

Plant Featured In Textile World

Firestone's Gastonia plant was featured in a double-page layout of text and photographs in the March, 1957, issue of Textile World. Under title of "New Processes Improve Tire-Cord Fabrics," the article tells of the transition from cotton to rayon and nylon tire cord fabric-making here.

It describes general production procedures in converting of synthetics into the tire cord material, as it is readied for shipment to Firestone tire plants throughout the world.

"To insure safety in tires, quality is the first consideration at Firestone," the author writes. He explains that this safety is insured with the well-organized Quality Control Department, which tests materials in the laboratory and inspects them as they are turned out on the production line.

PHOTOGRAPHS accompanying the article show scenes in the Ply and Cable Twisting, and the Synthetics Weaving departments.

The Textile World article makes particular mention of the process by which tension is "locked" into nylon fabric for tires by the giant electronic Safety-Tensioning and Gum-Dipping Unit, the most revolutionary installation made at the plant in recent years.

Pan-American Day Is April 14

The United States will join 21 American republics in observance of Pan-American Day on April 14. On this date in 1890 the first International Conference of American States was held in Washington. At that time a resolution was adopted which resulted in creation of the organization known today as the Pan-American Union.

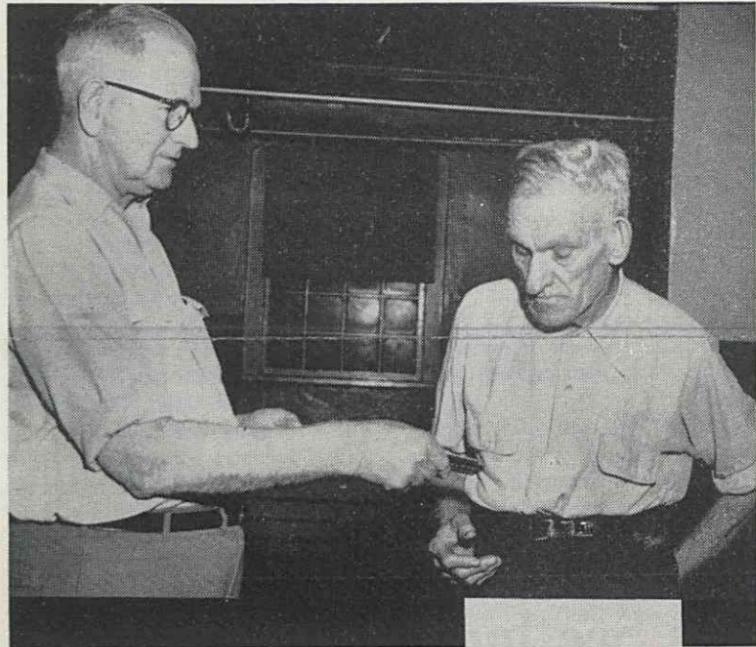
Pan-American Day is intended "to give expression to the spirit of solidarity and to the sentiments of cordiality and friendly feeling which the government of this country entertains toward the peoples and governments of the other republics of the American continent."

COMMUNITY AGENCIES SHARE EMPLOYEE GIFTS

The Gaston County Tuberculosis Association fund was increased by \$511.50 in March when the annual employee contribution was made. Above: Mrs. Coit Robinson of Lowell, county chairman of the 1956 Christmas Seals sale, looks over the check, presented by Comptroller E. J. Mechem. Above Right: A

check for \$1,226.50 was presented to the Gaston County Heart Fund in March. County Heart Fund Chairman, L. A. Wolfe, (right), receives the contribution from Willie Beattie, Spinning Department. Mr. Beattie, who suffered a minor coronary seizure in April of 1956, is a volunteer worker in the interest of the Heart Fund. Looking on are

T. B. Ipock, Jr., Industrial Relations director; and A. P. Aldridge, Jr., who served as co-chairman of the county Heart Fund with G. N. Henson, Jr. The Heart Fund and Tuberculosis Association gifts represent annual employee contributions collected during the last UF Campaign at the plant.



Ben Davis, Men's Club clerk (left), and A. P. Honeycutt.

He Traded Life Of Adventure For A Career In Textiles

Archibald Pinkney Honeycutt has always had music in his soul. But he never developed it beyond the "hobby" stage during his almost half-century of employment in textile mills in Piedmont North Carolina.

