

# The GumDippers

Spring Newsletter 2016

## JUST A REMINDER - ANNUAL DUES – 2016

Most of our Gum Dippers are members for the sole purpose of receiving our newsletters and rosters so that they can “stay in touch” with friends and co-workers. Many of you do not attend our annual Reunion but want to receive the newsletter. The primary purpose of our organization is to generate this information and pass it on. PLEASE remit \$20. This year we sent a separate dues invoice so if you already paid, we THANK YOU. *Widows and widowers of deceased members are considered Complimentary Members and do not have to pay dues but will continue to be sent the newsletter.*

Payable to Gum Dippers and mail to:

**Mr. Russell Burr, Treasurer**  
**P.O. Box 189**  
**Tarpon Springs, Fl. 34688**

## JUST A REMINDER – ABOUT OUR NEXT REUNION



Our 2015 reunion was once again held at the beautiful and luxurious Sheraton Sand Key Resort on Clearwater Beach, Florida. We had “Dippers” from 22 states. Our accommodations, food, prizes and entertainment, were once again great. If you missed it, you missed wonderful ambience, service, restaurants, an exceptional pool complex and beach. A wonderful time was had by all. WE WILL ONCE AGAIN RETURN TO THIS MAGNIFICENT RESORT IN OCTOBER, 2016.

**2016 GUM DIPPER REUNION –next year ready to go! The dates are:**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup> THRU SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE REUNION IS AN ADULT EVENT, FOR GUM DIPPERS. WE ALL LOVE OUR GRANDCHILDREN, NIECES, NEPHEWS, ETC.....HOWEVER IF WE ALL STARTED BRINGING THEM TO THE REUNION WE WOULD DILUTE THE PURPOSE OF THE EVENT. WE ASK THAT YOU REFRAIN FROM BRINGING ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF TWENTY ON TO REUNION ACTIVITIES.**

## SATURDAY TRIP IN PLANNING STAGES

**John Johnsen** and **Jim Yursik** will set up an event for those of you who do not golf, do not want to sit by the pool all the time, etc. At present we have not finalized the trip but will have all of the details in the summer newsletter when all Reunion activities are announced and the signup sheets are included. At present we are considering a few options, one is a trolley trip to Tarpon Springs with sightseeing from the trolley and a drop off for lunch at the historic sponge docks, one is a bus trip with sightseeing of Tampa from the bus and a stop off at the beautiful Tampa University and Plant Museum, former home of Henry Plant, one could be a trolley trip to the Clearwater Aquarium and several other ideas. If you would like to comment on these events, or you have any other ideas, please send me an email at: [rpmucciolo@gmail.com](mailto:rpmucciolo@gmail.com), your input is appreciated.



**THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IN JULY WILL HAVE THE REGISTRATION FORM FOR SIGNING UP FOR THE REUNION AND ALL OF THE EVENTS...WATCH FOR IT!**

## **WE WILL NEED HELP AGAIN THIS YEAR**

We always need help in the Hospitality Suite where everyone congregates. We need assistance to greet arriving Gum Dippers and get them registered, to keep the bar well stocked, the snack bowls filled, the soft drink and water coolers filled, and to assist with any questions about the reunion.



Last year the committee had many volunteers to help our Hospitality Chairmen **JIM SANTY** and **HARRIS BROWN** and their helpers **VINNY & ANN DONOVAN, SANDY & AL TUPPER, BOB & SUE MEYER, RHONDA &**



**GARY FERESTAD, SALLY BROWN, EMILY LANCE, DAVE AND MABEL WONSETLER, CHRIS MUCCILO, SHEILA & REINITZ, DON THORNBURG, RICHARD JOHNSON, BETTY & ELI NEIDERT.** If you are interested, I

generally set up a schedule. The time spent definitely qualifies as work; you will have a lot of fun and will be in a position to meet everyone THAT COMES IN at the registration desk. It is definitely a lot of fun! *Please contact **RITCH MUCCILO** by e-mail ([rpmucciolo@gmail.com](mailto:rpmucciolo@gmail.com)) to volunteer your assistance.*



## **JOLLEY TROLLEY....things to do while here**

The JOLLEY TROLLEY, which many of you have ridden on during some of our Saturday trips, has a route which operates daily on Clearwater Beach and south for many miles down to the famous turn of the 20<sup>th</sup>. Century pink DON CESAR hotel. The service also operates for tourists on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, to the north stopping at the following locations: Clearwater, Old downtown Dunedin, Old Palm Harbor and the historical sponging and fishing village of Tarpon Springs. This is about a twelve mile ride.

You will be able to **board this shuttle right outside the hotel lobby** and go north with a great view through Clearwater along the water to Dunedin, a big tourist stop for many visitors...with its restored downtown full of shops and restaurants. You will then proceed through Old Palm Harbor (not worth getting off). You may want to stop in Dunedin **on your way back** from Tarpon Springs, if time allows as it is a place worth visiting.

You head north to the antique district of Tarpon Springs, a major turn of the century village with its sponge docks, shrimp and sponge boats, shops, restaurants...and magnificent history. The tour will take you past many old and historical landmarks. You **may want to get off here, especially at the sponge docks** to visit the shops and restaurants, dine on the water or just stay on for the tour through this Greek Village in Florida. This is a true ethnic Greek community as they exist in Greece. The movie "Beneath the Twelve Mile Reef" was filmed here in 1953 and starred; Robert Wagner, Terry Moore, Gilbert Roland, Richard Boone, J. Carroll Nash and Peter Graves.

