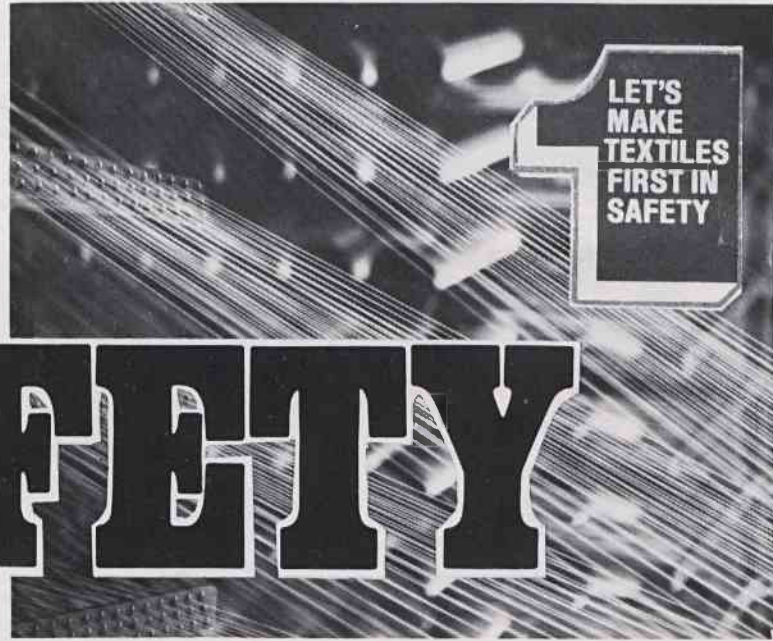


'... our  
main  
purpose...'



## SAFETY

• Firestone/Gastonia is in Group C (1,000-3,099 employees) of the "Make Textiles First in Safety" contest sponsored by American Textile Manufacturers Institute. ATMI, the industry's national trade association, is conducting the safety promotion with more than 100 companies, or plants, participating. The firms have from 500 to 10,000 employees.

Competition, which began in late 1981, continues indefinitely. At periods during each year, Firestone reports its safety figures to ATMI where they are set alongside the performance of other participating firms in the same grouping.

The company with the best safety record in each category will win a First in Safety Award each year. Also in each category there will be an award for Best Improvement in Safety.

A NEW REPORT on the Firestone standing is due in January. The last report in late 1981 put Firestone in 2nd place in its grouping.

"Our main purpose in taking part in the ATMI contest is to make it a constant reminder of our need for safety awareness and practice," said Bill Passmore, Firestone Safety manager. Some ways toward this:

- Go about our jobs with the knowledge that accidents and injuries have causes. They don't 'just happen.'
- Always practice what we know about safety. Observe all safe procedures, looking out for hazards.
- Think on ways to promote safety. Put your Ways on paper as ideas and let us have them in the Suggestion program.

## 6,276 BUYING SP&S improvements

Firestone Common Stock for accounts of employees participating in the Stock Purchase & Savings Plan was bought at an average price of \$9.92 during Nov. 1981. In that, the most recent report, 6,276 employees had accounts in the SP&S Plan.

Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company buys the stock on the market for the company and accounts of employees investing in the program. Through the plan,

the company adds \$1 for every \$2 an employee invests.

Some improvements in the plan are expected in early 1982, subject to stockholder and IRS approval. Expected key changes include a shortening of the vesting period from 5 to 2 years, making withdrawal provisions more liberal; and allowing employees with less than 20 years service to invest up to 6% of earnings, and up to 8% for those with more than 20 years work time.

