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• Nearing the end of their world trip by motor vehicle, Al Podell (left) and Hal Stephens checked one of their Firestone Super All-Traction Duplex Tires during a stop at Firestone in Akron. Tires—worn but still good for more punishment—were switched systematically but never had to be removed from the rims for repairs.

World Tour on one set of Firestone tires

A 42,000-mile, around-world trip by auto on one set of tires. A fantastic record-setting journey proved again the superior quality and performance of Firestone tires.

Explorer Harold Stephens and photo-journalist Al Podell reached New York City recently in their Firestone equipped Toyota Land Cruiser, ending the Trans-World Record Expedition, history's longest, most gruelling auto journey. There had been 19 months traveling over some of the worst roads ever encountered by a vehicle.

Of the many tales the adventurers had to relate, one is the story of their tires. Equipped with standard Firestone Super All-Traction Duplex tires, the Toyota went over every extreme road condition imaginable—never had a blowout nor flat during the whole trip.

On a stop in Akron on the

last stretch of the journey, Stephens and Podell were amazed at the tire performance. When they began the trip they took several extra tires, but in Australia at halfway point, they discarded all but one spare. After more than 20,000 miles over roads with potholes and jagged rock, they were convinced the tires would serve well.

In Akron, Firestone engineers said the tires were in such good condition that they probably could withstand another trip around the world.

The expedition sailed on the Queen Elizabeth from New York to France with the Land Cruiser and equipment in early 1965. From France they drove across Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, India, Pakistan, Southeast Asia, Australia, Latin America and back to New York.

On the way were some of the

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Gastonia Plant Firestone Textiles Employees and Your Families

Nearing the end of another year brings us to a renewed need for reverent observance of the Christmas Season, with its many warm associations of home and friendship, cheer and good will.

We have had another good year in our work at Firestone in Gastonia. The whole company has prospered because we all have shared in making contributions to it. Mindful of our success and of our rich personal blessings, we pause to Reflect and Appreciate.

Let us remember and cherish the True Meaning of Christmas—its eternal message and the uplifting influence it can work in the lives of people.

My sincere wish for you and yours is that a full measure of good will and holiday joy be yours during this Season of Glad Tidings. And may they remain to bless you throughout the New Year.

John V. Dawin

General Manager
Firestone Textiles
Company

Firestone

GASTONIA

NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER • 1966

NEWS

Plant UF figure
revised to

\$32,031.41

At a victory dinner last month, volunteer workers put the finishing touches on this year's United Fund financial drive. The big news: Total pledges received to that time in the annual effort was \$317,874, well exceeding the original goal of \$297,784. Reports of pledges were still coming at the time of the Nov. 7 dinner meeting.

Firestone was among industries and organizations cited for outstanding achievement in the campaign. Employee pledges originally announced at the close of the in-plant drive reached \$30,369.

By early November, the figure has risen to \$32,031.41 which was over 10 per cent of the total United Fund pledges for The Greater Gastonia effort.

"If you want a good job done for the United Fund, take it to the people at Firestone," said one volunteer official at the meeting.

Firestone and its people were complimented as one of the 24 business firms and industries reporting an averaged \$10 gift or more per employee.

Scholarship Material Ready

By early December, booklets and application forms for the 1967 Firestone Scholarship Program were available at the Gastonia industrial relations office. Employees with eligible sons and daughters who want to apply may get the application material for completion and return to the Scholarship Committee by the March 1, 1967 deadline.

In a letter to all plant and field sales managers, Earl B. Hathaway, president, has written: "We ask your continued cooperation in making every effort to see that every interested and qualified son and daughter of an eligible Firestone employee is given an opportunity to apply." • More on Page 2

'Poly' Plant In Brazil

When production began a few months ago at the Recife, Brazil polybutadiene rubber-manufacturing plant, it was the first operation of its kind in Latin America.

The Firestone company and The Lummus Company of New York worked under a joint contract to construct the plant for Companhia Pernambucana de Borracha Sintetic (COPERBO).

Firestone lent technical 'know-how' on the polybutadiene process; Lummus supplied engineering, procurement and construction services. Technical advice on the butadiene process came from Union Carbide Co.

At the first official report, the per-contributor pledges here averaged \$20.46. The final figure was \$30.60. At final count, 1,203 made their gifts by the "fair share" formula.

Ralph Johnson, manager of employee relations and a volunteer this year in the UF industrial division, was among those honored for leading their units

to 100 per cent or more success in reaching their goals.

Alvin Riley, manager of industrial relations and this year's UF publicity chairman, praised communications media for their work in helping to put the campaign far beyond its goal.

F. B. Galligan, Firestone Textiles Company operations manager, has been this year's United Fund president.

Funds pledged this year will go toward operation of 29 United Fund services in the Greater Gastonia area, including the community of Lowell.



Sing we now of Christmas

A bough of pine and handful of lichen from

Camp Firestone on Lake James, a weathered board, some church-window art and two figurines of choir boys — all combine to become symbols of the Joyous Holiday Season.