The trolleys, red-and-yellow shuttles, that for decades previously have circled Clearwater Beach, now go all the way north to Tarpon Springs. The fare is \$1.50 every time you get on or off or \$4.50 for the day. You can probably leave the hotel and see the entire route without getting off in three hours....but you will want to get off in Tarpon Springs and perhaps Dunedin on the way back to the hotel if you have time.

You can also take the trolley south toward St. Pete Beach. I suggest getting off at Johns Pass in Madeira Beach, where you will find a Board Walk with many shops and restaurants and a village with tons of shops....a spot worth visiting. The pass was formed when a hurricane in 1921 split the barrier island in half.

## THE CHANGING FACE OF OUR STORES

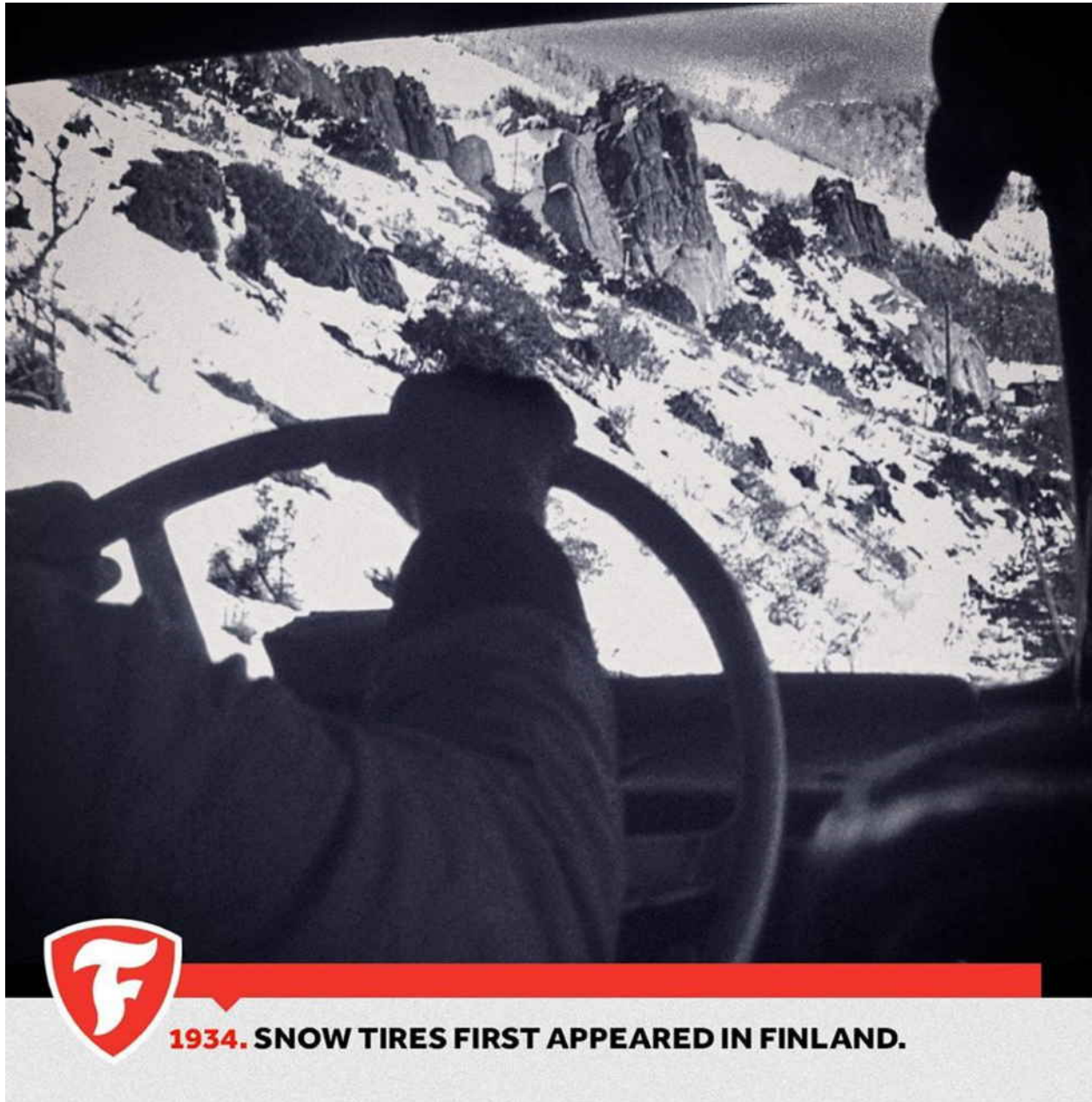


Albuquerque, NM

Ann Arbor, MI



Austin, MN



## **EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER CAMPAIGN**

This request of our membership is just A ONCE YEAR request by the GUM DIPPERS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE to accomplish the following goals:

- Perpetuate the future of this fine organization by increasing the membership
- We must continue to replace lost members, and introduce our organization to other retirees
- Many of you, I am sure can introduce JUST ONE new member each year
- We should be sharing this fine “one of a kind” organization with ALL our fellow working career colleagues
- We feel strongly that YOUR personal participation in inviting a colleague to join; coupled with the Human Resources Department including our “story” and membership

application in their annual benefit mailing will accomplish the above stated goals, especially when one of your work associates gets the call from YOU!  
Please, help us to make our organization known to other retirees. Please review our roster to see who should be a member.

