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R. B. Hull Promoted To Tech-QC Job



Robert B. Hull, manager of quality control at the Gastonia plant since 1953, has been named manager of technical service and quality control for the Firestone Textiles Company. Appointment to the newly-created position was announced by Harold Mercer, the division president.

In his new job, Mr. Hull's responsibility extends to the division level which includes the Gastonia headquarters plant and the company's textile facilities at Bennettsville, S. C.; Woodstock, Canada; Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires in South America. His extended duties provide a technical liaison between the textile division and the company's other manufacturing facilities, and technical assistance to outside customers where textile materials are concerned.

His job headquarters remains at the Gastonia plant.

Mr. Hull attended public schools in his hometown of Lowell, Mass., and was graduated from Lowell Technological Institute in 1940. He worked four years for the U.S. Testing Company at Hoboken, N. J. be-

fore joining the Firestone company's textile division at Akron, Ohio in 1944.

HE WAS transferred to the Gastonia plant nine years later to become manager of quality control.

Since coming to Gastonia, he has been active in civic, church and professional circles. A Mason, he is a past patron of the Gastonia chapter Order of Eastern Star. A leader in Scouting, he was chairman of an advisory board which was instrumental in organizing the Firestone-sponsored Gastonia Explorer Post 328.

Mr. Hull is a senior-grade member of the American Society for Quality Control; a charter member and a director of the Charlotte section of ASQC.

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Hurry to Apply FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Completed application forms, reports and other required information must be received at the company's headquarters no later than March 1, in the Firestone College Scholarship Program for 1967.

A remaining supply of explanatory booklets and the necessary application materials are at the industrial relations office. Because the material has been available since Dec. 1, the earliest applicants are already in process of completing requirements.

For other high-school seniors interested in applying: There's no time to waste!

To be eligible for a Firestone scholarship, the applicant must be a high-school senior, the son or daughter of an employee who has completed five years of continuous service with the company as of Jan. 1, 1967, and whose averaged income is not

more than \$900 per month without overtime. The student also must be in the upper third of his or her class scholastically.

EACH Scholarship award to be sponsored by Firestone will pay toward tuition, academic fees, required textbooks, and a portion of room-board expenses while attending school, as more fully outlined in the booklet at the industrial relations office.

Scholarship winners may attend any accredited college or university in the United States, pursuing any desired course leading to a degree. Each winner must personally make arrangements for admission to the school of his choice.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of proportionate Firestone employment over the country, thus distributing the opportunity to win over a broad area.

Historic World Conference Planned Achievements for 1966-67 Fiscal Year

John V. Darwin, general manager of the Firestone Textiles Company with headquarters in Gastonia, was among the 225 members of Firestone management from all divisions of the company's worldwide operations, attending a historic conference at the home offices in Akron, Ohio in late 1966. The conference was called to go over plans and programs for greater company achievement during the 1966-67 fiscal year.

Meetings took place in the company's auditorium, with product displays lining the walls.

Opening the conference were Raymond C. Firestone, chairman; Earl B. Hathaway, president; E. H. Schulenberg, executive vice president. In their presentations they examined business forecasts and Firestone plans which indicate future growth in all areas of the company's business.

All speakers during the three-day meetings went over plans

of how the organization can achieve new sales and profit records during the fiscal year.

MR. HATHAWAY thanked the entire Firestone organization for "meeting the challenge of 1966", noted that the company would likely set new sales and profit records for the year ending Oct. 31, 1966. (Final figures released a few days later confirmed his prediction).

Good business ahead can be seen clearly, he said, citing record forecasts for replacement-tire shipments in the U.S. and

Firestone NEWS

JANUARY • 1967

GASTONIA
NORTH CAROLINA

Record Sales-Earnings Last Year

Highest sales and earnings ever reached in a year for the Firestone company were reported in December. Raymond C. Firestone, chairman, and Earl B. Hathaway, president, reported sales of \$1,814,592,393 and earnings of \$101,765,793 for the 12-month period ending Oct. 31, 1966.