## To 12 States & 13 countries

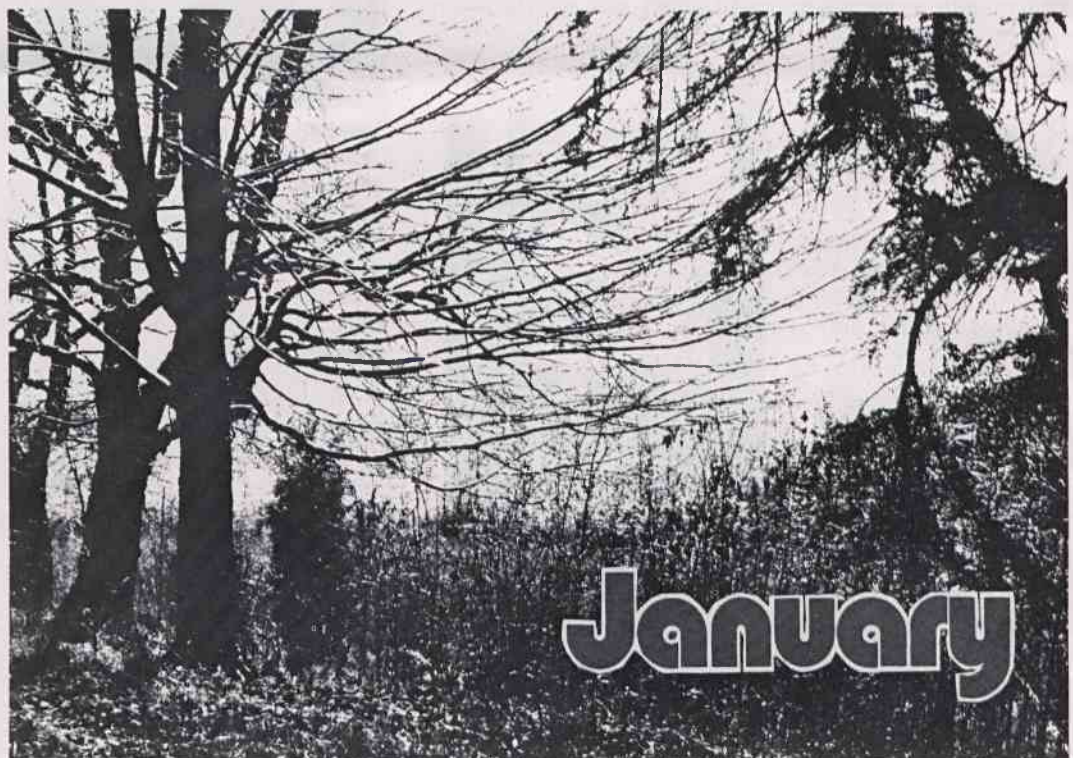
• A lot of string put together!... The 64 million pounds fabric produced at Firestone/Gastonia in 1981.

Of this volume, the preponderance was woven-and-treated cord fabric for reinforcement in tires of many kinds. A small amount was for industrial applications.

And where did it go? The Gastonia-produced fabric during 1981 was shipped to Firestone and 'outside' customers in a dozen states of the U.S.: Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Tennessee, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Indiana, Pennsylvania, California, Colorado and Ohio.

Export went to 13 countries: Australia, Canada, Kenya, Chile, Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, France, Venezuela, The Philippines, Mexico, New Zealand and Thailand.

•• Off West Second Avenue at west end of Firestone/Gastonia mill, the site remembered as location of old Abernethy Elementary School. Originally named West School, the building was torn down in 1972. The school had served the mill area into the 1960s.



## MATCHING GIFTS

Some Basic Changes

The Firestone Trust Fund will match gifts made by Firestone employees, retirees and directors to accredited colleges, universities and secondary schools or independent college funds in the United States.

Gifts for matching begin at \$50 and go up to \$5,000. The minimum/maximum figures are key changes in the Matching Gift Plan which went into effect Jan. 1. Old figures were \$25 and \$3,000.

Another major change: Gifts from spouses or surviving spouses of employees, retirees and directors are no longer matched.

Each gift to an institution or fund must be accompanied by a completed form, available from personnel representatives or controllers at any Firestone plant or zone office. Revised booklets on the Program also are available.

Matching Gifts to Education go to the educational institution.

Each donor gives a matching fund with the understanding that a gift and its matching amount is not to be used as payment for tuition, fees, books, alumni dues or similar items, nor for the benefit of a specific person.

## Warp & Filling

## A name & a word

Misspelled words and names, wrong names, misplaced sentences, transposed syllables, garbled words, incorrect figures. They're some of the gremlins that turn up in this publication, in spite of...

Example: In the Gastonia Service roster (November issue of Firestone News) a weaver in TC Weaving completing 40 years work was listed as Donald G. Gribble. His name is David L. Gribble. This is to correct the error.

ANOTHER example appeared

earlier in an article "consumer action." The item told of a U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs free publication "Consumer Fact Sheet on Dispute-Resolution Services." The pamphlet lists consumer-action panels and trade associations that offer mediation arbitration or other procedures for dealing with consumer complaints.

But somehow the word "mediation" turned up in print as "medi-tation."

Careful reader Thomas A. Grant "re-focused" on that. The retired Firestone Gastonia manager of Industrial Engineering called attention to the word. He allowed as how "mediation" very well could have been the more apt term after all, considering the subject dealt with.

•more on page 3