

# Firestone NEWS

Some Firestone folks, home from a leisure tour of Florida, brought back a Floridian's definition of a tourist. "You always can tell the tourist from the native," they overheard. "The tourist is the one who wears those giant sunglasses."



## MOUNTAIN VISTA

Rhododendron blossoms into a spectacular color show at lofty elevations of the Southern mountain region during June. Making Camp Firestone in the Blue Ridge your starting point, you can

enjoy the climax of the spring flower season in the midst of such beauty as this—Craggy Rhododendron Gardens on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville. A few miles north on towering Roan Mountain you can join the fun at the 16th annual Rhododendron Festival, June 24-25. NC News Bureau Photo

## 801 Vehicles Safety-Checked

Employees and other motorists of the Gastonia plant community put 801 vehicles through safety inspection in the company-sponsored check program May 22-26. Check-lanes here were part of the fourth annual nationwide program sponsored by Firestone.

Three years ago the company was the first business or industrial concern to conduct a nationwide safety check in conjunction with the national voluntary Vehicle Safety-Check for Communities sponsored by the Auto Industries Highway Safety Committee.

The free safety inspection here was offered at the employee parking area off Firestone boulevard, on a schedule

that permitted people to bring their vehicles at times outside their regular working hours.

**This year's vehicle-check program was a major phase of the off-job safety emphasis in May, and was especially timely because of the Memorial Day weekend.**

Qualified mechanics and other helpers were on duty to check brakes, front and rear lights and turn signals, steering mechanism, tires, exhaust system, glass, windshield wipers, rear-view mirror, and horn.

"Join the Circle of Safety—Check Your Car—Check Your Driving—Check Accidents," is the slogan in this year's two-month program in May and June in some 3,000 communities in the states which do not have compulsory motor-vehicle inspection.

ates new wealth to the extent of \$2.5 billion at the farm level alone.

• It provides work for millions of people and is a vitally-important export commodity and source of economic strength.

## Ol' King Cotton: Economic Bulwark

All the gold that has ever been produced in this country wouldn't equal the value of the cotton crop for the last ten years. Burris C. Jackson of Hillsboro, Texas made this observation, in his keynote address opening the American Cotton Congress in Lubbock recently.

Mr. Jackson went on to point out these additional facts:

• The cotton industry represents an investment of \$22 billion and the crop each year cre-

### FOR CARPETING

## Lofted Nylon From Plant At Hopewell

A lofted nylon filament for rugs and carpeting will soon be in production at the company's Hopewell (Va.) plant. Firestone has acquired the trade name "Nyloft" from Industrial Rayon Corporation of Cleveland, Ohio and will begin production by mid-June.

The company thus becomes one of the three leading producers of lofted nylon filament with an initial capacity of approximately four million pounds.

Industrial Rayon has produced "Nyloft" for several years at a factory in Covington, Va. The process involves the wrinkling or curling of nylon staple fiber into a bulky material resembling sheep's wool.

Most carpet manufacturers consider nylon to be the strongest and longest-wearing fiber in the industry. Nylon rugs and carpets usually have high resilience and good resistance to wear, to flame, soil, and most acids and solvents.

**THE HOPEWELL** plant is operated by the Firestone Synthetic Fibers Company. President Roger S. Firestone is also a director of the parent company.

Firestone bought the Hopewell works in 1959 for production of synthetic fibers. When the plant opened last year, the company became the first in the American rubber industry to produce its own nylon filament for tire cords. Of this production, a major portion is being further processed into fabric at the Gastonia plant.



**MEDALLION FOR WINNER**—Starr Neely Robinson receives from general manager Harold Mercer the Harvey S. Firestone Jr. Silver Medallion. Looking on are the scout's father, W. R. Robinson (left), and W. A. Forbes, Starr's former scoutmaster.

Top Award To Starr Neely Robinson

## Company Honors 36 Scouts

"He is a leader in all activities in which he participates. He is an ideal American boy—in every respect deserving of this high honor." That was the evaluation placed upon Starr Neely Robinson, in reviewing the record which led to his selection as recipient of the Harvey S. Firestone Jr. Scouting Award for 1961.

The 17-year-old Eagle Scout was accorded the company's highest recognition for Scouting at an annual banquet on May 31 in the Recreation Center here.

**The 16th boy from the Gastonia area to be so honored, young Robinson was presented the engraved Silver Medallion, symbolic of the award named for the company chairman and chief executive officer.**

A member of the graduating class of Frank H. Ashley High School this year, Robinson competed for the top company honor on the basis of excellence of his Scouting record during the past year. He was described as a leader in his Scout, church and school endeavors.

The top winner this year holds 28 merit badges in Scoutercraft. A member of Post 30 since April of 1959, he lives with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Robinson on Route 3, Gastonia.

In addition to the Medallion, Starr received a Certificate of Merit, a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond and a check for \$27.75 toward expenses for two weeks at the Schiele Camp for Piedmont Council Scouts, in Polk County.

### 35 Other Scouts Honored

Also at the banquet 35 other area Scouts were formally commended for outstanding records. Each received from the company a Merit Certificate and a check for \$27.75 to be appropriated toward expenses for a two-week stay at the Polk county camp, or for purchase of Scouting equipment of the Scout's choosing. Those honored were:

Flay Anthony, Robert Cloninger, Michael Cole, John Connor, Jimmy Crawford, Philip Ford, Francis Galligan Jr., Steve Harmon, Ray Hawkins, Lewis

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## Safety Manager Visits Here

On a recent visit to Gastonia, M. R. Batche of Akron, Ohio, stopped on a tour of the mill to discuss the Red Tag safety program with employees Belon Hanna and Jack Sutton in Twisting (synthetics). Mr. Batche is manager of safety for all Firestone manufacturing plants.

## It's Another Hitch For Sgt. Hardy

Sgt. Edward F. Hardy has begun his 13th year of service with the United States Army. The son of Hoyt Hardy (mechanical service at Firestone) and Mrs. Hardy of 105 S. Liberty street in Gastonia, he re-enlisted in March, and was assigned to headquarters 2nd Logistical Command in transportation at Fort Ord, Calif.

Previous to his last enlistment, Sgt. Hardy had been for 16 months with the Army Combat Development Experimentation Center at 2nd Logistical Command.