

September: Goodby To Summer .. Prelude To Autumn Splendor



Popsicle Sticks And Brush Strokes

Thousands of sticks and dabs of paint are transformed into things of beauty and usefulness when Wade Ledwell goes to work in his basement "studio" at 249 Winget circle.

The employee in the Shop (electrical) took to building novelty lamps and painting pictures when he had time on his hands during long evenings two winters ago. He has constructed more than a dozen of the unusual lamps—

all of stacked popsicle sticks glued together and spray-decorated. His largest lamp contains 2500 sticks. Wade buys the sticks in lots of 1,000 at a local ice-cream plant. His lamp creations are built free-hand, without any plans or designs. Some of the lamps he has sold, and more are ready for the market.

His paintings are of the kit type, with numbers to follow. He has done around 50, of these on various subjects. Many of them he has framed to decorate the house. He has passed along several to relatives and neighbors.

Town & Country Will Wear Longer

A new synthetic rubber in Firestone's Town & Country winter tires promises an increase of tread wear of at least 30 per cent. "Diene," a synthetic which closely resembles natural rubber, actually is superior to natural in some respects. The company has been producing Diene in a new plant at Orange, Texas, since last spring.

Diene is being used as half of the rubber in the Town & Country treads. Firestone has used

Diene quite successfully in bodies of large truck tires, mostly to reduce heat buildup; and in treads of some smaller truck tires to improve wear. It also has been used as a sealant in premium-quality tires for several years.

When blended with natural rubber, Diene contributes such qualities as resilience, abrasion resistance and low heat buildup. Town & Country winter tires containing Diene outwore regular production-line winter tires in tests at the company's Fort Stockton, Texas track; on commercial fleets, and on passenger cars.

Ideas Earned 17 Cash Awards

Seventeen persons suggested their way to cash awards through ideas adopted here in July and early August. Suggestions concerned methods of operation, and health-and-safety measures.

Those receiving the awards, their department, and a description of each suggested change, addition, or improvement:

Warren H. Chastain, Weaving (synthetics), compression-type spring hinges for smoker doors.

Lucille M. Foy, Quality Control, relocating spliced yarn in loom creels.

George Jackson, Warehouse, guard shields on interiors of elevators in warehouses.

Maude J. Jenkins, Twisting (synthetics), improvement on running yarn on respooler in plying-twisting.

Charles V. Cates, Weaving (synthetics), covers for all trash receptacles in plant.

Shirley P. Bolding, Industrial Relations, placing "No U-Turn" sign in shop yard area.

Ethelene Nichols, Cloth Room, number identification for cloth-inspection tables.

James G. Saylor, Weaving, protection for stop-motion on looms.

Lloyd Lewis, Industrial Relations, covers for protection of yarn and twister frames against sprinkler-system letoff.

John Morrow, Industrial Relations, covers for twister frames and stocks of yarn.

Charles K. Cauthen, Warehouse, repositioning of front-bumper guards on fork-lift trucks (for safety).

Edward L. Tart Jr., Weaving (cotton), storage box for slasher splines.

Payton R. Lewis, Carding, flat-iron "scotches" for parking boxes on floor in Carding.

Thurman Clark, Quality Control, header rack for storing weights in Weaving (synthetics).

Frank L. Jolly, Nylon Treating, additional spotlights in this department.

Larry W. Sanders, Cloth Room, additional yardage on rolls from Hermas Machine.

J. A. Waldrep, Cloth Room, improvement on electric hoist in this department.

From seacoast to highlands of the Carolinas and all up and down the Mid-South, the crispness and color of September means Autumn—and a choice time in which to delight in the lure of the open road. Take time to enjoy it, when off the job.

Travel information service of plant recreation casts the September "Specials" in this catch-all reminder: Beaches continue warm for swimming and sun bathing, and the fishing is good. The first splashes of autumn come to the higher peaks of the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains.

Varied accommodations and a full roster of scenic attractions and recreational facilities will lend zest to the Firestone traveler's experience this month.

Time For Extra Fishing

The Wildlife Resources Commission has announced that the trout season in North Carolina has been extended to Sept. 30 in certain designated waters. Complete lists of these fishing waters may be had from the Commission's Raleigh office, and local protectors can supply information in their districts. There is no closed season on warm-water fishing in the state.

The lowly mule—enjoying somewhat of a comeback even in this nuclear age—kicks up one of the state's most colorful festivals this month at Benson. This will be the 12th annual Mule Day Celebration, replete with an agricultural festival and grand champion mule competition. There will be street dancing, a parade, queen contest, music, speech-making—and "no telling what all." The dates: Sept. 22, 23.

THE MASTER WEAVER

100,000 Weeks Of Vacations

Vacation time for most of us has come and gone this year. The vacations of two, three or four weeks slip by fast for most of us. But if company employees were able to take their vacations "strung out" one after the other and wanted to have all of this year's vacation time over by the end of the year, they would have had to start in the year 61 A.D.

That's not possible, of course, but it is true that almost 40,000 company employees, represent-

ing all Firestone plants, offices and sales divisions in the United States, will have had vacations totaling more than 1,900 years, or more than 100,000 weeks, by October 31, the end of the fiscal year.

These figures include vacation time for employees who qualify for varying numbers of weeks depending on their lengths of service with the company.

What will all this cost Firestone? The company will pay

nearly \$14,100,000 for employee vacations in 1961.

Think of it this way: That's enough money to buy 700 houses valued at \$20,000 or 5,600 automobiles. But for those persons who like to take their families to some beach playground, this year's vacation pay would purchase enough foot-long hotdogs to reach from Gastonia to San Francisco and back.

Hope you had a happy vacation. If you still have some time left—you have fun, too!

BRSC Members Heard Heaton, Emerson

A mid-summer meeting of the Blue Ridge Safety Council at Brackett's Cedar Park in Spindale featured a talk by Dr. George D. Heaton, human-relations advisor to industry. Joe Emerson, America's "dean of gospel singers", presented a program of best-loved hymns.

The after-dinner meeting was followed by a tour of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company's fiberglass division near Shelby.

One of eight regional units sponsored by the North Carolina Industrial Commission, the Blue

Ridge Safety Council promotes safety education in industry, homes and public places. Emphasis is on injury control in industry.

Quarterly meetings are held at places within the council's seven-county area which includes Gaston, Cleveland, Rutherford, Burke, Lincoln, McDowell, and Polk.

Alvin Riley of Firestone's industrial relations department at Gastonia, is a past president of the council. He is now a member of the board of directors.

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