

Mercers Saw Sights Of Seven European Lands

A month-long tour in Europe took Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mercer to many famous landmarks in Scotland, England, Holland, Belgium, Germany, France and Switzerland this fall.

The plant's general manager and his wife traveled by air non-stop from New York to Glasgow on September 13, and returned by plane to Gastonia October 13. They motored through Scotland, stopping at Edinburgh and several other places in the country, then proceeded to London. In the British capital they were joined by Mr. Mercer's daughter, Miss Sara Mercer, who came up from Paris where she is studying at the Sorbonne.

From London, Mr. and Mrs. Mercer went by air to Amsterdam, Holland, then to Brussels, Belgium, for a visit at the World's Fair, then took a plane again for Dusseldorf, a leading manufacturing and commercial center in Western Germany.

FROM BONN they traveled partly by steamer on the Rhine to Heidelberg. By motorcar they went through the Black Forest, making a chief point of interest an overnight stop at Triburg, center of the Forest's renowned woodcarving industry. Here are produced world-famous cuckoo clocks, music boxes and toys.

The Mercers' itinerary took them by car to Zurich in the Alpine foothills of Switzerland. This was starting point for a tour of the Alps, with their unsurpassed beauty of landscape—towering peaks, and lakes.

A plane took the Gastonia tourists to Paris for a week's stay. Here Miss Mercer rejoined them for a look at many of the landmarks in the French capital.

"We were especially impressed with the progressive economy of Western Germany, and the American influence in most of

the countries we visited," they reported.

Highlights of their tour of Scotland and England were stops at the homes of several famous authors, including Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Walter Scott, William Wordsworth and Sir Conan Doyle.

At Stratford-on-Avon near Warwickshire, England, they visited shrines reminiscent of William Shakespeare. The stay there included a performance of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" at the theatre named for the famous English bard; and an overnight lodging at the Shakespeare Inn.

"While we were in Germany and Switzerland, we did not have to miss the World Series back home," they said. "We were able to hear the games on our transistor radio. There was good reception from the powerful station in Frankfurt."

Rubber Output Record Set

Liberian rubber plantations of the Firestone Company are well into their two-billionth pound of production. In early July of this year the West African plantations turned out their one-billionth pound of rubber.

Firestone began clearing Liberian jungle in 1926 to set the trees that established the plantations. Today, the Company has 90,000 acres of high-producing rubber trees there. The plantations make possible employment for some 30,000 Liberians.

People and Places

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Section hand J. C. Westbrook and Mrs. Westbrook, spooler tender, along with others of the family visited Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Tilley in Norfolk, Va., recently. Accompanying the Westbrooks were Mr. and Mrs. Gene Huss and daughter Teresa. Mrs. Huss is a daughter of the Westbrooks.

Mrs. Nora Brady of Knoxville, Tenn., spent a few days recently with Della Short, spooler tender.

Louise James, Ruby Sellers, Annie Mae Southerland and Georgia Henson have been welcomed as new employees in the Spooling department.

Warehouse

Ruth Allison has returned to work after a sick leave. He was a patient at the Gaston County Negro Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Thompson wish to thank their many friends for the kindness shown during the illness and death of their niece, Miss Rose Hine Thompson.

George Hine has returned to work after several days at the Gaston County Negro Hospital.

Sympathy is extended to Charles Adams, third-shift fork truck operator, whose mother died October 15.

Weaving

Miss Nina Milton, retired from Weaving (cotton), was somewhat improved in late October, after an extended illness. Miss Milton first came to the plant here in 1918. When she retired two years ago, she had worked almost 15 years for the Firestone company.

Winding

Mrs. James Neal, Winder tender, and Mr. Neal visited recently with Mr. and Mrs. Norman Neal and their family who live in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwestern Virginia.

Airman 3C James Ledford has returned to his station at Lincoln Air Force Base (Nebraska), after a two-week leave in October, spent with his parents, Blanche Hollis of Winding, and Mr. Hollis. The Hollis' live in Bessemer City.

On a late October week end Helen Meeks had as guests Mr. and Mrs. Robert Huffstetler of Raleigh.

Mable Mantooth had as recent dinner guests her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Zeb Little of Clover, S. C.

Charlie Ballard visited in Thomasville, N. C. recently.

Estelle Prince spent an October day visiting in the home of her brother, F. E. Williams, of Columbia, S. C.

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Religion In American Life Program

WORSHIP TOGETHER THIS WEEK

Company Cited For Its Safety-Check Program

Firestone Textiles shared in a recent commendation from the National Community Vehicle Safety Check program of the Inter-Industry Highway Safety Committee. Judges in the "Circle of Safety" awards competition praised the Firestone company for conducting its nationwide industry safety-check for employees and other motorists in Firestone plant cities last May. The company was the first corporation to sponsor the program on a nationwide basis.

This year the National Community Vehicle Safety-Check processed a new high of more than three million cars and trucks for safe driving condition in more than 2,000 communities. There were some 10,000 vehicles checked in Firestone lanes across the country—619 of them at the Gastonia plant.

A "Special Judges Award" went to the Firestone Steel Products Company at Wyandotte, Mich., for conducting a co-operative area-wide safety-check program in four outlying communities where a large number of the Wyandotte plant employees live.

For the fourth consecutive year, one out of every five vehicles safety-checked during the Inter-Industry program was found in need of maintenance attention.

"Again in 1958, rear lights were most often found in need of immediate attention among the 10 safety-check items," reported H. D. Tompkins, chairman of the committee and vice president of the Firestone company. "Brakes, front lights, exhaust systems, and tires were next in order of items most frequently found in unsafe condition."

OTHER ITEMS inspected during the safety-checks were steering, windshield wipers, glass, horn and rear view mirror.

Mr. Tompkins congratulated the motorists who had their vehicles checked and added a special commendation for owners who had unsafe items repaired and returned for a re-check.

"By making sure their vehicles

are in safe operating condition, these drivers have demonstrated a feeling of personal responsibility for traffic safety that is necessary for the safe use of our roads and streets," Mr. Tompkins emphasized.

"We are approaching an age of expressway-driving that will add to the importance of safe vehicle condition. Many miles of new and improved roads are being added to our highway systems each year as the national highway expansion program takes hold. Experience on the nation's turnpikes has shown that safe condition of tires, brakes, steering and other safety-check items is vital on modern highway facilities carrying large volumes of fast-moving traffic."

Carry A Record Of Your Blood Type

It is a matter of preparedness to carry a record of your blood type with you at all times. This advice from the Carolina Motor Club applies to pedestrians as well as motorists, since both are involved in the many thousands of traffic accidents every year. It may be the difference between life and death if you are injured and there is need for a transfusion.

North Carolina drivers licenses have a space for this information. Most identification cards also provide this space.

Diabetics also need to carry information regarding this illness. The information ought to be written down and carried in an easy-to-find place, such as alongside an identification card.

In cases of emergencies, minutes—even seconds—can mean survival or death.

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