## **NO! WE DO NOT HAVE THE ANSWERS!**

Russ Burr our treasurer is receiving calls from Gum Dippers inquiring about their benefits at Bridgestone. We do not have the answers to questions regarding your medical plan and or pension, nor do we have any access to your personal files. In addition, we are not a pressure group, with regard to benefits for retirees as that is not our function. We are an organization designed to facilitate communications and contact among our retirees. It is suggested you call Human Resources when you need these answers. The phone number in Akron for health care is: 330-379-3877. *And for pension info:*

They may either contact the Pension Customer Service Line at 330-379-4220 or access the Retiree Website at: [www.MyHR.bfusa.com](http://www.MyHR.bfusa.com)

- 1) Retirees will need their Universal ID# (UID), and their Web PIN number to enter the website.
- 2) If they do not have their universal ID# or their PIN number, they may contact the Pension Customer Service line at [1-330-379-4220](tel:1-330-379-4220).
- 3) The Rep will verify their birth year and the last 4 digits of their SS# before giving out this information.
- 4) The UID and PIN numbers are also sent out to Retirees on their pay statements.
- 5) Retirees receive one pay statement per year regardless of whether they have direct deposit or not.

The new **PENSION CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE** ([1-330-379-4220](tel:1-330-379-4220)) can also provide retirees with help on the following:

- ADDRESS CHANGES (RETIREES ONLY)
- FORMS REQUESTS
- CHECK INFORMATION
- HELP RETIREES WITH ACCESS TO THE RETIREE WEBSITE
- AUTOMATIC/ELECTRONIC DIRECT DEPOSIT
- MEDICAL PREMIUM INFORMATION

## EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT CARDS AND PROGRAMS

Cards are no longer printed and mailed. Now you have to log in to: [www.eteambsa.com](http://www.eteambsa.com). Your log in ID is on your "check stub" that you received the first of the year. There is some confusion as to the exact program and we have had many questions about this. BFS contacts have provided us with the following two documents:

### **Enclosed is your Bridgestone Americas, Inc. Retiree Discount Card**

You will need to know what your responsibilities are in order to receive the discounts at our company-owned stores. The store's responsibility is to provide you with the following discounts and apply the policy as written.

#### **PASSENGER/LIGHT TRUCK TIRES**

- Policy covers all Firestone and Bridgestone branded tires. Dayton and Triumph branded tires are not covered by the policy.
- The discount on qualified tires will be 35% off of the everyday retail selling price or 35% off the advertised price, whichever is **lower**.
- Retirees will receive free valve stem, mounting, and balancing of the tires. There will be an extra charge for mounting (\$3.00/tire) and balancing (\$1.50/wheel) on custom wheels. All tires must be mounted on qualified retiree's car or truck. Tires are not intended for takeout.

#### **FARM TIRES AND TUBES**

- Policy covers all Firestone branded first class agricultural tires and tubes. Bridgestone and Dayton branded tires are not covered by the policy.
- The discount will be 25% off of the commercial price for these tires and mounting will be at the retiree's expense.

#### **AUTOMOTIVE PARTS AND SERVICE**


- The general policy is 25% off of the parts and labor prices listed in the store's regular "POS" price list or 10% off of the advertised price, whichever is lower, with the following exceptions:
- Batteries will be discounted at 20% off the P100 price or 10% off the sales price, whichever is **lower**.
- Brake overhauls and tune-up packages are discounted 10% off the current price.
- If parts must be bought locally, retiree's price will be 10% below the manufacture's retail price.

#### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A RETIREE IS AS FOLLOWS:**

- Sign both cards before presenting for Company discounts.
- Ensure that **only qualified dependents** use the retiree discount card. Qualified dependents are those who would normally qualify as dependents for Federal Income Tax purposes.
- Provide the store with your **Social Security Number** for audit purposes. If a dependent is having the service performed, make sure they know your social security number and provide the store with the relationship to you.
- Provide **Vehicle Registration** indicating that the vehicle being serviced belongs to you or your qualified dependent.


**Bridgestone Americas, Inc.**  
Retiree Discount Card

Issued to:  
Retirement Date:

 (Signature of retired employee)  
Note: For retiree convenience only. May be cancelled or modified at any time at the discretion of the Company.

**Bridgestone Americas, Inc.**  
Retiree Discount Card

Issued to:  
Retirement Date:

 (Signature of retired employee)  
Note: For retiree convenience only. May be cancelled or modified at any time at the discretion of the Company.

Thank you to the following who have dug this information up for us...

**Alex Kolosiwsky & Chelsea Smith**

## OUR MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

Thanks to members who share the interests of communicating with friends and days gone by, our membership continues to grow. Please review your roster, which is published once a year and look for the people who are not on it and that you think we should contact. Contact **Joe DePaolis** ((585) 385-5682 [jadp@frontiernet.net](mailto:jadp@frontiernet.net)) if you need any additional information. Tell prospective members they can download and print an application at our website.

<http://www.gumdippers.org>

## **NEW: THE GUM DIPPERS ON FACEBOOK**

The Gum Dippers is a social network of retirees and friends of Bridgestone Americas and its subsidiaries including the former Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Firestone Complete Auto Care, Tires Plus Total Car Care and various manufacturing and distribution operations.

We now have our own closed group on FACEBOOK, log in to “Gum Dippers”. Sign up now to be up to date on Gum Dipper activities....remember, Gum Dipper Members Only, other retired BFS employees must become a Gum Dipper to be accepted in this group.

## **FRIENDS WHO LIKE FIRESTONE TIRES**

Another Facebook page “Friends who like Firestone Tires” for those who like to keep in touch with Firestone friends....log on and sign up. You do not have to be a Gum Dipper to sign up for this site....**also visit the “Firestone Tires” site on Facebook.**

## **Bridgestone and Shell Lubricants® Introduce Nationwide Network Motor Oil Program**

"Delivering driver value, customer satisfaction and ensuring a competitive dealer network are all critical to Bridgestone's success," said **John Baratta**, president, consumer tire replacement sales, U.S. and Canada, Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations.

