

# Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

One should never put on one's best trousers to go out to battle for freedom and truth.

—Henrik Ibsen

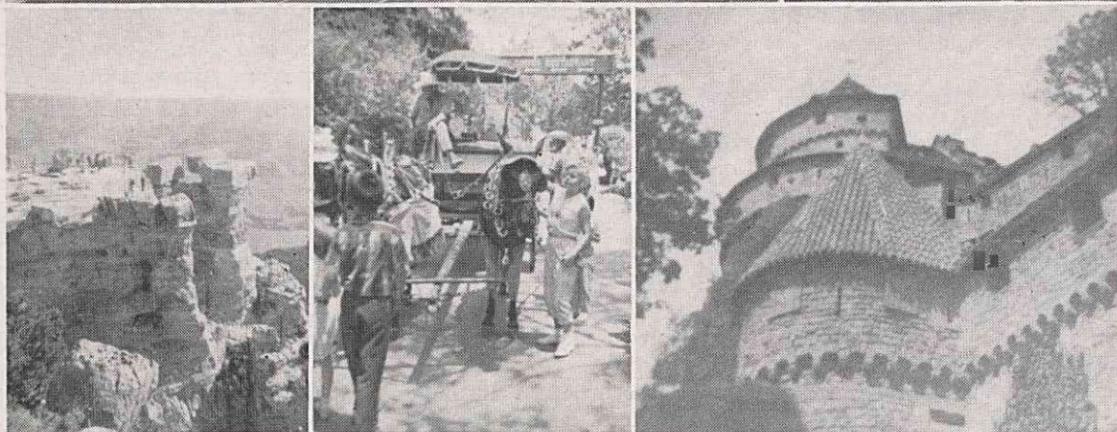
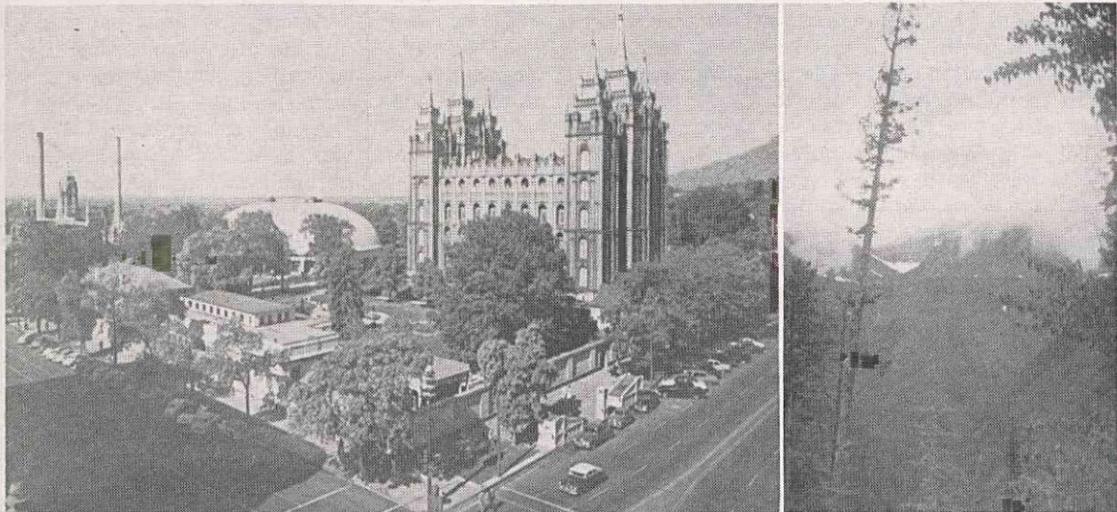
But what is Freedom? Rightly understood, it is a universal license to be good.

—Hartely Coleridge

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## THE CAMERA WAS AT WORK ON VACATION

Firestone Textiles employees took scenic paths through America and the world during the annual vacation month of July. These photos are typical of the material brought back for the scrapbook—and memories. From upper left: Temple Square, Salt Lake City, Utah (Sally Crawford, Quality Control); Heaven's Peak in Glacier National Park, Mont., (Inez Rhyne, Cloth Room); in

the Grand Canyon of Arizona; and an Old West scene at restored "Ghost Town" near Los Angeles (both Paul Reeves of Carding). John Mercer, Shop, toured Europe and saw landmarks such as this ancient castle near Stuttgart, Germany. Accounts of these and other vacation travels are in this issue of the plant newspaper.

## AT ARLINGTON—1958

### Mrs. Turner's Poem In Congressional Record

A recent issue of Congressional Record contains a poem written by Thelma Turner, wife of W. R. Turner, Sr., an SYC Weaving supervisor, and mother of Mrs. W. L. Fritton of Main Office.

The poem, entitled "Arlington—1958," was inspired by the Memorial Day exercises at Arlington National Cemetery when Unknown Soldiers of World War II and the Korean conflict were entombed there.

Congressman Basil L. Whitener of Gastonia, who caused Mrs. Turner's work to be included in the Record for June 24, commended the author for her deep patriotic sentiment expressed in the poem.

