

Water Boy To Foreman

"From the back gate to the top of the mill, and to the back gate again." A. C. (Freddie) Kessell was describing his journey through a string of jobs across 37 years and 8 months of employment at the Gastonia plant.

Kessell took early retirement at the close of 1976, 'going out' to devote much more time to his varied hobbies and other interests which, for all these years, have wanted for more attention.

Freddie is well known as an authority and collector/trader of coins and stamps; and as an artist at woodworking and several handicrafts.

OF THE work at Firestone, he recalls his earliest job: Carrying water for mixing mortar of the many walks and walls around the mill and village.

Freddie's father, Nelson, had brought the family from New Bedford, Mass., to Gastonia a few months before Firestone started operating the mill in 1935. The elder Kessell, who was plant general superintendent, retired in 1960 with 36 years and 6 months service. He and Mrs. Kessell live in Gastonia.

After water boy dating to 1939, Freddie moved along in such jobs as strobotac operator, waste-control man, section supervisor in Twisting, inspector in Quality Control, shift foreman in Carding, and different assignments in Weaving and Spinning. He retired as a shift foreman in Fabric Treating.

AT HOME now on Jenny Street in Gastonia, he's fully in-



• A. C. Kessell shows a keyholder and notepad—one of the many woodcraft items he makes in his home workshop.

involved with his interests and thinking of adding some new ones. Also, starting as early as Spring, he and Mrs. Kessell will begin catching up on long-way travel Priority places are in California, Oklahoma and Massachusetts, where they have relatives.

Youngest of the Kessell sons, Robert, is at home and works for a picture-framing service. The eldest, Frederick, is a banker in Atlanta. The other, David, is a teacher at Southwest Junior High in Gastonia, and works for City Recreation.

Forest School of Law. His wife, Jane Francum Johnson, received a Merit Award in the Firestone Company Scholarship program when she was a high-school senior in Gastonia. Jane has a degree from UNC-Greensboro. A substitute teacher in the Wake County public school system, she is doing graduate work at NC State U.

The Johnsons have three daughters—Elizabeth, 11; Ivey, 7; and Briles, 5.

A Second Term

Joe Johnson was elected to the NC House of Representatives for a second 2-year term from Wake County, in the November election.

A Raleigh attorney, he is son-in-law of Rosie Francum (Mrs. John) Fletcher, Shop clerk at Firestone, Gastonia.

Rep. Johnson is a graduate of NC State University and Wake

Forest School of Law. His wife, Jane Francum Johnson, received a Merit Award in the Firestone Company Scholarship program when she was a high-school senior in Gastonia. Jane has a degree from UNC-Greensboro. A substitute teacher in the Wake County public school system, she is doing graduate work at NC State U.

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Salute To Textiles

• Greenville County (SC) Museum of Art presented a major exhibition to salute textiles as America's oldest and largest industry. "Textiles: Past and Prologue"—late October through December 1976—was designed to recognize the textile industry and to acknowledge its economic and social role.

Exhibit materials presented a comprehensive survey of textiles through displays of antique and contemporary processing machines, art, sound and light, items of materials and goods, and historical records.

A six-projector programmed montage, a synthesis of narrative soundtrack, musical background and color slides, helped to tell the story of textiles in the U.S.

Exhibit elements were placed in such a way as to show the old

along with the new, the natural and synthetic, the handcrafted and machine-produced.

Left: Great spinning wheel or walking wheel, this one made in Maine around 1815. Mostly for hand-spinning wool, although it could be used for cotton. Right: Wooden hand loom, typical weaving equipment of the cottage industry before mechanization of textiles.

EXTRA SAVINGS

Tire-Purchase Refund

Firestone people actively employed and those retired: Remember, you can have the extra savings provided through the Firestone Tire Purchase Refund Program. It works this way:

• When you've decided on the tires you need from your Firestone Store or dealer, pay the usual employee discount price. Then take a copy of Form S-7430 "Employee Tire Purchase Refund Request" (available at Stores and dealers and at plant personnel-industrial relations offices).

• Fill out the form. If you're actively employed, take form to the personnel or industrial relations office at your plant and have it approved. The office will take top part of form and mail to company headquarters, leaving you a portion for your

record. After the form is processed in Akron, the refund amount in check is mailed to you.

A retired person need only mail the completed form and sales ticket to address printed on the form. No approval needed.

This refund program affords employees and retirees an extra refund in addition to the normal employee discount on the purchase of new tires from Company Stores and dealers. Refunds range from \$1 to \$5 per tire, depending on type purchased.