Fifty-eight years ago, when he was 17 years old, his vocal-cord imitations of the piano gained attention of Buckskin Bill, a famed Westerner of his day, who had a wandering variety show. Buckskin offered Honeycutt \$100 a month, with his board, lodging and travel expenses to boot, if he'd come along with the entertainment troupe and do his piano act.

OLDTIMERS here recollect the Card Room retiree as one who was able to reproduce tunes on an imaginary piano. When he'd touch his knee, elbow or the bottom of his foot, you'd be convinced beyond a shadow of doubt that the "piano" melody was coming right straight from that part of his body.

Archie didn't join the Buckskin Bill cast, but rather chose to remain in his home state. For

by family tradition, he was destined to be a textile worker. He has had working experience in several mills in the Piedmont, his last 15 years of employment having been spent at Firestone. He has been retired from the Carding Department for six years.

USUALLY each summer he plans a fishing trip to Newport News, Va., where he visits a son. Two other sons, George and Worth, are employed in Weaving. A daughter, Mrs. Paul Bolick, works in Twisting.

Besides his piano imitations, Honeycutt has played a harmonica "almost all his life." But until a friend gave him a harmonica for Christmas last year, his practice had become neglected.

On March 7—his 75th birthday—colleagues at the Men's Club presented him with a new Hohner instrument. Almost every weekday the retired speeder tender comes to the Club, where he plays billiards and checkers, and often throws in a harmonica tune for good measure.

Construction And Expansion Program

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vantage of the expanded opportunities for business in the years ahead," Mr. Firestone said.

"The expansion program will increase our capacity for the production of synthetic rubber to 230,000 tons a year within the next few months," he added. "This high level capacity for synthetic production, plus our facilities for producing natural rubber in Liberia and Brazil, marks our company as the world's largest producer of rubber."

THE LARGEST new construction project is the plant at Orange, Texas, which will manufacture butadiene, a basic ingredient in the production of synthetic rubber, for Firestone synthetic plants at Lake Charles and Akron. This plant is scheduled for completion by early April.

Firestone's air springs plant at Noblesville is set for completion in June and will go into production by July.

Executives of the company expect substantial business volume in the new product to be

marketed as "Airide" by Firestone. The springs are designed to replace steel springs in automobiles of the future. They will permit cars to be constructed with a lower center of gravity than any automobiles mass produced so far, and give a much softer ride than steel spring vehicles.

THE HAVANA plant, now under construction, will begin producing tires by early fall. This factory will help fulfill the desire of the Cuban government for the production of enough tires within that island to satisfy all domestic requirements of car and truck owners.

The Philippine plant ten miles outside Manila is expected to be producing tires for passenger cars, trucks and off-the-road vehicles by October. This is the 14th foreign plant to be built by Firestone. Purpose of its operation is to service the more than 115,000 motor vehicles in the Philippines as well as the thousands of new cars and trucks being assembled and imported each year into the islands.

IN THE GASTONIA GAZETTE

Employees Commended For Blood Donations

Note: The following is a reprint of an editorial in The Gastonia Gazette, commenting on the recent visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile to Firestone Textiles.

Cooperation is needed in just about everything that has for its objective the betterment of mankind. Just about the truest example of this is the blood bank. Without cooperation from citizens the blood bank would be a failure.

Several months ago Gaston's blood bank was in a fair way of losing its status with the Red Cross. However, we are glad to say that during the last few months there has been a noticeable increase in blood donations.

Latest organization to come to the front and do more than its share in the way of blood donations is Firestone Textiles.

Booked for a visit to that live-wire organi-

zation, the Bloodmobile hoped to come away with its quota of 125 pints.

However, the Firestone people exceeded the quota by giving 157 pints, 32 pints more than the amount expected. This to our way of thinking was an excellent showing.

We congratulate the Firestone organization as a whole for the fine showing, but at the same time extend an "extra congratulation" to Billy G. McSwain, J. R. Benfield, John S. Mitchell, C. M. Plyler, and Arnold Grindle.

They became gallon donors and each received credit cards for one year of free blood for their families.

Other organizations would do well to keep in mind what Firestone did in the way of blood donations, and try to equal or surpass this fine record the next time the bloodmobile visits their community.