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**Harvey S Firestone (1868-1938)** pioneered rubber recycling and tractor tires, and championed road freight, among many noteworthy accomplishments in a long career

Harvey S Firestone already had some rubber industry experience when he bought an old foundry in Akron, Ohio, in 1900 and began selling tires made by others. Three years later he was producing his own solid rubber tires, and then pneumatics.

The business grew quickly and annual sales exceeded one million dollars by 1906. That year, he delivered 2,000 sets of clincher tires (28 x 3in) to Henry Ford for his fledging automobile business, beginning their long friendship. In 1909, he challenged the members of the United Rim Company’s pooled patents and began manufacturing straight-sided rims, bringing standardization to this disjointed field. In 1911, Firestone tires won the inaugural Indianapolis 500 motor race. In 1916, he organized a subsidiary company, Xylos, to chemically break down vulcanized rubber using caustic soda, carbon black and xylene. Ever entrepreneurial, Firestone found it profitable to recycle worn-out tires and factory scrap into reclaim that was used for decades in molded goods and at low levels in tread compounds.

From these promising beginnings, Firestone launched an industrial enterprise that grew to span the globe. During his 38-year company career, he encouraged the development of reliable sources of rubber, heavily promoted transport by truck, and placed farm tractors on pneumatics, among other noteworthy accomplishments.

After World War I, the burgeoning sales of automobiles caused an explosive growth in domestic tire demand. The country consumed more than 70% of world rubber and 80% of that was used in tires. Unfortunately, in 1922 the UK parliament enacted a restrictive plan to control rubber supply and ensure profitability of colonial plantations in the Malay peninsula. That same



year, Firestone introduced his extremely successful balloon tire design featuring latex impregnated cotton cord (known as gum-dipped) and much lower inflation pressures (32-35 psi rather than the conventional 55-60 psi). The gum-dipping method enhanced cord-rubber adhesion, lessened heat buildup and increased tire life by reducing ply separations. Balloons used about a third more rubber than high-pressure tires due to their wider, more elliptical cross-section. Firestone needed additional sources of rubber at a stable price to keep up with increased tire demand. To his competitors' consternation, he acquired long-term leasing rights to establish a one-million-acre rubber plantation in Liberia in 1924 after exploring potential locations in the Far East. This transatlantic action secured enough incoming raw material at stable prices to supply anticipated growth.

Firestone's close friends Henry Ford and Thomas Edison were also drawn into the rubber kerfuffle of the times – but without commercial success. This trio, known as the three old cronies, all had interests in rubber and often got together in Florida during the 1920s for an exchange of views. Ford's efforts to increase rubber supply were the most ambitious, but perhaps the most disastrous. Huge financial investments in Brazilian plantations starting in 1928 were finally written-off after World War II due to persistent labor unrest and leaf blight. Similarly, by 1929 Edison identified over 1,700 plant species that contained rubber latex including milkweed and guayule but settled on goldenrod, a plant common in North America. It grew as easily as wheat and contained about 4% rubber. However, the resulting low molecular weight polymer possessed poor physical properties and it was not further developed.

Harvey Firestone initiated the Ship-by-Truck movement in the USA during World War I, promoting the economic and social benefits of road transport compared with rail for moving heavy loads and reducing highway damage from solid rubber tires. Thus began the transition to pneumatics from solids during the 1920's for commercial vehicles.

Until 1932, all-steel tire/wheels were the norm for the one million farm tractors operating in America. Firestone astutely combined the balloon principle of low inflation and wide footprint with a chevron tread design to produce a durable tractor tire. That same year, academic research demonstrated that Firestone's pneumatics had greater fuel efficiency, increased drawbar pull, higher operating speeds and more operator comfort than conventional steel counterparts. Blacksmiths did a great business retrofitting steel tractor wheels with rubber. By 1937, pneumatic tires were on 42% of all new US tractors – reaching 85% by 1939.

Harvey Firestone died in 1938, but his legacy lives on in Akron with a street, a school and district bearing his name along with a celebrated country club and golf course. His namesake tire brand, now owned by Bridgestone, remains recognizable worldwide.

## **BRIDGESTONE WITHDRAWS BID FOR PEP BOYS (12/30/15)**

Pep Boys-Manny, Moe & Jack designated Carl Icahn the winner in the takeover duel for the auto services chain Wednesday, after Bridgestone declined to top the activist investor's \$18.50-a-share offer. Philadelphia-based Pep Boys (PBY) said it terminated the previously announced acquisition deal with Bridgestone Retail Operations, a U.S. unit of Japan tire maker Bridgestone, and signed a merger agreement with a subsidiary of Icahn Enterprises, the New York billionaire's holding company. Pep Boys shares closed 2.9% lower at \$18.39, dipping below the share price of Icahn's winning offer after soaring above the bid in Tuesday trading, apparently in anticipation of a higher bid from Bridgestone. Icahn Enterprises simultaneously paid Bridgestone a \$39.5 million termination fee on behalf of Pep Boys, the auto services company said.

## **BRIDGESTONE BEGINS EXPANSION OF WILSON PLANT**

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 9, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations (Bridgestone) celebrated the expansion of the company's passenger tire manufacturing facility in Wilson, North Carolina, with an official groundbreaking ceremony today. The five-year, \$164 million investment to expand the 42-year-old, nationally recognized facility, which is one of the company's most environmentally sustainable plants, will improve the plant's global competitive position by installing leading edge technology, expanding production capacity and lowering costs.

