

## Part Of A Family Tradition

When Myles T. Michaels carries on the duties of his job as a section supervisor in TC twisting, he's keeping up a family tradition that reaches "back yonder" and spans the years between the "Old Loray Days" and the "latter age" of Firestone in Gastonia.

Myles has been employed here for 23 years. His wife, Jean, has six years of Firestone service. She—also in TC twisting—is a beam knitter.

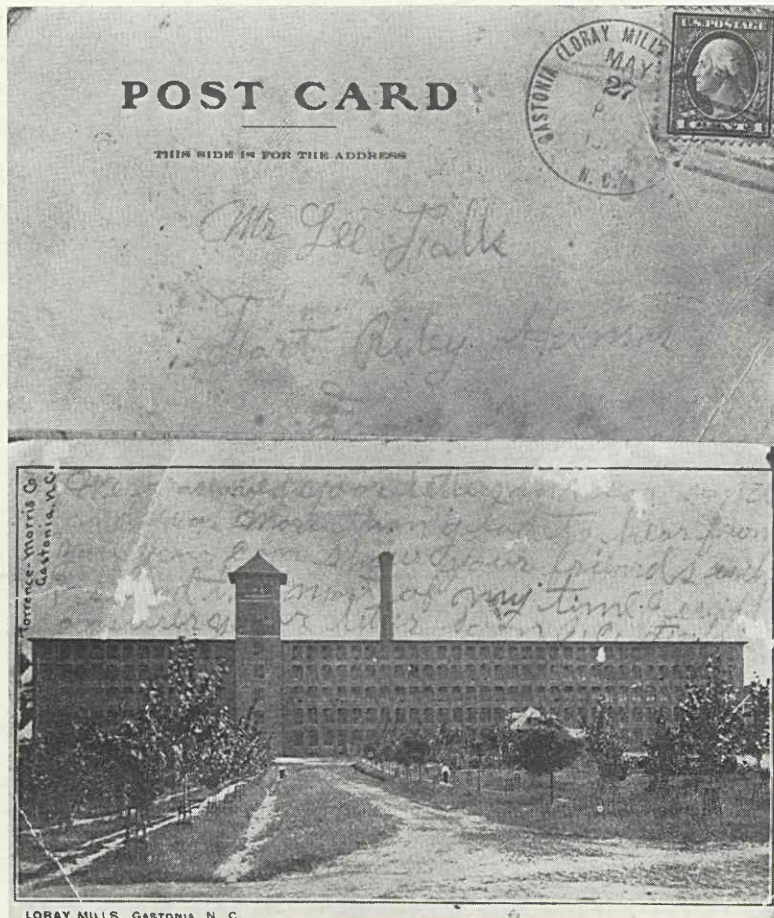
Mrs. Alice Michaels, Myles' mother, worked here off-and-on for several years in pre-Firestone days. Her husband, George, also worked here many years ago. He died in 1962.

Alice Michaels' brother, Lee Falls, worked at "The Mills" in the old days. That was for a while around the time Lee turned teenager (remember they started early then), and before he joined the Army Cavalry in 1907.

Then J. C. Falls, Lee's older brother, was employed here. To this he makes reference in the keepsake postcard reproduction along with this article.



• Myles T. Michaels: He found a piece of history.



## This Old Post Card Holds A Batch Of Memories

•• Myles T. Michaels has "relicked up" an old postcard from his mother's keepsakes. The 3½ x 5½ picture card published by Torrence-Morris Co. (long ago out of business) features old Loray Mills, original portion and forerunner of the Firestone plant in Gastonia. On the card is the Gastonia postmark, Loray branch.

The year is not readable, so a guess that it was sometime after 1908 and up into the time of World War I. This figures from the military record of Lee Falls, to whom the card was sent at Fort Riley, Kan.

Some people whose memory reaches back that far, say the Loray branch postoffice used to be in the old Firestone Dormitories—buildings last occupied by Gaston Technical Institute before its move to Gaston College.

LEE FALLS was in the U. S. Army Cavalry at Fort Riley

when he received the card. Luckily, he either sent it home or brought it, and the faded keepsake turned up recently.

Born in 1891, Lee worked briefly at Loray Mills around the time he turned teenager. He joined the Cavalry at age 16 and "built" 32 years in the Army, and had nine more in civil service after he retired from the military.

Lee's specialty in the Cavalry was saddlery and other leatherwork. After retiring from service, he operated a leather shop in Honolulu; was there at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941. He died in 1962 and is buried near Kings Mountain.

The Loray Mills photo likely dates to the early 1900s. It predates the present west wing to the building, the personnel office and other landmarks. The (then) young oak trees are today towering giants along Firestone Boulevard. Note, also, unpaved street and original factory chimney (being dismantled in 1970-71. See photos on page 1).

Tiny figures in foreground: Two women diked in ankle-length black skirts and long-

peal. Programs of these agencies are vital and necessary to the people of our county.

