

APRIL • 1970

Radio Programs On Textiles

Both local and national news of the textile industry is presented five days a week on four Carolina radio stations which serve wide areas of the Mid-South.

The daily news features, presented by editor-commentator Ed Smith of Kings Mountain, spotlight textile plant progress, personnel changes, labor-management relations, contract awards, government activities, new products and methods in the industry. Time and station schedule:

7:45 A.M. — Monday through Friday, WBT, Charlotte; 1110 KC

7:40 AM — Monday through Friday, WBIG, Greensboro; 1470 KC

5:45 PM — Monday through Friday, WFBC, Greenville; 1330 KC

10:30 PM — Monday through Friday, WFBC, (AM & FM); FM 88.1 MC.



'New Freedom Shares'

GOING
INTO
HISTORY

U.S. Savings Notes, popularly known as "Freedom Shares," will be removed from sale effective June 30 this year. The Savings Notes, yielding 5 per cent interest, have been sold in combination with Series E U.S. Savings Bonds since May of 1967.

Mrs. Eula B. Wilson, Firestone plant payroll supervisor, announces that the supply of Freedom Shares will be discontinued in the Gastonia area around June 1.

"So, employees who have been purchasing these Savings Notes should be aware that

their sale will be stopped after June," reminds Mrs. Wilson. "Firestone people buying Freedom Shares through the payroll-deduction plan will need to see the payroll department to change their deduction programs to regular Savings Bonds."

THE U.S. TREASURY Department announced discontinuance of Freedom Shares in late 1969, at the time it revealed the most recent increase in interest rate on two common series of U.S. Savings Bonds.

The new 5 per cent rate became effective the past Dec. 1. This rate applies to all outstanding Series E and H Bonds sold on or after June 1, 1969, if held to maturity. The higher rate also applies to older Bonds. Beginning with the first semi-annual interest period starting on or after June 1, 1969, rates on outstanding E and H Bonds were increased to yield 5 per cent, when held to maturity or extended maturity.

The original maturity of the Series E Bond has been shortened from 7 years to 5 years and 10 months. H Bonds continue to mature in 10 years.

MANAGER NAMED

Process-Product Development

David Neal Lewis has been appointed manager of process and product development for Firestone Textiles Company, with headquarters at Gastonia.

James B. Call, division president, said that Lewis heads a newly-created department in process-product development for all three facilities of the division: Gastonia, Bennettsville, S.C., and Bowling Green, Ky.

Lewis, from Detroit, Mich., transferred to Gastonia from Firestone Synthetic Fibers Company headquarters at Hopewell, Va.

FOLLOWING graduation from high school, Lewis joined the Navy and trained as an aerial photographer, spending half of is two years of service in Japan.

Home from the Navy, he entered Michigan State University at East Lansing, where he received the Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering in 1959. Later that year he joined the college training program of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company at Akron, Ohio.

His first assignment was in tire development. During the five years he was in Akron, he advanced to an assignment in the textiles-adhesives development department.

Transferred to Hopewell five years ago, he began work there in the development department. Later he was in process engineering but returned to the development department as manager of the Hopewell pilot plants. From that assignment he transferred to Gastonia in March.

David
Neal
Lewis



THEY 'PLAYED BALL' Y Membership Drive

Fourteen Gastonia Firestone people helped Gaston County "play ball" for the annual YMCA membership drive in March. The men, representing several main plant departments and division management, became "owner, manager, coach,

Lewis is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

His wife is the former Gloria Perry of Wyandotte, Mich.

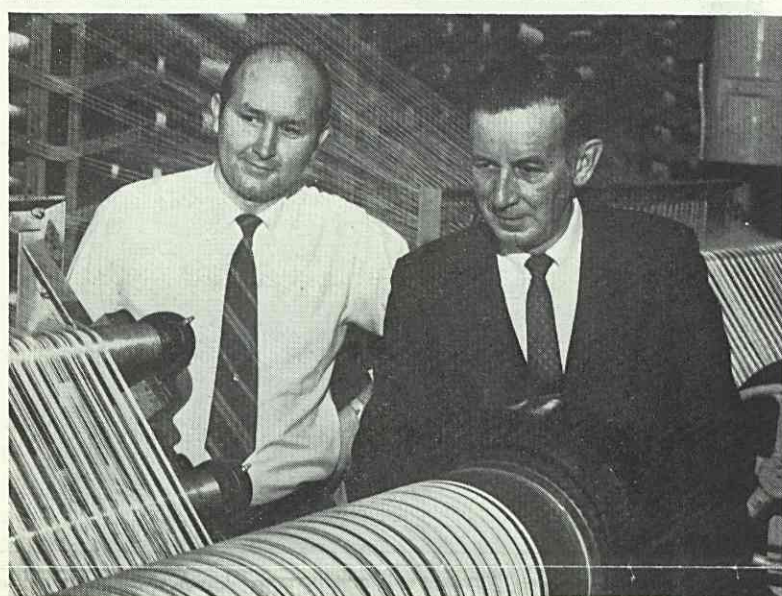
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have three daughters: Anne, 11; Jill, 9; Neal, 5; and a son, Rhys, 3.

The Lewis family lives at 1260H Carriage Lane in Gastonia.

trainer, captain, scorer and team members" to help along the Y effort which sought 2,000 new or renewed memberships.

Intead of playing actual baseball, the Firestone men were organized within the ball-team idea to "score" for the county-wide effort. It was one of many teams in business, industrial and other organizations.

On the team and its management-training staff: Ralph Johnson, A. V. Riley, Freddie Elkins, Thomas A. Grant, M. J. Nichols, Raymond Morgan, Carl Rape, E. D. Bagwell, Harold Robinson, T. E. Gibson, J. G. Tino Jr., W. D. Teague, Raymond Hoots, D. Ray Thomas.



Weave Look

David Britton (left), Gastonia plant production scheduler, discussed weaving principles with R. M. Simpson who visited here last month. Simpson is

safety engineer at Firestone's Wyandotte, Mich., steel products plant. He came to the Gastonia plant to conduct a session on lift-truck operating safety. Attending the meeting were 32 truck operators and others whose work deals in safety and materials-handling.

Gastonia Plant Into 36th Year

When the late Harvey S. Firestone, company founder, purchased the Gastonia plant and other properties in April of 1935, it was The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company's first manufacturing venture into the Southland.

The plant, which under two other corporate names had dated to the early 1900s, through the years has maintained its leadership as a major producer of textiles—principally tire-cord fabrics.

Across the past 35 years, the facility has moved from production of a variety of materials for the general textile trade and tire fabrics to tire fabrics exclusively.

Beginning in the age when cotton was still "king" in the textiles field, the plant has progressed to production predominantly in materials of an ever-widening family of scientifically-produced fibers.

Some sample highlights of the years since 1935 indicate that Firestone in Gastonia "has come a long way." It has won many a safety award and recognition for community service. It has made progress in many areas, including quality of product, better employee relations, reorganization and creation of new departments for efficiency of operation.

The plant pioneered sales of its village homes to employees; made major additions such as the three fabric-treating units, a new water-storage and pumping facility; additional warehouses, parking-loading space, and a host of other improvements in machinery and equipment, and conveniences for employees.

Changes for progress span the years from the "cotton days" of the mid-1930s to the age of the computer, with the recent installation of electronically-programmed communications equipment in main office.

When the company purchased the plant, it was first called Firestone Cotton Mills. A while later, it became Firestone

More on Page 3 •