

● James Burr, GC IE Club vice president, presented the award to Rita Franks. Burr, junior engineer in Firestone Industrial Engineering, has attended Gaston College three years, working toward a degree in Applied Science. He and Rita are attending Gaston on the Firestone Tuition Refund program.

## IE's 'Most Outstanding'

Rita H. Franks of Firestone Textiles has been named 1979-80 "Most Outstanding Member" of Gaston Community College Industrial Engineering Club. The Award plaque was presented at the club's Lake Wylie Spring outing in June.

Rita, laboratory supervisor in Quality Control for the past four years, has been in the Gaston College IE Club two years. During this time she has taken evening classes in IE, toward an Associate Degree in Applied Science.

She is past president (the first woman) of the IE Club, and the first woman to receive the "Outstanding Member" award. Among her club activities, she has chaired the projects and membership committees and has been coordinated the club's tours of local industries.

The IE members are students and graduates in the field of engineering technology at the col-



lege. The club is an information-exchange/citizenship group. It functions to provide association for students with industry, stimulate interest in and understanding of industry, and helps sponsor scholarships to students in the IE curriculum.

Two of the club's community projects are the Empty Stocking Fund and help for elderly persons in nursing homes.

textiles division chemist, is Lion Tamer and editor of the club Bulletin. D. N. Lewis, manager of Process & Product Development, is a past president.

More than 70 percent of all new cars are equipped with radial tires and almost 50 percent of tires sold in the replacement market are radials,

In Season ● Outdoor Drama in Kentucky (most through late August or early September): "My Old Kentucky Home," Bardstown; "Wilderness Road," Berea; "Legend of Daniel Boone," Harrodsburg; "Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come," Whitesburg; "Song of the Cumberland Gap," Pineville.

## 45 years and other records

●● Just a month after Firestone began operating its Gastonia factory in 1935, William L. Owens started an employment record that has continued to 45 years. While he marked his anniversary, 8 others at Gastonia in June had completed work years of 5 to 35 years.

35 Years ● Gertrude C. Sanders, reclamer, TC Twisting.

30 Years ● Joe G. Gilreath, twister operator, TC Twisting.

25 Years ● Eugene B. Jolly, yarn handler, Preparation; Helen H. Kiser, respooler operator; Hunter G. Wylie, twister bobbin changer, both TC Twisting.

15 Years ● Jerry Alford, millwright (2cl), Shop.

10 Years ● Calvin L. Hannah, shift supervisor (temp.), Fabric Treating.

5 Years ● Benjamin Ward Jr., yarn checker, TC Twisting.

## Discount tickets for parks

Complimentary tickets for discount on gate admission to several major amusement parks are in season through Labor Day. Firestone Textiles plants make the free tickets available to employees and their families.

They apply at such theme parks as Carowinds, Land of Oz, Kings Island, Kings Dominion, Six Flags, Disney World, Opryland USA. Check the Industrial Relations office at each plant for tickets available.

## Things going on

Meet me at the Sunbonnet Festival (and other events in North Carolina) July—Regatta, New Bern, 18-20; High Country Arts/Crafts, Asheville, 18-20; Gemboree, Franklin, 23-26; Old-time Fiddlers, Mt. Pleasant, 27; 57th annual Horse Show, Blowing Rock, 30-Aug. 3.

Early Aug.: Crafts Fair, Burnsville, 1-2; Farmers Day,

Robbins, 2; Oldtime Fiddlers & Bluegrass, Jefferson, 2; Sunbonnet Festival, Yadkinville, 2-3; Arts/Crafts, Henderson, 3-5; Mineral & Gem Festival, Spruce Pine, 6-9; Mtn. Dance & Folk Festival, Asheville, Asheville, 7-9; Shrimp Festival, Sneads Ferry, 9; Waldensian Festival, Valdese, 9; Village Arts/Crafts, Asheville (Biltmore), 9-10; Bass Mtn. Bluegrass, Burlington, 14-16.

## NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD TIRE

### PLAY EQUIPMENT

●● A large earthmover tire that was on display in Gastonia for more than 30 years has a new life as a central piece of play equipment at Forest Heights Elementary School.

