

Lend A Helping Hand This Year—The United Way!

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Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

October 18 is Alaska Day, commemorating transfer of what is now America's 49th State, from Russia in 1867. Ninety-two years ago on October 18, Russia lowered her flag over the governor's residence, and fired a cannon saluting the Stars and Stripes.

VOLUME VIII

GASTONIA, N. C., OCTOBER, 1959

Number 11

FAIR-SHARE GIVING

UF Employees Campaign In Eighth Annual Appeal

The helping hand you extend this year through your contribution to the Employees' United Fund will go toward the support of 20 community, health, welfare and recreation services.

In this the eighth annual United Way of Giving program—being conducted during October to coincide with the seventh United Fund Drive in Greater Gastonia—employees are privileged to share in collecting at least \$142,912 needed for operation of participating agencies during 1960.

Last Year's Record

Last year, employees here reached an all-time record of giving, when contributions amounted to \$15,920.40—largest single gift from an industry in the county.

As in past years, volunteer solicitors have distributed pledge cards in the fund-gathering effort, headed again this time by Nelson Kessell, general superintendent; and F. B. Galligan, superintendent of the Cotton Division.

In keeping with the Greater Gastonia Drive, "fair-share giving" at the plant is the motto of the United Fund this year. Members of the overall campaign team hope that every person who can, will give his fair share. This would distribute contributions among as many citizens as possible.

What is Fair Share?

Generally speaking, a fair share gift for hourly workers is one hour's pay per month for the year. For salaried workers, it

is one per cent of income for one year.

"If everyone will take seriously the UF needs for next year and give his fair share, the campaign could exceed the goal—even before the closing date of the drive," pointed out Mr. Kessell. The campaign is tentatively set to end around November 6, one month after the "kickoff" date.

Participating Agencies

Newcomers to this year's group —More on Page 2



Bigger Buy—That Savings Bond

Savings Bonds are a bigger bargain than ever. Here to remind you is Barbara Craig of Main Office, displaying good news on the latest Series E Bonds, which now earn you 3 3/4 per cent interest. They mature in seven years, eight months. Bonds bought on or after June 1 of this year will draw the new interest. The old rate of 3 1/4 per cent interest still applies to all bonds purchased through May 31, 1959.

BEGINNING NEXT YEAR

Gastonia Plant Will Process Hopewell Nylon

Beginning late next summer, the Gastonia plant will further process the initial volume of nylon filament yarn produced at Firestone's synthetic plant at Hopewell, Va.

The facility there, purchased in September from Celanese Corporation of America, is scheduled to begin operation in the late summer of 1960.

It will be devoted to production of synthetic fibres, first of which will be nylon; and to resins, the first to be polypropylene. This resin process was developed by Firestone scientists as an outgrowth of its research in Coral rubber. Coral, a Firestone discovery, was the first man-made rubber with a molecular structure identical to that of natural rubber. Polypropylene is used to make a plastic film similar to the polyethylene presently used for packaging materials.

Venture into Synthetics

Announcement by Chairman Harvey S. Firestone Jr., regard-

ing this further diversification of the company, said that facilities on the 250-acre Hopewell site would be modernized to make available approximately 450,000 square feet of manufacturing space.

This plant represents the company's first venture of any rubber company into full-scale manufacture of synthetic fibres. On this, Mr. Firestone said:

"During the past four years we have spent hundreds of millions of dollars for expansion in the fields of rubber, metals, plastics, synthetics, textiles and chemicals. When the Hopewell plant is finished, we will be entering another field—that of synthetic fibres. . . . Our research program will make full use of the Hopewell facility. . . ."

Executive vice president James E. Trainer said that the Virginia unit's initial production of about 1,000,000 pounds of nylon yarn per month will be processed at Gastonia. He pointed out that this production will be devoted mainly to the manu-

facture of tire cord and will satisfy about 15 per cent of Firestone's requirements.

Fibres from Suppliers

In past years, all synthetic fibres processed here have been bought from suppliers. At the Gastonia plant, processing of synthetic fibres begins by taking the material from large beams for twisting and spooling. It is then woven into tire fabric, most of which is gum-dipped in the giant electronically-controlled heat-tensioning unit here, or in Akron, Ohio. This prepares it as fabric for the company's tire plants.

With purchase of the Hopewell property, the chairman announced that the Firestone Plastics Company at Pottstown, Pa. will become the Plastics and Synthetic Fibres Division of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, and will assume management of the Virginia operation. Roger S. Firestone is president of the expanded operation, and Ernest T. Handley, executive vice president.

Eight Win Slogan Contest

Eight persons last month traded the company some top-rate safety promotion for a total of \$75 in prizes. Winners in the late-summer safety slogan contest were chosen out of 504 entries, from among all employees—excepting members of the plant supervisory staff.

First prize of \$25 went to Delores Fritton of Main Office; second prize of \$15, to Julia Buchanan of Winding. Third place of \$10 was awarded to Phoebe Pearson, Shop.

Five additional prizes of \$5 each went to:

John C. Owensby, Twisting (synthetics); Earl M. Redding, Shop; Rosie Francum, Shop;

J. W. Hartgrove Jr., Quality Control Laboratory; Gettie M. H. Davis, Spooling.

Each entry was limited to 12 words, but there was no limit to the number of slogans an employee could submit. Slogans were evaluated on content and originality, by judges Robert Smith of Wix Corporation; William G. Hardin, Rex Mills, and Fred Ratchford of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce.

Winning Slogans

:: Don't Be A Statistic—Be Realistic—Use Safety First.—Delores Fritton

:: Always Keep Safety With You—It's Good Company.—Julia Buchanan

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TOP SLOGAN WRITERS—standing in front of plant safety board and holding their pay for slogans well-written are (front row, from left): Rosie Francum, Phoebe Pearson, Delores Fritton, Gettie M. H. Davis and Julia Buchanan. Second row: J. W. Hartgrove Jr., John C. Owensby and Earl M. Redding.