



THE STRETCH

Local 746L



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TYLER, TEXAS

February, 2006

From The President's Desk

by Jim Wansley

We've entered into a year that will be eventful and challenging. At the March union meeting we'll take nominations for our elected local union officials. The voting will then take place sometime in April, including any run-off. At its March meeting the executive board will set the date for the actual voting. Then, at the May membership meeting those elected to local union offices will be installed.

In mid-March the USW Rubber and Plastics Industry Conference (RPIC) will meet in Pittsburgh and set the direction and priorities for negotiating contracts for the local unions that are included in RPIC. Essentially, they are the local unions that comprised the United Rubber Workers. Currently, I serve as one of the Executive Advisory Committee members for RPIC.

During the RPIC convention, or soon after, the Table Committees for the Master Bargains at Goodyear, Bridgestone/Firestone and Michelin/Uniroyal-Goodrich will meet and set the priorities for negotiations with those three tiremakers for the upcoming Master Contract negotiations, or "pattern bargain" that will start in July. They will also pick the "target company" for the tire industry "pattern bargain" we will be striving for in these negotiations.

In 2003 Goodyear was the target company and, once an agreement was obtained at Goodyear the Bridgestone/Firestone and the Michelin/Uniroyal-Goodrich Policy Committees began striving for a contract that "patterned" the one at Goodyear. The local unions at other tiremakers, like Cooper and Yokohama, also worked toward getting a contract that "patterned" the Goodyear contract.

Sometime in May, after the local union officer installation is completed for the twelve Goodyear locals, the USW Goodyear Policy Committee will meet and select its 2006-2009 Table Committee, Pension & Insurance (P&I) Small Committee, Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) Small Committee and Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Small Committee members. These are the sub-committees that will meet and discuss with the company their respective areas of the contract. How many representatives a local union has on the Policy Committee is determined by the size of the local. Our local will be sending the union president and an elected Policy Committee member to the Master Negotiation. Currently, Sherrell Brown is the elected policy committee member from our local. Having him there is a plus for the local, as he has served on the P&I Committee for a number of master contracts and provides that committee, as well as the overall Goodyear Policy Committee, with a lot of experience and knowledge. Currently, I hold a Table Committee position and, if re-elected, will likely keep it. Having someone on the Table Committee from our local is a plus for our local.

In 2003 fourteen local unions were part of the Master Contract bargain at Goodyear. The number in 2006 will be twelve because the sale of the Freeport plant to Titan Tire has removed Freeport from the Goodyear Master Contract bargain and, as you know, we lost the Huntsville plant in 2003. However, there have been several

Goodyear plants organized since 2003. There will be a push to include them in the Goodyear Master Bargain for 2006, though going into the bargain they are not represented on the USW Goodyear Policy Committee.

After sorting out who will serve on the 2006-2009 Goodyear Policy Committee (GPC) and who will serve on what sub-committee, the GPC will meet to develop contract proposals, using the RPIC priorities established in March as a guide, wherever possible. Those meetings will likely occur in May. Then, sometime in late May or early June, Goodyear and the USW Goodyear Policy Committee will begin joint negotiating sessions to hammer out a new Master Agreement. The old contract will expire on July 22 of this year. If a new tentative agreement has not been reached by that date, the union will either serve notice of its intent to strike or will extend the current agreement for some period of time as negotiations continue.

Once a tentative agreement is reached, with or without a strike having occurred, the plants covered by the Goodyear Master Agreement will vote to ratify or reject it. A new Master Agreement must be approved by a "majority of the majority" voting. That means a majority of the locals must approve, and that majority of the locals must represent a majority of the total members covered by the Master Agreement.

Once the Master Agreement is obtained, each local union negotiating committee will enter into local contract negotiation with the management at their plant. In the past, the local contract at each location has been extended until the Master Agreement has been reached and, also, until a local contract is reached at the location. Upon reaching tentative agreement on a local contract, the membership of the local will vote to approve or reject it. If no agreement can be reached, a strike could occur on local issues at that location until one is reached.

In 2003, the Master Agreement expired in April and the extended negotiations went from April to late August, with a ratification vote taken in September. The local contract negotiation went from September through February, with a local vote taken in February.