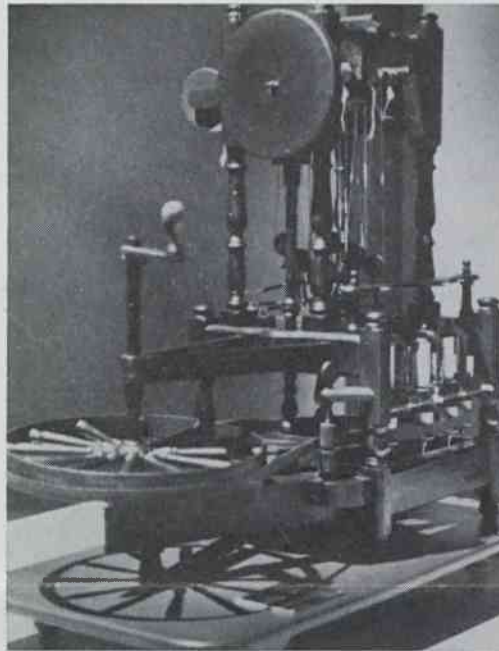
Help To Quit

Overheard a man retired from Firestone, Gastonia, talking with a neighbor at Frog's Lunch Stand:

"I smoke—smoke a lot . . . know it ain't good for me. But if I want to kill myself, I figure it's my own business. . ."

Unless that attitude changes, he'll never be helped by the Smokers Withdrawal Clinic coming the week of January 24, Monday-Friday, 7 p.m.

The clinic at 623-B East Second Ave., Gastonia, is sponsored by Gaston Unit, American Cancer Society, Gaston County Heart Association and Catawba Valley Lung Association. Object: To help you kick the harmful habit.

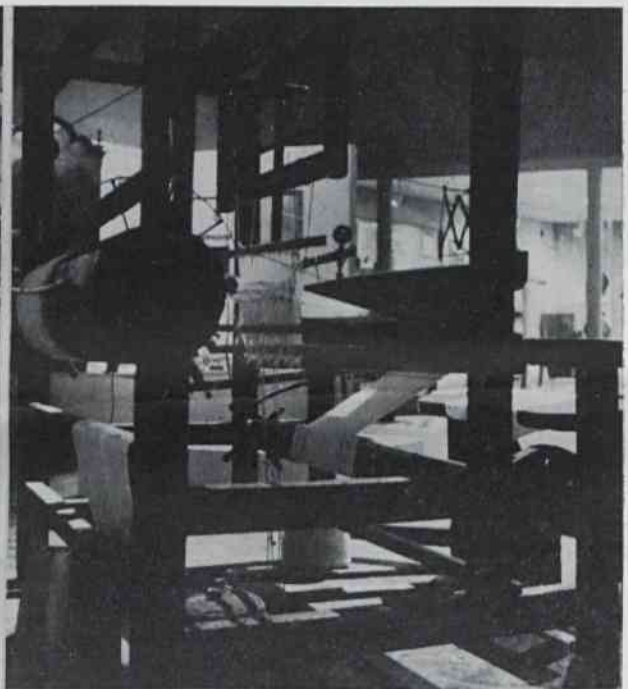
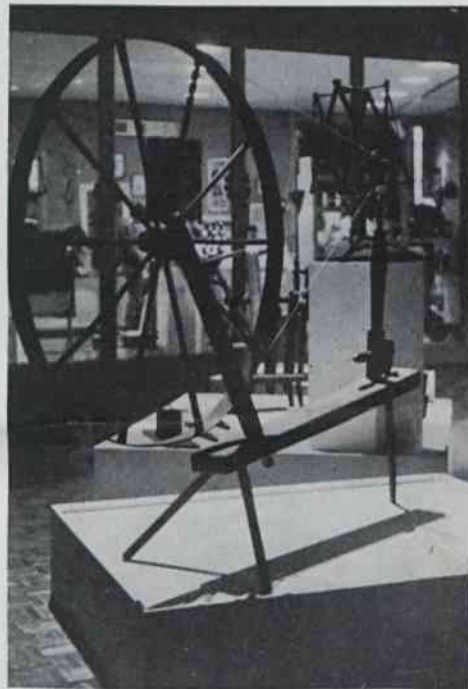


Reminders of Earlier Days • Four of the 20 antique textile machines on public exhibit at Greenville Museum of Art in late 1976. Above, left: Richard Arkwright's roller spinning frame, built in England in 1805 after original patent specifications from Arkwright's 1796 revolutionary invention. This original ancestor of the modern spinning frame was the first to be power-driven (horse power and later water power.) Along with James Hargreaves' spinning jenny of



1764, the Arkwright frame was one of the first machines that enabled production of more than one thread at a time. Original Hargreaves' Jenny was hand-powered.

Right: Gin spinner (Smithsonian Institution refers to it as a "spin ginner") of 1840. Used primarily in the Southern U.S., the machine incorporates seeding, carding and spinning elements. The hand-cranked spinner produced a coarse yarn, probably used for household needs.



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Time flies, suns rise
and shadows fall.

Let time go by.
LOVE is forever
over all.

Sundial
Inscription

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