"All agencies are governed and led by volunteers such as yourself. We appreciate the work of the staff people, of course. But it is the volunteers who decide policy and make decisions that see to it that people of our county are being served well."

sleeve white blouses. Spinners, maybe? Or, was it Sunday and they were fixed up for Church?

The written message? Pencilled in sky area above mill:

"We received your letter and were more than glad to hear from you. You can show your friends where I spend the most of my time. I will answer your letter soon. J. C. Falls."

J. C., Lee's older brother, died around 15 years ago. His widow, Mamie Falls lives between Gastonia and Bessemer City.

## BOWLING GREEN

25

## Years



• Luther C. Brown, methods and standards engineer at the Bowling Green, Ky., Firestone plant, is the most recent to receive a 25-year service award there.

Brown joined Firestone at the Gastonia operation in 1945. First a cleaner in the production department, he later worked in quality control before transferring to methods and standards.

Brown moved to Bowling Green with his wife Vivian and son Michael at the start-up of the Kentucky plant in early 1968.

The late Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Brown, Luther's parents, were longtime employees of the Gastonia plant. Also, Luther's brothers, Lawrence and Lewis, were once employed here.

## NEWSNOTES

Statements of earnings, the familiar W-2 forms, went out to employees in January. The company's Akron headquarters processed them, and local plants distributed them to the wage-earner.

If for any reason you, an employee, didn't get your W-2 and have not checked with the payroll department, do it right away, requests Mrs. Eula Wilson, payroll supervisor. And Mrs. Wilson added:

**Now, with increasing dependence upon machines in office work and use of the mails, it is vital that each employee keep correct and up-to-date his or her address on file in the payroll department.**

On income reporting for taxes, the payroll department calls attention to some changes in the law on tax status. As of Jan. 1 this year, rate of Social Security tax went up from 4.8 to 5.2 per cent for both wage-earner and employer.

For this year's reporting of 1970 earnings, rate of each personal exemption has been raised from \$600 to \$625, and the 2.5 per cent Federal Income Tax surcharge was removed.

One thing to look forward to when you report taxes in 1972: Rate for each personal exemption will move up from \$625 to \$650.

☆ ☆ ☆

Robert William Thomas is assigned to Ft. Belvoir, Va., as a U.S. Army engineering trainee. He is the son of Garfield (in twisting at Firestone) and Mrs. Thomas of Gastonia.

Robert reported to Ft. Belvoir following a recent 15-day leave with his parents. The 1970 graduate of Hunter Huss High School completed Army basic training at Ft. Jackson, S. C.

Sgt. William L. Brockman belongs to a unit that in early January earned its sixth consecutive U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and the second straight with the "V" device for valor.

Sgt. Brockman is a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William Cosey, both retired from Firestone, Gastonia.

Brockman's outfit, the 1964th Communications Group, headquartered at Tan Son Nhut AB in Vietnam, was cited for training and assisting the Republic of Vietnam Air Force and for providing direct communications and air traffic control support to USAF and Vietnamese units in launching air strikes against hostile forces.

Sgt. Brockman is an air traffic controller at Bien Hoa Air Base. He attended Gaston College after graduation from Ashley High School.

John R. Carson, retired Firestone plant protection officer, died Jan. 24. Burial was in Pisgah ARP Church cemetery. Besides Mrs. Carson, he is survived by 2 sons and 3 daughters; a sister; 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Boss M. Parson, retired Firestone elevator operator, died Jan. 30. Burial in Westview Gardens, Bessemer City. Survivors: Mrs. Parson; his father; 3 daughters; 2 sons; 2 sisters, 3 brothers and 13 grandchildren.

## Where Ideas Are

WHERE IS THE "STUFF" of suggestions? Usually where you look, because ideas are all around. "Put your finger on them," consider them and sort them. Put them on paper and share them with the Suggestion System.

Ideas with merit bring money awards to the person who submits them. That we know.

There is an even-greater reward. Approved ideas help the company and—through it—a lot of people, and usually for a long time.

A person who has a suggestion approved, knows the good feeling which comes from sharing constructively with fellow workers and with the company.

## UCS Memorial Awards

From Page 1

lived in Gastonia since 1935. He retired here in early 1968.

Mr. Mercer was one of the founders of the local United Fund in the early 1950s, and served one term as president. He was a long-time member of the executive committee of Carolinas United, an association of United Funds and Community Chests in the two States.

At the January meeting, James B. Call, Firestone Textiles Company president, was named to the 15-member UCS board of directors, to serve a three-year term. J. V. Darwin, Mr. Call's administrative assist-

ant, will complete his three-year term on the board at the end of this year.

Philip R. Williams, factory manager at the Firestone Gastonia plant, retired from the board of directors.

Dr. Gary Levinson was elected 1971 UCS president. Donald Allen Smith is president-elect.

Holland, the retiring president, told the nearly 100 United Appeal workers at the meeting:

"I want to say how proud we are of the volunteer agencies for which we provide financial support through the United Ap-

## Firestone NEWS

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## • GASTONIA

Claude C. Callaway, Editor

Plant Offices Warehouses

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