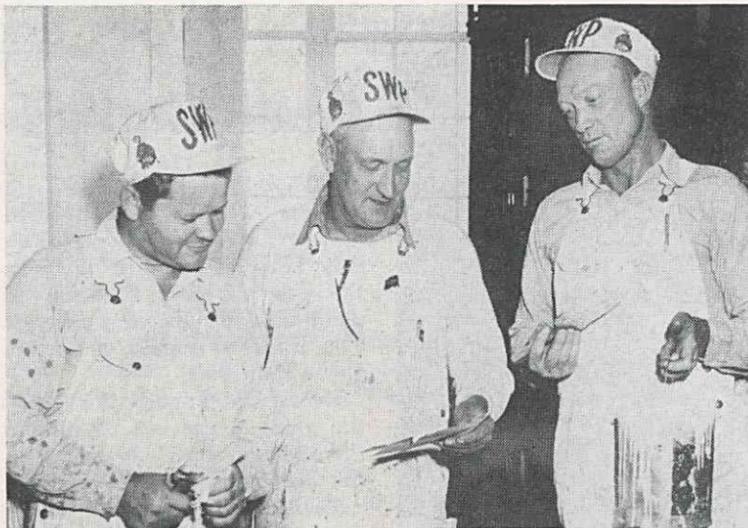


IN ANY SEASON



ABOVE: Painting Foreman Homer Harmon (center), goes over a day's work of job schedules with James Price (left), and James Ledford. Painting operations range from touch-up work to major jobs requiring several weeks to complete.

AT LEFT: Ernest Givens and Charles Hall (right), apply a weather-resistant black to the iron gates in front of Main Office.

Painter Crew Spreads Barrels Of Beauty And Protection

With the return of suitable weather after each winter season, many a householder brings out a brush and a bucket of paint. There follows a brightening-up session on the house, garage, and maybe the picket fence and lawn furniture.

Ordinarily this happens once a year.

With the five men who make up the painting crew at Firestone Textiles, it's a different story. Applying paint as a routine maintenance and safety measure and for the beauty it imparts, is no seasonal task. Month-in and month-out, these men conduct a paint-up campaign which eventually brings them back to where they started—only to begin all over again.

Paint breakdown from wear, weather and time itself keep the work going for the men who wield the brushes—and for special jobs, the spray guns.

PLACING paint where it ought to go is no minor undertaking, plant engineer W. G. Henson would have you remember. Keeping five men busy around the calendar requires a lot of planning. Involved also are a few thousand gallons of paint, linseed oil and other thinner—to say nothing of brushes and kindred supplies and equipment.

Painting is done on a systematic basis. Records are kept of what is painted when, and the work goes forward on a rotation plan. There are allowances for some unexpected touch-up and other smaller jobs.

Starting at a given point in the mill, the crew proceeds until the entire areas to be covered have been completed. It used to take around seven years to complete the circuit. Nowadays it takes about four.

Usually there is a major project at hand. A recent big undertaking was the warehouse, where almost 400 gallons were dispensed to give a new look to the giant structure. Another big job, finished early this year, was the re-doing of all outside windows in the five floors of the plant. It took about 450 gallons to give the 1,000 windows their protective and decorative touch.

COLOR plays an important role in the painting program in and around the mill.

Inside the plant, standard white, green and gray go on walls and ceilings. Dark green extends in a wainscot stripe 57 inches from the floor; and above the stripe, walls and ceilings receive the standard white gloss. Restrooms are done in white and pearl gray.

The decoration pattern for all offices is an eye-rest green for walls and soft white for ceilings. There are special jobs, too—like the soft green walls and egg-shell-white ceilings of the new Recreation Center and its offices.

Wrought-iron fences, window frames in the plant, and some outdoor equipment get their regular coatings of black. Aluminum paint is used on all roof ventilators, water towers, outside utility pipes, exterior ducts and mesh fencing.

Men who spread paint at Firestone work hand-in-hand with the safety program.

MILES of traffic lanes throughout the mill are marked with an eye-arresting yellow. This color is also used in code-identification of gas lines. Every three feet there is a bright yellow stripe around the main lines, and in areas where gas is used from the supply, lines are color-marked for emergency cut-off.

On moving parts of machinery or in areas where danger must be especially emphasized, the standard safety markings are alternating stripes of yellow and black.

Red is used for water buckets and other fire-fighting equipment. A pattern of red-blue stripes marks extinguishing equipment intended only for electrical fires.

REGULATION colors for machinery are green and gray.

Sometime this summer there will be a changeover to blue-gray on the 3,000 electric motors. Light gray will dress up the motor switches.

Paint dispersal has been even as much as 250 to 300 gallons in a month, notes the plant engineer. But ordinarily in a day's time, a workman will apply about a gallon, covering roughly a surface of 600 square feet.