"The thoughts expressed and the background information submitted with the poem indicate your deep appreciation of the sacrifices made by those who have worn the uniform of our country in time of war. At this

crucial period in our country's history, the sentiments you have expressed have deep significance for all Americans," he continued.

**BACKGROUND** material referred to by Representative Whitener included mention of ancestors who have fought in this country's wars since 1812, and was brought up-to-date by reference to two of the Turners' sons: Jerry, who received a Merit of Award for service at Kwalein Atoll and is now in the second half of OCS at San Antonio, Texas; and Carl, who recently returned with his family from Hawaii, and spent early July with his parents on Firestone boulevard.

#### At Arlington—1958

Welcome, my brothers, welcome!

Clasp my hand in greeting.  
I have been waiting with mixed emotions

For this momentous meeting;  
I had wondered if you were coming,

If even the thoughts of men  
Would pause, take countenance,  
Do homage to those latest conquests,  
And refer it to now and then.

Who is it, my brother, you ask  
of me?

Who stands with me when the  
flag is flying

—Turn to Page 2

### Textiles Viewed As Indispensable To Economy Of South And Nation

Take away the textile industry, and the economy of the South would collapse overnight. And 24 hours later the entire nation would forget atomic bombs and outer space, in a desperate effort to resurrect an industry we cannot do without.

This was the opinion of a leading South Carolina textileist, expressed in an article in the summer issue of "Bobbin and Beaker," official student textile magazine at Clemson College. W. Gaines Huguley, author of the article, commented:

"Nationally, more than two million people — including apparel industry employees—make their living in textiles. About 13

per cent of all manufacturing employees are engaged in textile or related production.

"There is a future—a great future for the industry," he prophesied. "The 'battle of the fibres', which used to be a popular phrase, has tended more and more toward the marriage of fibres. It is getting hard to find mills that are strictly 'cotton' or 'synthetic' . . ."

Even though consumption of man-made (synthetic) fibres has increased, Huguley believes the rapid increase of population and new uses for fibres and textile products will inevitably benefit cotton and open new possibilities for it.

## 'Sales Make Jobs' Program Begun

### Employees In Vital Role Of Selling Campaign

"More Sales Mean More Jobs for More Workers," is the slogan behind a campaign now underway at the Gastonia plant and soon to be introduced at principal Firestone plants throughout the country.

The employee sales program entails voluntary mailing of printed cards of appreciation to business firms and tradesmen with whom Firestone employees deal, with the reminder that they consider Firestone products when they have need for an item which the company manufactures.

Each person employed at the Gastonia plant has received a supply of service appreciation cards and a letter from General Manager Harold Mercer, explaining the program and telling of the employee's opportunity to participate.

Additional cards may be obtained from department overseers and at the Employment Office.

**PERSONS** receiving cards have been instructed to sign each one and enclose them with their personal checks if they pay the family bills by mail. Where payment is made in cash, signed cards may be given to the person in charge of the business establishment.

In his letter to all employee families, Mr. Mercer emphasized the vital role employees can play in improving the company's sales position by buying Firestone products and "selling" them to their friends.

"This is not a one-shot proposition," Mr. Mercer said, "but a day-by-day continuing job for all of us. If this program will help to preserve a single employee's job or if it will bring back to work an employee who has been laid off, I think you will agree that it deserves the best efforts of us all."

**THE PROGRAM** covers all sales districts in the company's major plant areas. It covers all Firestone store personnel and district staff people.

"By a united employee effort in plants and sales territories, we can greatly increase opportunities for selling Firestone products in this time of intense competition," Mr. Mercer added.

"We are grateful for the at-

tention which Firestone Textiles workers and their families are giving to this campaign. It is our job to do everything we can to sell Firestone quality products—some of which we help to produce at Gastonia.

"Sales and production rise and fall together. To the extent that both benefit, everybody benefits because jobs are created and employment is steady.

"Families of the Gastonia plant can be sure that our company sales organization will give this program their wholehearted support."

### Firestone Tires Win At Monza

The 500-mile at Monza, Italy—the world's fastest race—was won on Firestone tires with an average speed of 166.722 mph.

"This was a great race and a tremendous triumph for our product, for our racing division, for our development people, and for the men and women of Firestone who make the world's best tires," said president Raymond C. Firestone. He made a flying trip to Monza to be on hand for the race early this summer.

Jim Rathmann was winning driver in the classic, known as the "Race of Two Worlds."

"It is significant that the world's fastest race — and on Firestone tires—was won without a single tire failure and without a single pit stop for tire changes by any American driver," Mr. Firestone added.

The 1958 classic at Monza was the second 500-mile race at the Italian autodrome. Firestone tires were on the winning cars in both races.

### 1,340 Chest X-Rays Made At Mobile Unit In July

The mobile x-ray unit at Firestone in July recorded 1,340 chest pictures for employees. In its four-day visit to the plant, the unit from the State Board of Health operated here as a part of a Gaston County chest x-ray survey which ran from late June through early August.

There was 90 per cent participation of employees, in the visit of the mobile unit here. It was sponsored by the NC State Board of Health, the Gaston County Health Department, and four other local health-related organizations