.

Mr. Firestone, who served as President of the Los Angeles Council during 1953, received the award at the Council's 40th annual dinner meeting at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on January 27. Presenting the award was Dr. L. F. Thompson, member of the Los Angeles Council board.

A volunteer in Los Angeles Scouting since 1944, Mr. Firestone headed the host Council when it carried the heaviest responsibility of any Council during the National Jamboree in the summer of 1953. The Council is one of the largest in the world, with a membership of nearly 50,000.