

Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

A habit cannot be tossed out
the window. It must be coaxed
down the stairs a step at a time.

—Samuel Clemens

The measure of a man's real
character is what he would do if
he knew he'd never be found out.

—Thomas Macauley

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'Sweet Spring, Thou Turn'st

With All Thy Goodly Train...'

Folks who keep abreast of the calendar and the almanac know that Spring arrives in March. But this year the Vernal Season was tardy in bringing its warmth and full-bloom signs of Nature's resurrection. As April departed and the Emerald Month arrived, earth and air became sun-warmed, more plants flowered into bloom, and trees began to cloak themselves in garments of living green. The distinctive blossoms of the white dogwood stood out among them all. Linda Calhoun (left), and her sister Vickie came close for a more appreciative look at the official flower of The Old North State. The girls' father, Leon Calhoun, works in Synthetic Weaving; their mother, in Spinning.

FREE VEHICLE INSPECTION MAY 19-23

Check Your Auto -- Join The Circle Of Safety

Firestone Textiles employees will have an opportunity to have their automobiles inspected for safety in a Company-sponsored check lane from May 19 through 23.

The check lane at Gastonia will be part of a nationwide program for Firestone plant employees. Firestone is the first business or industrial concern to conduct a nationwide safety-check for employees in conjunction with the national voluntary Vehicle Safety-Check for Com-

munities, sponsored annually by the Inter-Industry Highway Safety Committee and Look Magazine.

In announcing the program, President Raymond C. Firestone, said, "Safety-check lanes have been proved by the Inter-Industry Highway Safety Committee to be one of the most effective ways to bring about traffic safety. Our company wants to assist with this program in every way possible and to all make the opportunity for safety inspection

available to all our employees."

Free safety-check lanes for the Gastonia plant will be set up at the north end of the parking lot off Firestone street. Lanes will be open from 9-12 a.m., and from 1-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning May 19. Hours have been set so that motorists may bring their cars in at times outside of their working schedule.

Qualified mechanics and other inspectors will be on duty to check the following items of your car: Brakes, front and rear lights, tires, steering, exhaust system, glass, windshield wipers, rear-view mirror, and horn.

Besides Firestone employees, motorists in the immediate plant area are invited to have their cars checked in the lanes.

"Complete the Circle of Safety — Check Your Car — Check Your Driving — Check Accidents," is the slogan for this year's program in more than

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Firestone Park Opens In June

Firestone Park, one of more than a dozen public recreation facilities operated in Gastonia during the summer, will open its 10-week schedule June 10.

The Company-owned playground in front of the plant is operated by the Gastonia Park and Recreation Commission for children of the Firestone com-

munity. On the use of the swimming pool and wading pool, there is an age limit of 12 years. Other facilities include horse-shoe pits, swings, seesaws, a chin bar, and a ping pong table.

The City Recreation Department furnishes supervisory personnel during all hours of playground operation.

Hours at the park will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

NATIONAL-STATE AWARD

Safety Achievement In 1957 Earns 11th-Year Citation

For the eleventh consecutive year, Firestone Textiles has won high commendation for its outstanding safety program. The plaque with 11-year engraved bar given jointly by the North Carolina and the United States Department of Labor, was received by plant safety director Alvin Riley, at the annual Industrial Achievement Awards program held at Masonic Temple, April 15. Presenting the award was the Honorable Frank Crane, North Carolina Commissioner of Labor.

Firestone, Gaston county's largest single employer, drew special praise from Commissioner Crane.

"This is the highest award we can give," he said, "because we have been giving awards for only 11 years. Firestone is certainly setting an enviable pace for other industries around the State."

At the dinner meeting, attended by 150 officials of award-winning plants, and their guests, certificates of recognition were presented to 43 other industrial concerns and service-industry establishments for top performance in accident-control during 1957.

Winners qualified for the safety honors in three ways:

1. By reducing the plant accident frequency rate 40 per cent or more last year, compared with the plant's rate the year before that.

