



## Some Mondays Are Brighter Than Others

A procession of animal critters has paid unscheduled visits to the Firestone Gastonia plant across the years—among them a wandering pig, a skunk, a 'possum, a mama cottontail and her babies; and of course, any number of dogs, cats and kittens.

Back in the days of the old water pond, ducks and geese often decided to "take up" residence.

**But Feb. 22 was the first time ever that a monkey decided to "tour" the facilities.**

Scott McCarter of the shop coaxed a ringtail monkey from one of the fabric-treating units and gave him the security of a cage which was hastily devised.

Of the simian visitor, stories went about fast.

"You see what I just saw?" asked one woman of her neighbor on the job.

**ONE TALL** hilarity had the animal "doffing twisters until his curiosity led him to another job."

## These Retired

When Fred E. Deal officially finished his work career at the Gastonia Firestone plant Feb. 1, his relatives helped make the occasion even more memorable by giving him a party at Ray's house. (Ray is Fred's son).

What's more, they'd baked a giant celebration cake which was a striking likeness of the Firestone plant. The tasty reproduction was colored to look like the red walls, and white icing gave the mill windows a "night-shift" glow.

Deal is one of four who retired here since Jan. 1, each having at least 35 years of service. The others are Hattie E. Stacy, Tom Snipes and Oliver M. Taylor.

**SINCE** the new year began, there were 10 others who closed long work careers here, and representing service records of from 16 to 31 years.

All 14 of them marked up a total 404 years (11 of them had some months service beyond the year figures listed here).

Those with 16 to 31 years and retiring here during January and February:

Dixie M. Brockman, 28; R. B. Burleson, 28; Otho Chambers,

Plant visitor Chico with friend McCarter. The ringtail examined a shuttle quill, and moments earlier was introduced to a pair of ear protectors for noise safety in industry.

Went one rumor: "A strange, unauthorized visitor is wandering hereabouts."

"There's a super-size rat jumping through a window into the weave room," the word went around.

As the red-brown ringtail—hardly more than a foot high—romped down an aisle between machines, one man on his job yelled:

"Now I've seen it ALL!" And everybody around stopped a moment to get an unbelieving look.

• The industrial relations department sent out a "missing animal" radio bulletin. Within a few hours Chico was back home with his keeper, Earl Bragg. The monkey's week-end adventure in the plant had begun when he decided to wander from the parked car in front of the Braggs' house on W. Sixth Avenue.

The Braggs acquired two-year-old Chico on a vacation trip to Miami.

## SINCE JAN. 1

31; Royal G. Chandler, 16; Edith P. Colvard, 18; Otto Davis, 28; Curbie McGhee, 30; Mable Hanna, 31; Arley H. Hogan, 23; Raymond Varnadore, 26.

## Looking Ahead

• Deadline for filing income tax returns: April 15.

• April: Beginning of 37th anniversary year of Firestone Textiles in Gastonia.

• National Mailbox Improvement Week; May 2-8. Rural Firestone families make this yearly observance an opportunity to improve their mail delivery service, add attractive touches to the roadside and exhibit citizenship pride.

• These worth considering as stops on your upcoming vacation travels: Lion's Club American World Rodeo at Jasper, Texas, May 14-16; NC Coastal Festival at Morehead City, May 20-23. Parades, air shows, displays of ships; other events. Families of NC servicemen missing in action or prisoners of war will be honored guests.

**Firestone NEWS**  
March, 1971

## recent bloodbank DONORS

At the Red Cross blood collection at Firestone Recreation Center in February, 153 pints were added to the regional bloodbank. The majority of productive donors were Firestone people, and the others mostly from the plant community.

The mobile unit visit in February was the first of two stops a year at the Firestone location.

Ralph Johnson, manager of industrial relations, is coordinator of the plant's continuing blood-donor project. F. B. Galligan, division factory manager, is chairman of the Gaston County Red Cross blood program.

People who gave at the February visit here:

**A & B** David Adams, Jerry Alford, Arthur Allen, Charles F. Allen, Larry B. Baker, Lucille Baker, Stephens G. Barber, Donna Barker, J. C. Barnes, Glenn H. Bell, Harry Bell, Robert H. Blalock Jr., Ralph Bolding, Carroll G. Boulware, Nancy Bradley, John D. Bridgeman, David R. Britton, Robert C. Brumley, James G. Burr, Gladys Butler, John E. Butts, Ida W. Byers.

**C, D & E** Helen D. Calahan, Frank E. Capps, Johnny G. Carpenter, Melvin W. Carpenter, Cornelia Carringer, Raymond R. Cline, Paul G. Cloninger, Gracie C. Cook, Minnie Cook, Christine Cooper, James E. Coxy, Eva Nell Crawford, Samuel E. Crawford, Dezaree Crisp, Edward A. Crisp, Gary B. Crisp, Eugene Crumpton, Earl A. Cunningham, Ralph Dalton, Fred J. Davis, Roy L. Davis, James G. Dixon Jr., June B. Dobbins, Marcus L. Dobbins, Bobby J. Duncan, Larry G. Duncan, Russell S. Duren, John E. Elmore.

