

Camp Firestone

From page 1

In the beginning and for many years the camp was a fulfillment of the company's belief that "everybody needs a vacation—every year."

But Times Have Changed Things • Vacations have been liberalized. Today, people are traveling farther and taking in wider interests. On week ends or overnight, they travel farther and with more ease than was involved in an annual vacation trip from Gastonia to Lake James "back in the old days."

The wider world of travel and the fast-growing public recreation-amusement developments add infinite variety for people on the go. In recent years, the Catawba River and other waterways and the vast lakes-recreation complexes in the Piedmont region have "changed the picture" also.



Recollections of Springtime and Good Things to Eat • This photo made several years ago recorded Camp Firestone dining room and kitchen, blooming dogwood and other trees.

So, Camp Firestone is no more.

Closing Camp Firestone adds still another colorful chapter to the company's history and its textile operation in Gastonia.

But, for a long time, many Firestone people will remember the camp on the Lake with its 128-mile shoreline—the bathing, fishing, boating, water-skiing; majestic scenery, stimulating

climate, lakeside cabins, the wooded trails, and all.

Perhaps they'll remember—in words of a national magazine story in 1947—that:

"A stay at Camp Firestone was more than a vacation. It was the fine art of living near Nature in an unspoiled land of mountains and lakes, with the vacation accent on wholesome fun."

Eleven Certificates

In Communications

Understanding between human beings is the common denominator of all progress, James B. Call said at the Gastonia plant in February, as the Firestone Textiles Company president presented certificates to 11 men for their completion of a course in communications.

The 20-hour study program in the adult curriculum of Gaston College was in evening sessions over a five-week period.

"I applaud you for having thought enough of yourselves to put out the extra effort to improve yourselves this way," said Mr. Call.

"Communication is, in reality, living and getting along in this life, and the better we communicate the better we do," he added.

HE TERMED good communications "simply the transferring of ideas and responding, so that we understand other people and they, in turn, understand

us. And that is what we strive for."

Certificates for the course in communications went to:

Charles W. Armstrong, Randall R. Lovingood and James D. Sills, main office; O'Neil Gamble, quality control; Lennell Keenum, laboratory; Samuel E. Crawford, technical dept.; James L. Ramey, production planning; Homer G. Hall, production (manager); Alfred C. Kessell, nylon treating; William H. Galloway, shop; William Massey Jr., TC twisting.

Gaston County YMCA sponsors the Industrial Management Club. As of March, its membership includes 12 men from management and supervision at the Gastonia Firestone plant.

Ten Years Ago • Firestone became the first tire manufacturer to begin commercial production of polybutadiene synthetic rubber, 1961.

Mrs. Guilford Quick of Columbia, S. C., Mrs. E. W. Jackson of Wilmington; brothers P. H. of Nichols, Floyd of New York and William of Florida.

Funeral for H. A. Hollifield was held in Loray Baptist Church, with burial in Gaston Memorial Park Feb. 4. Mrs. Hollifield is retired from Firestone. Other survivors are sons Ray, Harbin Jr., Jay, Lloyd and Lee (Mrs. Lee Hollifield works at Firestone); daughters Mrs. Jean Brock (a Firestone employee); brothers Jack, Carl and Willis; sisters Mrs. Mollie Anderson, Mrs. Lula Hardin, Mrs. Margie Garrett and Mrs. Minnie Hunter.



• Charlie Sweatt (left) and Clyde Polson (both ply twisting) are the latest to mark 25-year service anniversaries at Firestone Textiles, Bennettsville.

Milestones

•• Samuel Mulliken of Philadelphia was the country's first person to be granted more than one patent from the U. S. Patent Office which had been established soon after the Colonial period.

Mulliken's inventive talents led him to rig a number of mechanical devices for labor-savings, product improvement and increased output in farming and the early textile trade especially.

Mulliken made history when on March 11, 1791 he obtained four patents for machines. Of these four inventions, two were milestone improvements in textiles. His description and original patent application listed:

"A Machine for threshing Grain and Corn. A Machine for breaking and swingling Hemp. A Machine for cutting and polishing Marble. A Machine for raising a Nap on Cloths."

Company Of The Month

Firestone Textiles was cited as "Company of the Month" for February, the honor bestowed by Gaston County Industrial Management Club. The announcement was made at the IMC Feb. 15 dinner meeting in Dixie Village.

