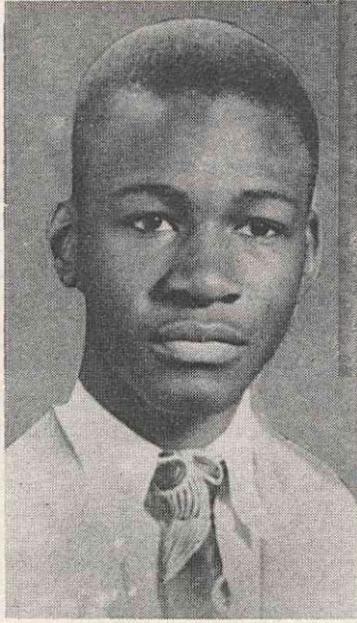


Charles Love



Howard Love, Jr.

Brothers Serve In Air Force

S/Sgt. Charles W. Love, son of Howard Love, plant mail service, recently spent a furlough at home in Gastonia. He is a radar technician stationed with the 340th Bombardment Wing, 340th Armament and Electrical Squadron, Whiteman Air Force Base, Sedalia, Mo.

The technician's more than three years' service has taken him to Iceland, Newfoundland, Bermuda, North Africa and Tripoli.

He is a graduate of Highland High School, Gastonia, and attended A and T College, Greensboro. If, after his current enlistment, he decides to return to civilian life, he will go back to A and T, to finish his training toward a career in electrical engineering.

1/Lt. Howard Love, Jr., who has been stationed for several months at Lowery Air Force Base, Denver, Col., will be transferred sometime in August to a base in Virginia. En route to his new assignment, he and his family plan to stop in Gastonia for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Love.

Lt. Love is a graduate of Highland High School, Gastonia, and N. C. College, Durham division. At the Durham school he majored in chemistry and was a member of the Air ROTC. When he volunteered for service in the Air Force after his graduation, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He and Mrs. Love, a native of Camden, S. C., have a daughter seven months old.

Motorists Urged: 'Slow Down--Live'

The summertime safe-driving campaign in North Carolina, begun by Governor Luther Hodges' proclamation on Memorial Day, will continue through Labor Day, September 3.

According to "Tar Heel Safety Topics," publication of the Governor's Traffic Safety Council, motorists can look for sharper enforcement of the traffic laws, and constant publicity reminders against those with the "in-a-hurry" complex.

The 1956 Slow Down and Live campaign encompasses the summer months, when traffic problems are centered on the open road.

Assigned New Duties

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During that time he has worked as a speeder tender in Carding, and for a time was a section man in that department. He was later promoted to second hand in Carding. For the past three years he has been a supervisor in Quality Control.

The new Safety Director is president of the Fellowship Training Union at Loray Baptist Church.

Riley is a member of Masonic Lodge 369. Active in Boy Scouting, he is serving his second term as neighborhood commissioner in Gastonia area scouting. He is treasurer of the Recreation Council at the plant.

CHARLES A. McARVER is now in the assignment vacated by the transfer of James Ramey to Akron. In Cotton Scheduling here, McArver is in his seventh year with the Company. Before coming here he worked for a local yarn and dye concern and was at one time a twister tender in a Gastonia mill.

In his more than six years here, he has been clerk and checker in Sales Yarn.

A member of Holland Memorial Masonic Lodge and the Ju-

dean White Shrine, he is also active in Boy Scout work. At Olney Presbyterian Church he is president of the John Calvin (young couples') Sunday school class. His new assignment involves scheduling and production of cotton sales yarn.

JAMES L. RAMEY has been transferred from Cotton Scheduling at the Gastonia plant to the Company's home offices in Akron, Textiles Division. Ramey is working under Henry L. Wilder, who was transferred from the plant here several months ago. In textiles scheduling there, Ramey deals with the flow of fabrics to the tire plants of the Company, and to outside sales.

Ramey came to the Gastonia plant in January of 1954. A native of Clayton, Ga., he was graduated from the high school there, and received the B.S. degree in Textiles from Georgia Tech. In Gastonia he was a member of the Eagles Club and the Masonic Order.

CHARLES M. FERGUSON, who for the past 21 years has been Plant Officer, has assumed

Report on Privately-Operated Synthetic Rubber Industry

BY A. D. MILLER

After 12 months of operation of the synthetic rubber industry by private companies, favorable and complimentary reports have been issued by President Eisenhower and by Attorney General Herbert Brownell.

Even with last year's unprecedented demands for rubber, it was found that private ownership has enabled the industry to operate faster and more efficiently.

It was found that competition in the synthetic rubber industry exists under private ownership, that rubber businesses which do not own rubber-producing facilities are receiving their fair share of the synthetic rubber available, at fair prices, and that defense needs are being provided for.

President Eisenhower made his report early in May, in accordance with the provision in the Rubber Producing Facilities Disposal Act of 1953 which required that "at the expiration of one year after the transfer (from Government to private ownership—in April of 1955) period or as soon thereafter as the Congress is in session, the President shall report to Congress concerning the nation's rubber requirements and resources."