"Today is a momentous day for all of us at the Wilson plant and across Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, as we break ground on this important expansion that will allow us to grow our production and manufacturing capabilities to meet the changing needs of our customers," said Michael Darr, Plant Manager, Wilson Plant. "We'd like to thank the Wilson community for its support over the last 42 years, and we're excited to begin this next chapter in our plant's history."

Darr was joined at the event by several Bridgestone leaders, including **Christine Karbowiak**, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Risk Officer and Executive Vice President, Bridgestone Americas, Inc.; **Barry Owens**, Vice President, Manufacturing; TJ Higgins, President, Integrated Consumer Tire Division, U.S. & Canada; and **Mike Martini**, President, Original Equipment, U.S. and Canada Consumer Tire Sales Division. Also in attendance at the event were North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory and City of Wilson Mayor C. Bruce Rose.

Phases one and two of the investment, which will total nearly \$100 million, will focus on the addition of 167,000 square feet of manufacturing space to accommodate new tire assembly machines, materials handling systems, curing presses and associated equipment to increase plant capacity by 3,000 tires per day, bringing daily production to 35,000 by 2018. The new equipment also will allow the plant to respond to the increase in global demand for higher rim size tires, as well as improve quality and productivity while reducing costs.

The Wilson plant has been a leader in tire manufacturing innovation during its 42-year history, and currently manufactures 32,000 passenger tires a day. It was the first Bridgestone tire manufacturing facility to produce run-flat tires, and this year will begin producing the company's DriveGuard tires, the first full line of premium, all season replacement tires engineered to go up to 50 miles to safety after a puncture. \*

The county's single largest industrial employer, the plant last underwent an expansion in 1999, when it added 85,000 square feet to the facility. The plant team has achieved numerous safety awards, including marking the safest year in its 42 years of operations in 2012 – a record it broke in 2013 – and certification earlier this year as a Rising Star facility from the North Carolina Department of Labor. The plant also has received recognition for its environmental efforts, including three Green Factory Environmental Achievement Recognitions at Honda's 22nd annual Environmental, Safety and Ergonomics Symposium in 2014. In addition, it was the first tire plant to earn ISO 50001 certification, reach Superior Energy Performance (SEP) Mature Pathway certification and the first plant in the world to achieve Underwriters Laboratories' (UL) landfill waste diversion claim validation for Zero Waste to Landfill.

## **WE GET LETTERS**

Dear Mr. Burr, Enclosed is my check for membership into the Firestone Gum Dippers Organization. I retired in 2007 from the Bridgestone/Firestone Ag Plant in Des Moines following 39 years of service. I was hired into the College Training Class of 1968 in Akron and spent two years at the home office in Central Scheduling. During that time I scheduled tube production at Pottstown and Russellville along with tires at several plants including Albany, Salinas, Decatur and Des Moines. Those 10-digit codes just don't go away! In 1970 I transferred to Des Moines and completed my career there as the Industrial Engineering Manager. I can certainly associate with the "Gum Dip" operation more than most employees. During one of our labor disputes, I actually ran the gum dip unit on our tandem calendar. Thankfully it was a short career experience! My contact information is as follows: Gene & Vicki Ricker, 3318 SW 26th St., Ankeny, IA. 50023, [gr925@msn.com](mailto:gr925@msn.com), (515) 979-4035

Here's our 2016 dues, thanks for putting out the colorful Newsletter!  
John Deschene

To Gum Dippers  
This Christmas may you know the Lord's goodness and blessings in a very special way. Thanks for all your work over the years.  
Love, Pat and Winston Anderson

Dave, believe this will take care of dues, not sure if Paid in 2015 if so two years are for payment  
Al DiBaggio

Russ, Can't remember (must be getting old) if I sent in payment for 2015, so I am including it with 2016 dues. Thanks for all that you do for the group.  
Paul Napoli

Thank you committee for another great reunion. We so enjoy meeting friendships with ones we've met through the years. Looking forward to October 6, 2016.  
Sheila & Don Reinitz  
*(Editor's Note: Sheila and Don are regular Hospitality Room Volunteers at our reunions so come on down and meet them.)*

Enjoyed the weekend in 2015!! Looking forward to 2016. Great Place.  
Judy & Gary Warmsley

Russ, enclosed is my dues for 2016. The Winter Newsletter was great. I really enjoyed reading and seeing the pictures.  
Mark Rabren

Russell,

12/20/15

Thanks so much for everyone's effort and work that it takes to put together "Gum Dippers Newsletter." Attached check is for 2016 dues. Keep up the good work.  
Best Regards, Ray and Ruth Dunbar

Dear Mr. Burr,

December 26, 2015

Enclosed is my check for membership into the Firestone Gum Dippers Organization. I retired in 2007 from Bridgestone/Firestone Ag Plant in Des Moines following 39 years of service. I was hired into the College Training Class of 1968 in Akron and spent two years at the home office in Central Scheduling. During that time I scheduled tube production at Pottstown and Russellville along with tires at several plants including Albany, Salinas, Decatur and Des Moines. Those 10-digit codes just don't go away! In 1970 I transferred to Des Moines and completed my career there as the Industrial Engineering Manager. I can certainly associate with the "Gum Dipper" position more than most employees. During one of our labor disputes, I actually ran the Gum Dip Unit on our tandem calendar. Thankfully it was a short career experience!  
Gene & Vickie Ricker, 3318 SW 26<sup>th</sup> St., Ankeny, IA 50023, gr925@msn.com (515) 979-4035

