

Firestone

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, NUM. 12

GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

MAY, 1988

PLANT MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By: J. Anand

Happenings from the last month were mixed and will definitely impact our future.

First the election was held with the votes being 213 to 198 in favor of the union.

Next the Bridgestone Corporation acquired The Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. on April 25th.

General Motors advised Firestone on April 22 that after the next year they will not be buying tires from Firestone. Firestone currently supplies about 6 million tires per year to GM. This is equal to 17,000 lbs. of tire cord fabric per day for Gastonia.

We reached the 2 million hour mark without a lost time injury and then had an employee seriously injured.

As I said, the news has been very mixed, but all that has happened cannot be controlled or changed now. The only mission facing all of us at Gastonia is to work together to improve our operation so that regardless of other factors we can feel secure. Let us all concentrate on the job ahead of us.

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PRODUCTION

Department*	Required	Pounds per Day	
		March Actual	April Actual
Ply Twisting	158,000	141,446	133,346
Cable Twisting	158,000	143,004	129,984
Sales Yarn	2,000	2,087	2,381
T. C. Weaving	158,000	149,257	145,312
Ind. Weaving	2,500	2,377	2,630
Treating	165,000	167,820	167,043
Total Lbs. Shipped		<u>4,610,106</u>	<u>4,542,453</u>

*Operating days vary by department.

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WASTE REPORT

	Actual %		Objective %
	to Production		
	March	April	
Twisting	1.40	1.69	1.13
Weaving	.53	.64	.43
Treating	.83	.82	.78

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CUSTOMER COMMENTS

By: Jeff Heavner

Gastonia's performance for the past two months has shown significant improvement with respect to material charged back from the tire plants. One reason for the improved performance was reaction to the customers' complaints. It would appear that we now have identified and corrected Decatur's problem with untrimmed selvages (filling tails). This had been the major contributor of chargeback for Gastonia.

The remaining unanswered complaint from Decatur is for the number of short rolls (less than spec length) that Gastonia ships them each month. In April, 19% of the P5126 shipped to Decatur was less than 1600 yds. (1925 yds. is the spec). Gastonia shipped 10 rolls that were less than 750 yds. We need to work together and concentrate our efforts on the problems creating the short rolls.

QUALITY FIRST!

"THEIR PRODUCTS NEVER WEAR OUT."



*Quality sells the customer.
That keeps your company
in business and you
on the payroll.*

To address customer complaints and to prevent others, Gastonia has begun a program which is designed to address the problem, identify corrective action, and assign responsibilities for the corrective action. The system can be used to handle complaints between departments, as well as, customer complaints.

Cooley evaluated a roll of polyester fabric woven by Gastonia, and they were satisfied with the results. Gastonia is now weaving two other styles for Cooley for purposes of qualification. It is a large accomplishment for the west end to weave this material since the quality requirements are extremely tough to reach (zero defects).

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REWORK REPORT

	March	April
Weaving Rerolls Generated	227	160
Reweaving Rolls Generated	60	60
Treated Rerolls Generated	221	191



1988 GRADUATES

We plan to honor our high school, college, nursing school and technical school graduates in the next issue of our newsletter. If your son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter is graduating, tell us about him/her. Send this to Johnette Mitchell, Personnel. We need this information by June 1, 1988.

NAME OF GRADUATE: _____

SCHOOL GRADUATING FROM: _____

EMPLOYEE: _____

ARE YOU THE GRADUATE'S PARENT OR GRANDPARENT?
(circle one)