Yes, 2006 will be an eventful year. The people elected in April will have their plates full. It will be a different negotiation than the one in 2003, in some ways, but will be just as difficult and time consuming. Goodyear is doing better and we intend to make gains as a result. At the same time Goodyear still has a lot of issues threatening the viability of the company. Those include huge debt, escalating health care costs for active employees and retirees, a growing liability from our defined pension program and the effect on tire pricing of cheap, imported tires.

I have no doubt we will come out of the 2006 bargain with one of the best, if not the best, labor contracts obtained in any manufacturing sector. Time has shown that's what happened in 2003. I also have no doubt it will be tough row to hoe to get there.

Pension and Insurance Notes

by Sherrell Brown

PENSION VOTE PASSES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H R 2830 the pension reform bill passed with a margin of 294 to 132 with 7 representatives not voting. This bill drastically reduces the pension benefits the Unions have fought for over the years. The Senate will vote on this issue early in 2006. The bill underwent some modifications, but they were not significant and the bill remains harmful to all pensioners.

This pension legislation represents an enormous attack on the pensions of USW active and retired members and tens of thousands of other workers employed at major manufacturing companies throughout the United States. It is an attempt by the Bush administration and House GOP leaders to undermine negotiated defined benefit pension plans.

At the same time that House GOP leaders are attacking pension benefits for workers and retirees, they have not done anything to the lucrative pensions earned by Members of Congress. Despite the huge federal deficits, Members of Congress would continue to have their pension credits and benefits increase automatically every year.

BUDCO VERIFICATION COMPLETE

Budco has now completed their audit. If your dependents are eligible you should have received a verification letter stating so. If you did not respond or did not send in the correct information Goodyear stopped benefits for those dependents on 1-18-06. If this happened Budco should have sent you a letter requesting the correct information. If your eligible dependents are denied benefit coverage by a provider you need to contact the Goodyear Benefits Solution Center at 1-800-334-9395 they will tell you what information is needed from you to have benefits reinstated.

MINNESOTA LIFE CHANGE OVER

We have now completed the change over of our Life Insurance from Met-Life to Minnesota Life. As usual when a change over of this magnitude occurs there are problems, this change over has been no exception. Minnesota Life is now in the process of correcting problems that continue to arise.

Minnesota Life has only had the option to pay the premiums quarterly. We notified Minnesota Life that a number of our retirees would prefer monthly billing. Minnesota Life is now in the process of writing a program that will bill monthly; however this will take a couple of months to implement. We are aware the premiums did raise in some age brackets. Met Life was going to raise their coverage also. The Policy Committee felt as though Minnesota Life offered the best service for our members and decided to award the contract to Minnesota Life.

Some of our retirees have paid Met Life several months in advance this money has been placed in the cash accumulation fund. This fund will be transferred over to Minnesota Life sometime in February.

Some of our Retirees are receiving a bill from Met Life for the month of February. If you receive a bill from Met Life for February do not pay this bill, instead bring it to the Union Hall we will need to contact Minnesota Life to add you to their account.

In the near future Minnesota Life will be sending out a welcome packet. In this packet will be all the contact information and your personal information. Also there will be a new beneficiary form that you must fill out and return so they can have their files up to date. If you need to change beneficiaries before the packet arrives contact the Union Hall we will help you do that. If you change beneficiaries before you receive your packet you will still need to update them with the form in the packet. In the interim if you have any questions you may contact Minnesota Life at 1-800-660-2584.

MORE CHANGES

Just when you thought nothing was left to change we are hit again. **THIS WILL BE FOR THE HOURLY AND RETIREES WHO ARE ON THE ALTERNATIVE HEALTH PLAN (HEALTH PLAN OF TEXAS) ONLY.**

Mother Francis Hospital who owns the Health Plan of Texas some know it as the EPO/HMO has now hired another administrator to run the plan. JI Specialty Services, Inc. will be the new vendor in fact they have been processing the billing for MFH since August of 2004 now they will administer the plan. I met with the representatives of the company Friday January 27 to review this new change. They do understand we have a contract explaining our benefits and the Union has been assured nothing in this contract will change. What will change will be the member services department and the Medical Management departments. These departments have been in Tyler run by MFH they will now be in Austin run by JI Specialty Service, Inc. They will have a representative who will have an office in Tyler to service the accounts here. Health Plan of Texas has several accounts in the East Texas Area.

