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October is wrap-up time for county and regional fairs Down South. This art arrangement by a member of Variety Garden Club of Firestone is emblematic of Harvest Days, and a lead-in to a listing of late-season fairs and festivals in the travel article on page 4

## Hamrick Paid \$50 For Loom Improvement

### 8 OTHER AWARDS

A production method or related operations can become so commonplace that you're likely to overlook possible improvements toward greater efficiency, savings and other benefits that might result.

But Charles Hamrick of the roller shop looks closely. This habit recently led to a mechanical detail on a loom and the suggested change earned him \$50.

He had studied the loom shuttle-box assembly, noticed some inefficiency and unnecessary wear in the guide which helps to keep the shuttle on its appointed trips across the warp, as fabric is being woven.

He suggested a re-design of the right-hand box front as replacements become necessary. It is estimated that the idea in use will result in at least \$500 savings a year in materials, labor and reduced down time.

WHILE Hamrick was sharing his improvement with the Sug-

gestion System, 8 others on the job had approved ideas in the most recent group to be processed here.

Pearl Aldridge and Louella Queen of quality control divided a \$20 award for a suggested repositioning of yardage clocks on cable twisters.

Other cash awards went to Reginald Rhyne of nylon treating, who suggested installation of an exhaust fan; Gertrude McDaniel of preparation—straw dispensers on refreshment wagon; Mayzelle Lewis of weaving (syn)—pipe coverings on splicers; Ruth Yates of weaving (cotton)—signs on Air-Lec doors; Belladonna Barker of quality control—loom creel guards; Albert Wylie of weaving (cotton)—relocated loom switch; Peggy Lovelace of industrial relations—new position for telephone.

These suggestions involved added safety and convenience, improved work conditions and increased efficiency.

South American assignment. A native of Abbeville, S. C., he is a graduate of Clemson University with a BS degree in textile manufacturing.

He had 10 years experience with two of South Carolina's leading textile companies before coming to Gastonia.

Mrs. King is also from Abbeville. The King children are Treshia, 13; Ralph Jr., 12; and Barry 5.



## King Manager Of SC Plant

Ralph King, who a year ago returned to the Gastonia plant from a three-year assignment in South America, became manager of Firestone Textiles at Bennettsville, S. C., Oct. 1.

He succeeds E. F. Sweeney who retired after several years as manager of the Bennettsville plant.

The King family went from Gastonia to the company's Buenos Aires, Argentina textile plant in the summer of 1962. Ralph began there as assistant manager and was later advanced to manager. When he returned here, he was succeeded by Bernie Farmer, who also went to Argentina from the Gastonia plant.

Ralph joined the Firestone company at Gastonia in late 1961 to begin preparation for the

# Firestone NEWS

OCTOBER • 1966

GASTONIA  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Sales And Earnings Set Record

THIRD  
QUARTER

The best third-quarter and nine-month periods in the company's history were reported in September. Chairman Raymond C. Firestone and president Earl B. Hathaway reported sales totaling \$1,327,410,632 and earnings of \$70,755,495 for the nine months ending July 31.

The nine-month sales figure increased 14.6 per cent over the 1965 figure of \$1,158,186,595. The earnings figure is 18 per cent greater than third-quarter profit of \$22,736,941 in 1965 and represents the most profitable three-months period in the company's 66-year history.

"Sales and earnings," said the officers, "continue to reflect efforts of management and all employees to improve sales volume, the quality of our products, efficiency of all operations, and to reduce production, distribution and operating costs in all divisions of our business."

They added that Firestone research-development engineers will keep on striving for advancements in all fields in which the company is involved.

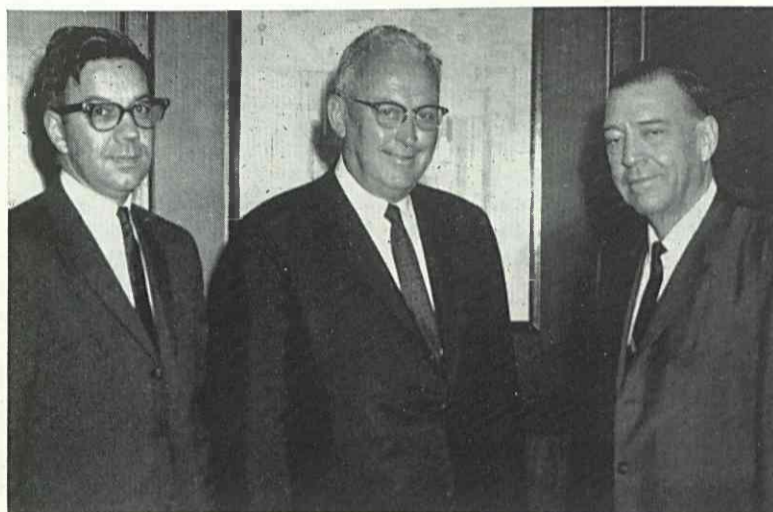
"Our company is supplying automakers with their greatest array of passenger-car tires for 1967 models. The advance-design DeLuxe Champion, the F-100 Radial-Ply tire and the Super Sports Wide Oval will

be on many new models and are available to the replacement market.

