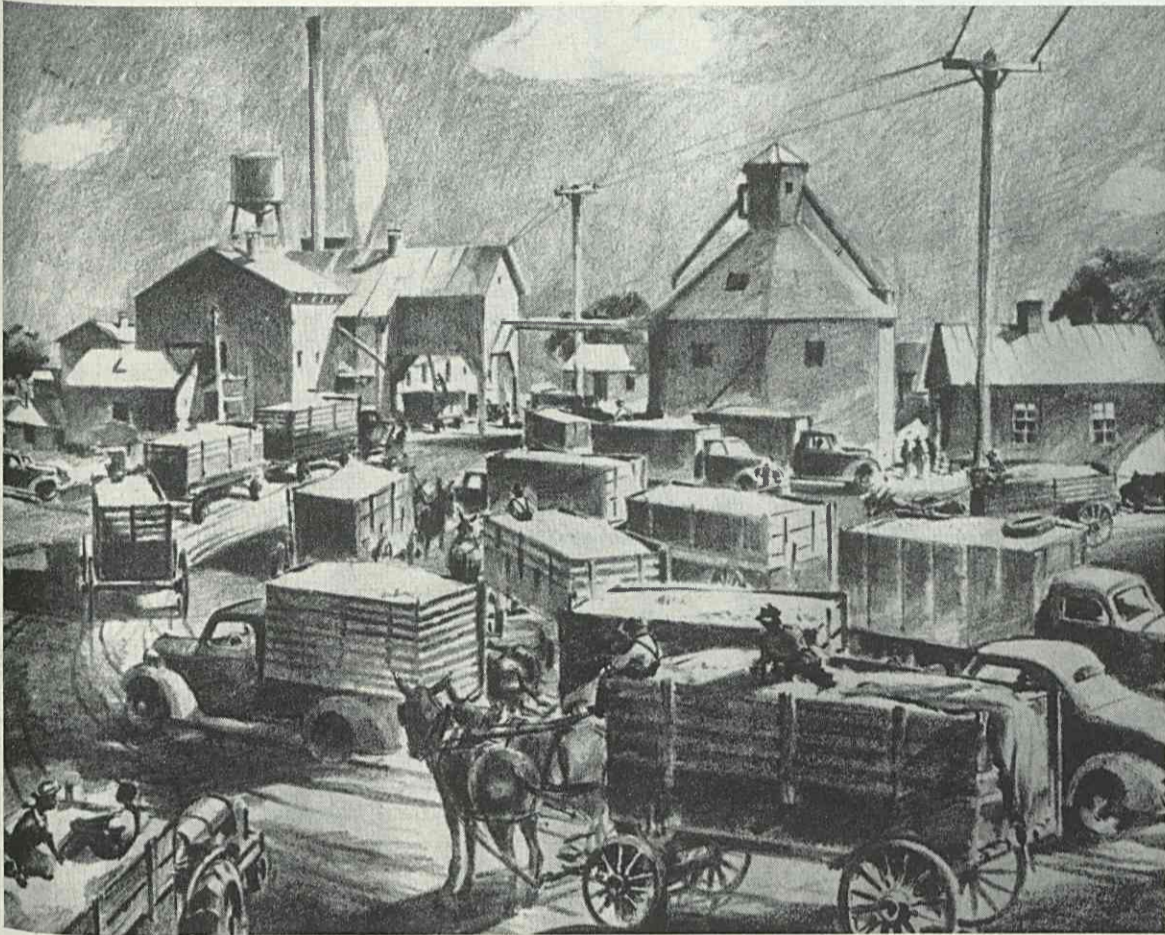


# Firestone NEWS

Your Symbol  
of Quality  
and Service



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F52



A collection of framed prints telling the history of natural-fibers textiles was for years exhibited on the office wall of Frank Davis at Firestone Textiles until his retirement in 1963. This drawing "When The Cotton's Rollin' In" by E. M. Schiwetz was given to Firestone News. It brings out a touch of "things as they used to be" when the South rightfully claimed King Cotton, before the growing of the natural fiber moved toward the West Coast and became a mechanized operation.

