



The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company was founded by Harvey S. Firestone in Akron, Ohio, on August 3, 1900 to supply tires for wagons, buggies and, eventually, automobiles. One of the first products introduced by the company was the solid rubber sidewire tire. In 1904, Firestone developed the first mechanically-fastened, straight-sided pneumatic automobile tire. The company began a partnership with Ford Motor Company in 1906 when the automobile maker purchased 2,000 sets of tires, the largest single order for tires to date. Firestone continued to grow and became involved in racing in the 1910s. Together, it and its archrival Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, were the largest suppliers of automotive tires in North America for over 75 years, contributing to Ohio's position as the hub of the tire industry. Since the 1980s, the company has been part of Bridgestone Corporation.

Important Dates

- 1900: Harvey S. Firestone establishes the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company.
- 1903: Firestone manufactures its first tire.
- 1904: Firestone develops the first mechanically-fastened, straight-sided pneumatic automobile tire.
- 1906: Henry Ford chooses to outfit his Model T with Firestone tires.
- 1909: Firestone begins to manufacture tire rims.
- 1910: Company profits exceed \$1 million for the first time.
- 1911: At the first Indianapolis 500 race, the winning car, driven by Ray Harroun, uses Firestone tires.
- 1919: The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company of Canada is incorporated in Hamilton, Ontario.
- 1922: Firestone begins production on the industry's first low-pressure balloon tire.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try searching the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), in proximity or as phrases: Firestone, Harvey Firestone, rubber, tire, Ford, automobile, Indianapolis, plant.
- If you only search for "Firestone" or "Firestone Tire and Rubber Company," some of your first results may be advertisements, so be sure to combine those words with other terms to find information about the company.
- Limit your search by date to find information about specific events.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["Will Build Its Own Plant"](#) *Akron Daily Democrat* (Akron, OH), March 9, 1901, Image 5, col. 1-2.
- ["Will Christy"](#) *Akron Daily Democrat* (Akron, OH), August 18, 1902, Image 1, col. 4.
- ["Rubber Strike at Akron"](#) *Day Book* (Chicago, IL), February 20, 1913, Image 1.
- ["Ray Harroun Remains Loyal to Firestone"](#) *San Francisco Call* (San Francisco, CA), August 3, 1913, Image 60, col. 6.
- ["Firestone Steel Co. is Organized"](#) *Tulsa Daily World* (Tulsa, OK), June 2, 1918, Image 43, col. 5-7.
- ["Ship by Truck"](#) *Mohave County Miner and Our Mineral Wealth* (Kingman, AZ), June 28, 1919, Image 4, col. 1-2.
- ["This is the Firestone Year" \(ad\)](#) *El Paso Herald* (El Paso, TX), August 14, 1919, Image 11.