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Firestone NEWS

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GASTONIA • NORTH CAROLINA
VOLUME XIII—NUMBER 4
MARCH • 1964



Five, Ten-Year Departmental Records In Safety

Four framed commendation certificates acknowledging five and ten-year records in departments free of a lost-time injury were awarded at a February luncheon in the Recreation Center. Certificates were accepted by department heads Carl Rape, carding, 5-year record; W. G. Henson, shop, 5; O. K. Forrester, warp preparation, 10; Pete McArver, cloth room, 5. In photo from left: Mr. Rape, Raymond Mack, plant safety manager; Mr. Henson, R. M. Sawyer, textiles division president; Mr. Forrester and Mr. McArver.

'Stereo' Rubber Promising

A good future is seen for stereoregulated types of synthetic rubber which show great promise as either partial or complete replacements for natural rubber. B. H. Larabee, vice president in charge of Firestone's rubber operations, predicts that domestic consumption of the stereoregulated types of rubber—polybutadiene and polyisoprene—will climb to about 150,000 long tons this year. He said free-world use of these new types of rubber will increase more than 50 per cent this year to some 235,000 long tons. Their domestic use will

reach nearly 11.5 per cent of an expected record consumption of all types of synthetic rubber in 1964, he said. Ratio throughout the free world will be almost 10 per cent. Stereoregulated types of rubber are expected to account for 20 to 25 per cent of domestic synthetic-rubber consumption in a few years. MUCH of the polybutadiene rubber used this year in the U.S. and elsewhere will be produced by Firestone as Diene rubber in plants at Orange, Texas and Port Jerome, France. Firestone can produce either Diene or

Coral rubber (polyisoprene) in its plants, but has concentrated on the Diene types. Consumption of all types of synthetic rubber this year will increase by about 6,000 long tons to 1,316,000 long tons. But use of polybutadiene and polyisoprene will increase by 40,000 long tons, indicating stereo rubber types are finding outlets in a variety of products. Mr. Larabee sees synthetic rubber increasing its share of domestic and foreign markets again in 1964, that synthetic rubber will account for about 75 per cent of the total rubber consumption in the United States this year, and almost 59 per cent of the rubber used in the free world.

201 Donors At February Bloodmobile Stop

On the Red Cross bloodmobile stop at Firestone Recreation Center in February, 201 repeaters and many first-timers among employees and others of the plant community "made their gift from the heart". The bloodmobile visit here was the first of two made during each year. Donors, with last names in alphabetical order: Annabelle Adams, David Adams, Dr. Simeon Adams, Aubrey Aderholt Jr., Frederick Anderson, Ernest Bagwell, Bobbie Baldwin, James Barker Jr., J. C. Barnes, Betty Barton, Glenn Beach, Nell Rose Beach, James Beddingfield, Arthur Beechanan, Clemmer Bell. Glenn Henry Bell, Jennie Bradley, Opal Bradley, Coy Bradshaw, Dillard Bradshaw, Carl Briggs, Vernon Brockman, Hurley Brooks, Luther Brown, Adams Brunner, John Bryant, Sam Bunton, Sammy O.

Bunton, James Burr, Gladys Butler, Ida Byers, William Byrum, Raybon Calhoun, Mimmy Cantrell, Frank Capps. Gene Carson, Dena Champion, Paul Chastain, Bob Chavis, Henry Church, Virgil Collette, Roland Conrad, Jack Cook, William Cosey, Guy Crain, Lloyd Crain, Eva Nell Crawford, Samuel Crawford, Ralph Dalton, Jennie Davidson, Coy Davis, Fred Davis, Fred J. Davis, Grady Davis, Lydia Davis. Archie Deal, Harold Denton, James Dixon Jr., Clarence Donaldson, Johnny Ellis, Lottie J. Ethridge, William Ethridge, Jack Faile, C. H. Falls, John Fletcher, George Floyd, Edgar Foy, Ralph Franklin, Clarence Free, Dolores Fritton, Francis Galligan, Robert Garrett, Jackie Gates, Evelyn Gibson, Thomas Gibson, Don Gillespie, Joe Givens, John Goff, Thomas Grant, Clinton Guffey. William Guffey, Robert Hager,