The drawing represents a disappearing Southern scene replaced by scientific progress which brought manmade fibers to textile production. In 1935, when Firestone began operating the Gastonia plant, all production was cotton. Today more than 97 per cent is in the synthetics family—principally nylon and rayon, but also others such as polyesters, olefins, sarans and glass fibers. It is a lesson in keeping up with progress to stay in business and serve growing needs of the customer.

*when the cotton's  
rollin'*  
• *in*  
From days  
gone by

## Three Scholarship Students Are In School

Three students from Firestone Textiles families are currently in school under the Firestone College Scholarship Program. John Daniel Fowler Jr., winner of the four-year company

scholarship in 1963, is a junior at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He is working on a double major in zoology and chemistry.

Brenda Louise High, a 1965 scholarship winner, has begun her four years at Wake Forest College, pursuing a major in education. Erna Jane Bagwell, the second 1965 winner, has begun her studies toward a major in chemistry and pre-med at the

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Neil Tate is the most recent Gastonia-area student to graduate on a Firestone scholarship. With a major in political science from Wake Forest, he has started work on the MA degree in political science at Tulane University. He is studying under a fellowship program for future college teachers, sponsored by a Ford Foundation grant.

## The 100-Level DeLuxe Champion

Stylish . . . Dependable . . . Durable . . . Supersafe. The new 100-level DeLuxe Champion tire from Firestone. It comes on most of the 1966 automobiles. There are many improvements in the all-new tire with the wrap-around tread for better cornering. Whitewall is slightly



more than a half inch wide. Five years ago the average whitewall was two and a half inches. Firestone Akron secretary Sara Wolford shows off the new tire.

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## That First Thanksgiving — In North Carolina

Thanksgiving Day, with its sideline traditions of turkey dinners, football games and commercialized festivals, is essentially a religious observance. It is a time for giving thanks to God for the harvest and His boundless blessings during the year.

It all began, we are told in history and reference books, by the Pilgrims in New England. The Pilgrim influence has pervaded American life. They set a pattern of courage and faith and their story has been told to generations of school children. Today we honor their high purpose and keep it as a part of our tra-

dition.

Added to the tradition from Old Plymouth are some other facts which also go into our Thanksgiving Story.

In recent years a number of articles have appeared which bring to light some obscure history on the subject.

**ONE ARTICLE** by John Gould, a citizen of Maine and himself a descendant of Pilgrims, says that the Mayflower's passengers were not the first settlers in New England—that in one instance, there was a landing of Englishmen on the shore of Maine Aug. 9, 1607. And, he adds, "the arriving settlers immediately held a service

of thanksgiving for their safe crossing of the severe North Atlantic."

This, of course, was before the Pilgrims came in 1620.

More interesting still is word from the distinguished historian-editor Virginius Dabney who presents evidence that Southerners started Thanksgiving at least 14 years before the Pilgrims. Says Dabney:

"The first Thanksgiving held in America" has long been credited to the Pilgrim Fathers. Major histories and encyclopedias unite in declaring that our annual custom of giving thanks began at Plymouth in 1621.

Mr. Dabney goes on to say that the first Thanksgiving in this country occurred in April, 1607, when the Jamestown colonists erected a cross and knelt to give thanks for their safe arrival. Another well - document-

ed service of thanksgiving was held at Jamestown in June 1610, and "it was conducted by the emaciated survivors of the 'starving time.'"

Dabney holds that the most significant of the early Thanksgiving services in Virginia was held in 1619 by the "39 settlers who had just landed at Berkley Hundred up the James River from Jamestown. It was the first in America to be formally designated as 'Thanksgiving Day', with directions that it be repeated annually thereafter."



**THE HISTORIAN** could have gone further and given credit to North Carolina. From his own

account, he wrote that at least two Thanksgiving services were held in Virginia more than a decade before 1621—not counting one described by Capt. Arthur Barlowe (who had been sent out to Virginia by Sir Walter Raleigh) as having been held there by his expedition in 1584.

This places the first Thanksgiving in America in the present North Carolina. The Amadas and Barlowe expedition entered Pamlico Sound and reached an island which the Indians called Roanoke. Later the land was christened "Virginia" but that part of it visited by Barlowe is now in North Carolina.

Credit for being "first" is not so important. It is good to know that our forefathers generally expressed a spirit of thanksgiving to God for His blessings. And in this free land still, we, too, have the same privilege.