The sales figure represents a 12.7 per cent increase over that of the previous year. Earnings were 17.4 per cent in excess of 1965 earnings.

Net income for 1966 was equal to \$3.52 per share of common stock, compared with \$3.01 in 1965. Cash dividends of \$1.30 per share paid on common stock amounted to \$37,429,516.

Sales and profit increases occurred in all divisions of the company, with a decided increase in tire sales.

"The year was one of growth and opportunity for Firestone in tire marketing," the officers said. "With sales of cars, trucks and tractors at high levels in recent years, number of vehicles on highways and farms throughout the world has set new vehicle-in-use records year after year.

THE TIRE industry in the United States shipped more than 225 million passenger, truck and tractor tires during the record-breaking year just completed."

Sales and income of foreign subsidiaries showed increases over 1965.

The company paid taxes totaling \$283,413,864, of which \$82,300,000 were income taxes; \$164,638,508 excise taxes; \$20,196,647 social security taxes, and \$16,278,709 property and miscellaneous taxes. Tax payments totaled \$245,527,920 in 1965.

Net working capital on Oct. 31, 1966 was \$553,108,477 (it was \$498,779,678 on the same date of 1965).

During the fiscal year, spending for new facilities, additions

and improvements were \$124,652,758, as against \$126,079,264 in 1965. Depreciation of \$62,025,477 was provided, compared with \$54,960,041 last year.

PLANT expansions were underway around the world. Three tire plants in the U. S. were enlarged. The company is increasing production facilities at Akron, Barberton and Day-

ton, Ohio; Los Angeles, Calif., Des Moines, Iowa and Memphis, Tenn.

A new tire plant at Joliet, Canada began producing. Firestone Textiles at Woodstock, Canada was expanded. A steel products plant was acquired at London, Canada.

The company purchased majority interest in the Hardie Rubber Company in Australia; also a majority interest in a tire plant in Sweden—one with which the company had been

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Three new passenger tires from Firestone are (from left) the Deluxe Champion, Super Sports Wide Oval and F. 100 Radial—here displayed by W. M. DeWitt, manager of passenger-tire sales. The Deluxe Champion is standard equipment on many 1967 cars, while the Wide Oval and F-100 are standard on some models and optional on others.

Firestone
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IN RACING

Canada, and worldwide prospects for increasing demand for all products which Firestone sells.

As the conference closed, Mr. Firestone encouraged all members of the Firestone organization to meet new challenges:

"Firestone has been built by people who have had the courage to accept challenge . . . people who were willing to work for new ways to build their products, new manufacturing techniques; engineering people willing to search out new methods, new materials; people who explored new ideas in fabrics, compounds, chemicals, new rubbers; sales people who were willing to put forth that extra effort to realize a better price, a larger order.

"Our company has never been

willing to accept things as they are . . . Let's hope Firestone people will never accept things as they are."

SEVERAL divisions made special presentations. Tire-development engineers told of the latest advances in passenger, truck, tractor, off-highway, and racing tires. Members of the research division reported on their new projects. Advertising and public relations reports were made to show how efforts of all Firestone divisions will be promoted and publicized.

Heads of major divisions told of their operations. R. D. Thomas, newly-elected executive vice president, spoke on trade sales, private brands, Canadian, Dayton and Seiberling operations. A. N. Stuart, vice president, spoke on manufac-

turers sales; H. H. Wiedenmann, vice president, on tire factory operations; L. J. Campbell, vice president, on non-tire operations (includes textiles); R. P. Beasley, vice president, on finance; J. F. Floberg, vice president — secretary and general counsel, on legal matters; Mario DiFederico, new parent-company vice president, on international operations; and A. G. Lund, president of the Firestone Plantations Company, on plantation operations.

A highlight of the conference was a banquet at which tokens of appreciation were presented to Harvey S. Firestone Jr., former chairman and now honorary chairman of the company; and to L. R. Jackson, former president and vice chairman of the board, now retired.