Things that you are accustomed to will not change such as the ID Cards, claims processing, phone numbers and addresses. They tell us this will be a smooth change over with no problems, but we have heard this before, so keep an eye on your statements and be sure to ask any questions that you may have. Health Plan of Texas will send a letter explaining this change over in more detail in the near future.

SS Maximum Wage Base for 2006

Effective January 1st, 2006, the maximum wage base from Social Security Old Age and Disability Insurance (OASDI) is deducted will increase from \$90,000 to \$94,200. The payroll tax rate for OASDI will remain at 6.20%. The payroll tax rate for Medicare Part A is 1.45% and will apply to all wages for 2006. Thus, a total of 7.65%, up to a maximum of \$7206.30, will be withheld and matched by the Company from the first \$94,200 of an associate's earnings. For earnings in excess of \$94,200, 1.45% will be withheld.

The last retiree meeting was held at the John Nash Activity Center, January 9, 2006. Dino Robertson won the money pot receiving \$ 50.00. The other half of the money went to the S. O. A. R. Organization. There were three tables of "42" after the meeting. (Does that mean that some of the members practiced for the upcoming "42 Tournament", February 13th from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm? Say guys Sue Kersh is not a bad player. A special award will be given to the winner of the "42" tournament February 13th. A wooden plaque shaped like Texas and dominoes for the numbers on the clock. This special award is provided by Eugene Hulsey. February 13th, 6:00 PM will be the next S. O. A. R. meeting at the John Nash Activity Center. Members are to bring finger food. Men do not forget Valentine will be the theme for the evening. All recent retirees are welcome to attend the meeting. President Eugene Hulsey encourages all new members to come to the February meeting. If you have any questions call Eugene at 903-566-2383. For additional information about the "42 Tournament"



STEELWORKERS ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVE RETIREES

contact Roy Stanley at 903-592-3260 or Dino Robertson at 903-561-1467.

February 10th, 5:30 PM will be the Annual Retirees Banquet held at Harvey Hall, Tyler. It will be a Patriotic theme and every one is encouraged to wear red, white, and blue. (OPTIONAL)

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary will have their next meeting at the John Nash Activity Center February 7th at 10:00 AM. President Tommie Frances encourages all members to attend this special

meeting. President Frances ask the ladies to bring 3 yards of fabric. They are going to make "lap throws" for residents at various nursing homes. For additional information call the coordinator of this project, Sarah Lockwood at 903-849-6304. President Tommie reminded the members at the January meeting to stay in contact with their prayer partner. The ladies auxiliary members are excited that in the near future they will start their own "Red Hat Organization". This organization will be in honor of LaJoy Bailey.



**Gene and Tennes Hulsey
They should be Valentine King and Queen!
What a happy couple.**



Hazel Stanley and five guys: How many members did it take to get down the Christmas decorations at the John Nash Activity Center??? Only one woman but FIVE GUYS. Burnis Manoy were you laughing because it took so many men and one woman?

Remember President Eugene Hulsey and Tennie as he continues treatment. Their faith is so strong... God Bless both of you. Remember our troops abroad and on the home front.

Retirees' Banquet

The Retiree' Banquet is scheduled to be held on February 10th at Harvey Hall. This year the theme will be patriotic. Hickory Fare will be catering the event and comedian Bruce Thompson will provide the entertainment. Please make plans to come and enjoy an evening of food, fun and visiting with lots of your former work mates and friends.



Bart Brown

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Ford Post 19% Increase in 4th Quarter

Ford Motor Co. reported Monday that its fourth quarter earnings rose 19 percent due to cost-cutting measures and improved sales of its luxury brands.

According to news reports, the Dearborn, Mich.,-based auto manufacturer said its quarterly net income increased to \$124 million from \$104 million the year prior, and revenue increased 5.9 percent to \$47.5 billion from \$44.9 billion.

The company's world-wide automotive sector reported a \$12 million loss for the quarter, however, it was an improvement from the sector's \$470 million loss reported a year earlier. Revenues for the group also improved, posting a \$154.5 billion profit, up from \$147.1 billion in 2004.