**F, G & H** Jack W. Faile, Jack E. Faile, Bernie R. Farmer, Nora F. Flanagan, Ira Foote, Morrison E. Ford, William H. Ford, Ronald L. Franks, William H. Galloway, Steve Gammons, Dorothy Goodson, Thomas A. Grant, Betty J. Green, Ross Gregory Jr.

Robert F. Hager, Charles W. Hamrick, James L. Haney, Fred A. Hardee, Sandra Hargrove, Joseph R. Harrison, Jesse E. Harwell, Dlyde H. Hayes Jr., William J. Herndon Jr., George C. High, Hazel Holloway, Raymond J. Hoots, Theron D. Houser, David L. Huffstetler, Louise M. Huffstetler, Ronald H. Huskey.

**J, K, L & M** Alene A. Jackson, Thomas L. Jackson, Roosevelt Jamison, Ronnie L. Jarvis, Bertha Jolly, Herschel Jordan, Vivian P. Jordan, Charles R. Keaton, Lennell Keenum, Sandra G. Keenum, Alfred C. Kessell, Mason King, W. Jerry Kirby, Sylvester Lindsay, Nova H. Lowe, Samuel T. Lowery, Charles R. Lunsford, Archie Lynn.

John W. McAllister, David G. McCarver, A. D. McCarter, Helen L. McCarter, Clarence McCombs, Marvin W. McCurry, Cramer J. McDaniel, Henry M. McDaniel, Harvey A. McDonald, Juanita McDonald, Nathan McFalls, William McGinnis, Earl W. McMillan, James R. McMillan, Richard A. McMillan, Emmitt McNeil, James C. Martin,

Benjamin F. Massey, John R. Mercer, Miles T. Michaels, Jerry I. Mitchell, John S. Mitchell, Collie B. Moore.

## N, O, P, Q & R

Bobby D. Neal, Paul D. Neal, David Nichols, William D. O'Neal, Mattie Passmore, Gordon C. Patterson, Betty A. Phillips, Billy G. Phillips, Claude D. Phillips, Henry Phillips, Charlie M. Plyler, John Porter, Alfred J. Queen, Bobby R. Queen, Colin L. Quinn, Christopher L. Rabb, James L. Ramey, James R. Reel, Kathryn Rhyne, Alvin V. Riley, Jerry D. Rimmer, Harold M. Robinson, Barbara J. Rogers, Bobby A. Rogers, Roger G. Rosser.

## S, T, W & Y

Luke F. Sadler, Larry W. Sanders, Betty Sawyer, Dorsel J. Saylor, William C. Shull, Bertha Sosebee, Pauline Spencer, Larry H. Stevens, Elton L. Still, Buster Stiles, Chester M. Tate, John L. Thomas, Clyde Thomasson, William Tomerlin, Robert C. Turner, Thomas W. Turner, Franklin D. Walls, Ray Whisnant Jr., Floyd H. Whitaker, Tracy Whitener, Brady L. Whitesides, Mary M. Whitesides, Paul C. Whitfield, Coy Willard, George D. Williams, Eula Wilson, John A. Wilson, Thomas Yelton.

## Speech Winner

Barry Robinson won his fourth trophy in February for being top orator in the Gastonia Evening Optimist Club's speaking competition. He spoke on the Optimist-designated subject, "This I Believe."

Barry, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Robinson, is an honor student in the 10th grade at Hunter Huss High School. His father is warehouse manager at Firestone.

Besides being a four-time winner locally, Barry once won on the zone level and advanced to section level in the national Optimist Club speaking competition.

## YMCA Busy Bee Day Nursery

Need a good place to "busy" your youngster during working days? The Gaston County YMCA Busy Bee Day Nursery provides physical and mental development for children who must spend most of the day away from home.

During the weekday nursery hours, 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., children are directed in fun projects, games and other activities.

A recently-added physical program in the Y gym conducts daily classes in tumbling, trampoline, rhythms, organized games of ball and other play. If parents request, children are provided swimming instruction. The outside fenced-in play area is well-equipped for use when weather is suitable.

Additional information: Ask of the Y at 615 W. Franklin Blvd., or call 865-8551.

Looking back on 1970: The Firestone company last year made charitable contributions amounting to \$1,732,662, with more than half this money going to higher education.

Aids to education included direct grants to institutions, association grants, employee gifts-matching, fellowships, scholarships, cost-of-education supplements, special programs, minority training programs, and the Army's "Operation Transition" (job placement for mustered-out servicemen).

Other gifts were to hospitals and health research, community and citizen participation, United Funds, humanities and fine arts; and local contributions by plants.

## Leon, Deon & Kin

Come Dec. 17, this year, Leon and Deon Dunn will celebrate their third birth anniversary. The twin brothers are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Dunn of Gastonia.

On their family tree are some people—currently employed at the Gastonia Firestone plant—with close to 109 years of service.

The twins' grandfather is James M. Smith Jr., who has 25 years service; and the grandmother, Mrs. (Wilma) Smith, with an almost 20-year employment record. Both are in TC twisting (ply).

Leon and Deon's maternal great grandmother, Mrs. John H. (Mamie) Stevens of TC twisting (ply) has 29 years service. The boys' paternal great grandfather, James M. Smith Sr., has almost 35 years service. He is in carding.



The twins have a great-great grandmother living—adding up to five generations. She is Mrs. Addie Johnson, Mrs. Stevens' mother.