James B. Call, Firestone Textiles president, made brief remarks on behalf of the company.

The program was on National

Aeronautics and Space Administration. Main speaker was John L. Sloop, assistant associate administrator for advancement of research and technology for NASA.

It was the second time in recent years that Firestone was named for the IMC distinction.

As "Company of the Month" the plant was featured in a products exhibit in the Chamber of Commerce building during February.

Manager Industrial Relations

Seeks Fourth Term On Council

Gastonia City Councilman Ralph F. Johnson has announced as a candidate in the May 4 municipal election here. Johnson, who was mayor pro-tem under former Mayor Earl T. Groves, is manager of industrial relations for Firestone Textile Company's Gastonia plant.

He is seeking his fourth term on the Council from Gastonia's Ward 3.

Johnson, former plant recreation director, is a member of several national recreation organizations. He is a past president of the NC Recreation Society (the NCRS once cited him with the Fellow Award, its highest individual honor).

Johnson is current chairman of the City Council Recreation Advisory Committee; is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a past president of the Gastonia Noon Optimist Club. He was instrumental in organizing the Optimist Club

of Firestone.

He is a teacher in the Sunday school of Covenant United Methodist Church.

Of his candidacy in the upcoming municipal election, Johnson says:

"DURING MY YEARS in city government, we have made progress. I want to continue as part of the advance to be made in the future.

"I believe in quality government, moving forward. I want to help Gastonia maintain its place as one of the State's leading cities. I'll continue to work for every facet of the city's growth and progress."

OF Textiles CIVILIZATION AND PROGRESS

As a part of the human environment, textiles is one of man's oldest industries. So, since ancient times, it has played a role of increasing importance to advancing civilization and progress.

Today, the U.S. textile industry alone is providing apparel—all the way from "ordinary" clothing, to superbly-engineered astronaut suits; artificial human arteries, inflatable buildings, fabric bridges, aircraft "instant" landing strips, and flood-control dams.

Some of these are among major items produced in the Firestone company's Diversified Products division.

According to the American Textile Manufacturers Institute, there are around 700 textile companies operating 7,000 plants in 42 states. The ATMI recently made these further observations:

• Close to a million people work in the textile industry. If you include related industries such as those producing synthetic fibers, apparel, and dye-stuffs, about 3.4 million workers earn their livelihood in textiles.

• As the industry cooperates with government in reducing unemployment, many formerly-unemployable persons are finding work in textiles. People of

the black race make up more than 14 per cent of the textile work force, compared with 10 per cent for manufacturing in general.

• Meeting the challenges of change, and coping with problems "around for a long time", the textile industry is working diligently in such areas as water-pollution cleanup, noise control in its plants, and research on industry-related health problems.

Museum

Planetarium

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME 38 centuries to the dawn of mankind's earliest attempts to explore mysteries of the universe. The massive stone rings which dominate the Salisbury Plain of England remain a mystery of modern times. Were they an ancient observatory?

STONEHENGE is the March program at Schiele Museum of Natural History Planetarium, Gastonia.

In Memoriam

A memorial service for Henry Gordon, employed at Firestone in Gastonia for more than 25 years, was held in Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Feb. 7, with burial following in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Ocie P. Gordon; sisters Mrs. Bertha Roseboro of Washington, D. C., Minnie Gordon of New York, N. Y., Louise Gordon of Gastonia; brothers Mancel, Sandy and Mervin all of Gastonia.

The February funeral for Samuel H. Hewitt was held at Loray Baptist Church, with burial in Gaston Memorial Park. He was a long-time Firestone employee.

Survivors: His wife Meta Hewitt, who works in chafer weaving at Firestone, Gastonia; daughters Mrs. Johnny McAllister, Mrs. Marvin Baker Jr. both of Gastonia, and Mrs. W. H. Kincaid Jr. of Dallas; sisters

Firestone NEWS

Volume XX March, 1971
Number 3 Page 2

Monthly publication of the Gastonia, N. C., plant of Firestone Textiles Company, a division of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio. Division headquarters, Gastonia, N. C. 28052. James B. Call, president; Philip R. Williams, Gastonia factory manager.

• GASTONIA

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