Ford's North American operations reported a loss of \$143 million compared to a loss of \$470 million in 2004.

Losses in North America were offset by gains in other regions. Ford Europe and the Premier Automotive Group (Jaguar, Volvo and Land Rover) posted a \$36 million gain for the year, compared to a loss of \$626 million for the corresponding quarter of 2004.

Additionally, profits in the Asia/Pacific and Africa region were \$61 million, a jump from \$16 million in 2004. Profits in South America more than doubled to \$389 million.

For the full year, Ford said it earned \$2 billion, down 42 percent from 2004 results.

Manage Your Rising Energy Costs

As winter temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere have descended over the past several months and energy prices have risen, Goodyear associates and their fellow cold weather friends have been devoting more time thinking of ways to increase insulation – in their wallets.

“The United States currently has among the highest natural gas prices in the world,” said Steve Bagstad, principal engineer for facilities engineering and energy management. “Prices hit a high of \$15 per million BTU [British Thermal Units] in mid-December – double the price of one year ago and six times the price of seven years ago.”

Home natural gas prices are expected to be 50 percent higher this winter over last, while home heating oil prices are expected to climb by 30 percent. Even electricity rates are being impacted as the rising costs of oil, natural gas, and even coal are felt at electrical generation facilities.

“Gas and electric price increases are a problem across the nation and around the globe,” Bagstad said. “In addition, facilities are hit with the double whammy of using natural gas in both manufacturing products and heating the space.

“Our suppliers and raw materials are also impacted,” Bagstad said.

As Goodyear facilities continue to take extra steps to winterize plants, lower indoor thermostat settings and closely manage energy usage, associates can follow these steps to save energy both at work and at home:

* A common misconception is that screen savers reduce monitors energy use; they do not. Automatic switching to a black/

blank screen or manually turning monitors off is a better energy-saving strategy. Power savings are larger for CRT-type monitors.

* Turning off equipment/machines when they are not in use can result in significant energy savings

* Use fluorescent lamps in any/all often used areas to control electricity waste.

* Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter (70 degrees or less) and as high as is comfortable (78 degrees or more) in the summer. Install a programmable thermostat to automatically lower temperature overnight and when the home is unoccupied.

* Clean or replace filters on forced-air systems once a month or as needed.

* Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed. Make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.

* During the heating season, keep draperies and shades on your south facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

* Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.

* Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120° F.

“Small changes can help counter rising energy costs,” Bagstad said. “Changing one regularly used incandescent light bulb in your home to an energy-efficient bulb, such as a compact fluorescent, may save you \$30 in energy costs over the lifetime of the bulb,” he added.

W-2 Information Explained

U.S. tax time is almost here, and the company has begun distributing the required federal W-2 document that details each associate's wages and tax information for 2005.

The form, which is in the same format as the W-2 for 2004, are currently being distributed in the same manner as paychecks. Associates who are set up for check distribution to a department other than their home department should check with their home department for their W-2. Associates who receive their paycheck at home will also receive their W-2 document at home via U.S. postal mail.

According to Andre Thompson, payroll manager, some things to keep in mind when reviewing a W-2 include:

The amount in Box 1 (Federal Gross Wages) can usually be arrived at by adding and subtracting all items on the left hand side of an associate's final pay stub.

Box 12 is subdivided into four parts, where earnings with applicable codes A through Z are reported. Examples of these earnings include the cost of group-term life insurance more than \$50,000 (code C) and elective deferrals to a 401(k) (code D).

Boxes for state and local information are numbered 15 through 20.

Some associates may have a figure in Box 18 (Local Wages) that is greater than their total earned income. This happens because most cities tax a portion of the company dollars given to associates to buy flex benefits. The taxable amount will vary, depending on the amount of company dollars given and the type of benefits chosen by the associate.

If an associate worked in two states during 2005, earnings and taxes from both states will appear on the same W-2.

Associates receiving non-taxable tuition assistance and/or imputed income from the personal use of a company vehicle will need to adjust their final pay stubs for these items.

FICA is divided into two separate taxable bases: Medicare and Social Security. For 2005, there was no limit on the amount of wages subject to Medicare tax; the rate withheld was 1.45 percent.

