

Moving East

WILL STARLINGS FOLLOW?

"Will the starlings go East now, taking refuge on the tank tower, as they have done through the years here?" ventured one bystander in a group who'd gathered to watch a Gastonia landmark come down.

Through the years at Gastonia the elevated reservoir had been standby for production service and fire protection.

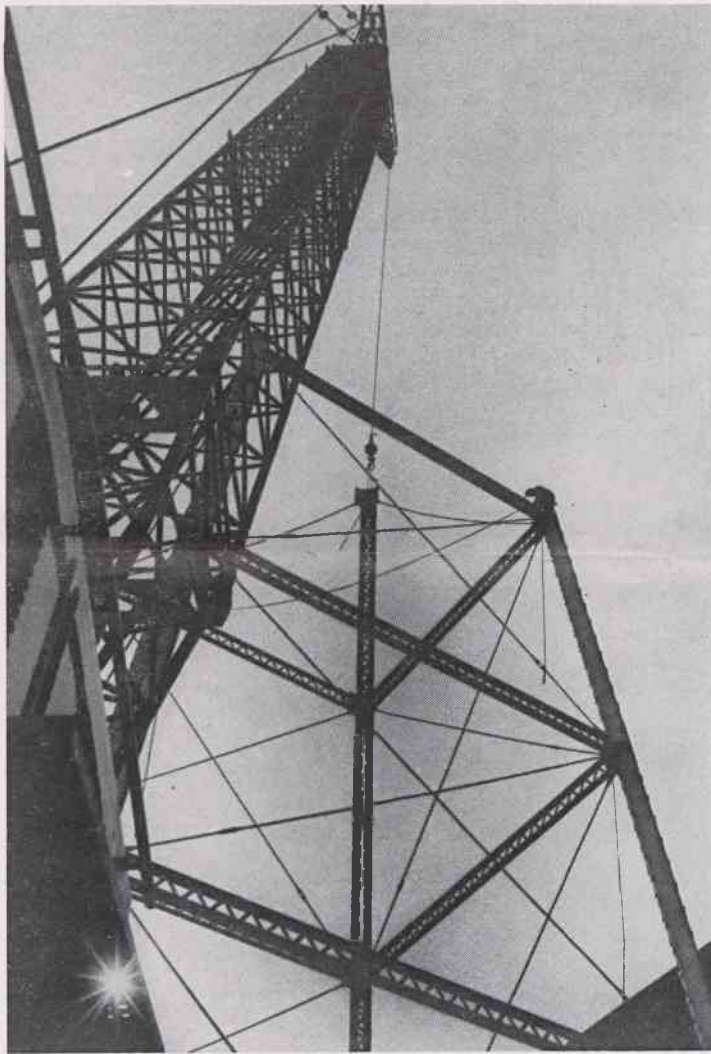
In recent years the company tapped other sources of water supply. Since the tank had been out of service for a time, it posed an unnecessary maintenance problem.

The giant water tank which had towered 145 feet at the Firestone plant since around 1905 was dismantled in December and January.

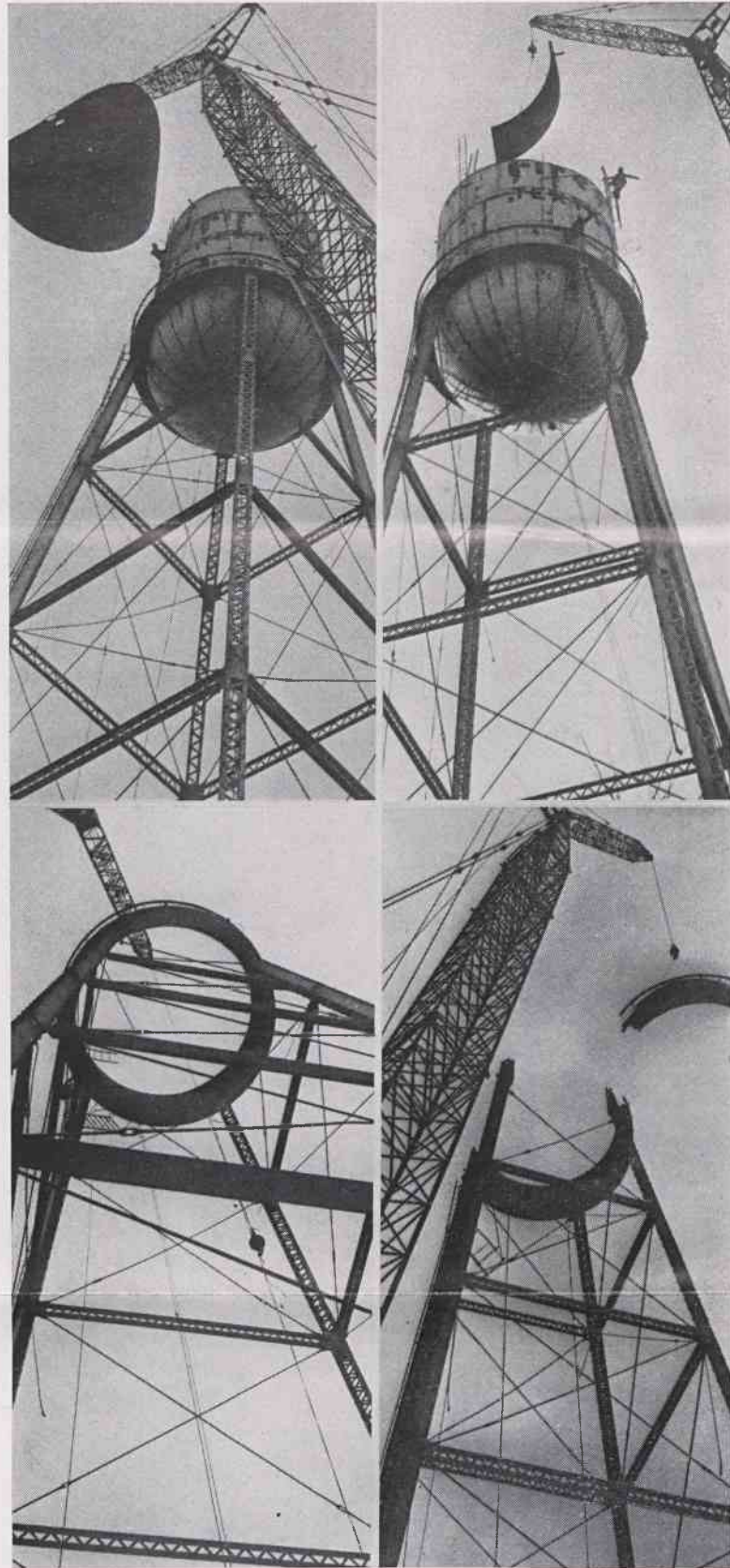
It made its journey to a new role of service in the Pembroke, N.C., town water supply system.

