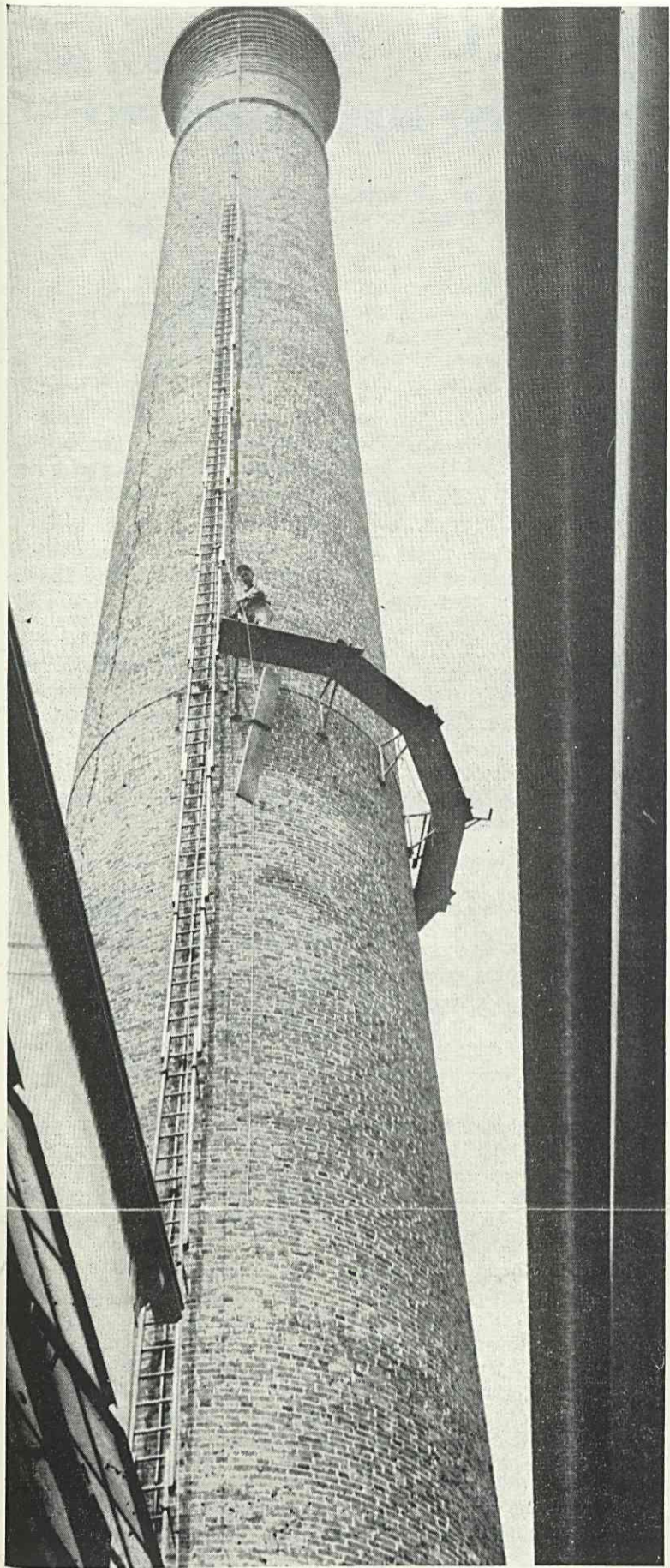


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Firestone

GASTONIA
NORTH CAROLINA

SEPTEMBER • 1970

NEWS

OCTOBER Your Gifts Will Help

United Appeal: Through 36 Services

"If you don't do it, it won't get done." That's the theme of Gaston County United Appeal's 1970 funding effort to provide community services for the 1971 year.

For the upcoming campaign which begins Oct. 6, several new approaches will persuade citizen response toward realizing this year's goal of \$512,000.

More than 900 volunteer workers will solicit and collect funds for next year's operation of the various United Appeal member agencies.

A year-round job for the UA staff and many volunteer workers, the United Appeal gains momentum in late summer, setting final plans for the fund-gathering drive.

September 17 has been set as the first "milestone" date, when major planning sessions will be held; Mass publicity through spot announcements and interviews on five radio stations in the county, display of street banners, live music to "drum up attention", and other promotion, Oct. 8.

Again this year the "Fair Share" method of making contributions through payroll deduction will be emphasized. UA division chairmen and section aides are "placing faith in the people, to achieve the greatest success in the history of the United Way of Giving in Gaston County."

The Community Chest idea of financing recreation youth, social and other 'people' services has been in operation here since 1954.

It was in 1953 that the late Harold Mercer, then Firestone plant general manager, joined with other business and industry leaders to organize the Gastonia United Fund. The first campaign was in 1954. Mr. Mercer was UF president in 1955.

THROUGHOUT the years, Firestone Textiles people have been in the forefront of United participation through volunteer leadership and response in the fund campaigns. Traditionally, the Firestone contribution each year is among the largest of single pledges. Total contribution for Firestone in the campaign last year was \$31,653.15.

