



MUSIC-MAKERS OF YORE — The Loray Concert Band was photographed around 1916. Paul Dellinger of Bessemer City, a nephew of Firestone first aid nurse Mrs. A. T. Newton brought the picture and name identifications from Spindale. Time has dimmed memory on some of them. Maybe some old-timer readers can supply the missing names.

Front row, from left: Cliff Hill, unknown, Arthur Jenkins, Will Waldrop, Lester Sherril, Lydia Haney, Volley McEntirie, Glenn Stevenson. Back row, from left: Leonard Hawkins, Lonzo Whitaker, unknown, Zeke Hancock, unknown, Charlie Clemmer, Ode Weaver, Joe Hancock, Walt Rhyhart, Walker Francis, Lee Corn, Colon Robbins (leader), Kenith Todd (first director).

A Loray Band Loomed Music

Back in the days when Firestone Textiles' predecessor was in business as Loray Mill, there was a concert band which did some tuneweaving from 1915 to 1918. An old photograph owned by the band's original leader, Colon Robbins of Spindale, will perchance stir up some memories among some folks at Firestone today.

Mr. Robbins, now 71 years old, recalls that the Loray Concert Band did most of its music-making in and around the Loray community. Its members

were recruited from Loray Mill families.

The band played in park concerts, and appeared at land auction sales, political rallies, and helped to lend color to not a few country fairs.

One of its last performances was a concert of patriotic tunes in the streets of Gastonia, November 11, 1918—World War I Armistice Day.

"The Loray Mill paid for our instruments," remembers Mr. Robbins. "Then, during the years we were organized, we had a heap of ice cream suppers to foot the bill of operating expenses."

The old photograph, by pioneering Shelby Studio, shows the musicians grouped in front

of the bandstand between the two wings of today's Gaston Technical Institute—then property of the mill. The present center section at GTI is near the original location of the bandstand.

On Southern Tour

Mrs. Carl Stowe Sr., of Industrial Relations, with Mr. Stowe and granddaughters Roseann and Christine Rosedahl had a look at many an interesting landmark on an August tour of seven Southern states. They traveled through South Carolina and Georgia, stopping for a while at Pensacola, Fla. They went along the Gulf to Mobile, Biloxi and Gulfport.

In New Orleans they saw the French Quarter, visited parks, art shops, and had dinner at Antoine's, renowned French restaurant.

From the "Crescent City" they went to Baton Rouge for a visit at the State Capital, then on to Natchez for a look at some antebellum homes. There were stops also in Montgomery, Meridian and Jackson, before the return home by way of West Point and Newnan, Ga.

Man-Caused Fires Lead The List

Seventy forest fires burned across 430 acres in South Carolina during July. Report of the SC State Commission of Forestry showed that man-caused fires continued to lead the list.

Smokers were responsible for 24 fires; debris burning, 12; wash pot and miscellaneous sources, 17. Lightning caused 12 fires in July.

Citizens' thoughtfulness and care undoubtedly aided in the decrease of forest fires of July, against that of June when 187 fires burned across 2,235 acres.

"Continued interest of the public in protecting forest resources is urgent," said state forester C. H. Flory.



21st Textile Show In October

In early October, members of the Gastonia plant supervisory staff will have a look at the newest technological developments and refinements in textile machinery and equipment. They will be attending the 21st biennial Southern Textile Exposition in Textile Hall, Greenville, S. C., October 3-7.

Interest in the show—an "institution" in the mill industry since 1915—is growing this year, through current relatively high outlay for plant modernization in the industry.

In recent years each exposition has been larger than the preceding one, the show in 1958 having attracted some 340 US and foreign exhibitors of machinery, equipment and supplies.

New Admission System

Plans for the trade show this year are complete. Miss Bertha M. Green, exposition director, has announced that the show will be different from those of previous years, in that visitors will be provided with identification badges, good for all five days. Admission will be by badge only.

Textile Hall Corporation, the

WARP
and
FILLING

Of The Passing Scene

Fibrocast Produced At Magnolia Plant

Formation of a new division for the manufacture of molded fiber products was a recent addition to the company's program of diversification, to keep pace with consumer needs.

Production of the new material—called Fibrocast—is under direction of W. D. Gore, who has held a number of management positions with Firestone since he joined the company in 1924.

Fibrocast is made from various fibers and synthetic resins. A versatile material, it is easily molded into a variety of components for the automotive, aircraft, communications, defense and allied industries.

Headquarters for the new-products division is in Akron, Ohio, with sales offices in Akron and Detroit. Production facilities are at the company's Magnolia, Ark., plant.

Vast Possibilities For New Material

Possibilities for Fibrocast appear limitless, according to L. J. Campbell, vice president of do-

mestic subsidiaries (other than tires) for the company. Molded fiber is used in the making of such products as casings for supersonic fighter weapons, radio speakers, ammunition cases, and luggage.

"We foresee a tremendous future for Firestone's new Fibrocast in the automotive industry," Mr. Campbell said. "Intriguingly-contoured panels can be made from Fibrocast and finished with decorative coverings. Colorful door panels, dashboards and seats can be made of this material. Many different finishes can be applied—it can be embossed and colored to resemble rich tapestry, or made smooth to simulate metal."

Fibrocast is molded over preformed metal dies. Cost per pound for the lightweight material is less than for metal or molded plastics, Mr. Campbell points out.

Initial production of the new material is for air ducts for ventilation systems of buses and cars, automotive door panels, and package trays.

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GOOD RECORD

Roy Hutchins, beam hauler in Twisting (synthetics), is a firm believer in being present and accounted for on the job—unless, of course, harassing circumstances intervene.

Mr. Hutchins came to work here in 1949. Until a fateful date in August this year—when he got a throat infection—he had not been absent a day from his first shift job. The throat malady cost him eight days from the mill, but by late August he was back on the job.

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