

CARL SMITH

# He Set Himself A Goal And Reached It

Resigning to the notion that "it's too late to begin" has robbed many a person of achieving worthwhile goals in life. Carl E. Smith looks at it this way, and his experience reinforces the viewpoint.

A weaver in tire-cord production, he has nearly 19 years of Firestone service. He started out in spooling, moved along to other jobs and has been in weaving the past 15 years.

Some months ago, Smith's wife and three sons shared his pride when he completed work for a high-school diploma. Smith got the late start because an illness interrupted his schooling when a teenager.

But in the ensuing years he'd kept faith in returning to school. And he did. It took three years in evening classes at Clover, S. C., High School to achieve his purpose.

AFTER EARNING that diploma, Smith moved on to evening adult education work at Gaston Community College, where he has completed a course in human relations and



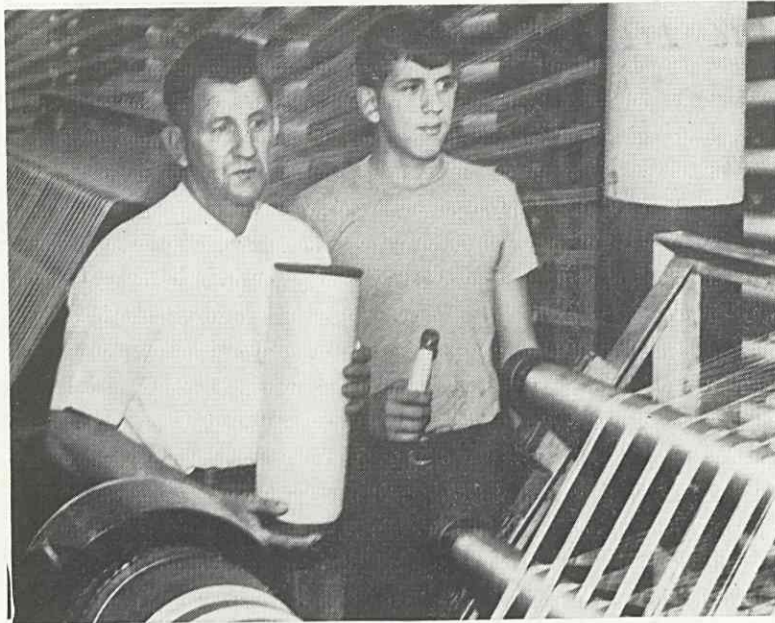
• "Sheltering a Heritage—North Carolina's Historic Buildings" is a new 32-page booklet of text and pictures treating 56 historic buildings in the State, many of them open to the public. You can request a free copy from Travel & Promotion Division, Raleigh 27602.

another in education through visitation. He plans to begin another course in the GCC program which is sponsored by the local Industrial Management Club.

The Smiths get their mail on a rural route out of Kings Mountain, but their home is located just inside the York County, S. C. line. The sons attend Clover schools. David will be in the 11th grade this fall. Also in the upcoming term, Ronnie will begin the 9th grade; Charles, the 6th grade.

The boys have plans for education beyond high school, with their parents lending strong encouragement.

Mrs. Smith (Geneva) used to work at Firestone. Her father, J. N. Crawford, is retired from mechanical service. Geneva is a



• Carl Smith and son David on the job in weaving-TC.

sales representative for a cosmetic retailer.

This summer David is working at Firestone. In the same department with his father, he handles creeling and other assignments. He is representative

of the many youth who are employed here during summer months.

## Tell The Glamor

• We are not making full use of the inherent glamor of our textile industry. We ought to do a "better selling job," believes Charles Myers, president of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute. In a recent speech, Mr. Myers asked:

"Do the youth of our communities know of the industry's vital role in the nation's economy and defense?"

"Do they know of the industry that has raised wages eight times within the last eight years?"

"Do they know of the industry that has increased minority employment four times faster than any other industry?"

"Do they know of the tremendous growth potential that textiles has for the coming 10 years—that it could become 50 per cent larger than now, by 1975?"

## Radiator Hoses To Radial Tires

• Comfortable riding in an automobile is depending more and more these days on products of the U.S. textile industry. Looking at some figures from last year, we note that in a year's time the auto industry uses the equivalent of almost 2 million 500-pound bales of textiles for everything from radiator hoses to radial tires.

Examples: More than 225 million square yards of fabric go into headlinings and upholstery; 72 million yards are used for seat covers; more than 30 million yards make up convertible and landau tops, and about 60 million yards of carpet cover floorboards.

Well more than half a billion pounds of cord and fabric are used in tires.

In 1968 nearly 100 million motor vehicles traveled 1 trillion and 10 billion miles on the nation's roads and streets. That amounts to near 40 million trips around the world.

## SPINDLE FAIR Industry Exhibits

Products made in Gaston County will be exhibited at this year's Spindle Center Agricultural Fair, Sept. 8-13.

The Fair will be a salute to Gaston manufacturers, with almost all locally-originated products being represented.

Spindle Center Agricultural Fair, through its name, gives continuing recognition to textiles. In terms of persons employed in the industry, Gaston usually leads all other counties in North Carolina's "Metrolina" region.