Social Security tax was withheld at a rate of 6.2 percent up to a 2005 wage base of \$90,000. After an associate reaches \$90,000, no further Social Security tax is withheld. That wage base increases in tax year 2006 to \$94,200.

Additional questions can be directed to the Goodyear Solution Center at (800) 334-9395 by selecting option "5."

Two Outstanding Union Members

Just like most everyone else at Goodyear/Tyler, Millwright Bill Irvine is a member of the United Steelworkers. What makes Bill different is that he has been a member for over fifty years. In 1951 when Bill was 16 years old, he started to work at the Texas Pacific Railroad Shop in Marshall as a Sheet Metal Worker Apprentice. He joined the sheet metal union while he worked there.



Bill Irvine

Bill worked on steam engines and saw the introduction of diesel engines. The apprentice program was a 4-year program and at the end of the 4 years, an apprentice would get hired on full time if there was a job opening. In Bill's case there were no openings and he was laid off. Earl Cayard (future 1st president of Local 746) worked there at the same time as Bill, but Earl was a machinist apprentice and in his case there was an opening for a machinist and he was hired.

In 1956, after being laid off from the railroad shop, Bill went to work for Lone Star Steel as a Steelworker. There he met Tom Sparks and Frank Brown (more future Local 746 members). Bill decided that he wanted to be a millwright. The only way he could do it was to go through another 4-year apprentice program. So he did. When he completed it, he was the youngest millwright in the plant. He was in the Steel Worker Union the entire time he was there.

Bill left Lone Star Steel in 1967 and went to work at the Lone Star Army Ordinance until 1970. He joined the Atomic Workers Union, also affiliated with USWA. Then to Continental Can Company where he again joined the United Steel Workers Union. Then May 3rd 1971 he came to work at the Kelly Springfield plant in Tyler and has been here ever since. Of course the union back then was The United Rubber Workers which joined United Steel Workers of America in the 1990s.

Bill says that he has had a good paying job all of his life because he has had a union job all of his life.

Another employee that has staying power is Employee Involvement Coordinator Jim Clark. President John Nash appointed Jim to the position of Trustee to fill a vacancy in 1971. Since that time Jim has been elected to the Executive Board every election. That makes him the longest serving board member in the history of Local 746. That is a total of 34 years of constant service on the Executive Board.

Jim also has a Goodyear/USW Scholarship named for him like a good many other people. But Jim is the only one that is still an active employee with a scholarship named for him.

"I have always enjoyed being a servant of the people, and having the opportunity to help improve our union from the business aspect," said Jim.

"It is important to me to work on the executive board and sometimes make tough decisions that will improve our local union. We have been fortunate over the years to have good leadership in our local, we haven't always been in agreement on every issue but at the end of the day, we



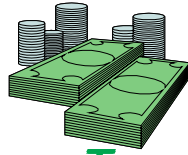
Jim Clark

would come together and move forward. Likewise, on my job as Employee Involvement Coordinator, my role is first and foremost one of a servant. It too has been very rewarding for me from the standpoint of working with people, forming groups, making decisions to help improve our work life at Goodyear/Kelly. When you consider we really spend more time in our daily lives working with the union and the company, than any other activity, why shouldn't we make it the best we can? I'm just grateful over the years for the people having afforded me the opportunity to serve."

These two long time union members are examples of the dedication that they and others like them had in the early days of the unions to give us what we have today. If it had not been for people like these, we wouldn't be enjoying anywhere near the benefits that we have today.

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If you haven't been in the plant for the last few months, you may not know that the plant newspapers (*The Bulletin and The Messenger*) have been combined into one weekly newspaper called *The Goodyear Tyler Pride Weekly*. Editors Mike Newsom and Mike Powell are doing a fantastic job with the new paper.

Training and Communications

Manager Marsha Raska is making *The Tyler Pride* available to all associates and retirees via e-mail. If you would like to receive *The Tyler Pride* in your e-mail, send an e-mail request to

marsha.raska@goodyear.com and she will add your address to her distribution list and you will receive one each week. An Adobe Reader is required to view the PDF file of *The Tyler Pride* which can be downloaded for free at **www.adobe.com**.



Place an Ad In The Stretch!

