



WHEN HAROLD MERCER, General Manager, pitched out the first ball which opened the 1955 season of Little League baseball, Firestone Textiles began its fifth year of participation in the National Little League program. During its history here the team has won the local league championship for two years, 1953 and 1954. Those making up

the team this season, front row, from left: Bobby Edwards, Ronnie Lovingood, Roddey Edwards, Jerry Westbrook, Jerry Alford, Ralph Huffstetler, Vance Ipock. Back row: Howard Moore, Harvey Totherow, Frankie Johnson, Roger Lunsford, Michael Ballew, Larry York, Dobb Phillips, Sammy Honeycutt and Ray Jones.

SYNTHETIC RUBBER

Company Expands Two Plants

The Firestone Company recently disclosed that it has launched a \$1,200,000 expansion and improvement program at the two synthetic rubber producing plants which it has purchased from the Government.

During formal transfer ceremonies April 22, payment of \$13,136,612 was made to the United States Government for the Lake Charles synthetic rubber plant and inventories. J. E. Trainer, Firestone Executive Vice-President, after taking title to the plant for his company, took Government representatives on a tour of new construction work that will increase the annual capacity of the Lake Charles plant by nearly 13 per cent.

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AT THE AKRON plant, which Firestone officially purchased on April 26 at a cost of \$2,845,205 for the plant and inventories, equipment is being converted to increase output of cold rubber, for which there is a steadily increasing demand.

The Lake Charles synthetic rubber plant was built by Firestone for the Government during the early years of the war. It started producing GR-S in August, 1943, and has been operated by Firestone continuously since that time.

The Akron, Ohio, synthetic rubber producing plant also was built by Firestone and was the first to produce GR-S under the Government's wartime emergency program. Since production of the first batch on April 25, 1942, Firestone has operated this plant continuously.

A THIRD PLANT built by Firestone for the Government at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was purchased by Copolymer Corporation. During the war Firestone also operated one-half of the Port Neches, Texas, synthetic rubber facility for the Government.

In accordance with the terms of the sale agreement, the Firestone Company has signed contracts for delivery of 20 per cent of its present capacity of synthetic rubber to others, especially to small business enterprises.

Principal product of Lake Charles is Butaprene-S type rubber which has been commonly referred to as GR-S. This rubber, manufactured by the cold process, is used primarily in treads of passenger car tires. During 1951-52 the 54 reactors of the Lake Charles plant were equipped with refrigeration equipment to make it the first of its kind to be placed in 100 per cent production of cold rubber.

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WITH THE PURCHASE of the two synthetic rubber plants from the Government, Firestone will have a rated capacity to produce approximately 130,000 tons of synthetic rubber annually. From its extensive rubber plantations in Liberia, West Africa, Firestone also obtains approximately 70,000,000 pounds of high-grade rubber and latex annually.

Present expansion plans for the synthetic rubber plants and estimates of new tree rubber that will be collected during the year indicate that Firestone will produce approximately 170,000 tons of rubber—almost the same amount as the entire rubber industry used in 1921.

News In Brief

(Continued from page 2)

and Mrs. Oliver Taylor. Visiting the Taylors on a recent Sunday were Mrs. Lawrence Burton and children of Kings Mountain, N. C., Mr. and Mrs. Will Absher and children of Bessemer City, N. C., and also Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hovis of Bessemer City, N. C.

Warehouse

Cleveland Dixon is a new employee in the Opening Room on the second shift. He lives in York, S. C.

Bobby A. Purkey is a patient at Gaston Memorial Hospital.

Frazier McNair has returned to his home from Kings Mountain Hospital, where he was a patient for several weeks.

Ellie Hugh Easter, Warehouse employee, and his family are spending their vacation visiting friends and relatives in Clover and York, S. C.

Tracy Moore, Opening Room employee, Mrs. Moore and their sons are visiting relatives in Salisbury and Charlotte, N. C., while on vacation.

Weaving

Mrs. Alene Smith and Mrs. Ethel Robinson, change hands, visited in Rock Hill, S. C., recently.

Mrs. J. R. Ballew, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Bryant, and Carlos Ballew of Liberty, S. C., visited Mrs. Mary

Ellen Posey, battery hand, recently.

