

FC677.1
F52

Firestone

GASTONIA
NORTH CAROLINA

FEBRUARY • 1970 NEWS

Managerial Appointments

Six high-level management promotions in Firestone Textiles Company were announced by Division President James B. Call, at the Gastonia headquarters last month. They are:

- John V. Darwin—Administrative Assistant to the President, Firestone Textiles Company.
- Everett J. Mechem—Division Comptroller.
- Francis B. Galligan—Division General Factory Manager.
- Philip R. Williams—Factory Manager at Gastonia.
- Ralph King—Plant Manager at Bowling Green, Ky.
- Edwin E. Fuller—Factory Manager at Bennettsville, S. C.

a department manager for Akers Motor Lines, Gastonia.

He was advanced to plant sales manager at Firestone in 1950. Ten years later he was made administrative assistant to the plant general manager, becoming plant manager here in early 1968.

Everett J. Mechem was comptroller at the Gastonia plant from 1951, until his newest promotion last month. Originally

from Burlington, Kan., he was graduated from high school there and from Enid (Okla.) Business College.

After jobs in auditing and accounting in Oklahoma, he joined the Firestone Stores district offices in Oklahoma City in 1937. He finished his first five years with Firestone in the Dallas, Texas, Stores district, then transferred to the accounting department of the company's Akron, Ohio, headquarters.

For the next four years he was comptroller of a Firestone

• More on page 3



Out Of Season

A pair of brogans neatly parked in the grass recalls a bygone season when the weather was

balmier than that of chilly February, now upon us. The scene: Firestone fabric treating unit 8 at Gastonia. Construction worker and footwear owner had chosen to spend a summer lunch hour with feet "uninhibited."

IN APRIL Federal Census Coming

Looking ahead. April 1 is the 'big day' in the 1970 census, the 19th in a series that began in 1790, longest track record of its kind in history.

Most citizens will be involved, because this will be a do-it-yourself census.

The questionnaire will be delivered by letter carrier. Each family will be requested to fill it out, using a pencil-dot language that can be read by FOSDIC, the Census Bureau's ingenious scanning machine.

The U. S. Department of Commerce which operates the Bureau of the Census says:

You won't be able to learn anything about any one person from the decennial census. No one can learn about you—you're protected by Federal law.

But from the census will come an outpouring of new and vital facts about the American people and their way of life, the people of a city, county, metropolitan area and the neighborhoods in these areas; facts about states and the United States as a whole.

Facts and figures which the upcoming census will gather are destined to influence the lives of most people in this country for the next 10 years.

More Than 4 and 20; And In Several Rows

Capistrano Mission in California has its swallows, and the Gaddy's Refuge at Ansonville, N. C., is winter quarters for Canada geese.

Less known is the landmark water-storage tower in front of the Firestone Gastonia plant—as a year-round haven for starlings.

On warmer days even in winter, thousands of the birds with a doubtful reputation converge on the tower strutwork at day's end—their glossy green and purple plumage shimmering in the setting sun.

The starling, one of the commonest of the urban birds, is well at home anywhere, although they do not prefer deep woods.

AN ORIGINAL STOCK of less than 100 introduced from Europe around 80 years ago has grown into multiplied millions over most of the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Starlings have a bad reputation because of their overpopulation in cities, for their destruction of crops, and because of their sometimes ornery behavior toward other birds.

But they have good qualities, chief among which are their tremendous consumption of destructive insects, and the showy flash of their iridescent wings in graceful flight.