Gum Dippers

December 30, 2015

Thanks for all the effort a few of you do for this organization to keep it humming and organized. Joyce and I are going to make a concerted effort to make the reunion in 2016. In the meantime, I am sending my \$20 to keep in good standing.  
Much Appreciation, Bob (Musel) 19138 Kristen Way, San Antonio, TX 78258 210-494-1182

Mr. Russell Burr,

January 1, 2016

Enclosed please find my check to cover my 2016 dues. I am also inclosing the death notice of Daniel Foster who was the Western Division representative of the Retread Division. His wife Lois, remains at Village St. E ward, 3125 Smith Rd, Fairlawn, OH 44333 Apt 416. I believe Dan and Don Olson carpooled together when they were both at the Akron office. Dan also worked for Don in Florida for a time after he retired. Please relay this information to Don as the death notice came out late and scarce. Tell Don I said Happy New Year. Please excuse the writing. A botched Cataract surgery makes writing with these 102-year-old eyes quite difficult.

Lee Strawn

*(Editor's note: We already had the obit, however it is important that Gum Dippers write us with some of our deceased members backgrounds as the obits do not often give employment details and we did not know that Dan came out of the Western Division.)*

Russell

1/2/16

Thank you for everything you do!  
Mark Emkes

Russ-

Jan. 4, 16

Nice to see you again. Had a great time at the reunion.  
Ernest Waagner

To: Don Olson

Jan 4, 2016

The Gum Dippers event almost seemed like another "Fargo Reunion." It was great seeing Tony Vetter and Walter Brodevich, both were on board in the early sixties, when you and I were working in the Fargo District. I was pleased to have two of my daughters attending the event

with me. They are looking hopefully to be part of the Gum Dipper Reunion again in 2016. Wishing you all the best in the New Year. Stay healthy – wealthy – and wise and let the good times roll. To Russ enclosed check for 2016 dues.  
Lyle (Jensen)

Hi Russ, January 4, 2016  
A very Happy New Year to you and all your colleagues who work so hard to keep Gum Dippers a first class organization. Enclosed is my annual dues check for 2016. I would be interested to hear if we know how many Bridgestone Retirees have now joined the Gum Dippers. While our association is obviously based on Firestone Retirees, the time is surely coming when more retirees, like me, who joined Bridgestone, will become members. Just curious.  
I hope to see you again in October.  
All the best wishes, Trevor Hoskins  
*(Editor's Note: All of the new members joining the Gum Dippers are Bridgestone employees, it is no longer based on "Firestone Retirees" as you suggest. Bridgestone employed all employees since 1986 so they are all Bridgestone employees that join now. That is why we are no longer called "the Firestone Gum Dippers," but just the Gum Dippers as "Gum Dipped" is still used by Bridgestone.)*

Dear Mr. Mucciolo, Jan. 23, 2016  
I am Harold Krapes daughter and I am writing to inform you that Dad passed away on January 7, 2016 at the age of 91. He was surrounded by his family after suffering an infection he couldn't recover from. He enjoyed his 37 years at Firestone and had so many friends and wonderful stories to share. He saves every Gum Dipper newsletter and put together a notebook complete with notes of those he was associated with. He's survived by his wife (91) of 71 years of marriage and his four children, Randy, Marilyn Rivers, Linda Liston and Nancy Merrick. Randy is also a Firestone retiree.  
The Harold Krape Family  
*(Editor's note: Harold sure did have a lot of friends as several of them notified us immediately of his passing, along with his obituary.)*

Russell 1/24/16  
Greetings from an unseasonably warm Ohio. Attached please find my check for 2016 dues. Once again, thanks for the work you do. I was fortunate to know and work with several members of your committee and am not at all surprised by the fine efforts of your team. Thanks and keep it up.  
Regards, Glenn (Atkinson)

Good day, Feb 10, 2016  
I wasn't sure whether or not I had sent you the information that Steve McCue had passed. Susan, Hector and I attended the services and Gayle, Steve's wife and his family were glad we could make it. I know you had both worked with Steve and thought you might want to know. I hope you're doing well. Take care.  
Johan M Gallo

Russ,

Hope all is well. Enclosed are my dues for 2016. My contact info has not changed but someone told me my old Indiana phone number is in there. Just to be safe, would you please check these two items. Phone: 615-773-7737, email: pamkelley@tds.net.

Thanks so much for all your work. Pamela Kelley

Dear Russ,

Thanks for all you do! You are appreciated! We so enjoy keeping abreast of new things with Firestone and great friends. We moved back to Montevideo, MN earlier this year after spending six years helping our daughter who is a single mom with three girls. However, those grand kids have a way of growing up. Hope all is well with the "Firestone Crew" who are faithful Gum Dipper Subscribers. Keep those issues coming! Have a great rest of the winter, spring, summer, fall and a great time at the 35<sup>th</sup> reunion. As I write this we are in the middle of a blizzard with 60 MPH winds. Gotta love Minnesota!

Take Care, Paul & Rosie Dehli

Russ, Linda and I really enjoy the newsletter. We left Akron in 1988, but have great memories of the people we worked with. Great Job Russ!

Chuck Kosich

Dear Russ,

I doubt we ever met each other in all of my years with Firestone but we do have some common friends. To name a few, Dwayne Oakeson Comptroller at Fidesta. I was his Company Operation Mgr. Bob Heinlein and then Jack Gallagher, General Managers and yes I worked with and played cards with one of your founding members, Paul Caudill. Also D.D. Browne. I sent a check last June \$40 and thought I was OK. I am sending a check with a tip for your bother. I am 81 years old and had my first major surgery on the 8<sup>th</sup>. (February?) It is cancer and I will start in a few weeks to beat it. Oh! Don Olson might remember me. He was Central Division Mgr when I worked in the Division. The Best to You and God Bless you.