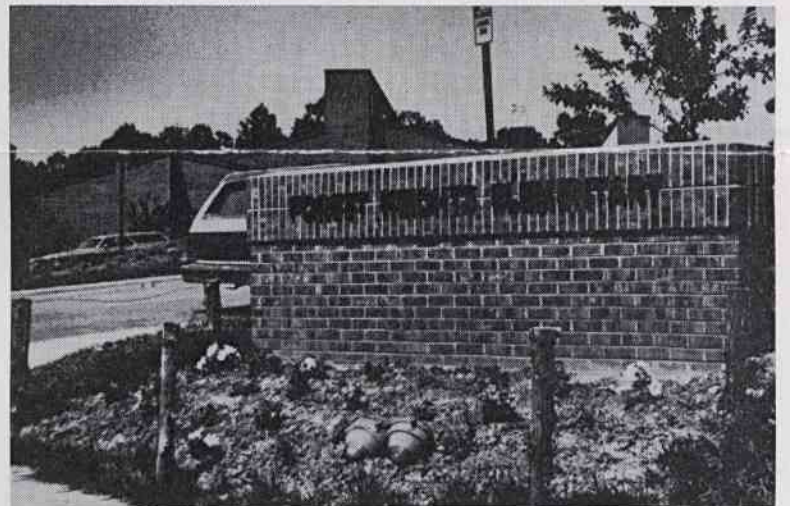
The 18.00-32 Firestone Rock Grip Excavator tire, built at the company's Decatur, Ill., plant and never in use, was brought to Firestone Textiles and placed in the factory tower entrance in the late 1940s. Through the years it was a favorite conversation piece with employees and visitors. When Gastonia was named an All-American City in the late 1960s, the big tire was part of a Firestone float entered in the celebration parade.

IN 1972 it became an outside display piece at the Firestone Store at Franklin Boulevard and Marietta Street, Gastonia. Halloween pranksters

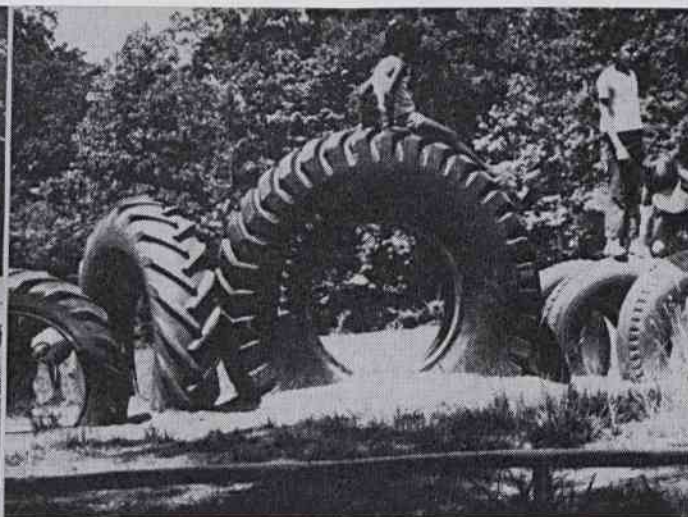
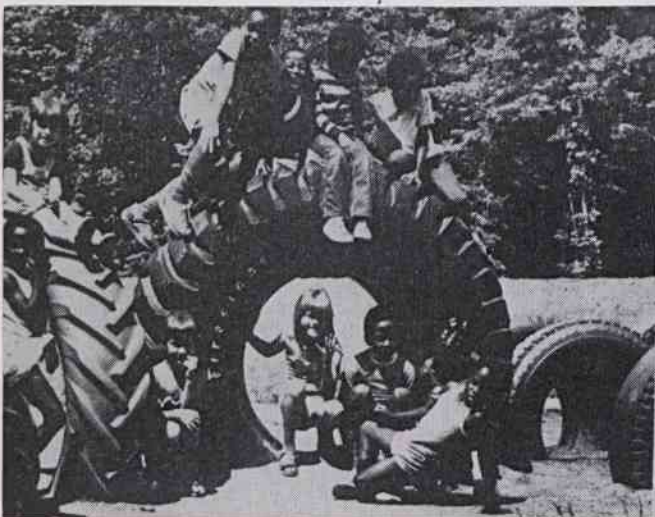
once took it away but people at the store found it and brought it back.

The giant earthmover, 6½ feet high, weighs more than 1200 pounds and is said to contain a 500-pound bale of cotton in its gum-dipped plies. At the time the tire was built, Firestone-Gastonia was a major supplier of cotton fabric to the company's tire-building plants.

Last winter, Firestone Textiles safety engineer E. W. Passmore arranged with store manager Mike Blackburn to 'start a new chapter' in the history of the old tire. Passmore and a neighbor, City Lumber Company treasurer Thomas Forbes, hauled it from the downtown store to Forest Heights school. It was anchored in the play-area ground as center of a cluster of tractor and truck tires.



● These pictures of children enjoying the tire play equipment were made just before the school year ended June 6.



## Firestone NEWS

## ● GASTONIA

Volume XXVI  
Number 7

July 9, 1980  
Page 2

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Monthly publication of the Gastonia, N. C., plant of Firestone Textiles Company, a division of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio. Division Headquarters, Gastonia, N. C. 28052. James B. Call, president. Member Carolinas Association of Business Communicators.

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Crepe myrtle and rare azalea peak season is July-August at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga. Some July special events in Georgia: Music Festival, Folkston, 19; Indian Crafts Fair, Cartersville, 19-20. Early August: Georgia Mountain Fair, Hiwassee.