The Stretch now has an ad section. The ads from members and retirees of Local 746L will be free for 3 lines in a column like in this article and \$5 a line after that. The ads must be for legal items, be in good taste and have a name and phone number where the information can be verified. The editor and E-Board have final approval on all ads and retain the right to refuse any ad. The ads that run for longer than one month will have to be resubmitted each month.

The Stretch is also taking advertisements from businesses or individuals for a price to help off-set the cost of printing. Again the ads must be for legal items, be in good taste and must be paid for in advance. The Stretch can not accept ads from the travel industry, insurance companies or financial institutions due to postal regulations. All ads must be received by the 20th of the month to be put in the following month's Stretch. The pricing will be:

1/8 page	\$25.00	1/4 page	\$50.00
1 half page	\$100.00	Full Page	\$200.00

Send ads by e-mail to:

joewyatt@cox-internet.com

or by regular mail to:

The Stretch C/O Local 746L Union Hall
13642 St. Hwy 31 W.
Tyler, TX 75709

Blood Drive Planned for February



The plant will be holding the first of numerous blood drives this year in support of the Stewart Regional Blood Center in February. The blood drive is slated for February 20th from 4:00 AM to 7:00 PM and will be held in the main conference room.

No coverage will be provided while associates are away from their jobs to donate.

April Election of Local 746L Officials

Nominations will be held for the election of Local 746L officials at the March union meeting with elections to be held in April. If you plan to run for an office and would like to put something in the March Stretch, send your picture (optional) and an article stating what office you are running for, your accomplishments, qualifications, goals and etc. by e-mail to **joewyatt@cox-internet.com** or regular mail to:

The Stretch
C/O Local 746L
P.O. Box 13624 St. Hwy 31 W.
Tyler, TX 75709

If you prefer, you may hand deliver it to Joe Wyatt, Dept. 705, A Team R1/R2/H3 tire builder, or Jim Clark, E.I. Coordinator, Ext. 665. All entries must be received by February 20th. We ask that you keep it clean (no personal attacks).

Rx REFILL YOUR MEDI-CENTER PRESCRIPTIONS ON-LINE



Have a computer? Want to refill prescriptions at your convenience? It's as easy as 1, 2, 3, 4!

To set up your account you will need to go to
WWW.goodyearrx.com

1. Enter your e-mail address
2. Select a password
3. Go to the pharmacy and request activation

(You'll have to give them your e-mail address in person for confidentiality purposes.)

4. Begin using your account

With your new account you can

- Request refills
- See what drugs are available for refill
- Schedule automatic refills
- Get information on pharmacy programs such as the 1/2 tablet program
- Get updates on pharmacy services

Changes To Formulary Can Mean Savings

Goodyear U.S. associates who take the prescription drug Lipitor to help lower their cholesterol were mailed a letter from the Benefits Solution Center describing some changes in 2006.

First, Lipitor is being removed from the National Preferred Formulary for 2006. This means that if you continue to take Lipitor, you will have to pay a higher price for each prescription.

Zocor is another cholesterol-lowering drug that is on the formulary. It is expected to become a generic drug – meaning the drug company's exclusive patent will expire – in June 2006. This means that once the drug is available as a generic, your co-pay will automatically decrease.

If you currently take Lipitor or a low dose of Crestor and your doctor switches you to Zocor, Goodyear is offering you a reduction of 50 percent on your first Zocor co-pay for a limited time. This includes Zocor prescriptions filled either at a retail pharmacy, through Express Script's mail-order service, or at a Goodyear Medical Center.

Associates will need to act soon to take advantage of this offer. The one-time 50 percent co-pay offer on Zocor expires Feb. 15 for a 30-day or less supply and April 15 for a 31-90 day supply. Associates need to discuss this information with your doctor. If your doctor prescribes Zocor, the copay reduction will be available when you present your first Zocor prescription to be filled.

24 ASSOCIATES RETIRE FROM GOODYEAR-TYLER IN 2005!

During 2005, 24 associates have retired from Goodyear-Tyler, and although they were recognized in the regular editions of The Stretch, they deserve to be mentioned once again. Here are the names of those associates who bid us farewell during 2005.