Rick Harter

Russ,

My dues were delinquent. Mea Culpa, Mea Culpa, Mea making culpa...tell Don that's an excellent way to get old "Old guys to pay their dues" He's still as sharp as he always was....I love him.

Bob Nemer

Have a great 2016 and keep "those wheels rolling"!

Tom Reese

## **WE RECEIVED A LOT OF SHORT NOTES WITH DUES PAYMENTS**

Keep up the good work! Vic and Gladys Shepperd

Keep up the good work! Robin Reid

Keep up the fine work. THX Arthur & Patricia Stuart

Thanks for all your effort! Graham Reinke

My father Melvin Revall is in Memory Care now please remove him. Denise Tucci Received the following from Rod Kroeckel.....

Russ

11/16/2015

Attached article on sale of Firestone Bldg, here in Grand Rapids

Mi. I know for a fact Don visited here at least once.

Bldg had 2 addresses, The side street 155 Westin was the entrance for the district office, The store was located at 25 Jefferson.

At one time I know there was a retread shop on I think the 4th floor.

## New owners will convert 89-year-old Firestone Building into apartments



[\[http://connect.mlive.com/staff/jharger/index.html\]](http://connect.mlive.com/staff/jharger/index.html) By Jim Harger | [jharger@mlive.com](mailto:jharger@mlive.com) [\[http://connect.mlive.com/staff/jharger/posts.html\]](http://connect.mlive.com/staff/jharger/posts.html)  
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on October 15, 2015 at 3:36 PM, updated October 16, 2015 at 8:33 AM

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – The new owners of the 89-year-old Firestone Building say they intend to convert the office buildings into 21 market rate apartments during the next year.

Third Coast Development, which has been developing housing, retail and office space along the Medical Mile, acquired the five-story brick building last month for more than \$900,000, said Max Benedict, a principal with Third Coast.

Located on the Southeast Side of downtown at 25 Jefferson, the building is mostly vacant of office tenants, Benedict said. The building, which had been converted to condominium offices, is being reassembled as a single property, he said.

The 20,000 square-foot building was originally built as a retail store and service center for the Firestone Tire Co., Benedict said. They plan to rename the building "Firestone Lofts" in recognition of its history.

Benedict said they have not yet determined how the apartments will be laid out and if the ground floor will include apartments. The property also includes a single level parking garage that will be a valuable amenity for tenants, he said.

Reconstruction work will begin after the building's last tenants move out in six months, Benedict said. The conversion to apartments will not take long because the building and its roof are in good condition, he said.

The building was last remodeled for offices about 18 years ago, according to city records.

The sale was brokered by NAI Wisinski of West Michigan. "With its near downtown location, and on-site covered parking, we knew that 24 Jefferson would attract immediate interest," said NAI's Hillary Taatjes Woznick.

"There were several parties interested in this property, and we received multiple offers, but Third Coast's offer and plans for conversion stood as the best. We are excited to see what Third Coast does."



FirestoneLofts.zip



Thursday, October 15, 2015 3:30 PM

Inappropriate photo? Alert us.

Dear Russ,

11/3/14

Thanks for your hard work. With you “Firestone” is still a reality. Here is my check for the 2015 year that maybe for a change to make the reunion before I die or don’t know anything or anybody.

Your friend, Winston Anderson

## **LET US HEAR FROM YOU –LETTERS TO THE EDITOR-PHOTOS-IDEAS**

We like hearing from our members. If you have anything you would like to tell your fellow Gum Dippers, drop us a line and we will try to get it in our newsletter, space permitting. Let us know in addition to obituaries, about moves, weddings, trips, graduations, children, grandchildren, major anniversaries, new careers....mail or e-mail to: [Ritch Mucciolo](mailto:Ritch Mucciolo) 727-773-9017  
[rpmucciolo@gmail.com](mailto:rpmucciolo@gmail.com)



## **IN MEMORIAM**

**PERRY, KRISTINA HAMILTON 54**, passed away on October 12, 2015 in Manistee. At a young age Kris and her sisters found their first love, horses. This passion followed her throughout her life and eventually passed down to her children and family. She traveled around the country competing and attending Class-A Arabian horse shows. She and her family would later open Casalae Farms, Inc. of Traverse City. Thirty-eight years ago Kris met her future husband Scot. Kris, a successful businesswoman, enjoyed a 28-year tenure with Bridgestone-Firestone. She was proud of her success in a male-dominated industry. Due to her ambition, Kris received many high achievement awards. She took great pride being engaged in her children's sporting and performing arts endeavors. She is survived by loving husband, Scot Perry; children, Brittany and Scotie; father-in-law, two sisters, two brothers-in-law, two sisters-in-law,

**BOSSMAN, HOWARD 86**, passed away on November 6, 2015 in Granville, OH. He was born in Saginaw, MI. He was an Industrial Engineer, starting his career at Saginaw Steering and Gear. He then moved to Cuyahoga Falls, OH and worked for Firestone for many years. Later in life he took up residence in Marco Island, FL during the winter. His hobbies included golf, bowling, computers, photography and genealogy. He was predeceased his wife Betty Jane and two brothers. He is survived by two daughters and their husbands, four grandchildren and a sister.

**WATERS, WILLIAM A. "BILL" 85**, passed away on November 9, 2015 in Medina, OH. He was born in Akron, OH and was a resident of Wadsworth, OH, where he spent most of his life. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He worked for Bridgestone Firestone for many years in the Engineering Laboratory. His passion was collecting all kinds of mechanical music. He was a member of Wadsworth Masonic Lodge, VFW, and Music Box International. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marjorie, a granddaughter and a sister. He was predeceased by a daughter and a brother.

