

• Front (from left): Cathy Boyles, Kathy Waters, Joanne McKinney, Joyce Falls, Deborah Karriker and Peggy Lovelace (Firestone nurse). Middle: Robbie Metcalf, Michelle Chambers, Dianna Rolston, Susan Summitt, Tanya Williams. Back: Melvina Dial, Willie Fay Moore, David Masters, Eric Robinson, Myra Hatcher and Eric Reinhardt.



Learning About Health Careers

•• The Health Occupations II Class of Gastonia's Hunter Huss High School recently completed a rotation schedule at Firestone Textiles. The student group worked with industrial nurse

Mrs. Peggy Lovelace in the Firestone phase of their school program.

Health Occupations, a new two-year course, is offered in high schools to students who are interested in going into some field of health work after graduation. Participants spend the first year in the classroom, and

in the second year go into various organizations to gain experience and knowledge of what the health-field worker does.

Students taking part in the plant rotation schedule said, "We enjoyed the program and appreciate the help everyone offered to make the experience worthwhile."

LFO -- Let's Find Out

• A while back, Firestone News listed United Fund—Way—Appeal services currently in operation in the three Firestone Textiles Company plant communities—Gastonia, N.C.; Bowling Green, Ky., and Bennettsville, S.C. It was in connection with mentioning the Firestone people's contributions to these community services. Under Bennettsville was listed the Alston Wilkes Society. What is this?

The Alston Wilkes Society is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1962 by Eli Alston Wilkes, a Christian minister. It was named in his honor upon his death. Its purpose is to aid South Carolina public offenders, ex-offenders and the families of both. Most financial support of the AWS is through memberships and contributions, United Way and short-term government grants.

Volunteers work in counseling, referral, operation of community residences, coordination of volunteer programs and in other ways. Services are provided through county chapters in the State.

Notes & Footnotes • May brings Mother's Day (9th) and Memorial Day (30). Since the 30th is on Sunday, the holiday will be observed Monday, 31. Confederate Memorial Day, May 10, is a legal holiday in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Nylon stockings (a wonder of the Modern Age) went on sale for the first time, May 15, 1940.

Discounts, Refund Benefits

(from page 1)

Beyond tire discounts, employees and retirees are reimbursed through the Firestone Tire Purchase Refund Program on purchases of first-class passenger, light truck and recreational vehicle tires (excluding blemished and adjustment tires). Refunds are \$1 to \$5 per tire depending on tire type.

APPLYING for tire-purchase refunds, employees and retirees are required to fill out and turn in form S.7430, "Employee Tire Purchase Refund Request," following directions on the form.

Price discounts ranging from 10 to 25 percent apply to both home and auto merchandise items and to automotive services at Firestone stores.

Employees and retirees can purchase national brand appliances and electronics based on this formula: Store cost, plus 15 percent, plus warranty, plus freight from supplier to store.

Need further information on store discounts and refund benefits? Ask your local Firestone store or the personnel-industrial relations department of the plant where you work.

BETTER NOW

Matching-Gifts Program

Recent changes have further liberalized the Firestone Matching-Gifts program of help to educational institutions.

• Firestone now matches a gift of \$25 or more made by an employee after just 6 months company service. It used to be that the person had to be with the company a minimum of a year to be eligible.

• For the first time, surviving spouses of deceased employees or retirees are eligible in the Matching-Gifts plan.

• Limit on an annual gift any person can make to an accredited non-tax supported college, university or secondary school is \$3,000 (it was \$2,000). Under the revised program, legacies under wills of deceased quali-

fied persons are matched as the gifts are made by the estate.

The company's Committee on Contributions in Akron now matches the gifts on a periodic basis rather than once a year, as in the past.

Revised booklets of detailed information on the Matching-Gifts program were in distribution in mid-April.

In fiscal 1975, 589 employees and retirees contributed \$95,993 which the company matched for a total of \$191,986. A total 684 gifts went to 273 different institutions.

Since the start of the Matching-Gifts program in 1967, contributions to colleges, universities and private secondary schools amount to almost \$2 million.

YOUR PRECIOUS

Eyesight

• You know it, but maybe don't stop to realize just how precious your eyesight is. This, from the public health service of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, makes a vital point to consider—

Half of all blindness is preventable.

A checkup by your doctor could lead to early discovery of any sight-robbing condition you may have. HEW lists these facts on blindness and its prevention:

• Glaucoma, the 'sneak thief' of sight, is caused by increased

pressure inside the eye. An examination can discover it. Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent loss of sight.

• Cataracts cause the lenses of the eye to cloud up, impairing vision. Surgery usually can cure the condition, if the operation is in time.

• Diabetes can lead to blindness. Loss of sight can be prevented if disease is found in time—through blood tests and medical examination.

• People 40 years and older—especially those 60 or older—are more likely to have a chronic disease affecting eyesight.



Co. Sponsored Three Students

The American free-enterprise system was examined against the economic frameworks of other countries, at a one-day spring seminar sponsored by the Gaston Chapter, International Management Council.

The program at Western Sizzlin Steak House examined trends in the changing pattern of free enterprise; sought to offset some of the negative feelings about free enterprise, and correct some of the misconceptions concerning profits in business.

Firestone Textiles Company

• Firestone-sponsored students at economics seminar (from left) Gordon Bostic, Connie White and Eric Dunlap.

sponsored three Hunter Huss High School students in the seminar. Also taking part from the Firestone plant were H.G. Hall, production manager; and Christine C. Clark, supervisor of training & employee relations.

Leading in the 'discovery' of "What's Happening to Free Enterprise?" were J. W. "Josh" Greene of the Deering Milliken Company's personnel department, and N. V. Desai of the Johnson C. Smith University faculty.

Have An IDEA?

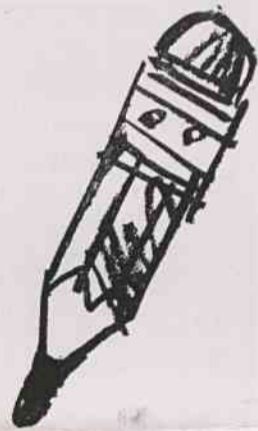
- Write It Down
- Turn It In

An average 700 suggestions per 1,000 people at work, and all the adopted ideas harvesting \$3 million savings. These are goals of the company's Suggestion Program for fiscal 1976—now into its seventh month.

Last year the participation rate was 38,459—672 per 1,000 factory employees. Factory and non-factory employees turned in a total 39,269 ideas. It all exceeded the goal set at the beginning of fiscal 1975.

This means that employee interest is growing and that the quality of ideas continues to improve.

On to the 1976 goal! Share your suggestion.



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Page 2

• GASTONIA

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BOWLING GREEN
T. J. Slack

Historic Tire

• Noticed: An old Firestone Non-Skid tire serving as a tree swing, the scene from a recent episode of "The Waltons" TV series.