Donnell Harden, William Crim, Wade Moon, Sue Burk, Denman Denton, Edmond Johnson, Gary Whitcher, Tommy Dean, John Tucker, Thelma Cotton, Jerry Teague, David Johnston, R.C. Williams, Eddie Campbell, Nathan Davis, Charles Ferguson, Ronald Brewer, Frank Kennedy, Ronald Bennet, Gary Dobbs Sr., Bob Bussey, David Attaway, Marshall Grace, Richard Colley

These associates gave many years of their life to this plant and we wish them nothing but the best of health and happiness and their coming years. We would also like to thank each and every one of them for their dedication and sacrifice that made this plant successful. Each one has made, in more ways than one, a positive contribution to the Tyler Plant, and for that we are sincerely grateful.

OBITUARY

Edward Stover

Former Tyler Salaried associate Edward Stover passed away in January. Mr. Stover hired on with the Goodyear Corporation on September 28, 1970. He transferred to the Tyler Plant on August 1, 1990, and then to the Cumberland, Maryland Plant on January 1, 1994. While at the Tyler Plant, Mr. Stover held the position of Manager Technical Services.

Mr. Stover was back in the Tyler area at the time of his death. No photo available.



Glenn Senesac

Glenn Senesac (left) passed away on January 13th, 2006. Glenn hired in with Goodyear on 11-30-92 and was still employed at the time of his death. He held the position of Production Service Operator in Curing/Final Finish.



Roger Williams Jr.

Roger "Bob" Williams, (right) age 75, passed away January 19th, 2006. He retired from Kelly September 1st, 1992. he worked in Dept. 516.

Goodyear Tires Again Recognized as 'Best Buy'

The February 2006 issue of *Consumers Digest* showcases the best tires on the market as rated by the magazine's editors, and the clear-cut winner is Goodyear.

Displaying top-rated tires in the Premium, Midrange and Economy levels, the *Consumers Digest* comparison list ranked Goodyear tires the top "Premium" products in three of the five rated segments.

For the "Passenger Car Tires, All-Season" category, Goodyear's Assurance featuring TripleTred Technology was the Premium selection with the magazine editors commenting: "We found the tire offered an exceptional improvement in dry handling and wet traction over traditional all-season tires."

Also included in the magazine's remarks about the TripleTred tire were such product features as the three-zone technology, Permablack and Aquachute tread grooves.

The Goodyear Fortera featuring SilentArmor Technology was the Premium choice in the "Light Truck/SUV Tires, All-Purpose" category.

"It's the best tire we've seen for light trucks and SUVs," according to the magazine. Additionally, *Consumers Digest* reported, "This tire uses Kevlar. That's right – Kevlar, the same stuff found in bulletproof vests. Now, these can't withstand a shot from a gun, but we believe the manufacturer's claim of stronger performance to be warranted."

In addition, the Goodyear Eagle GT-HR was the Premium selection in the "Performance" tires segment. Also listed in the "Performance" category was the Dunlop GT Qualifier T, listed as the top choice in the Economy area.

Segments included "Passenger Car Tires, All Season," "Performance Tires," "Light Truck/SUV Tires," "All Purpose Tires," "Sport Tires" and "Touring Tires."

"We are pleased that yet another independent source has recognized the tremendous value of our tires," said Sanjay Sivanandan, vice president and general manager, consumer tires.

According to the magazine, a *Consumers Digest* "Best Buy" is defined as a product that offers the most value for a given amount of money. The magazine editors have defined such products as those that merit special attention from consumers based on a combination of performance, ease of use, features, durability, warranty, efficiency, styling, and maintenance and service requirements.

The *Consumers Digest* Best Buy recommendations are based on criteria derived from at least three of the following: 1. Personal (hands-on) product evaluations by the authors and researchers; 2. Independent testing and researching facilities; 3. Reports from federal, state and other government agencies; 4. Other independent technical experts; 5. Retail establishments; 6. Service outlets; 7. *Consumers Digest* reader and other consumer surveys; 8. Previously published evaluations in books, magazines, newspapers, Web sites, etc.

Of the thousands of products that are evaluated by *Consumers Digest*, fewer than 3 percent meet the quality and value standards required by the magazine's editors to receive a Best Buy designation. The magazine claims a circulation of 1.25 million.

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