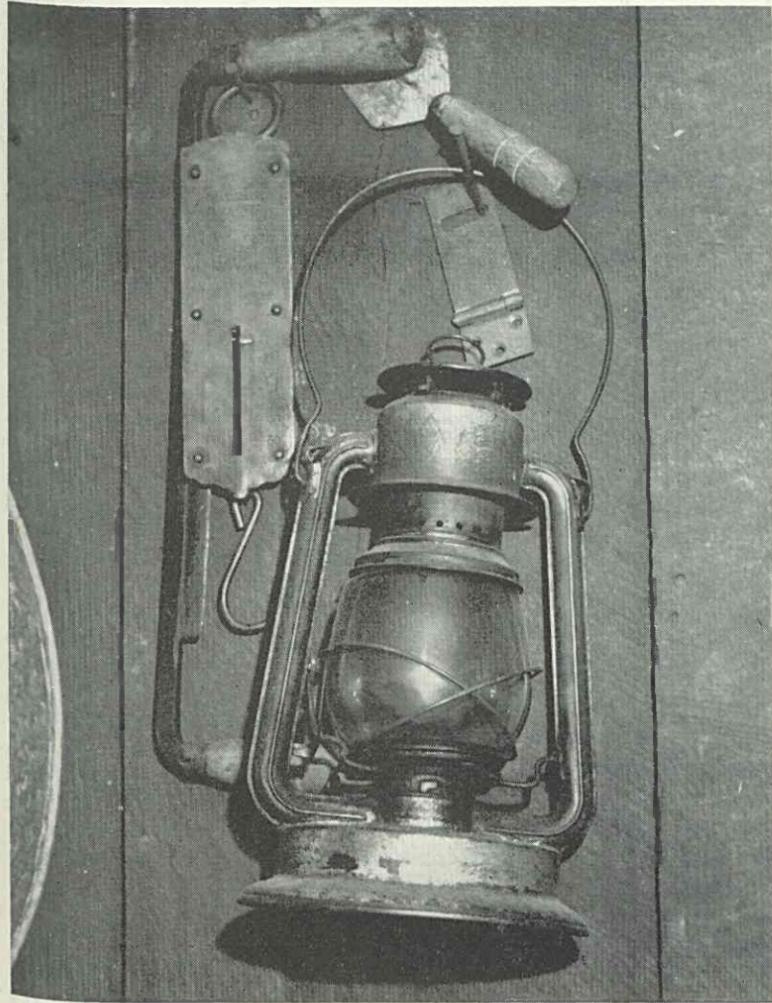


# Firestone NEWS

Your Symbol  
of Quality  
and Service



Many a Firestone man and woman with rural beginnings can conjure up warm recollections of simple country things. Maybe among them would be the rich texture of weathered boards and the pattern of commonplace things clustering on a back-porch wall.

Could the lantern recall an exciting possum hunt, fox chase or a trip to Grandma's across the ridge? Then the drawknife that helped to fashion a high chair for Baby Sister long ago . . . the scale that weighed the dried ap-

## Since lilacs last in the dooryard bloomed

FEBRUARY  
THOUGHTS

ples . . . the trowel that built the springhouse wall . . . the hasp from the old barn door.

Or maybe if you look at it with less sentiment, such things as these suggest a "primitive age of making-do" replaced by things that symbolize change and easier living today.

## SAFETY CONTEST

### Gastonia and Woodstock Win

"Congratulations to you, your safety committee, your supervision and every employee at the Gastonia plant for winning this trophy," wrote Richard M. Sawyer, president of the company's textiles division.

His letter in January to Harold Mercer, Gastonia plant manager, announced that the plant here had become co-winner with the Woodstock, Canada plant in the long-range safety contest among Firestone North American textile facilities.

The recognition is for safety performance at the two plants—each without a lost-time injury on the job during 1965 calendar

year. The latest win is represented by another engraved bar attached to the original plaque awarded in 1959, when the Bennettsville, S. C. and Woodstock plants were joint recipients.

In 1960 the trophy went to all three plants involved in the contest: Bennettsville, Gastonia and Woodstock. The following year Bennettsville - Woodstock were winners.

Gastonia won it separately in 1962, and for the next two years Bennettsville - Woodstock again were joint winners. Wrote Mr. Sawyer:

"I sincerely hope you will continue this fine safety record through 1966 so you will win

## SEVENTH FOR PLANT

### Another UF Citizenship Citation

This is the seventh consecutive year that Firestone Textiles has received the "outstanding citizenship" award in recognition of employee - company participation in the Greater Gastonia United Fund financial program.

The plant was among more than two dozen industries and businesses singled out for honors at the 13th annual UF luncheon awards meeting at First Methodist Church, Jan. 28.

Recognition for exceptional

contribution brought plaques or additional award bars to be attached to plaques presented in previous years.

