

1974

Firestone

GASTONIA
NORTH CAROLINA

Textiles Company NEWS

BENNETTSVILLE • SOUTH CAROLINA

BOWLING GREEN • KENTUCKY

☆☆☆

Employees Paid \$235,226 For Ideas

Firestone employees earned an extra \$235,226 during fiscal 1973 for ideas adopted in the company's worldwide suggestion program.

A record 31,717 suggestions shared for consideration during the year was an increase of more than 45 per cent from the 21,765 turned in during 1972.

"Of ideas submitted, 23 per cent (or 6,855 and also a record), were adopted," said John T. Cahoon, company vice president of personnel and planning.

LARGEST award of the year went to H. W. Collett at Firestone's Brentford, England, tire plant. He was paid \$6,250 for an idea on improving methods of tire repair.

H. L. Ogden at the company's Decatur, Ill., plant won \$5,685 for his suggestion involving depth control of white sidewall grinding; and R. L. Kimmell at Oklahoma City was awarded \$5,676 for suggesting a modification of tread tuber equipment.

Akron's Plant 1 tire plant employees were the leading suggestion-makers — 3,013 suggestions resulting in 579 adoptions. Others at the top in tire plants

were: Pottstown, Pa. 1,743 ideas and 400 adoptions; Decatur, Ill., 1,647 and 266 adoptions; Dayton, Ohio, 1,594, and 405 adoptions; and Memphis, Tenn., 1,474 suggestions and 286 adoptions.

The synthetic fibers plant at Hopewell, Va., was leader in submitted suggestions from diversified products facilities. Employees there turned in 1,296 ideas, 300 of which were adopted.

THE GASTONIA, N. C. Firestone Textiles Company plant was at the top in suggestions turned in among other diversified products operations. Gastonia had 861 suggestions and 183 adoptions.

Others in this grouping were Electric Wheel Company, Quincy, Ill., 815 suggestions and 80 adoptions; Industrial Products, Noblesville, Ind., 693 and 158 adoptions; and steel products, Wyandotte, Mich., 631, and 223 adoptions.

Of participation among diversified products plants with more than 100 employees, Bennettsville, S.C., topped the list with 2,047 suggestions per 1,000 employees.

Leading international tire plant was Brentford, England, with 1,588 suggestions and 532 adoptions.

Benefits of many of the

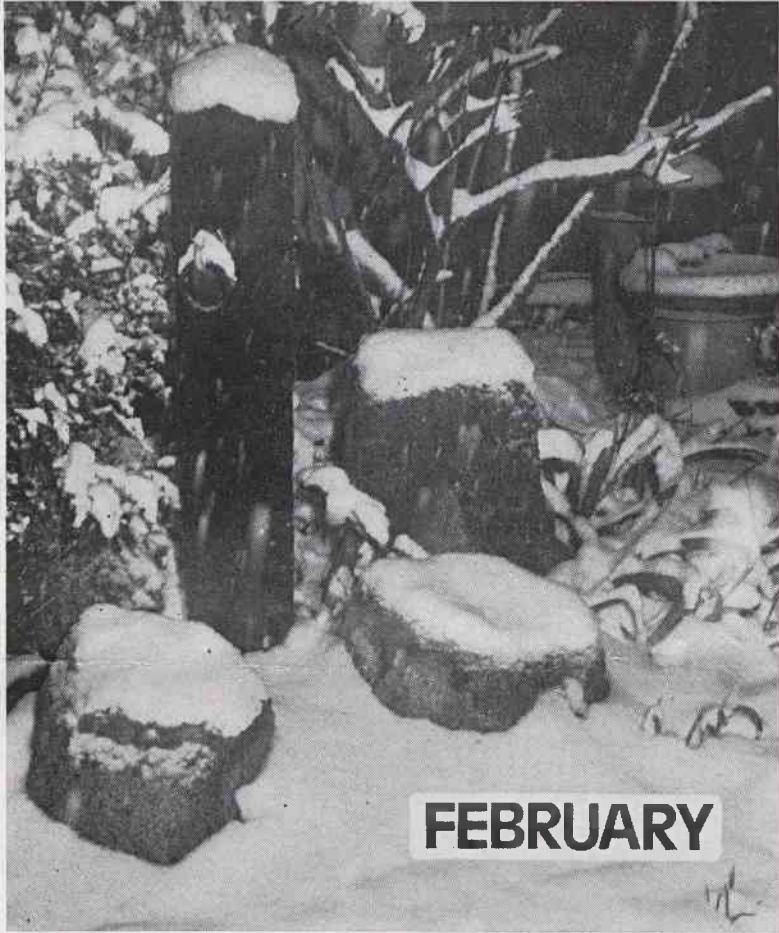
adopted suggestions cannot be measured tangibly," Cahoon said. "For example, hundreds involved ways to improve safety, possibly preventing costly accidents."