Each year Firestone's paint-up program of protecting, beautifying and making safe the buildings, supplies and equipment pours multiplied thousands of dollars into the local economy. The barrels and barrels of paint, linseed oil and other preparations, brushes and miscellaneous supplies and equipment are all purchased from local suppliers. It is another example of how large and small businesses depend upon each other for their existence and prosperity.

FOR APRIL

Long-Service Records Listed

Five persons were added in April to the list of those who have reached the 15-year service milestone. At the same time several others joined the roster of ten and five-year employees. Each of these persons has received a service pin.

The April list:

Fifteen Years

Hazel H. Ballard, Spooling; Carrie H. Hardin, Marie J. Jones, Annis V. Myers, Rayon Weaving; William F. Rockett, Shop.

Ten Years

Edna J. Howard, Beatrice Humphries, William W. Patterson, Mary N. Wilkes, Annie L. Tanner, Trula B. Ball, Rayon Twisting.

Five Years

Randall J. Rowland, Spinning; Vernon L. Owen, Cotton Twist-

ing; Roy Flynn, M. G. Russ, Robert L. Shannon, Bobby A. Rogers, Rayon Weaving; Earl H. Shannon, P. G. Cloninger, Wind-

As of April, the 20-year service record list stood at 278.

community's payroll. Its primary product is tire cord which is shipped to Firestone plants everywhere. The plant also makes nylon cord fabric for its Noblesville, Ind., factory, where it is used in the production of air springs for motor vehicles."

Chairman Serves As USO Leader

Harvey S. Firestone, Jr. is serving his eighth consecutive term as national chairman of United Service Organizations (USO). The Company Chairman was chosen for his present term of service at the annual meeting of the USO National Council in Washington.

At the annual meeting Vice President Richard M. Nixon was principal speaker. During the program, comedian Bob Hope was honored by USO for his "great contribution" to the "well-fare and well-being of America's Armed Forces."

The 600-member USO Council has volunteer representatives from every state, and is composed of leaders of industry, business, religious faiths, labor and the professions.

The six member agencies of USO are Young Men's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Service, National Jewish Welfare Board, Young Women's Christian Association, The Salvation Army, and National Travelers Aid Association.

Mr. Firestone has been associated with USO since its beginning in 1941. He first served as Ohio state chairman and later as national president. He has held the post of national chairman since 1951.

Richardsons Liked New Orleans Trip

There's no other city in the whole country like it. And the hospitality of New Orleans is unsurpassed, in the opinion of Mr. and Mrs. Grady Richardson, who have returned from an un-hurried trip to the Mardi Gras city.

Mr. Richardson retired from the plant here last July, after working several years as an overhauler in Cotton Weaving. He and Mrs. Richardson live between Bessemer City and Cherryville. They try to keep their retirement years "in balance" by visiting interesting places across the country.

On their trip to New Orleans this spring they visited the famous Vieux Carre or French Quarter and the cemetery there, begun in 1788. Of particular interest to them were St. Louis Cathedral, the Old Slave Market; Antoine's, the renowned French restaurant; the Mississippi and the Huey P. Long Bridge spanning the River.

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal.

—Hannah More

Observer Publishes Firestone Story

A special section of the April 18 Charlotte Observer publicized Firestone Textiles and other branches of the Company. The 16-page section on promotion of the automotive industry featured the Gastonia plant in an article titled, "Auto Industry Foreign? No Sir!" Observer writer Rolfe Neill related how products turned out here play leading roles in the worldwide auto industry.

Another story in the same section of the paper told of air suspension as the leading feature of 1958 automobiles. Along with the two articles, the newspaper published two photographs. One

was of the wind-up operation in the nylon gum-dipping unit here, and the other was of an Airide by Firestone application on cargo trucks.

"Detroit is closer to Gaston county—much closer—than the map indicates," wrote Mr. Neill. "Inside your car, under the hood, or on the ground, there are likely Gaston-originated products in use: Tires, oil filters, seat coverings, air springs. All these items have their origins in textiles, the economic sinew of this area.

"Firestone Textiles puts nearly \$6 million annually into the

Give The Grass A Chance

During the summer of 1957, homeowners in the United States operated almost 14 million power lawn mowers. In 1958, there will be another two or three million put to work.

Of the millions of mowers in use this summer, at least half the operators who are not experienced with the power grass-groomer will commit an error common to many: Cutting the grass too short.

Agronomists who know their grass, say: "Give the blades a chance."

To remain healthy, ordinary grass should be trimmed not shorter than one-and-a-half inches above the ground in moderate weather. During hot, dry spells it should be cut at least three inches above the ground. An exception is bent-grass, which may be safely clipped to three-quarters of an inch high.