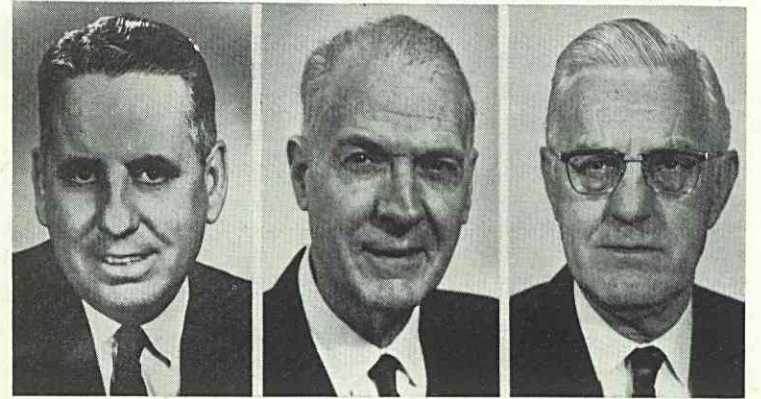
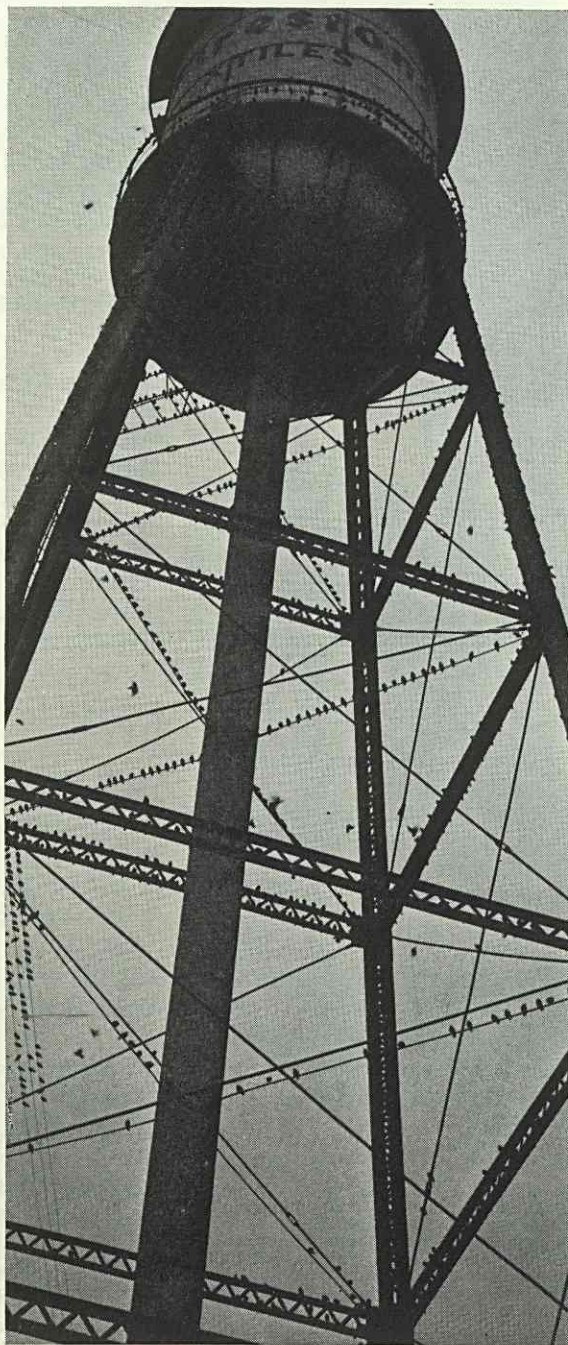
From spectator points near their water-tower perch at Firestone, the observer can study their mastery of flight. Airborne, a flock appears as a single, joined unit—birds turning singly, banking, twisting in unison in the same direction.

In these complex maneuvers, their movements are executed without apparent leadership or noticeable signals.

SO FLIGHT is the starlings' portion. But on the ground, they are decidedly gawky.

More sociable in winter, their repertoire of whistles and shrieking notes ranges from harsh to melodic.

And did you know, the starling belongs to the same family as the renowned talking mynah, and is a clever mimic of his fellows in the bird kingdom?



GALLIGAN

MECHEM

DARWIN

Harold Mercer UCS Award

J. Hugh McArver, outgoing president of the Greater Gastonia United Fund and Council of United Community Services, received the first Harold Mercer Memorial Award at the United Fund annual meeting at First United Methodist Church in January.

The award, henceforward to be an annual recognition of the outgoing presidents of United Community Services, memorializes Harold Mercer (1902-1969), for 38 years a Firestone executive and outstanding community leader.

In 1953, Mercer, with other business and industry leaders, organized the Gastonia United Fund. He served as president in 1955. His vision and leadership especially in the organization's formative

years, helped the UF to flourish and grow to include most communities of Gaston County.

Presenting the award, John V. Darwin noted that "Harold Mercer maintained his commitment to the United Way by serving on the board of directors for several terms.

"He inspired his company and its employees to take the

• More on page 2

Applications For Scholarships

Eleven applications in the 1970 Firestone College Scholarship competition had been recorded at the Gastonia plant industrial relations office as of late January.

Applications are from sons

and daughters in Firestone employee families in the Gastonia area. Completed applications from high-school seniors are sent to the company headquarters in Akron. Closing date is the end of February.

• You can "share a gift of life" Feb. 24 at the plant recreation center. That's the date for the first of two yearly Firestone visits of the Red Cross Regional Bloodmobile. The bloodmobile stops at Firestone and

the plant community of West Gastonia in February or early March and in August every year.

Coordinator of the blood-sharing program at Firestone is Ralph Johnson, employee relations manager.