

Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

GASTONIA, N. C., MAY, 1956

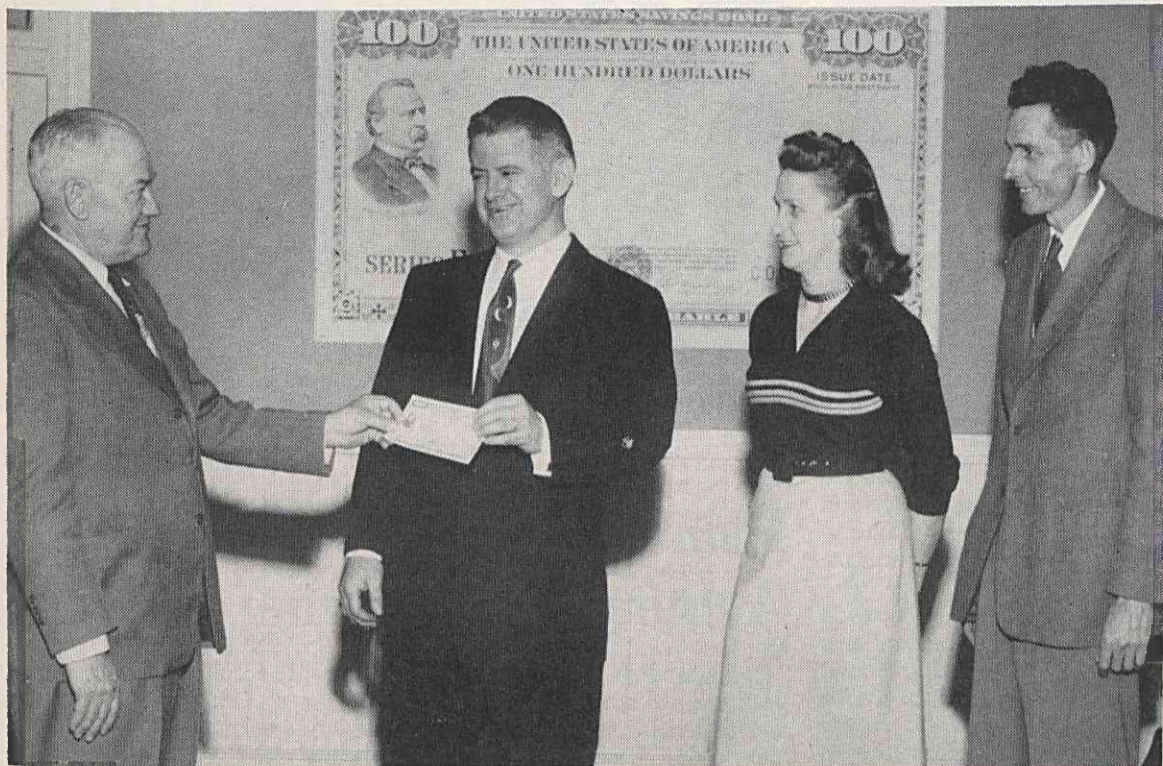
VOLUME V

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We remember better the weakness in which a man started, than the strength to which he has grown.—Baltasar Gracian

A man who lives by himself and for himself is apt to be corrupted by the company he keeps.

—Walter Scott



PRIZE-WINNING CONTESTANTS—Cramer Little, Shop lathe operator, receives from Plant Engineer W. G. Henson, Sr., a Savings Bond for \$100 for his first-place letter in the Savings Bond Contest. Others in the picture, Mrs. Rosie Fran-

cum, Shop clerk; and Earl Clark, Rayon Twisting, each received a \$50 Bond for their second and third-place letters on "Why Firestone Employees Should Purchase U.S. Savings Bonds."

Purchase Of Bonds Now 97.1 Per Cent



Three Win In Contest

The March 26-April 4 drive at the plant brought to 97.1 per cent employees' subscription to the Payroll Savings Plan of purchasing U.S. Savings Bonds. This attainment set an all-time record here. The recent campaign was the second Company-wide bond-selling effort in which the plant has participated.

In 1951 employees subscribed 80 per cent to the Plan and for the accomplishment received the Treasury Award. A plant-wide drive conducted in 1953 boosted participation 22 per cent over the high level attained in 1951.

In the bond-sales effort recently ended, 26 volunteer workers from among the employees helped to contact in person every employee.