Firestone's latest award is a silver-embossed strip to add to the wall plaque received two years ago. The original UF award plaque, earned seven years ago, has attached to it strips representing through the fourth year of the honor. The second plaque two years ago, began the fifth year the plant received the UF recognition.

AWARDS go to participating

firms which have 15 or more employees and which have a payroll system for UF contributions with at least 80 per cent of employees donating to the fund and their giving averaging at least \$10 per employee involved.

Firestone's averaged contribution in last year's UF plant solicitation was a record \$25,425.68, with an averaged gift of \$18.61 among employees.



## Record Suggestions for Year

Increasing participation by 55.7 per cent in 1964-65 over the rate for 1963-64, Firestone employees helped the company to the highest total of suggestions adopted and awards presented by the company since the 1957-58 fiscal year.

During fiscal 1964-65 the Gastonia plant Suggestion Board received 310 entries and adopted 93 of them. This approval rate is close to 1 out of 4.

Total amount of awards the company approved last year was \$60,948.34, an increase of more than \$10,000 over 1963-64's figure.

Since the system was started 47 years ago, some \$1,570,000 has been paid to employees for ideas.

Awards totaling \$57,783.34 were presented by the Factory Suggestion Board to employees of the 28 domestic and foreign plants taking part in the program. This is an increase of more than \$13,000 over the 1963-

64 figure of \$44,732.45. The Sales and Office Suggestion Board awarded \$3,165.00.

FACTORY suggestions increased from 6,338 in 1964 to 10,622 in 1965, while suggestions from sales and office personnel increased from 404 to 568.

Rate of adoption per 1,000 employees also showed marked increase.

H. B. Palmer, manager of the company's suggestion department, noted in his annual report:

"Improvement in operation of the Suggestion System was a direct result of the Zero Defects program of quality, adopted by the company's manufacturing facilities in May, 1965. This program has inspired greater interest and cooperation among all employees to make the best products possible."

## Employees Study At Gaston College

Five Firestone people who completed work in the fall semester are each continuing in advanced work in their same subjects at Gaston College. In the spring semester which began in late January, nine regular courses are in progress in the adult education program in

od, earns permanent possession of it.

The newest engraved bar added will grace the trophy displayed here until July 1. It then will be sent to Woodstock for display the remainder of 1966.

its evening sessions, Monday through Friday.

Enrolled for the current semester and their subjects: From production scheduling, Connie Carringer, English; main office — Earlene Creasman and De-lores Fritton, accounting; Mildred Redding, typing; Barbara Galloway, shorthand.

Four others completed work for the first semester: Josephine Mills and Peggy Holder of shipping, Sandra Walker of main office, and John Owens of supply.

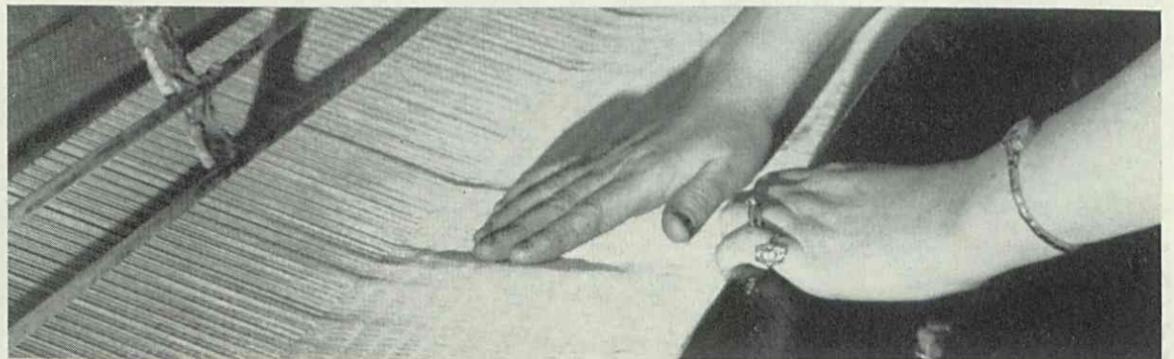
For employees who further their education through academic work which meets approval, the Firestone company refunds

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again at the end of the year. This can be done only when everyone in the plant is conscious of safety and practices that safety every moment on the job."

The North American textiles inter-plant safety rivalry, begun in 1959, is intended to continue for 12 succeeding years, each year a separate contest.

Rules allow that the plant which wins the plaque three years in a row or wins it the most times in the 12-year peri-



## SEEING THAT IT'S RIGHT

Skilled hands and eyes of an inspector in weaving (synthetics) check for excellence in tire fabric as it rolls from the loom.

## Sports-Car Racing: COMPANY'S BEST YEAR

Winning the Nassau International Trophy Auto Race, Hap Sharp of Houston, Texas rounded out Firestone's best year ever in sports-car racing. In the 20 major sports-car races on the North American continent in 1965, Firestone tires were on the winning car in 18.