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Firestone NEWS

GASTONIA

MAR 18 1960



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\$17,867.85 FOR 1960

UF 'Citizenship' Award To Firestone

For generosity of sharing in the 1959-60 Greater Gastonia United Fund, Firestone Textiles and its employees have been awarded the UF citation "for outstanding citizenship". This plant was one of the five larger firms to be accorded the honor, at an awards dinner in the Gastonia Eagles Club building in February.

The award, ascribed to "management and employees", is a permanent, embossed wall plaque measuring 10½ x 13½ inches, and finished in bronze gilding. It has a bronze strip on which are embossed the name of the recipient firm and the year of presentation. In case of additional awards, each would be designated by adding the year for which citation is made.

The honor came in recognition of the \$17,867.85 which Firestone people here pledged to the UF Appeal last year. This represented one of the largest gifts from a single company in the Gastonia area. The Firestone employee contribution will be at work throughout 1960, helping to support 20 community, health, welfare, recreation and character-building services.

Two previous UF honors have come to the Gastonia Firestone plant in recent years: Printed citations presented in 1957, and 1958 "in recognition of outstanding achievement in serving the human needs of our community."



SIGNAL HONOR—Barbara Galloway's delight registers a feeling representative of Firestone employees who shared in the plant's eighth United Fund Appeal, recognized by the award which she is holding. Barbara, a clerk-typist in Main Office, is the wife of James W. Galloway of Weaving (synthetics).



VICTORY SYMBOL — Bennettsville plant manager E. F. Sweeney (center) receives from Firestone Textiles president W. A. Karl the plaque recognizing safety performance at the South Carolina plant. Looking on is Carl Anderson, formerly of the Gastonia plant and now a supervisor in the Bennettsville operation.

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within that time that Bennettsville and Woodstock became winners, each having made a "no-accident" record for the eight-month period.

Beginning with 1960 and each year thereafter each contest dates from January 1 to the close of the calendar year.

The award plaque is the joint possession of both winners for a year—or longer if they earn it. If a plant wins three years in a row, it would earn permanent possession of the victor's symbol.

The plaque itself is of polished walnut, supporting a gold-gilded figure holding the Green Cross symbol for safety. There are bronze tablets on which names

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Bennettsville, Woodstock Win Contest

The first lap of a long-range safety race among three units of the company's North American textiles division has marked up two plants as joint winners. Firestone Textiles at Bennettsville, S. C., and Firestone Textiles Ltd., Woodstock, Ontario, Canada, shared the contest honors.

William A. Karl, president of all three contesting plants, presented the plaque at Bennettsville in February. Mr. Karl made another presentation at Woodstock.

Firestone Textiles at Gastonia is the third plant involved in the continuing contest which, according to its design, could be repeated each year for a maximum of 12 times.

When the inter-division safety program was inaugurated last year it dated from May 1 through December 31. It was

Wage Hike To Add \$375,000

The five per cent wage increase which went into effect here February 29 will channel more than \$375,000 additional pay per year to employees of Firestone Textiles. This figure includes generous extra benefits which Firestone employees are currently receiving — such as vacation pay, pensions, and company-paid insurance with hospitalization.

When general manager Harold Mercer posted the wage-hike announcement in late February, he noted that the increase in pay is in keeping with the company's policy of maintaining wages at the top level of the textile industry.

Wildflowers Theme Of Club Program

Projected color slides of wildflowers will be featured at the April meeting of Variety Garden Club of Firestone. The well-known naturalist, R. M. Schiele, will present the program which begins at 9:30 a.m., April 7 in the dining room of the plant Recreation Center. The public is

invited.

Mr. Schiele, retired executive of Piedmont Council of Boy Scouts of America, is founder and curator of Gastonia's Museum of Natural History at 113 West Third avenue. Shortly after his program with the Garden Club, Mr. Schiele will leave to begin his second summer in the naturalist service of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



'... The Winter Was So Late In Coming ...'

By the time you see this in March, the bluster of the Third Month will entertain the promise of another Season—"... With rushing winds and gloomy skies, the dark and stubborn Winter dies; far-off, unseen, Spring faintly cries..."

But just a few days ago, the proverbial groundhog ventured to glimpse his shadow, so weather-wise observers at the mill en-

visioned 40 days more of sturdy Winter. Yet quite unexpected was the weather fare which Nature visited upon the Mid-Southland February 13—two years to the month since the Piedmont Carolinas had seen a snowfall worth remembering. Then came March 2, with more snow—the most in 30 years.

Here is your scrapbook record of a Sunday-morning look at the white landscape in front of the mill, from the Dalton street side. The undisturbed beauty of fluff and ice with built-in jewels on water tower and trees, affords a scene worth a nostalgic memory far into the hot days of summer.