

Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

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Nature never quite goes along with us. She is sombre at weddings, sunny at funerals, and she frowns on ninety-nine out of a hundred picnics.

—Alexander Smith, 1863.

The weakest among us has a gift, however seemingly trivial, which is peculiar to him, and which worthily used, will be a gift to his race forever.

— John Ruskin

Honor Awards To Highlight Annual Boy Scout Banquet



Fifty Boy Scouts from the Gastonia District of the Piedmont Council will receive certificates of Merit for outstanding achievement in scouting, and one of them—with the most notable record of all—will be given the Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., Award. The scouts will be honored at ceremonies following a dinner in the Recreation Center of the old dormitory buildings at 7 p.m., June 13.

Recipient of the Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., Award this year will be the 12th area Boy Scout so honored.

General Manager Harold Mercer is scheduled to preside over

the presentation meeting. Among others attending will be Boy Scout officials and leaders, civic and industrial representatives, and several members of the plant management here.

As an added feature of the program June 13, winners of the top Award over the past years have been invited to be present.

THE TOP AWARD includes an engraved silver medallion, a \$100 Savings Bond, and a check for \$25.75 to sponsor a two weeks' stay at the Piedmont Boy Scout Camp near Tryon, N. C.

In addition to the certificate of Merit, each of the other 49 scouts honored will receive a check from the Company, intended to cover expenses for two weeks at the Tryon camp, or for the purchase of scouting equipment—as the scout chooses.

The Company makes the awards each year to Boy Scouts who have distinguished themselves by meeting requirements set up by the Company Scouting Program. Awards are given in the United States in cities in which the organization operates major plants. At Gastonia, the program has been in operation since 1946.

The Firestone Scouting Program originally made the John W. Thomas Award, in honor of a former Company Chairman. Since Mr. Thomas' death, the present Chairman has promoted the Company's interest in this field.



TEXTILE LEADERS from Britain and India are welcomed by General Manager Harold Mercer (front, right) and General Superintendent Nelson Kessell (left). In center is Sir John Burns, and (from left, back row): John Taylor, G. L. Anderson, and C. H. Campbell.

Foreign Textilists Impressed By Employee Efficiency Level

Four officials of manufacturing concerns in Great Britain and India were favorably impressed with the high level of productivity in American industry, when they visited the plant here, May 13-17.

Sir John Burns, ranking official of James Finlay & Company with headquarters in Glasgow, Scotland, noted that the individual worker on the job at Firestone showed a "high efficiency level."

With him for the visit were John Taylor, an Englishman, who is manager of Swan Mill in

Bombay, India; C. H. Campbell, a Scot who is manager of the Finlay interests in India; and G. L. Anderson, an American official with the Firestone plant in Bombay.

The Swan Mills supply the cotton and synthetic tire fabric production requirements for operation of the Firestone Bombay plant.

While at Firestone, the industrialists conferred with Company officials and had a look at manufacturing operations. They were primarily interested in new

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AGAIN — BAREFOOT TIME

Summer comes in full-bloom on the wings of June, offering a rare treat for those venturesome youngsters who prefer real underfoot contact with The Good Earth.

Time was when most young folks knew what it was like to experience the thrill of a nice, sunny morning to step out barefoot on the dewy grass. How the blades tickled one's toes and how cool and relaxed the whole body felt!

But all is not the most pleasant memories for the once-barefoot youngster. Hot sands on the creek banks scorched the calloused feet. Broken glass in unexpected places sometimes meant cuts and a bandaged foot. Added to this were chestnut burrs, thorns in the meadow, painful toe itch, and the stubbed big toe that seemed to hurt and cripple like nothing else could.

These are recollections of many employees who are old enough to be parents—surely of those who are grandparents.

Today the barefoot boy and girl are all but forced into the pages of history books—if not into legend. Nowadays most youngsters wear shoes around the calendar. . .

Except maybe for a trip to the beach, swimming hole, or for an occasional romp in the yard, like the grandchildren of Jud Whitaker, Rayon Twisting; and Mrs. Whitaker, Rayon Weaving. From left, they are Terry, Debora and Teresa Jane Whitaker.

Youngsters these days have many advantages their parents never had. But folks who have never gone barefoot have missed something, too.

Outdoor Movies Through Early September

Fifteen full-length movies—six of them in color—and a serial of 15 chapters comprise the schedule of free motion picture entertainment for the summer season.

The lineup, begun May 31 with "Abbott and Costello Meet the Mummy" and the first installment of "King of the Congo," will continue through September 6.

Pictures will be shown to employees and members of their families at dusk on Fridays, in the open-air area between Dalton street and Firestone boulevard, near the recreation park. In event of rain, whatever show is scheduled will be presented the following Monday. In the six years of the summer picture shows, rain has interfered with only one program.

The Recreation Department, sponsor of the program, says the lineup of shows has been carefully made, for appeal to both children and grownups.

EACH WEEK, a chapter of the serial, "King of the Congo" will be presented.

Here is a list of the feature attractions for the remainder of the season:

June 7: Destry (technicolor), Audie Murphy and Mari Blanchard.

June 14: Jungle Manhunt, Johnny Weismuller.

June 21: Violent Men (techni-

color), Glenn Ford and Barbara Stanwick.

June 28: Law Versus Billy the Kid, Scott Brady and Betta S. John.

July 5: Rusty Leads the Way, Ted Donaldson and John Litel.

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Summer Vacation Is Coming-- Then Where Shall We Go?

While the plant is on its summer shutdown the week of July 21-27, employees and members of their families will experience the calm of vacation. The respite from labor will range from a simple stay-at-home week of leisure to elaborately-planned trips with far-away places at the end of the road.

In recent weeks the plant travel information service has noted a sharp increase in requests for vacation-planning help. Some employees who were entitled to more than the one-week time off have taken vacations in advance of the July shutdown.

Announcement from the General Manager points out that those employees who are entitled to two or three weeks of vacation should arrange with their supervisors in order to schedule a time for taking the remaining one or two weeks due them. These vacations can begin anytime during the present season.