Spindle Center Agricultural Fair location is east of Gastonia, off U.S. 29 near Lowell.

## They Liked What They Saw

They knew of the Firestone Los Angeles plant which produces tires and industrial products. But Mr. and Mrs. James L. Fore of San Gabriel, Calif., wanted to see the tire fabric in production.

So, while they and their three children were visiting in Gastonia last month, they took time out to visit Firestone. With them came James' mother, Mrs. Gladys Fore, who worked here in splicing and weaving several years ago.

"A lot of changes since I worked here," she observed, going on the tour with her son and daughter-in-law. Mrs. Fore, now in Gastonia, lived for five years in California. Her brothers-in-law Carol Holden and Dock Terry are veteran Firestone employees—both in twisting-TC.

James Fore is a foreman in production of oil-well pumps. Mrs. Fore, a native Californian, especially considered the Firestone stop a good feature of the vacation East.

She, her husband and the youngsters—two boys and a girl—came by station wagon and camper trailer. They took the Southern way into Meridian, Birmingham and on to Atlanta, where they visited relatives before coming to North Carolina.

Homeward bound from Gastonia, they went by Blowing Rock to Chattanooga. Out of Oklahoma City they took Route 66 to the West Coast.

Among other Gastonia Firestone plant visitors last month were Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Spinek of Baltimore, Md. Mr. Spinek, a journalist with Hearst newspapers; and Mrs. Spinek, a teacher, were on a vacation trip through several Southern states.

For a close look at industry, they chose Firestone as representative of a textile operation.

25,  
30  
Years



Kathleen Hodge Twisting-TC



Ernest Jolly Weaving-TC



Maxine Calhoun Weaving-TC



Warren Jackson Chafer Weaving



Mary Lankford Twisting-TC

## Long Service

Of long service records, Kathleen Hodge led the list in July at Gastonia, having begun her 31st year of employment. Seven others joined her last month to mark work anniversaries of 15, 20 and 25 years. Pictures here are of 25 and 30-year employees. Not pictured of July group: Rosie Parson, twisting-TC, 25 years.

The others on July service list:

**Twenty Years** • Will Roosevelt Howard, chafer weaving.

**Fifteen Years** • Annie Devern Humphrey, twisting (tire cord).

The 25 and 30-year record holders were presented the company "standard" \$100 check as a token of appreciation for long and faithful service. Also, in appreciation, the engraved service watch goes to those with 20 years.

Beginning at 5-year records and at 5-year intervals thereafter, all persons are awarded the lapel/blouse pin denoting length of service.

• Schools providing instruction in the various processes of textile manufacturing are located from Massachusetts to Alabama. A leading one is North Carolina Vocational Textile School at Belmont. It offers instruction in the technology of weaving & designing, mill maintenance, tailoring, knitting, yarn manufacturing. Also there are

## People and Places IN THE NEWS

It's another two-year term of service on the Bessemer City town council for Ted Williams of mechanical service. The Firestone employee was one of the top vote-getters in the BC municipal election early this summer. He represents Ward 2.

Others of the six-man council are J. Meek Capps, Ward 1; Neil Barnes, Ward 3; S. R. Pearson Jr., Ward 4; J. O. Parker, Ward 5; D. R. Carpenter, Ward 6.

They serve in the town government with Mayor Clyde Servis, a retired Army colonel.

Raymond J. Hoots Jr., Firestone engineer in fabric treating, and Marjorie Ann Cleve-

land were married July 12 in Fort Valley, Ga. Marjorie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Cleveland of Fort Valley, was graduated from high school there; and Salem College, Winston-Salem.

Raymond is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Hoots of Winston-Salem. He was graduated from Reynolds High School and received a degree in textile engineering at NC State University. Mr. and Mrs. Hoots live in Gastonia.

special courses in other subjects with a relationship or application to textiles.

## Firestone NEWS

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## GASTONIA

Claude C. Callaway, Editor

Monthly publication of the Gastonia, N. C., plant of Firestone Synthetic Fibers and Textiles Company, a division of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio. Division headquarters, Hopewell, Va. Robert W. Rice, president. John V. Darwin, Gastonia plant manager.

Plant Offices Warehouses

Carding—Payton Lewis Industrial Relations—Jeanne Baumgarner Main Office—Bea McCarter Mechanical Dept.—Rosie Francum Quality Control—Louella Queen, Leila Rape

## REPORTERS

Twisting (synthetics)—Elease Cole, Katie Elkins. Warp Preparation—Elmina Bradshaw, Nell Bolick Warehouse—Harold Robinson, Israel Good, Roosevelt Rainey Weaving (cotton) — Ruth Veitch BENNETTSVILLE PLANT Faye Shankle, Mary H. Oliver, Sylvia Lockamy, Louise S. Preston—Reporters.

• The Firestone Ghana Ltd., factory at Bonsaso this spring became the country's first tire plant. Its opening brought to 59 the number of Firestone plants operating outside the U.S. The facility is able to produce almost all the tires and tubes for Ghana's passenger cars, trucks, buses and tractors.