



A Thought
for the New Year • Plato, ancient Greek philosopher and student of Socrates, said "You can't step into the same river twice."

SUGGESTIONS GOALS 700 Per 1,000 Persons

Goals for the company's Suggestion Program in fiscal 1976: \$3 million savings and an average of 700 suggestions per 1,000 plant employees.

Setting these aims followed a record savings of \$2,712,461 reported for the suggestion program in fiscal 1975, ending Oct. 31. Savings were \$2,016,792 in 1974.

It was the fifth straight year of increases in total savings, award payments, number of suggestions submitted and suggestions adopted.

Firestone's suggestion program dates to 1918—one of the oldest in American industry.

Corporate Suggestions manager H. Bruce Palmer noted that during 1975, 38,459 suggestions were turned in by factory employees for a participation rate

of 672 suggestions per 1,000 employees. Factory and non-factory employees submitted a total 39,269 ideas.

Last fiscal year's performance well exceeded the goals set for the program at the beginning of that year. The goal was \$2.2 million savings and 650 suggestions per 1,000 plant employees. Said Palmer:

"Suggestion totals for 1975 indicate that employee interest in the program continues to grow and that the quality of ideas continues to improve. It also shows that the program has received strong support from supervisors and managers throughout the Firestone organization."

TCW Department Manager

Richard Harrison became department manager of TC Weaving in the Gastonia plant, Jan. 1. He succeeds Carl Rape, who retired. Harrison, with Firestone nearly seven years, is a graduate of North Carolina State University with a degree in textile technology.

The department manager, from Thomasville, N.C., joined Firestone at Gastonia in June, 1969 as a shift foreman in TC Weaving. Three years later he was advanced to general foreman of the department, the assignment he held until his most recent promotion.

Harrison has been active in the plant United Way campaigns and YMCA membership drives. He has been a member of International management Club of YMCA; is a member of the Gastonia Evening Lions Club. He and Mrs. Harrison (Jane)

and their daughter Emily live on Lynhaven Drive in Gastonia. They attend Covenant United Methodist Church, where he is a member of the church's administrative board.



Carl Rape
From card
tender to
department
manager.

Carl Rape Retired

Carl Rape and his wife Leila have been preparing for retirement for years and years. That's the way to do it, they'll tell you. Part of the preparation, they say, is to develop several special interests and get experience in lots of worthwhile projects that will carry over to 'great adventure' after your main career is finished.

Carl retired as department manager of TC Weaving at Gastonia Dec. 31, with 38 years and

3 months service. When Leila retired from her Quality Control inspecting job two years ago, she had 37 years and 7 months. Together, they have almost 76 years—and that could be a husband-wife Firestone record at Gastonia. • More on Page 3



Richard
Harrison
of TC
Weaving

20 With 5 Years

•• In late 1975, 20 employees at Bowling Green completed 5-year service records with the company. Their names and departments:

Wilbur Madison, Royce Watson, Cecil Beckner, Barbara Prunty, G l e n d a W a t s o n, Paul Dunning, Victor Taylor and Elaine Lawrence—all Twisting.

Betty Williams, Melvin Lindsey, Jerry Chapman, Janice Sue Dunning, Jervis Childress, Dorothy Dunning, Jessie Hooten—Weaving.

Gary Cowles, Roger Beckhan, Steve Wilson—Treating Unit. Mike Elliott—Quality Control. Ricky Arnold—Maintenance.

They each received the 5-year Firestone service pin.

THE LOOMFIXER had lunch the other day at a cafe in the West Gastonia, Firestone plant community. "Vittles" were tasty. Another thing that took his interest were several word spellings on the menu board:

SANDWICHES LARG EGGS
SASAGE LETTUC CHEE'S
BERGER (With Tomoto: 5¢ EX-TAR.

Work With A Purpose

SPECIAL MERIT

For the past 19 years, Jack W. Faile has taken a week vacation during Christmas season and devoted it to working with the Salvation Army and the Empty Stocking Fund.

The bobbin changer in TC Twisting has been with Firestone more than 30 years and all along, managing people-helping projects off the job.

A working member of the Gastonia Salvation Army Citadel on Airline Avenue, Jack serves his church in various capacities. He is director of the SA Christmas aid program, and a teacher of a Sunday school class of youngsters, ages 12-14.

His mother, Mrs. Bessie Faile, is retired from Firestone. A brother, Doyle, is a tape bonder in TC Twisting.

Over the recent holidays, Jack served in different ways in the aid-to-needy program, ending with helping to pass out food, dinner checks, toys and other items to members of 750 families. The Salvation Army purchased gifts through its aid program and the Empty Stocking Fund promoted each year by the Gastonia Gazette.

Jack's involvement in his church and the Empty Stocking Fund is a living demonstration of the Salvation Army's motto "With Heart to God and Hand to Man."



In Gastonia Guard Armory • Jack Faile (left) with another volunteer, Eddie Arca, helped to distribute gifts to 750 needy families at Christmas time.



He Went To 'Jordan' And Came Back

George Hill "went down to the Banks of the Jordan" last month, but some fellow workers acted quickly to keep him from "crossing to the Other Side."

George is a carpenter. He and other Shop carpenters Thomas Turner and Ted Williams, and electrician Jack McCarter were working on a construction project at the west end of the Gastonia mill.

With shovels, George and Ted were digging separate holes for footing of concrete pillars. Scott, noticing that George had suddenly disappeared, ran over to find him collapsed head-down in the hole. Apparently dead.

Scott and Ted quickly lifted him to the surface, where Thomas gave mouth-to-mouth breathing aid while plant nurse Peggy Lovelace was on her way with oxygen.

Then the rush to Gaston Memorial Hospital and on to Charlotte Memorial Hospital. George was able to go home after a brief stay and went back on his job the Monday following Christmas.

"They didn't find out what happened to me," said George. "I know one thing—I'm glad to be on this Side. And I'm mighty thankful to everyone who helped to keep me from going. . ."