"Each of these tires offers

many advantages, all developed and proven in our vast research and development departments."

The officers, announcing the sales-earnings, also pledged continued advancements in steel products, plastics, industrial products, synthetics, and coated-fabrics materials.



• L. J. Campbell (center), a director and the company's vice president of non-tire operations, came from Akron headquarters to Gastonia for a management conference in September. At one of the meetings he was photographed with Harold Mercer (right), president of the Firestone Textiles Company; and J. B. Call, director of manufacturing, domestic non-tire plants.

## They Helped Put Music In Viet Nam Chapel

"What can we do to help?" Margie Waldrep asked herself and others at work around her in the cloth room. But before she came to the job, she'd wept awhile. It started with a letter from her son, S/Sgt. Charles Waldrep with the 3rd Marine Division in Viet Nam.

He wrote of efforts of the American troops at setting up a worship chapel in DaNang. He sent a photo of inside the tent chapel, a man's white handkerchief being used as an altar cloth.

Mrs. Waldrep took the story to her friends. Ruby McAllister gave \$25 and contributions followed from 15 other Firestone people. By the time the WMU and Brotherhood of Loray Baptist Church joined the cause, Mrs. Waldrep was able to send \$180 to the chapel fund.

Sgt. Waldrep backgrounds the story through a letter received by industrial relations.

"PLEASE put a note in your employee publication about some of the people I can proudly say are from HOME. In Viet Nam we have to make do with what we can get. We of the 9th Motor Transport Bn., 3rd Marine Division—by the providence and

goodness of God—constructed a chapel in which to worship.

"It is built upon a hard-back tent frame 48 x 16 feet, the exterior louvered and screened. We were very proud of our chapel—but one thing was lacking! We had no music. I wrote my mother of our need for taped music and a PA system to accompany our singing. She got a fund started.

"Our chaplain has received the check from Gastonia. Now our chapel is complete and on Sunday morning as our schedule permits, we can worship God. And somehow it brings us closer to home.

"... Such an unselfish act as you Gastonia people have shown reminds us that America is great—and I'm proud to be in her uniform.

"Many thanks to contributors of the chapel music fund: My parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Waldrep of Firestone; also Firestone employees Ruby McAllister, Alvin Dill, J. B. Mitchell, Ray Thomas, Ethel McAbee, Sarah Ward, Larry Sanders, Mrs. J. C. McClure, Ken Phillips, Bertie Mahaffy, Inez Rhyne, Mildred McLeymore, Tim Reynolds, Keith Hamrick; and members of the WMU and Brotherhood groups of Loray Baptist."

BEFORE entering the military, Sgt. Waldrep worked at



• Marine S/Sgt. Charles Waldrep—"I'm proud to be wearing the American uniform."

Firestone. On the Viet Nam assignment for around seven months, he first served an enlistment in the Air Force, then four years in the Navy. He has been in the Marines nearly 18 years.

Mrs. Waldrep and their three children are in Gastonia for the remainder of Charles' foreign assignment.

Besides the chapel project, the sergeant's duty in Viet Nam has offered many opportunities for good will. He recently distributed 100 copies of the Bible which an aunt sent him from Walhalla, S. C. Members of Gastonia Bradley Memorial Methodist Church have sent "goodies" which Sgt. Waldrep gave out to the delight of native children.

## Bible Week

THE BIBLE: BOOK OF WISDOM AND TRUTH is theme of the 26th annual National Bible Week Observance for all faiths, Oct. 17-23, 1966.

## 'Shape of The Future' Circulating

The company's 1966 movie on auto racing at Indianapolis Speedway is now in general circulation, after having been shown on more than 200 television stations across the country.

"Shape of the Future" brings to the screen all the excitement and thrills of the 50th running of the Memorial Day Classic.

Prints of the film are available for free borrowing through Association Films regional library at Oakmont, Pa., and at four other distribution stations in the United States.

For information on it, inquire at the Gastonia plant industrial relations office.