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Firestone

GASTONIA
NORTH CAROLINA

SEPTEMBER • 1966

NEWS

The Material • In Tire Plies • It's The Most Important



September: mellowing month of the changing seasons, ideal for adventuring over turnpike or back road; attending family reunions, fishfries — and remembering. And September means country fairs, as much a part of our lives as apple pie, candied yams and the very auto tires which keep today's population ever on the go. A 'sampling' of fairs in the Carolinas and Georgia and some other touring notes are in the travel article on page 4.

Playground Has Extended Season

Firestone Playground afforded recreation and cooling splashes from the wading pool, benefiting West Gastonia youngsters right up to school-opening time this year.

The company-owned facility extended its summer season an extra week, closing Aug. 27. The playground in front of the plant is turned over each summer to the Gastonia Parks and Recreation Commission which operates it in a system of more

than a dozen recreation facilities.

A watermelon party in mid-August kept schedule as highlight of summers through the years.

Two city-employed attendants-instructors worked at the playground the past season. Arts-crafts instruction, a part of the city general recreation training program, was on the summer schedule.

Ten Years Ago...

Firestone News in its Sept. 1956 issue was—

Announcing commercial production of the company's first 13-inch passenger-car tires . . . Telling of establishment of Firestone's 3,000-acre rubber planta-

tion at Itubera, Brazil . . . Noting that employees of the Bilbao, Spain, plant had coated with foamed latex the huge "whale" used in filming the movie "Moby Dick" . . . Announcing Gastonia employees' participation in "Harvest Harmony" flower show at Spindle Center Fair.

Material of which tire plies are made is the important thing — not the number of plies, says James E. Cory, senior engineer in the company's field engineering department.

Talking of advantages of two-ply, four-ply-rating passenger car tires over tires with four full plies, he says "It's possible to make a tire having four full plies of lightweight mosquito netting. Such a tire would be of very poor quality, while a tire of two plies of material having cords of proper tensile strengths and adequate number per inch would be very satisfactory."

"Heat buildup," he said, always has been a tire's worst enemy. But recent advances in cord material make possible high tensile strengths. With these materials, manufacturers are able to reduce the number of plies, lessening the mass and dropping operating temperature of tires.

THIS improvement is a major contribution to safety.

Mr. Cory often displays the cross-sections of two tires which appear "flimsy" and limp as he holds them up.

"Would you ride on tires that look like this?" he asks. Most onlookers say "No."

Cory goes on to say that the cross-sections are from high-speed racing tires, one being Firestone's famous Indianapolis tire and the other from a Bonneville tire, used in land-speed-record attempts at several hundred miles per hour.

The engineer also has safe-driving advice for motorists: Borrow some practices from professional race drivers.

"Professional drivers thoroughly check their vehicles, including the tires, before a contest.

Yet, thousands of motorists in this country start long trips on tires that are bald, cut, under-inflated or otherwise unsafe.

"Also the race driver checks track conditions to see how his car handles and how brakes are working, so he can know the different traction characteristics of the track, and alert himself of other possible hazards.

"Wouldn't our highways be safer if all drivers took these precautions?" he asks.



• Engineer Cory shows thin sidewall section was cut from a Firestone Indianapolis tire, while section with thick sidewalls was from a special tire for taxis doing low-speed city driving. At turn-pike speeds, a tire as bulky as the heavier one would fail because of excessive heat it would create.

Your United Fund

Open your eyes and look for some man or some work for the sake of man, which needs a little time, a little friendship, a little sympathy, a little toil . . . Search and see if there is some place where you may invest your humanity . . .

—Albert Schweitzer

Your opportunity to invest in humanity is in the Greater Gastonia United Fund financial campaign beginning in early October. The roundup for financial support of 28 community services needs your contribution. A "fair-share" gift will go further than you'll ever realize, toward the United Fund's year-round program of "people uplift."

Yelton Back From South America

Thomas Yelton, recently returned from a six-year tour of duty in South America, was in late August assigned to the management staff of the Gastonia plant.

The Yelton family returned from Brazil in late summer,

where Thomas had completed his assignment as manager of the company's textile plant at Sao Paulo.

He joined Firestone at Gastonia in early 1960. A native of Rutherfordton, N. C., he is a graduate of Clemson University.

The Yelton family went from Gastonia to South America in 1960, when Thomas was appointed manager of the Firestone textile plant at Llallavoll near Buenos Aires, Argentina. His service finished there, he was advanced to manager at the Sao Paulo plant.

Good Ideas Can Make History

Ninety years ago this month, John McTammany of Cambridge, Mass. applied for a patent on America's first player piano. Think of the pleasant

contribution he made to our way of life.

P. W. Pratt of Abington, Mass. patented a water-sprinkler system Sept. 17, 1872 — another idea that made history.

You have ideas, too. They're all around. Put them down on a

suggestion blank. Share them with your company. If adopted, your reward will be money for the suggestion, a share in the difference the idea will bring about, and the good feeling that you've done something worthwhile.

LOOKING AROUND FROM CAMP FIRESTONE

A Hilltop Park

A few miles from Camp Firestone on Lake James is one of the Southeast's newest and most varied resort-recreation complexes. Seven Devils Recreation Park was opened this summer on its 1,288-acre mountaintops just off NC 105 midway between Boone and Linville.

The vacation community offers spectacular views of Grandfather Mountain coun-

try. It has rental cottages, camping and picnic areas, and a freshwater lake for boating, fishing and swimming. A chairlift to a pinnacle offers commanding views through the autumn season, converts to service at a ski run in winter.

Heart of the development is a huge visitor center, having a snack bar, grocery and gift shop with mountain-life displays, and a large assembly hall for folk-dancing and other activities. Burro rides, oxcart trips and wading are among children's fun activities.