Charles Hamrick, Belon Hanna, Gwynn Hardin, John Harris, Frank Harrison, Keith Haygood, James Hicks, George High, George Hill, Theodore Hoffman, William Hogan, Worth Honeycutt, James Hord, Theron Houser, Jack Howard, Jerry Howie, Horace Hughes, Ernest Hubbard, Warren Jackson, Ralph Johnson. Clarence Jolly, Frank Jolly, Bobby Jones, Jesse Jones, Lenel Keenum, William Kendrick, William Kennedy, Alfred Kessell, James King, Melvin Knox, Louise Lankford, Mary Lankford, J. M. Lasater, Glenn Leatherwood, Alvin Ledford, Jesse Liles, Pearl Lindsay, Cramer Little, Vernon Lovingood, Gertrude Lowe, Gary Lyles. Benjamin Massey, Margaret Matthews, Ernest Mauney, Frances McArver, A. D. McCarter, Beatrice McCarter, Howard McCarter, Gary McCaslin, Marvin

BIE DAY

Textile Industry Offers New Opportunities

Textiles—one of the world's oldest industries—today offers our newest opportunity, especially for able and imaginative youth. It is a warmly-human industry, making products that serve man's basic and artistic needs. As such, it offers promise to the young person with ambition and skill. "The textile industry is no exception when we say that it looks more and more to education and increased technical skills in the people it employs," the general manager said.

This was the core of what plant general manager Harold Mercer told 30 students of Hunter Huss High School, when they were special guests of the Firestone Textiles plant one day in February. The students' visit was part of Business-Industry Day activities sponsored in Gastonia by the Industrial Management Club in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce. BEFORE coming to the two-hour session in the plant conference room, the students had been invited to send in questions related to opportunities, jobs, products and processes in the textile industry and at the Gastonia Firestone plant in particular. At the meeting Mr. Mercer dealt with the compiled questions. He was assisted by Brice T. Dickson Sr., retired executive secretary of the local Chamber of Commerce.

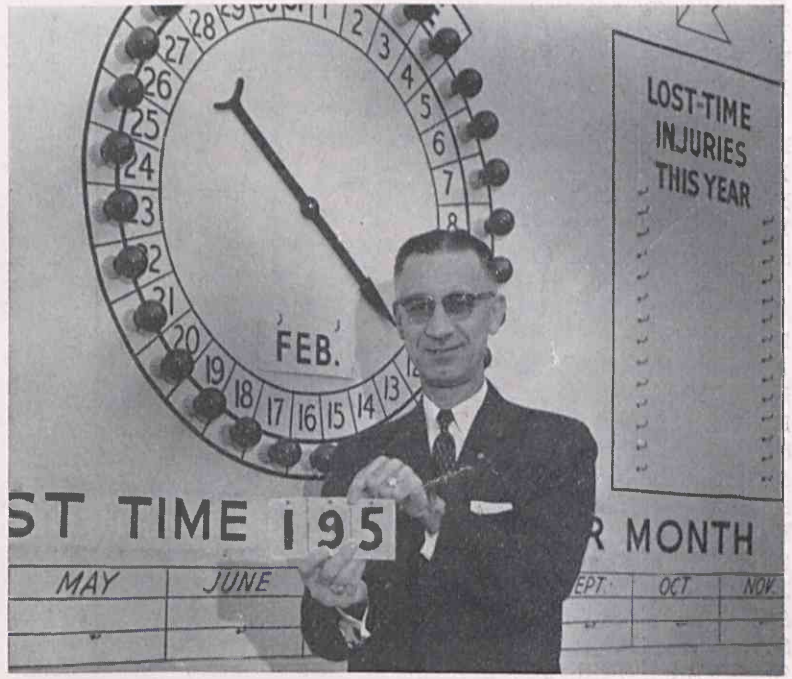
He pointed out that such factors as America's growing system of free enterprise, modernization of production facilities and development of new products have brought almost unlimited opportunities to the textile and allied industries, such as the rubber industry, in the case of the Firestone company. The students got this added reminder: Even with great opportunities it doesn't mean that you can enter a textile mill and move from bottom to top in a job without effort. Business success is not usually simple and easy. There's room at the top, but there's competition every step of the way in getting there.

Company's 21st Foreign Tire Plant

Thailand's first tire plant and the Firestone company's 21st foreign tire-producing facility began operation in January at Bangkok, capital and chief commercial center of the country. Opening of this plant is another milestone in Firestone's plan of increased foreign production to meet growing demands of foreign markets.

And added tire plants naturally increase demand for tire fabric. President Raymond C. Firestone said Thailand presently has some 125,000 vehicles registered, and the figure will climb to 240,000 by 1970, a 92-per cent increase. The new plant is producing

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M. R. Batche, manager of safety in Firestone's manufacturing plants, displays the number of days without a lost-time injury at the Gastonia plant as of mid-February. Mr. Batche, visiting from Akron, stands before a portion of the new safety board at the main entrance to the mill. The rebuilt board, completed last month, is done in the company colors of red and white.

Latest Safety Board