2. By attaining a record of no injuries resulting in lost-time last year.

3. By maintaining an injury rate 75 per cent below the state average for a particular industry.

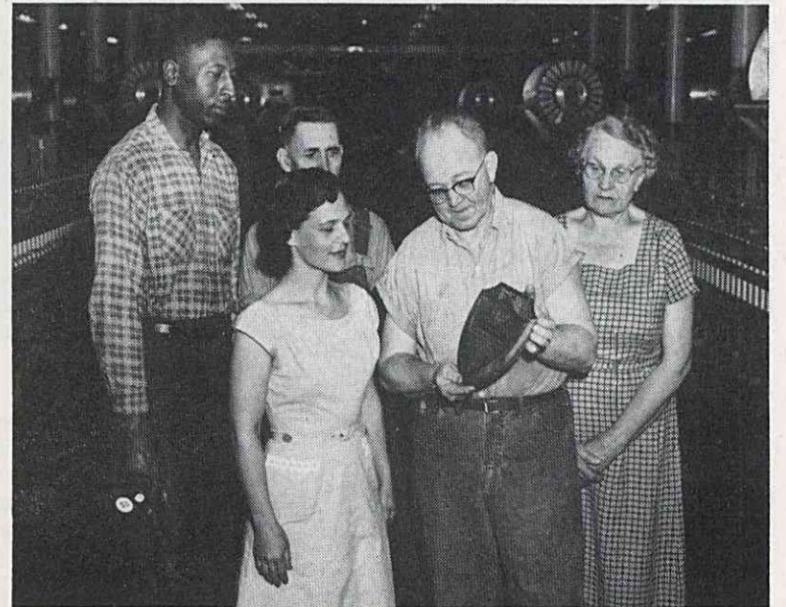
Firestone qualified on the basis of its low-frequency rate of accidents in 1957. Based on the average number of employees over the year, the plant accrued a total of 3,591,306 workhours with only three injuries that resulted in lost-time.

THIS placed the plant's record at 89 per cent below the state accident-frequency average. With this attainment of the safety program here last year, Firestone was a generous contributor to the noteworthy safety record in Gaston county industry for 1957.

The 44 plants represented at the awards meeting operated a total of 12,255,214 manhours with only 10 disabling injuries. The 44 Gaston county award winners recorded a combined accident-frequency rate of 0.8 disabling injuries per million manhours.

"Balanced against the state-wide all-industry accident rate of 8.3 disabling injuries per million manhours, your combined injury rate of 0.8 represents a most unusual and outstanding accomplishment in the field of accident prevention. Your combined rate is only one-tenth as high as the state average for all industry," said Mr. Crane.

The large-plant awards are given to establishments having 50 or more employees. They are sponsored jointly by the N.C. and the U.S. Department of Labor. Awards for the smaller plants are from the North Carolina Department of Labor.



Representatives from five departments of the mill admire the 10-year safety plaque, with engraved bar attached for the 11th year. They are (front row, from left): Jerry Strickland, Rayon Weaving, and Oscar Jacobs, Shop; (back row, from left): Ervin L. Worthy, Warehouse; Robert Rhyne, Carding; and Marie Fogle, Rayon Twisting.

Magazine Features Recreation Layout

The layout of physical facilities for plant recreation activities was described in a full-page feature with pictures in the March-April issue of North Carolina Recreation Review.

Entitled "Firestone of Gastonia Opens New Center," the story pointed out the importance of recreation and Firestone's leadership in this field of industry. Four photographs of

employees and members of employees' families were included with the story. The pictures, by Firestone News photographer Charles A. Clark, featured eight persons bowling, playing billiards, ping-pong and table shuffleboard. They were Kenneth Bell, Charles Dodgen, Ophelia Wallace, Virginia Bridges, Homer Stephens, Leroy Thomas, Jerry Jones and Ronnie Dill.

Rayon amounts to one-fifth of all man-made fiber production in the United States.

The Recreation Review, issued from Raleigh, is official publication of the North Carolina Recreation Society.