**FOSTER, DANIEL T. 101**, passed away on December 11, 2015. He was formerly from Wadsworth and more recently from Fairlawn. He was born in St. Paul, MN. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran and retired from Firestone after a long career in retreading. He headed up retreading in the Western Division and was well known throughout the industry as he later headed up Retreading nationwide for many years. He is survived by his wife of 75 years, Lois. He is also survived by a daughter and spouse, two sons, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He was predeceased by a daughter, a brother, a sister and a daughter in law. He was very active Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wadsworth where he served as a Eucharistic Minister and on many committees and organizations.

**HEGARTY, JAMES F. 78**, passed away on December 14, 2015 in Barberton, OH, following a long illness. A graduate of the University of Akron in 1955, he had a long and successful career with Firestone. He held various financial and management positions that took him around the world, which included long term postings in Liberia, the Philippines, Singapore and Italy. He left Firestone in 1994 to lead the International Natural Rubber Association in Malaysia and retired in 1998. He was an avid golfer, sports fan and adventurous eater. He was preceded in death by his wife Winifred. Survivors include 2 sons, 2 daughters in law, 5 grandchildren, 3 brothers and 3 sisters and many of their spouses.

**JACKEL, JEROME P. (JERRY) 91**, passed away on December 18, 2015 in Ellenton, FL. He was preceded in death by his wife Alicia. He was a WWII veteran and retired from Firestone. Member of the Knights of Columbus, Elks, volunteer at Salvation Army and Meals on Wheels. He is survived by one son, three daughters, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

**KRAPE, HAROLD EUGENE JR 91**, passed away on January 7, 2016. He is survived by his wife Mayme (91) of 71 years, 3 daughters, one son on and their spouses, 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister and two brothers. He worked for Firestone for 37 years in the St. Louis District and his son Randy also had a long time career with Firestone also.

**MC CUE, HARRY STEVEN "STEVE" 74**, passed away on January 15, 2016. He battled cancer before it took his life. Steve served in the U.S. Marines for 6 years. He was employed with Bridgestone/Firestone for 35 years before retiring in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Gayle Diane Cummings; two sons and a sister.

### **WE RECEIVED MANY SHORT ONE LINE DEATH NOTICES**

With no additional information

**Harold Beatty died August 1, 2015. Patricia Beatty  
My father, Bob Kimmell passed away 10/23/15. Dibra Kiggs  
Steve Buck passed away on Oct. 12, 2015 Darlene Buck  
Robert Hill passed away 12/16,2015. Roselee Hill  
I am the widow of Jack Clausen who is deceased. Joanne Clausen  
Norris Campbell died on 8\*/2/15 at 93 years old.  
Joseph Sage died at age of 98.5 on 5/14/2015 please tell others.**

### **YOUR GUMDIPPER COMMITTEE**

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Russ Burr, please advise him on any roster changes.

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**HONORARY CHAIRMEN:**

Don Olson (727) 443-5336

fax (727) 461-5949 prefers fax over email

**OUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION WEBSITE IS**

[www.gumdippers.org](http://www.gumdippers.org) the web site contains links to all recent newsletters from which you may view or print, information about the GumDippers, a membership application, contact information, an e-mail link to the GumDippers, and photos from our reunions.

We **DO NOT** post our membership roster on-line for the obvious privacy concerns. Our roster is furnished to active members in print form only and is attached to OUR APRIL newsletter. It is not intended to be used for commercial use or soliciting.

**THE “GUM DIPPERS” ON FACEBOOK**

The Gum Dippers is a social network of retirees and friends of Bridgestone Americas and its subsidiaries including the former Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Firestone Complete Auto Care, Tires Plus Total Car Care and various manufacturing and distribution operations.

We now have our own closed group on FACEBOOK, log in to “Gum Dippers”. Sign up now to be up to date on Gum Dipper activities....remember, Gum Dipper Members Only, other retired BFS employees must become a Gum Dipper to be accepted in this group.

**FRIENDS WHO LIKE FIRESTONE TIRES**

Another Facebook page “Friends who like Firestone Tires” for those who like to keep in touch with Firestone friends....log on and sign up. You do not have to be a Gum Dipper to sign up for this site....**also visit the “Firestone Tires” site on Facebook.**

## **FIRESTONE MAGAZINE AVAILABLE TO YOU**

All Former Firestone employees are eligible to receive:

**Retail: “What’s in Store” Ruth Michelson, [rmichelson@bfrc.com](mailto:rmichelson@bfrc.com)**

630-761-3822

BSRO 333 E. Lake St., Bloomingdale, IL 60108

Email Ruth if you want to receive it online.

## **ANOTHER GUM DIPPER WEBSITE:**

To sign up and/or log onto one of the Firestone Gum Dipper Websites, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Gumdippers> CHECK IT OUT! You will find the current

newsletter posted on it along with Firestone photos, reunion photos and photos of members who have signed up

on the website. For additional information, contact:

**Bob O’Brien** 115 Geers Drive Lebanon, TN 37087

[rjobox277@aol.com](mailto:rjobox277@aol.com)

Bob has set up and handles the website including all the data input

In Feb we embarked on a project to completely update the accuracy of our roster. Simply stated it was an overwhelming success. Success is good but the overwhelming part fell on the shoulders of Russ Burr who had to process all the returns and update the roster. Thanks to Russ’ effort our roster is as accurate as it has ever been.

**A copy of the completely updated roster is attached for use in contacting old friends and associates.**