

Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.

—Henry Van Dyke

God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.

—Daniel Webster

VOLUME IV

GASTONIA, N. C., APRIL 25, 1955

NUMBER 8

Anniversary Program Complete



Plant Tours, Entertainment, Barbecue Among Features Of Celebration, May 3 - 7

The welcome mat is out to the general public and employees to attend the Open House program, May 3-7, which will celebrate the completion of 20 years' progress at the Firestone plant in Gastonia. During the anniversary schedule, more than 14,000 persons are expected to see various operations and displays in the 5-floor plant here. Planned tours, open to schools, civic groups, the general public and employees have been arranged.

Outstanding on the program will be the honoring of 100 employees who will have completed 20 years' service here during the months of April, May and June. At this event the evening of May 5, watches and service pins will be awarded.

Many special visitors are expected to tour the plant during Open House week. Invitations have gone out to Governor Hodges, the state commissioner of labor; other state, county and city officials, and a number of leaders in textile industry. Also expected are Company officials from Akron, Ohio.

THE CELEBRATION will be climaxed May 7 with a barbecue and entertainment lasting five hours in the Company parking lot on Firestone Boulevard, between Franklin and Second avenues. This event is intended for employees and their families. Those attending will be served between 11 a. m., and 4 p. m. Three prizes will be given through ticket drawings at the barbecue. These will be in the form of gift certificates which can be presented for merchandise at the Firestone service store. The merchandise selected will go to the winners at the employee's regular discount rate. The prizes are: First

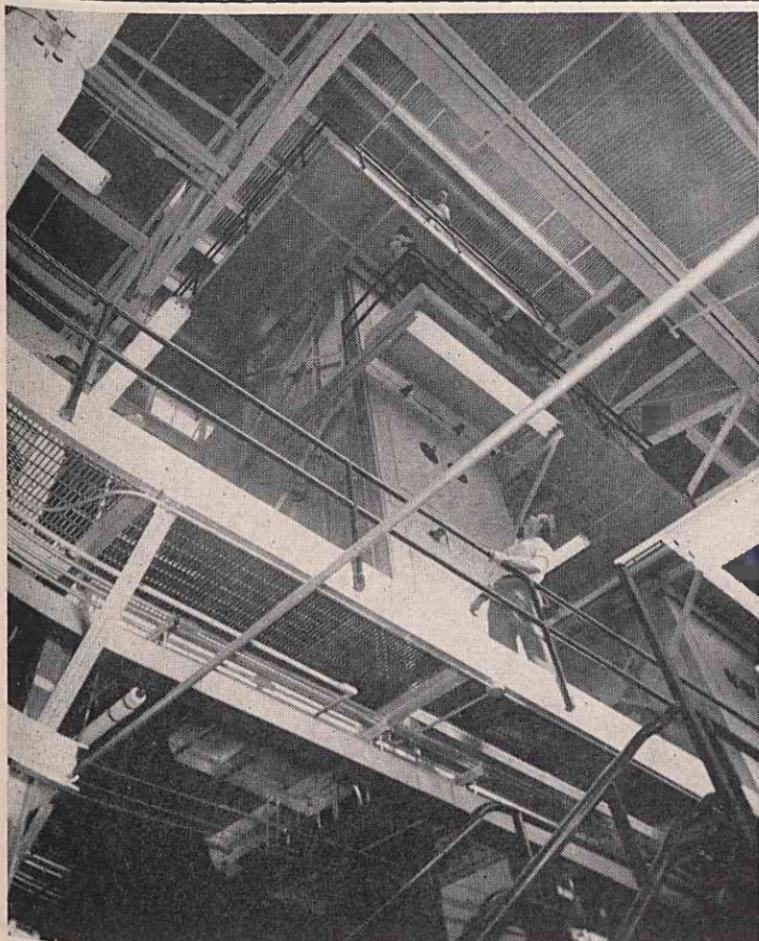
—\$100; Second—\$50; Third—\$25.

A lineup of entertainment has been announced for the barbecue program. It includes the Gastonia High School band, the Rambling Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps of Gaston American Legion Post No. 23; tumbling performers from Valdese; acrobats and tap dancers; "The Greasy Four" quartet composed of employees; and Pan Han-

dle Pete, well-known one-man band from Asheville.

A square dance at 8 p. m., May 7 will feature the Carolina Play Boys band. A total of six prizes from Firestone stores will be awarded to the three best dancing couples. Prizes are: First—Rod and reel (man), Set of dishes (woman);

(Continued on Page 4)



OPEN HOUSE VISITORS WILL SEE THIS—Most recent advancement in tire cord engineering is the development by Firestone of giant electronically-controlled cord-tensioning and gum-dipping equipment that will make tires safer, stronger and longer wearing. A factory in itself, the Gastonia unit contains a chemical mixing section, giant gas-fired, multiple heat-treating towers, and bank after bank of huge, individually powered tension rolls. Specially designed by Firestone, it is the first cord-treating factory of its kind in the world. The unit is so high that, besides the ground level, three other levels of platforms, connected with steps and ship's ladders, are necessary to make different areas accessible to operators. The operators in the picture, top to bottom, are: Harold Hovis, Walter Tate and John Bridges.

Camera Records Egg-Hunt Scenes

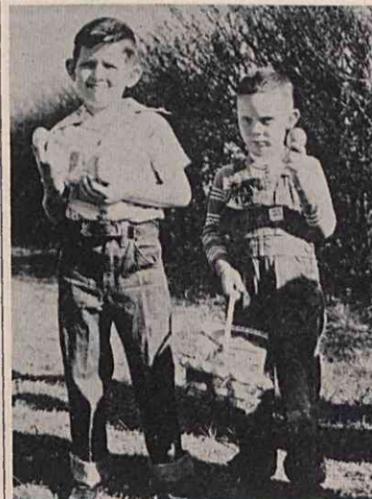
Some 300 youngsters, sons and daughters of Firestone employees, revived once more the age-old custom of searching for gaily colored Easter eggs, in the hidden recesses of the Ball Park, Friday, April 9. The camera recorded these scenes during the late afternoon event which was arranged by the Recreation Department.



"SHALL WE QUIT NOW AND GO HOME?" Cousins Bobby Pence and Jeff Honeycutt appeared satisfied with their success early in the hunt.



"LES' REST." Don Grant figured he'd found enough for one day and took time out to rest a spell, while munching on one of the candy variety.



"HOW'S THIS — SILVER!" Gene Horton and Roger Booth each uncovered silver-colored eggs, most precious find for youngsters in their age class.



"LOOKS LIKE PURE GOLD." Nancy Jacobs was proud of the golden egg, prized treasure of the search.

Here Are Firestone's 'Ideal Athletes' For 1954



THESE EMPLOYEES, representing all three shifts at the plant, were honored as "Ideal Athletes" of 1954 at the 19th All-Sports Banquet here, April 9. They were elected by fellow employees, by secret ballot in late February. Interest, attitude, participation and cooperation were factors considered in selecting the "Ideal Athletes." Top row, from left: Betty Hanna, Payton Lewis, John Owens, Mary Johnson. Bottom row, from left: Eula Dunlevey, Robert Nash, Jean Bell and Belon Hanna. Belon Hanna is the father of Betty Hanna. See Sports Banquet story and more pictures on page 4.