THIRTEEN DEPARTMENTS subscribed 100 per cent to the drive. They are: Spooling, Winding, Nylon Treating, Ply Twisting, Ply Respooling, Shop, Warehouse, Laboratory and Quality Control, Cotton Office, Shipping, Personnel, Recreation, Refreshment.

"I wish to express my sincere appreciation to everyone at the plant for the splendid cooperation during the Bond campaign," said O. K. Forrester, overseer in Spooling and Winding and chairman of the drive.

"We did not set a goal to be reached, and the response indicates that our people are convinced of the wisdom of saving a portion of their earnings through the systematic payroll Plan," Mr. Forrester added.

IN THE LETTER-WRITING contest during the drive on "Why Buy Bonds", three winners of prizes were named. They are: Cramer L. Little, Shop, first prize; Mrs. Rosie Francum, Shop clerk, second; and Earl Clark, Rayon Twisting, third. Contest rules allowed that if winners were Bond subscribers the amount of the prize in

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Have Your Car Safety Checked, May 14-19

May 14 through 19 is a good time for employees to take a look at the equipment on the family car. This is the time period set for the free, voluntary motor vehicle safety check program in Gastonia.

The safety check program is being sponsored by the Gastonia City Police Department, in cooperation with the North Carolina Motor Vehicle Department, the Inter-Industry Highway Safety Committee, Look Magazine, and the National Safety Council.

Items included in the inspection are: Brakes, front and rear lights, steering, tires, exhaust, glass, windshield wipers, rear view mirror, and horn.

Five inspection stations have been set up throughout Gastonia. At each station a qualified

mechanic and helper personnel from Gaston Technical institute will carry out the car check.

The following inspection stations have been announced:

West Franklin avenue, 1600 block; East Franklin avenue, 100 block; West Second avenue, 600 block at Todd Field; North Chester street, 300 block; Jackson Road, 1200 and 1300 block.

SEVERAL PRIZES will be awarded on lucky numbers from tickets given the car owners at the time of inspection.

Slogans for the car-check week are: "Check your car—check accidents," and "Today's inspection — tomorrow's protection."

The car examination is for the purpose of looking over the 10 items likely to cause acci-

dents. Cars which pass the 10-point exam will be provided with a windshield sticker. Others whose cars fail to meet the standards may correct the faulty equipment and have the cars inspected again.

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Suggestion On Waste Control Pays \$850

When James Reel, 1219 South Madison street, turned in his first suggestion to the Company Suggestion Awards System, he "never dreamed" it would pay him off at the rate of better than \$53 per word.

His suggestion, which will help reduce waste in the creeling operation for weaving rayon and nylon cord fabrics, was contained in just 16 words.

The payment of \$850 is the highest monetary

award for a single suggestion ever to be given at any textile plant of the Firestone Company.

The suggestion winner is a head creeler on the first shift of Synthetic Weaving. He first came to work at Firestone in 1937. For a time he was a weaver in the plant, but has been on his present assignment approximately 5 years.

His check was awarded at the 20th Annual All-Sports Banquet, April 14. Up to that time the high-paying suggestion was the only one he had ever made.

Company Offers Dormitories For Use As YMCA Facility

The Company has announced that it is willing to donate its two dormitory buildings, center recreation building and land on which they are located to the citizens of Gastonia to provide a Young Men's Christian Association here.

General Manager Harold Mercer in making the announcement of the Company offer, said: "We believe that the people of Gastonia will profit immeasurably by a community YMCA. It will contribute to the mental, physical, and spiritual welfare of both its youth and adults."

The Company property, in front of the plant, includes the two buildings formerly used as dormitories, the center structure connecting them. The land runs 250 feet on Dalton Street and 214 feet on Firestone Boulevard. Firestone's gift offer includes land, buildings and equipment. When the gift announcement

was made public on April 18, it appeared that the next step in providing a YMCA for Gastonia would be the appointment of a citizens' committee and the making of plans for a fund-raising drive.

Named Officers In Woman's Club

Two women from Firestone families are among officers recently named by the welfare department of the Woman's Club. They are Mrs. James M. Cooper, chairman; and Mrs. E. J. Mechem, treasurer.



AN IDEA PAYS OFF—General Manager Harold Mercer presents a check to James Reel, second from left, Synthetics Weaving head creeler, for his suggestion on waste reduction in rayon

and nylon cord. Looking on are, at left, Clyde Moss, Assistant to the General Superintendent; at right, William Gates, Assistant Superintendent, Synthetics Division.