

Zebulon B. Vance Birthplace

Heritage trails around Camp Firestone

It takes you on a trip into history, recalling a way of life led by the early settlers on the North Carolina frontier. Vance Birthplace, one of the State's many designated historic sites, is located on Route 1, Weaverville. It is open to the public every day except Mondays.

Site includes the reconstructed main dwelling house and a half-dozen outbuildings typical of the pioneer farmstead. The dwelling house restoration contains the chimney from the original Vance House, also fireplaces, some paneling, flooring, rafters and foundation stone.

A modern visitor Center & Museum, in use since 1965, has exhibits that portray Zeb Vance's life and family history. The Center has an administrative office, lecture room, and public restroom facilities. A free picnic area is provided.

ONCE CALLED the "Mount Mitchell" of all of North Carolina's great men, Zebulon Baird

Vance was born May 13, 1830, in a pine log house 12 miles northeast of Asheville.

From this wilderness homestead among the Blue Ridge peaks, Zeb Vance went on to attain more high honors than any other person in the State's history which dates to 1585.

At age 24, he went to the North Carolina House of Commons (Representatives); and at 27, was elected to the first of two terms in the U. S. Congress.

When the War Between the States broke out, Vance formed the "Rough and Ready Guards" and served that company as captain. He was later appointed

● More on page 2

Firestone NEWS

MAY • 1969

GASTONIA NORTH CAROLINA

FIRESTONE AT GASTONIA

Another Honor In SAFETY

The 22nd consecutive award jointly bestowed by the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce and the North Carolina Department of Labor was presented at an April dinner meeting in Carolina Restaurant.

At the annual meeting sponsored by the safety committee of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce, NC Labor Commissioner Frank Crane made awards to around 200 Gaston County firms which built good safety records while doing business last year.

Recognition for doing business safely was a highlight of annual Industry Appreciation Week in Gastonia, April 13-19.

Safety supervisor Raymond E. Mack received the Firestone award on behalf of "all the people on the job who earned it by establishing an outstanding record of injury control."

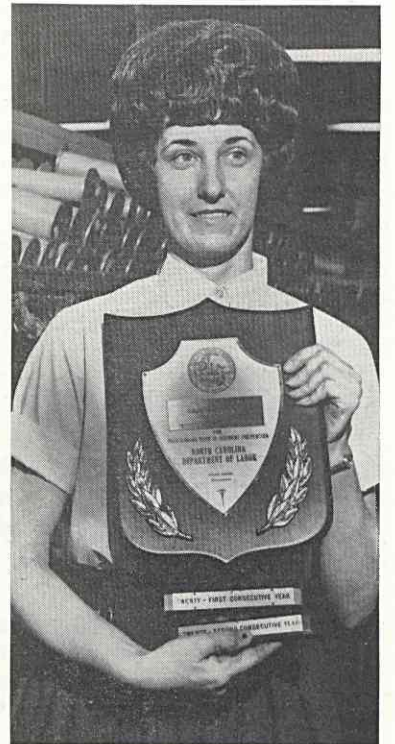
This 1969 Firestone award continues the record for Gaston County. For this safety honor, Firestone of Gastonia has the distinction of having received the award 22 times along with two other industrial plants in

North Carolina. They are R. J. Reynolds and Weter Electric, both of Winston-Salem.

THE 1969 award was the 21st to be made in Gastonia at the annual C of C recognition dinner. The first in the series was presented at Raleigh in 1947, one year before the every-spring C of C meetings were begun in Gastonia.

Symbols of the C of C-NC Department of Labor presentation series are certificates, commemorative plaques and inscribed bars attached to plaques for the "in-between" years. This year's Firestone symbol is the second bar added to the plaque for the 20th award year in 1967. The current plaque is the third one in the series over the 22-year period.

Firestone people earned this year's safety citation by the good record established in injury control, last year's record being rated against last year's



● Willie Kelly of preparation department represents the pride of all people at the Gastonia plant in latest NC Department of Labor honor. It's denoted by 22nd-year bar attached to plaque.

statewide injury frequency rate in the textile industry.

In "scoring" for the awards, there are two other ways to "win": By a straight record of no disabling injuries, and through reducing by at least 40 per cent the injury frequency rate of the year just preceding the 12 months for which award is given.

● Thomas Jefferson said: "Agriculture, manufacture, commerce and navigation — the four pillars of our prosperity — are the most thriving when left most free to individual enterprise."

Play Days On The Way

June 8 through August 16 is "in business" time for Firestone playground and wading pool in front of the plant. The company facility for recreation of West Gastonia youngsters, is part of the system of parks and playgrounds operated by City Recreation Department.

Children up to age 12 are supervised at play by personnel who work for the City Recreation Department. Main attraction is the wading pool. Other facilities are swings, horseshoe pits, see-saws, and ping-pong table. Instruction in crafts is offered during the season.

Playground hours: 9 am.-6 p.m., Mondays-Fridays; 9-1 Saturdays.

Firestone Contribution To KM Hospital

A \$1,000 contribution from The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company increased the on-hand capital to near \$900,000 in the \$1-million expansion project of Kings Mountain Hospital.

John V. Darwin, Gastonia Firestone plant manager, presented the \$1,000 to Grady H. Howard, hospital administrator and treasurer of the Hospital Development Fund campaign.

Receiving the donation in April, Howard said "The Kings Mountain Hospital Development Fund accepts this gift on behalf of the community we serve. It is through the loyalty and support of the people of the Greater Kings Mountain area that we can make a reality of the much-needed proposed wing to our hospital."

THE PROJECTED wing to the present hospital structure will provide an additional 35 beds, bringing the total to 109. Also,

Plant manager John V. Darwin (left) and Grady Howard, Kings Mountain Hospital administrator



the new two-story unit will provide a lobby-waiting area, operating and recovery quarters, a pharmacy, laboratory, and supply areas.

The project includes complete renovation of outpatient, X-Ray and dietary space in the existing east unit.

More than \$247,000 has been raised in recent months of the hospital's Development Fund campaign.

Member of the board of trustees have approved plans for the new construction, and an architect is working out details.

Several Firestone employees living in the Kings Mountain area are served by the hospital there. Howard pointed out that in a recent year, 39 persons from Firestone employee families spent 333 patient-days in the Kings Mountain Hospital.

Gastonia-Area Merit Awards

IN 1969 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Two high-school seniors, daughters of employees at Firestone's Gastonia plant, are Certificate of Merit winners in the company's 1969 College Scholarship Awards program.

They are Esther LaVaughn Gordon, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gordon of 1910 S. Winget Street, Gastonia. LaVaughn's father works in the warehouse here. She is a senior at Hunter Huss High School.

Susan Diane Stiles, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall R. Stiles of Route 1, Dallas. She is a senior at Dallas High School. Her father works in weaving-tire cord.

Susan's brother Donald Stiles was a Certificate of Merit winner in 1967.

Merit winners receive the Certificate recognizing outstanding high-school achievement, plus a company gift of a U. S. Savings Bond.

The Gastonia-area Merit winners were chosen in the company's 1969 College Scholarship Awards program, with selections being made in late April.

Nationwide this year, 36 high-school seniors from 15 states have been awarded the company's regular college scholarships. All Scholarship and Merit winners are sons and daughters of Firestone employees.

The Gaston County Merit winners this year are among the 141 to be thus honored across the country.

Since 1953 when the Firestone Scholarship Awards program was started, 482 college scholarships have been awarded. Of this number, 15 have been from Firestone-Gastonia families, the most recent awarded in 1968.

In this year's program, the only scholarship awarded in

● More on page 4