

Freedoms Foundation Honors Nine Firestone Newspapers

The George Washington Honor Medal presented to Firestone recently by the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Pa., is the third such award paying tribute to outstanding accomplishments of the company's plant newspapers in the United States. The gold medal, given in the employee publications category of the annual awards program of the Foundation, recognized the nine domestic plant papers as the "outstanding corporation publications in conveying deep appreciation for the American Way of Life to employees and to their communities."



Joseph A. Meek (right), Firestone vice president in charge of production, looks over the Freedoms Foundation award for his company, with Dr. Kenneth D. Wells (center), president of the Foundation; and Admiral Arthur W. Radford, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a trustee of the Foundation.

A committee of 30 selected the awards from publications representing more than 900 companies. Among judges were 10 chief justices of state supreme courts, 10 presidents of patriotic organizations, and 10 presidents of service groups.

The Foundation makes the awards each year to citizens, organizations, and schools for their contribution to a better understanding of the American Way of Life.

Firestone publications previously received top recognition for accomplishments during 1952 and 1953. They have been honored with awards from the Foundation for each year since 1951. Last year a "distinguished service plaque" recognized the company's having received awards in seven of the nine awards programs which the Foundation had conducted up to that time.

Employee papers are under direction of the various plant managers, and the company public relations department at the home

offices in Akron, Ohio. A. E. Brubaker is director of public relations and Mary Kerrigan is supervisor of employee publications.

In addition to Firestone News at Gastonia, company publications sharing in the award are issued at plants in Akron, Ohio, Los Angeles, Calif., Memphis, Tenn., Pottstown, Pa., Fall River, Mass., Noblesville, Ind., Des Moines, Iowa, and Wyandotte, Mich.

Chairman's Article Reader's Digest

Company chairman Harvey S. Firestone Jr., and national chairman of United Service Organizations (USO), is author of an article appearing in the April issue of "Reader's Digest."

In the article, entitled "No One Is Alone," Mr. Firestone points out the importance of the USO and magazines like "Reader's Digest" in the field of international understanding.

The article, on the inside front cover of the magazine, was timed to appear during the annual observance of USO month in April.

Textile Students Tour Plant

Several students and two instructors from the North Carolina Vocational Textile School at Belmont had a look at cotton and synthetic processes at Firestone in late March. The students, most of whom are employed in textile mills of the two Carolinas, attend the Belmont school in morning, afternoon and evening class "shifts."

The Vocational Textile School is a state institution, offering instruction tuition-free to residents of North Carolina. Out-of-state students and armed forces veterans pay tuition which is figured on the actual cost of operating the

school. The price of textbooks runs from \$13 to \$19.

Repeating courses at the school include Yarn Manufacturing, Weaving and Designing, Knitting, Mill Maintenance (Machine Shop), and Tailoring. For entrance, students must be at least 16 years old, and are not required to have a high school education. Chris E. Folk, the principal, points out that it is generally considered an eighth-grade education is required, although some students under that educational attainment have done acceptable work. "If a person has

ability and a desire to learn and will give his wholehearted cooperation, he will absorb the instruction, and certainly make the practical applications," says Mr. Folk.

Class schedules at NCVTS are arranged so that a person working in mills and factories within commuting distances of Belmont may put in a regular shift, attend classes, and still have part of the day at home with the family.

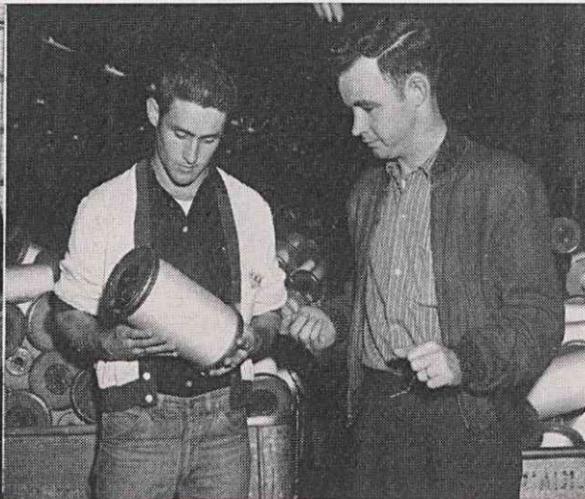
The pictures here were made of the textile school visitors during their look at both production divisions of the plant. They were divided into two groups for a morning and an afternoon tour, one conducted by Raymond Mack of Quality Control, the other, by Samuel Crawford, plant protection officer.

Below, from left: Vernon Heffner, Hoyle Brown, and Cecil Carpenter, all of Belmont, were interested in the safety posters at heavy-traffic points along the production line.

James Arp, Belmont, and James Helms, Concord, checked the weight of one of the larger packages of nylon yarn.

This group studied the fiber properties of cotton

sliver in the Carding department. From left—Gary Wilson, Gastonia; Tommie H. Spinks, Fort Mill, S. C.; Ray Rowland, Gastonia; Verner L. Hovis, Cramerton; Leland Andrews and Bobby Abee of Gastonia; and Marshall Camp, Kings Mountain.



Bottom, from left: Bobby Rudisill, Cramerton; James Cannon, Belmont; and Kenneth Clubb, Cramerton, studied a package of monofilament, a plastic yarn.

The commemorative book of Firestone's first 20

years in Gastonia interested Arthur Crocker, Pineville; William Brown, Fort Mill, S. C.; and Eulan Mellon, Kannapolis.

Examining packages of nylon cable from doff boxes: Bobby Weathers, Belmont; Harold Spake and John

E. Clary of Shelby; Marvin Gilbert, Lincolnton.

Firestone weaver Raymond Varnadore explains his part in the production of high-quality synthetic tire fabric, to Robert London, Kannapolis; and NCVTS instructors B. W. Gillespie and J. R. Young.