In recognition of "outstanding participation", the plant has received the Citizenship Award throughout the years.

Early this year the Firestone company established the perpetual Harold Mercer Memorial Award which commemorates the leadership contribution of the outgoing United Community Services president each year.

First established to serve Gastonia primarily, the United Appeal in later years was expanded to embrace most other communities of the county: Dallas, Cherryville, Mount Holly, Lowell, Cramerton, Stanley and Ranlo.

'EXPRESSION'

GCC Certificates To 32 At Firestone

Completion of a 20-hour course in oral and written expression earned a certificate for 32 Firestone men among supervisory personnel at the Gastonia plant.

Firestone Textiles President James B. Call presented the certificates for the course ending in August. The study, in 10 night sessions over a five-week period at Gaston Community College, was led by W. B. Boney of the GCC faculty.

THE COURSE, inaugurated at the Firestone management's re-

quest, became a part of the adult education division of the college. A new course is planned to begin this fall.

Those receiving certificates, and their work departments:

Twisting-TC: Frederick McCurry, Earl Clark, Belon Hanna, Floyd Ratchford, T. E. Gibson, Fred Elkin, Oliver Hardee, Harold Burgess, Jack Hall.

Weaving-TC: Carl Rape, Roy Davis, Joseph R. Harrison, Clyde Phillips, Tracy Whitener.

Industrial Relations and Personnel: A. V. Riley, Elmer Passmore, Dock Reynolds.

Weaving-Chafer: Clee McCaslin, Ray Shields. Warehouse: James E. Wellmon, C. K. Cauthen. Shop: Horace Robinson, Cramer Little. Quality Control: Lewis Clark. Methods - Time Study: Earl Childs.

Purchasing: Robert Spencer, Supply: Ernest Keenum. Shipping: Elmer Crews. Nylon Treating: Charles Hamrick. Process-Products Development: Earl Cunningham, B. F. Massey. Equipment: D. Ray Thomas.

'Big Chim'

GETTING READY TO GO

• Joining many another area landmark in memory and history is the giant brick chimney which has served the Gastonia Firestone plant since the original portion was constructed around 1900. The 197-foot stack damaged by a gas mixture explosion in late August, got a temporary stay as workmen from a Charlotte firm safety-banded its middle to secure the two clefts caused by the blast, until the take-down project could begin. A workman (photo) built catwalk at points where safety girders were placed. Twin steel stacks have replaced the venerable brick structure.

19 To Retired Status

William E. Cosey, with 35 years of service completed, is among four making up the latest-to-leave group at the Gastonia plant. The others, with their years of service, are Will A. Brown, 33; Roland Huss, 25 and David Ratchford, 19. Retirement date for these veteran employees was Aug. 31.

Also entered on the Gastonia retirement roster dating from the end of August back to the beginning of summer were several others with "career lengths"

of from 11 to 35 years. They, with service milestones in years:

Estelle Vanderford, 21; Marie Tart, 34; David McGinnis, 24; George Sadler, 29; Fred Chastain, 34; Guy B. Carlan, 23; William I. Alexander, 22; Judson Looper, 11; Claude E. Stewart, 16; Bonnie M. Stiles, 27; Juanita Beddingfield, 29; Maida Bailey, 23; Ola Austin, 31; Lydia Davis, 34; Edna Queen, 23.

Cora Sweatt, deceased, was included in this retiree group. She died at Bennettsville, S. C. in late July.

SCHOLARSHIP AND MERIT WINNERS

Susan Gail Chastain entered Appalachian State University at Boone in early September to study on a Firestone Scholarship. Miss Chastain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Chastain of Gastonia (he works in the Firestone powerhouse), is the 1970 winner of a Firestone College Scholarship in the Gastonia area.

At Appalachian, Gail will study in preparation for a career in teaching Spanish.

Also entering college this month are the four Gastonia-area 1970 Certificate of Merit winners in the Scholarship program:

Murphey Anne Moore to Winston-Salem State College. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Moore of Gastonia. Her father retired from Firestone in 1965.

Prenella Neely, to Winston-Salem State College. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Neely of Dallas, her father works in weaving-TC here.

Betsey Goebel, to Brevard College at Brevard. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Goebel. He is a millwright in mechanical service.

Katherine Ann Shull, to Gaston Community College, Dallas. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Shull of Bessemer City. He is a section supervisor in weaving (chafer).

THE TWO OTHERS who have won company scholarships within the past four years are Linda Kay Murray and Richard Dale Carringer. Linda, a senior at Clemson University, Clemson, S. C. is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Q. Murray of Gas-

Gone To School



SUSAN GAIL CHASTAIN

tonia. Mrs. Murray works in weaving-TC. Richard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Carringer of Gastonia, is a junior at NC State University-Raleigh. His mother works at Firestone in production planning and control.

Susan Gail Chastain is the 16th student from Firestone families of the Gastonia plant to receive the company scholarship since the program was begun in 1953. Nationwide, the company as of this year has awarded a total of 521 full col-

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