CAHOON pointed out that many adopted ideas involved improvement in product or process quality and better service to customers.

"An important aspect of the suggestion system is that it provides a direct channel of communication between employees and management," Cahoon said. "The program gives employees a voice in the company's operations and provides deserving recognition for their ideas and efforts."

"Total company savings from adopted suggestions during 1973 amounted to a record \$1.39 million," Cahoon noted.

• See "Largest." Page 2



FEBRUARY

• He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. Psalm 147:16

Radials: Leading By 1975

By 1975 more than 75 per cent of all new cars will be equipped with radial tires, most of them steel-belted. The Firestone company predicted this as industry-wide consumption of steelcord for tires approached 59 million pounds at the 1973 year-end.

"This level may triple by 1975," said James B. Call, president of Firestone Textiles Company.

The division doubled its capacity for weaving steelcord fabric for tires at its Bowling Green, Ky., plant recently. Six new looms, each capable of turning out 6,000 pounds fabric per day, have been in operation since late 1973.

Besides the Bowling Green production, six steelcord looms are operating at the company's Gastonia plant, where the division is headquartered.

Mr. Call notes that in addition to expanding production of steelcord fabric for use in passenger-tire construction, the new Bowling Green looms also are

producing steel fabric for experimental truck tires.

Each steel-belted passenger tire uses an average of two and one-half pounds of steelcord.

'Wrapped-Up' Careers AT GASTONIA

Edgar S. Foy of the Shop retired with the most service time of anyone who has "wrapped it up" at the Gastonia Firestone plant in recent months. He ended his career with the company as of February 1, with 37 years and 3 months "to his credit."

Also, there were three others who retired February 1. Guinn Briggs of TC Twisting, had 33 years service; and Willis B. Wells of the same department, 28 years and 4 months. Bessie G. Foster of Preparation had 25 years and 3 months.



What's She Doing?

•• Susie Leitzey Bradley.

(See Page 2).

BG UGF

Near Goal

The 1973-74 United Givers Fund of Bowling Green and Warren County, Ky., had almost reached its goal of \$170,000 at the beginning of the new year.

A report at the end of 1973 listed \$166,400 in pledges and gifts to UGF, and additional money has come in since then. One of the major gifts in the campaign which began last October, came from people of Firestone Textiles Company.

That contribution was nearly \$18,000. Several Firestone production shifts had 100 percent participation, as did Quality Control, Storeroom and Salaried Employees.

The Bowling Green-Warren County UGF supports 11 community services. Ralph King, Firestone plant manager, was 1973 UGF president.



•• Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Galligan and (right) James B. Call, president of Firestone Textiles Company. At a retirement luncheon in Gaston Country Club, Mr. Galligan was presented a check representing gifts from his associates, and a "memories" scrapbook.

Good Plans For His Retirement

FRANCIS GALLIGAN

A tour of Florida in January was the first of a travel schedule in upcoming months for Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Galligan of Lowell.

Mr. Galligan retired recently at Gastonia, after 30 years with Firestone. His last job assignment was general factories manager of the three plants of Firestone Textiles Company.

The Galligans have planned for an extended trip to the West Coast in April, hoping to go by camper trailer. Then later on, it will be a trip to Europe, where he hopes to retrace some of the itinerary of a former visit he made when on business for the company.

When Galligan retired from Firestone he had more than 40 years in a distinguished career of textile management. He spent 10 years with other companies before joining Firestone at Gastonia in 1943.

A GRADUATE of New Bedford Textile Institute (now Southern Massachusetts University), Galligan worked with textile firms in New Hampshire, Ohio, Massachusetts, Alabama and Georgia before his association with Firestone.

After coming to Firestone as assistant superintendent of the Gastonia plant, he was next assigned as manager of the Bennettsville, S. C., plant. Nearly five years later he returned to Gastonia as superintendent of cotton operations. In 1958 he was advanced to general superintendent of production. In 1965 he was promoted to operations manager of Firestone Textiles plants as they were then

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