IN HIS MESSAGE to the Congress of April 14, 1953, recommending rubber-producing facilities disposal legislation, the President pointed out that such disposal must be consistent with three objectives: First, that the Government should realize their full fair value; second, that disposal should be effected in such a way as to insure to the consuming public, and to large and small rubber fabricators, the benefits of fair competition; and, third, that to insure against the hazards of unforeseeable contingencies, the facilities must be sold on such terms as will guarantee their ready availability for the production of synthetic rubber in time of emergency.

"I am pleased to be able to report to the Congress that all three of the above objectives of the disposal program appear to have been achieved to a highly satisfactory degree," said the President in his report.

"From the all-important security angle, not only have all sales been made with a national security clause which guarantees availability for rubber production in time of emergency, but the plants, in general, are now operating intensively and already have effected marked increases in capacity," he said.

"Government agencies have responsibilities relative to this industry and its consuming public laboratory synthesis to commercial production of synthetic 'natural' rubber," he said. "Pilot plants are already being constructed on private initiative have been alert to note any adverse effects of the substitution of private for Government supply," he continued. "To date only two requests for assistance have been received. Both of these were handled with suppliers to the satisfaction of the customers."

CONCERNING REVIEWS of the nation's rubber requirements and resources he said that, according to the estimates prepared by the Office of Defense Mobilization's Rubber Committee, total United States' requirements for new rubber (natural and synthetic) may by 1960 reach a level of about 1,700,000 long tons annually. Reported planned expansions would bring synthetic capacity to about 1,700,000 tons—equal to total new rubber requirements, for both synthetic and natural, as estimated for 1960.

In regard to the future, the President brought out some of the findings of the National Science Foundation's Special Commission for Rubber Research. He said the Commission had observed that three companies (including Firestone) have reported success in synthesizing material with composition and properties similar to natural rubber.

"It is believed that we can rely upon the private synthetic rubber industry to move from

General Manager of the Company's Synthetic Rubber and Latex Division

laboratory synthesis to commercial production of synthetic 'natural' rubber," he said. "Pilot plants are already being constructed on private initiative. The nature of the problems which may arise when quantity production is contemplated is as yet undefined."

Attorney General Brownell's Justice Department Anti-Trust Division report supplemented the over-all report made earlier by President Eisenhower. It was also issued early in May as the first of 10 required by Congress when the Government retired from the rubber business.

According to the report: "The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, with the largest share of capacity at the time of disposal, ranked first during the survey period in GR-S production with 19.1 per cent and second in sales with 19.9 per cent."

The report showed that Firestone more than fulfilled its commitments and did the best job of supplying small business of all companies with "captive" markets (markets within their own organizations because of rubber products manufacturing plants of their own). This was in line with the Company's policy of selling natural, synthetic and reclaim rubber to small business as liberally as possible, even at an inconvenience to the Company.

One table in the report which gave the distribution of synthetic latex production by companies showed that Firestone was the largest distributor, producing 34.1 per cent of the total synthetic latex production. Another table showed that of all the companies producing synthetic rubber with markets within their own organizations, Firestone sold the largest percentage of GR-S to small business—30.9 per cent of production.

THE REPORT stated that of the producers reporting a shortage of GR-S only Firestone and one other company "avoided the necessity for allocation of production to their customers."

"Firestone was able to satisfy the requirements of its customers only by reducing the volume of GR-S made available to the Company's integrated fabricating plants," the report said.

Charts at the end of the report showed the forward picture of the synthetic rubber industry by listing changes in GR-S plant capacity by company from May to December of 1955 and expansion of capacity to be completed during 1956 and 1957. These charts showed that Firestone, through its expansion program, is maintaining the highest capacity in the industry.

Some of the other high points of Attorney Brownell's report were:

There are 10 "relatively strong" producers of GR-S rubber, most important synthetics so far.

None of the 10 dominates the market, or has "undue" influence.

Synthetic rubber is a "young and growing industry" and a growing market, both in the U. S. and abroad, plus technical advances, provide a climate favorable to expansion.

To determine whether small companies were being "frozen" out of the rubber business, the Justice Department checked 55 representative small business firms, employing from 16 to 2,000 workers.

DESPITE THE SHORTAGE of synthetic in 1955, the survey showed that practically all small fabricators said they received "a fair share of the synthetic available at a fair price." Where trouble was indicated, most of the trouble finding rubber was experienced by firms that bought on the open market. Those with contracts fared well.

Many fabricators said the quality of GR-S improved under private ownership and a significant number said they preferred private industry because they got more technical assistance from the companies than they did from the Government.

duties as Employment Manager, succeeding J. E. Spencer, who retired May 31.

The new Employment Manager was a city policeman before coming to Firestone in 1935. Throughout his years of employment here he has served in various capacities, including safety inspector for the plant, and lead-

ership in Boy Scout work. He was instrumental in establishing the Boy Patrol for traffic safety in Gastonia city schools.

Ferguson is a Major in the Civil Air Patrol, and is Communications Officer for North Carolina Civil Defense. As a widely-known ham radio operator, he has communicated

with every part of the world through his station, W4CJQ.

As Communications Officer of North Carolina Civil Defense, he spent a portion of his recent vacation testing new radio equipment on the North Carolina Coast, in preparation for the communications defense against hurricanes this season.