Mrs. Jane Rice, smash hand, has returned to work after several weeks of illness.

Mrs. Audrey Mathis, smash hand, has returned to her home after several days in Gaston Memorial Hospital with pneumonia.

Mrs. Mae Jones and family spent a recent week end with Mrs. Jones' mother in Homer, Ga.

Mrs. Sarah Davis, battery hand, spent a recent week end with Mr. and Mrs. George Forrester of Gainesville, Ga.

Mrs. Ella Ruff, change hand, and her daughter, Mrs. Joyce Franklin visited Mrs. Franklin's husband, Pvt. Garvin Franklin in Fort Knox, Ky.

Winding

Yarn Packer Paul Caldwell and Mrs. Caldwell visited the Fields of the Woods in Cherokee County, which is a shrine of the Church of God of Prophecy.

Mrs. Viola Deaton, warper tender, visited her sister, Mrs. M. B. DeMarcus in Kannapolis, N. C., in mid-April.

Miss Bertha Dettmar, warper tender, was out from work due to a minor injury at home.

Bonnie Fletcher, winder tender, has moved into her new home on the Kings Mountain highway.

Carding

Tom Webb, section man, did some deep sea fishing while on a week's vacation recently.

Annie Elliott, drawing tender, is out from work due to illness.

New employees in the Carding Department are Lennis Pennington, sweeper, and Donald Lyles, picker cleaner.

W. N. Laws, intermediate tender, has returned to work after an illness.

Robert Pinkard, can hauler, who was injured recently in an auto accident, has returned to work.

Recent Arrivals



Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Bentley announce the birth of a daughter on Tuesday, May 10, at Garrison General Hospital. Mr. Bentley is an employee in Quality Control.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Dockery announce the birth of a son, Allen Dale, on April 11 at Gaston Memorial Hospital. Mr. Dockery is a yarn man in the Spooling Department.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ballew announce the birth of a daughter on April 14 at Gaston Memorial Hospital. Mr. Ballew is a sweeper in the Spooling Department.

Prizes For Biggest Fish, Tallest Tale

A prize is waiting for each member of the Fishing Club of 1955 who catches the biggest fish in each of nine classifications from now until October 31. And a grand prize will go to the member who lands the biggest bass. The best "tough luck" story submitted during the season will also bring a prize.

The classification in which prizes will be awarded are: Small mouth bass, large mouth bass, calico bass, crappie, yellow perch, bream, trout, catfish, carp and pike.

The angling contest is open to Fishing Club members only. All fish entered are to be caught with hook and line.

Weight of the fish to be entered in the contest is to be written in ink by the weigh station operator.

Contest blanks, filled out, should be turned in at the Men's Club

where they will be put on file until the end of the contest October 31. After that date any fish caught may be entered in next year's contest.

Officers of the fishing club, first and third shifts are, Payton Lewis, president; Woodrow Wooten, vice president; Ralph Johnson, secretary-treasurer. Second shift, Belon Hanna, president; Max Cary, vice president; Ralph Johnson, secretary-treasurer.

PR Program Receives Honor

The public relations program of the Company has earned its fourth national honor since 1950 at the American Public Relations Association's Annual Award meeting in Philadelphia.

Firestone's 1954 program in the field of educational aids was awarded a certificate of achievement. Previously Firestone had been similarly honored by the national group in the manufacturing and labor relations categories.

The 1954 award was received on behalf of Firestone by W. D. Hines, Director of Public Relations.

The citation read, in part: "The Certificate of Achievement in the manufacturing category was voted to The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company for a fine educational program. Thoroughness characterized the operation in every

phase. Much of the misunderstanding of business organizations is attributable to the lack of information about them, the Company believed. First step in the survey was among gladly co-operating teachers to determine the best kind of information to produce. There was then developed educational material for use by teachers in the classroom; supplemental reading matter for teachers and librarians; a 'Farm Youth Program,' and Scholarship Assistance Programs. Within twelve months, teachers have requested 800,000 Rubber booklets for their pupils and 24,000 Teachers' Guides. Two million students viewed nine films at 27,320 showings. More than 1,000 teachers have written praising the material and 687,000 teachers received reprints of a prize-winning essay."

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