

Firestone

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NEWS

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Suggestion System Into 51st Year

In 1918, Harvey S. Firestone launched for his company the Suggestion System — a pioneering program in industry. Over the past half century the system has been a way for the company and its people to reap mutual rewards from useful ideas. The Gastonia plant marked the 50th birthday of the Suggestion program with a party in late December. Plans were announced for continued observance of the anniversary year,

• With cake at party marking anniversary of Suggestion System (from left): S. E. Crawford, Gastonia Zero Defects coordinator; L. B. McAbee, chairman of plant Suggestion program; R. E. Mack, manager of safety.

the chief aim being to increase suggestion participation here. The plant at Bennettsville, S. C., also marked the anniversary with a party. More than a half million ideas have been submitted in the company's worldwide operation during the 50 years of the Suggestion program. The Gastonia plant has participated in the program since it began operating as a Firestone facility in 1935.

First GM Award At Gastonia

• The first General Manager Award in the Zero Defects program at Gastonia went to splicing-weaving (synthetics) in late 1967. Department manager Carl Rape received the polished walnut plaque from J. V. Darwin, general manager (left). The General Manager Award is presented for top performance in quality production, good house-keeping, leading number of ECI reports, safety in practice, and waste control. Award honors a department for three months of performance.



Enthusiasm and optimism. These were key words which Raymond C. Firestone used in his forecast for 1968. Looking at the business picture, the company chairman and chief executive officer said that shipments of tires and other materials produced by our industry are expected to set records again in 1968.

New Manager Village Store

A veteran of the Firestone company's retail system and a former high-school star athlete was recently assigned as manager of Gastonia's Dixie Village Firestone Store. Charles Robert Aydlett, 26, a native of Charleston, S. C., is a veteran of the U. S. Coast Guard. He was once a star athlete with St. Andrews High School in Charleston. The store manager here spent the past three years working in Firestone sales outlets in

'68: Good Year For Industry

He added that replacement-tire shipments by the industry will go beyond 131 million units, up more than 7 million from the number shipped in 1967. Of this total, 114 million will be passenger tires, 14.5 million will be truck and bus tires and the remainder will be tires for tractors and farm implements.

And 48 million retreads—slightly more than in 1967—are expected to be shipped.

Other points in Mr. Firestone's view of the 1968 year:

• Consumption of rubber in the U.S. is expected to gain considerably, with synthetic rubber usage totaling 1,855,000 long tons in 1968, compared with 1,620,000 long tons in 1967; and natural rubber consumption increasing to 545,000 long tons this year from 495,000 long tons last year.

• While domestic tire shipments are setting new records, and the American economy continues its upward trend, we are keeping abreast of economic expansion being experienced elsewhere in the Free World.

• Forecasters tell us that during 1938, the number of motor vehicles in use outside the U.S.

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TO NEW KENTUCKY PLANT



Vernon Lovingood Leroy Posey Luther Brown David Hirsch J. C. Crisp Jesse Liles Alton Tarte

Beginning Production Soon At Bowling Green

The basic management-supervisory team of Firestone's modern textile plant in Kentucky moved from Gastonia to the Bowling Green area in early January. Limited production at the multi-million-dollar facility is planned to begin this month.

The new plant manager, Francis B. Galligan; and Claude Smith Jr., production manager, went with seven other men who have been appointed to departmental supervisory jobs.

They are Vernon Lovingood, Jesse Liles, Leroy Posey, David Hirsch, Luther Brown, Alton Tarte and J. C. Crisp.

MR. GALLIGAN, with the company for the past 24 years and most of that time at Gastonia, was most recently division operations manager with headquarters at Gastonia. He left Gastonia with an impressive

record of service to the company and to the community.

Among honors accorded him upon leaving for his new assignment were an appreciation award from the Greater Gastonia United Appeal and a resolution of honor from the Gastonia Rotary Club.

Claude Smith Jr., Bowling Green plant production manager, has been with Firestone approximately three years. During most of this time he was manager of the Firestone textile plant at Buenos Aires, Argentina. From that assignment, he returned to Gastonia a few months ago.

Six of the other men assigned to the Bowling Green operation have long records of service with the Gastonia plant. The seventh, David Hirsch, joined the company in recent months, upon graduation from college.

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FRANCIS
GALLIGAN
Plant
Manager
(left) and

CLAUDE
SMITH, JR.
Production
Manager



Fabric Builds Strength In Tire

Textiles shares in the diversified picture of Firestone's Annual Report for 1967, issued in December.

"Strength of a tire and its ability to minimize heat generated by flexing of cord body at high speeds depends to a great extent on the type and quality of fabric used," notes the Report. It adds:

"Because of the importance of the fabric for tires, Firestone makes its own tire cord. Firestone Textile Company operates domestic plants at Gastonia, N. C. and Bennettsville, S. C. The company is building a multi-million-dollar facility at Bowling Green, Ky., which will produce nylon, rayon and polyester tire cord fabric to help meet the growing needs of the tire plants."

Twister Idea Paid \$50

Until a few weeks ago, the studs in certain teeth gears on cable twisters were too short. The situation caused stripping of the gears, resulting in lost production and waste of materials.

Now the situation is changed because Charles M. Parham of the shop figured out a better way. He was paid \$50 for his suggestion last month. The idea promises an estimated annual savings of \$500 in gear replacement, lost production and waste.

Also in recent suggestion approvals, \$15 went to Charlie Mitchell of weaving (synthetics) for his idea for an improved stand on loom batteries.

And receiving \$10 for suggestions: Gertrude McDaniel, preparation, installation of air hose over winders; K. C. Cauten, warehouse, identification labels on fiber beams; Mildred McLeymore, cloth room, hanger for electric cord on sewing machine; Leroy Whiting, cotton weaving, safety hook on loom; Linda Helton, industrial relations, improved mimeographing.