MOVING from Gastonia to Robeson County, the tank to be reconstructed on shorter 'legs', closed still another chapter in the history of Firestone in Gaston County.

In future, Firestone people, traveling down Pembroke way, can view with pride and nostalgia the old tank in its new role of service.



• These scenes of the beginning and progressive dismantling of water tank and tower show the giant pot losing its 'hat' and the steel-plate body, section-by-section. Later, the tower itself came down, as steeplejacks worked skillfully in winter weather, readying the parts for removal and reconstruction in Southeastern North Carolina.



People & Places

Gaston County State Representative Carl Stewart Jr. was recently named to head the powerful House Appropriations Committee for the 1973 session of the General Assembly.

According to other legislators, Stewart is probably one of the

most qualified for this position, having served all four of his terms, beginning in 1967, on this committee.

The chairmanship is a choice political appointment, one that a Gaston County representative had not held in more than 40 years.

Rep. Stewart, a 1953 Firestone College Scholarship winner, attended Duke University and Law School at Duke.

His father and mother are retired from Firestone, Gastonia. During vacations of his student days, Stewart also worked at Firestone.

★ ★ ★

Vaughn S. Meeks is among those included on the Dean's List for the quarter recently ended at Gaston Community College.

His father, Spurgeon Meeks, a fabric clerk in the Firestone Warehouse, has worked here since 1968.

At Gaston College, Vaughn studied business administration his first year. This year he is taking courses leading to credentials as a registered nurse.

• National Textile Week for 1973 will be April 1-7. The first National Textile Week was observed in the spring of 1972.

My View GASTONIA PLANT

• Should eligible voters be required by law to vote in U.S. national elections? Why or why not?

No. In this country, voting is a citizen's privilege. It is an obligation, too. And it must remain a personal choice, I believe. To require voting by law would destroy one of my precious rights as a citizen.

—Janet Clemmer, Clerk, Methods/Standards.

No. Voting should be a person's privilege—sort of like a man's religion. Voting should never be an obligation imposed by law. The law should provide the opportunity and that's all. —Ray Stiles, loom changer, TC Weaving.

Never. A law that would require eligible voters to vote in national elections would create a "backlash" situation. Too many people would cast blank ballots or sell their vote to the highest bidder. Such a law would be definite infringement upon my rights as a citizen, as I understand my rights under the Constitution. I have been in South American countries where they do have a law requiring people to vote in national elections. It's not a good law.

—Thomas Yelton, manager, Technical Services.

No. I believe every eligible person should vote. But voting ought to be a person's own free will. A law that requires a person to vote would be a very bad thing.

—Frank Allison, Shop sanitation service.

No. To require voting by law would take away my freedom to choose in a real sense. It would be an abridgement of my Constitutional rights.

—Elmer (Bill) Passmore, Employment interviewer.

GASTONIA

17 Service Records

Six at Gastonia topped the long-time service list for January, recording 30 years each on the job. They are Walter P. Tate, Preparation; George M. Davis and Sallie M. Brewer, TC Twisting; Gladys B. McClure and Jessie Lee Ammons, TC Weaving; Clyde L. Payne, Chafer Weaving.

Joining these with more many-years service records were:

Twenty-Five Years • Mary N. Wilkes and Evelyn Mae Eaker, TC Twisting; George E. Harper Jr., Warehouse.

Twenty Years • Fred H. Holloway and Joe Billy Neal, TC Twisting; Emory Johnson, Nylon Treating.

Five Years • Robert L. Rhoden, Franklin E. Lawrence, Ernest F. Cobb, TC Twisting; Paul E.

Tigner, TC Weaving; Larry Hayes Stevens, Process & Product Development.

Ideas

shipment of tire molds to overseas plants.

Employee participation during 1972 was highest in the 54-year history of Firestone's suggestion program. Overall, in North American tire plants there were 522 suggestions submitted per 1,000 employees. In diversified products plants, there were 388 ideas for each 1,000 employees.

Said John T. Cahoon, company vice president of personnel and planning:

"The suggestion program's successful 1972 year can be attributed to increased awareness by employees that they are part of Firestone's decision-making team. We encourage our people to suggest improvements in operational procedures in factories and offices."

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• GASTONIA

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