

SAFEST EVER DEVELOPED

Firestone Tires Quality-Tested At Indianapolis 500 Speedway

Tires used in the Indianapolis 500-mile Memorial Day race this year ran cooler than ever before in speedway history, Firestone engineers have learned. Post-race tests and research showed the cooler-running tires made them the safest ever developed for racing—a major advance in tire engineering.

Heat is the greatest enemy to tire life, the engineers pointed out.

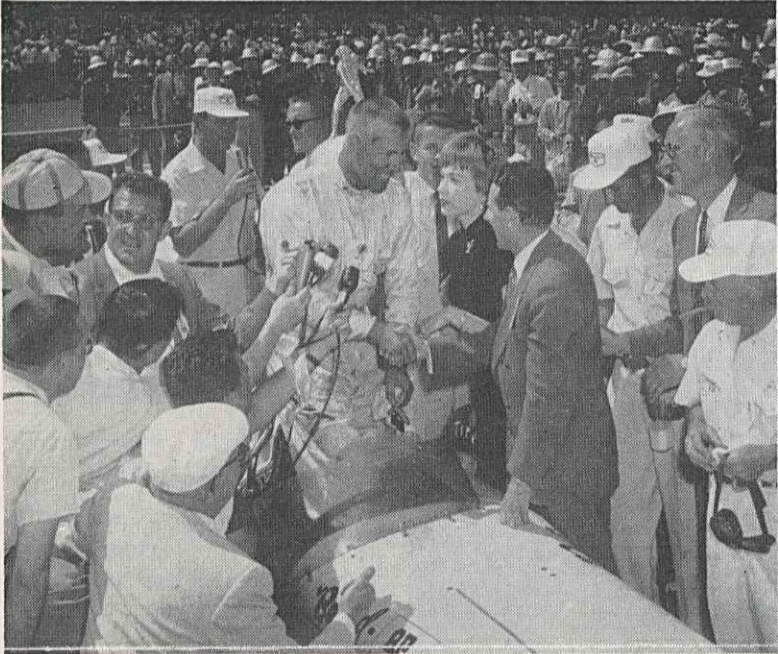
Findings of Firestone engineers had been indicated earlier by race winner Jimmy Bryan, who said, "The tires couldn't have taken such a beating unless they were running cooler."

Bryan and other drivers also credited "stickiness"—the grip of the tire on the track—with providing another safety factor that permitted higher qualifying speeds in the 1958 race.

Firestone engineers said tires were clinging better to the track surface because of improved tread compounding. A new tread called commercially, "Rubber X", is credited with the improved traction.

Bryan drove his yellow Belond Special at speeds up to 175 miles an hour. His average speed for the 200 laps was 133.791.

It was the 35th consecutive race won on Firestone tires.



CIRCLE OF VICTORY—Company president Raymond C. Firestone, who was an honorary steward at the race, congratulated winner Jimmy Bryan in the victor's circle. Actress Shirley MacLaine at Jimmy's left gave him the traditional winner's kiss.



PROVING GROUND—Firestone tires play a vital role in the "500" race, which serves as a proving ground for safety features built later into Firestone passenger tires. J. J. Robson (right, beside race car), manager of tire development and engineering, explained features of Firestone's racing tires to Dave Garroway on the "Today" nationwide telecast.

Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

VOLUME VII

GASTONIA, N. C., JULY, 1958

NUMBER 8

COMING JULY 15-18

X-Ray Unit Here This Month

☆ ☆ ☆

You can have a free chest x-ray at the mobile unit coming to Firestone Textiles July 15-18. The unit from the State Board of Health will operate at the plant as a part of a Gaston County chest x-ray survey running from June 28 through August 9.

Sponsored by the NC State Board of Health, the Gaston County Health Department and four local health-related organizations, the program aims at providing free chest x-rays for every person in the county 15 years of age or over.

The Firestone schedule—
July 15: 1 pm to 7 pm
July 16: 7 pm to 1 am
July 17: 12 noon to 6 pm
July 18: 9 am to 3 pm

When you have your chest x-rayed, films will be read by a physician specializing in x-ray, and a written report will be mailed to you within two or three weeks. If necessary, a second chest picture will be made at no cost.

Sponsors of the program emphasize that the chest x-ray survey is an effective method of finding tuberculosis and other chest conditions, such as some types of lung cancer and some types of heart disease.

EARLY discovery of tuberculosis in apparently healthy people will lead to earlier treatment, greatly increasing the chances of cure; and early diagnosis of other chest conditions,

their early treatment and recovery at less expense.

"It is especially important that persons 45 years old and over have a chest x-ray at least once a year," the Health Department points out. Almost one-half of the people found to have tuberculosis in Gaston County are in the 50-year and -above age bracket. The death rate is slowly decreasing, while the case rate is about the same.

Sales Down 10.8%, Net Profit Off 25.2% In Six-Months Period Ending April 30

Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., chairman, and Raymond C. Firestone, president, made the following public announcement on Thursday, June 12:

"Net sales of the company and its subsidiaries amounted to \$490,854,806 for the six months ended April 30, 1958, compared with \$550,422,328 for the same period last year, a decrease of 10.8%. Estimated net income was \$21,264,682 compared with \$28,430,380 for the same period last year, a decrease of 25.2%. Provision of \$20,400,000 has been made for domestic and foreign taxes on income as compared with \$28,050,000 for last year."

| | Six Months Ended April 30 | |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------|
| | 1958 | 1957 |
| Net Sales | \$490,854,806 | \$550,422,328 |
| Other Income | 1,690,254 | 1,774,707 |
| Total Income | \$492,545,060 | \$552,197,035 |
| Deduct: | | |
| Cost of Goods Sold, Depreciation, Selling, Administrative and General Expenses, and Interest | \$450,880,378 | \$495,716,655 |
| Domestic and Foreign Taxes on Income | 20,400,000 | 28,050,000 |
| | <u>\$471,280,378</u> | <u>\$523,766,655</u> |
| Estimated Net Income | \$ 21,264,682 | \$ 28,430,380 |

Company Awarded Racing Trophy

The coveted Continental Casualty Company award for "Outstanding Contribution to Safety in Auto Racing" has been presented to the Firestone Company.

Trophy presentation was made by Lou Morrell, vice president of Continental, to W. R. McCrary, manager of the Firestone Racing Division, as a highlight of the Annual United States Auto Club Awards dinner at the Indianapolis, Ind., Athletic Club May 17.

Inscription on the six-foot, three-inch trophy reads "1958, The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, For Outstanding Contribution to the Development and Production of Safer Tires for Auto Racing."

The Continental company is the exclusive agency supplying

—Turn to Page 4

Firestone Scholar Gets SAR Medal

Cadet Staff Sergeant Michael A. Stroupe of Bessemer City received the Sons of the American Revolution ROTC Medal at North Carolina State College at recent commencement exercises in Raleigh. The award, presented to Michael by Dr. A. M. Fountain of the NC Society of

the SAR, and faculty member of State College, is given each year to the basic ROTC cadet who has exhibited the highest degree of merit with respect to leadership, military bearing and academic excellence.

Michael, who will be a junior at State this fall, is attending college on a Firestone Scholarship. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Stroupe of Bessemer City. His mother works in cotton Weaving.

Summer is that time of year when many folks have given up on seed catalogs but are still hopeful of road maps.

