

Firestone NEWS

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AT AWARDS DINNER

Batche: 'Nothing Ahead of Safety...'

"'Safety First' was an inspired slogan when it was invented years ago. Unfortunately (as with all slogans) it has been worn thin by use until the words drop from our lips without the flavor of the slogan's meaning.

"This is a pity, because our greatest need—yours and mine—is to recapture the spirit of that ancient phrase and convince every member of our companies from the workman in the plant up to the president that nothing must come ahead of the safety of our people."

M. R. BATCHE was speaking at a late-May safety awards dinner in Firestone Recreation Center at Gastonia. The Firestone company manager of safety for manufacturing plants shared in the formal presentation of the plant's latest awards for achievement in industrial safety.

These were the Award of Honor, the National Safety Council's chief distinction for an organization's safety performance on the job; and the N. C. Dept. of Labor Safety Award for the 20th consecutive year.

Division President Harold Mercer presented the plaques to Raymond Mack, plant safety manager, who in turn declared, "All our people earned them—from the highest management on down."

J. V. Darwin, division general manager, spoke of the awards as having been won "through an unbeatable team spirit."

Firestone here qualified for the Award of Honor by establishing a no-lost-time-injuries

record during the calendar year 1966.

The plant here had received the Award of Honor last year, but on a manhours basis of safe operation during 1965.

SPEAKING at the meeting, Mr. Batche pointed out that Firestone in Gastonia was leading the company's 14 divisions of worldwide organization in safety performance—with a record in excess of 7,000,000 man-hours without a lost-time injury.

"It took people to make this record," he declared. "We must continue to put people to work on safety."

Firestone is concerned with the total person, he stressed.

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28 OTHER WINNERS

Henderson 1967 "Top Scout"

"Among the most promising young persons I know," remarked his pastor. "One of the finest boys—I recommend him heartily," said his school principal. "Outstanding in a wide range of Scouting activities, school and church work," added his scoutmaster.

These were some appraisals of Carroll Leonard Henderson Jr., recipient of the 1967 Harvey S. Firestone Jr. Award in Scouting.

The 13-year-old Life Scout of Gastonia Troop 313 is the 22nd

Polk County — or for Scouting equipment of the honorees' choice.

J. V. DARWIN, textile division general manager, presented Carroll the Silver Medallion symbol of the award, a



Gastonia-area boy chosen as Gaston County's top Scout. The presentation was made May 31 at the annual Scout Awards dinner in Firestone Recreation Center.

Besides Carroll's recognition, 28 other Boy Scouts from six Gaston communities were each awarded a Certificate of Merit for noteworthy achievement, and a gift check to be applied on expenses for a week at Schiele Scout Reservation in

• Carroll Henderson Jr. holds Silver Medallion award, presented by J. V. Darwin (right), division general manager. Lewis Allen (left) is Carroll's scoutmaster. Carroll was presented a congratulatory letter from Division President Harold Mercer, who was in Akron for a conference when the Scout banquet was held.

Certificate of Merit, a \$100 U.S. —More on page 3

'Dear Firestone: I Will Like You Very Much...'

From late winter through early spring each year the plant industrial relations department receives an increased number of mail requests for company information and product samples, especially of tire cord and fabric.

These requests come mainly from grade and high-school students who use the material collected in class projects, special reports and in school displays on economics and industry, science and social studies.

The representative letters here, from grade-school pupils mainly, are presented with

spelling, phrasing and punctuation as received in the mail.

Industrial relations answered each of these requests (it replies to all inquiries it receives about the company).

Blairsville, Ga.

Please send me an sample of some fabric materials that you product. I want it for a school display that we are having. I will like you very much for sending it.

Lafayette, La.

Please send me information on Firestone Textiles.

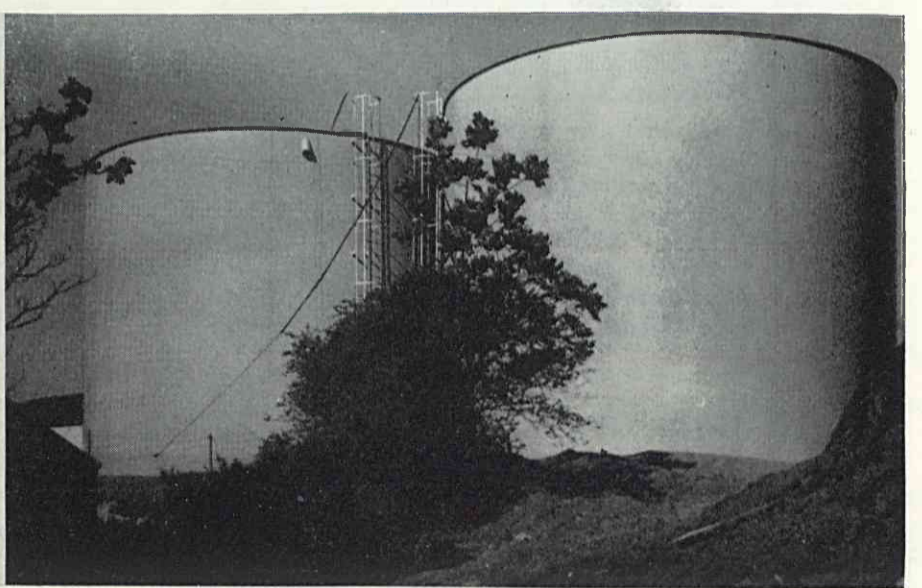
Weaverville, N. C.

In the 7th grade I am doing a project on textile industries in NC. Please send me some information on Firestone Factory. Greensboro, N. C.

My Social Studies class is learning about 20th-century industries. I have chosen your company. Please send me what is available that I may tell your story.

Blairsville, Ga.

Please send me some samples of fibers and fabrics. Our science class in school is studying about these and would appreciate it very much.



An Old Landmark Goes— A New One Arrives

It was the last voyage for the venerable "pond" rowboat one day in late May, as water in the open reservoir behind the plant was gradually drained. An era was ended, but serv-

ice began from the two gigantic tanks erected across Dalton Street near the site of the old shop "barn".

Above: Horace Hughes, pipefitter and chief of the plant fire-protection brigade, measured the remaining "deep" from the boat which across the years was used to police the reservoir surface. Arrow points to water line when pond was "in business."

At right: New storage tanks of a combined half-million-gallon capacity, were photographed

from Ransom Street. New pumphouse is at base of tanks near Dalton Street plant gate.

The retired reservoir, serving since the main portion of the mill was erected at the turn of the century, had stored water primarily for fire-fighting use. New steel tanks in their bright garb of green, also hold fire-fighting water reserve, but with much-improved service.

Is it legend or fact that clay removed in digging the old reservoir was converted to bricks to help build the walls of the mill here?