

FC677.1
F52

Christmas 1969



**FIRESTONE EMPLOYEES
AND YOUR FAMILIES**

As we observe another Holiday Season, may it be for each of us in the Spirit of that First Christmas—its Glorious Message having renewed meaning for us all.

May this Christmas be a time of Homecoming, if only in spirit; and Warmth, Color and Happiness, enjoyed or remembered.

My sincere wish is that the Christmas Message will bless your life with Happiness and understanding this Season and throughout the New Year.

JOHN V. DARWIN
Plant Manager • Gastonia

Firestone NEWS

DECEMBER • 1969

**GASTONIA
NORTH CAROLINA**

Gastonia Textile Unit Headquarters

• James B. Call Is President

James B. Call joined the Firestone company in 1947 as a time-study trainee with the steel products division. Last month he came to Gastonia as president of the newly-designated Firestone Textiles Company.

Richard A. Riley, vice president for Firestone's diversified products, announced Mr. Call's appointment. In a meeting at the Gastonia plant, he also announced the formation of two units of the diversified products division of which the textiles operation is a part.

Upon the realignment, Gastonia became headquarters of

the unit of which Mr. Call is president. It includes the Gastonia operation, the company's textiles plants at Bennettsville, S. C. and at Bowling Green, Ky.

John V. Darwin continues plant manager at Gastonia. Ralph King is manager of the Bennettsville factory; Francis B. Galligan is manager of the Bowling Green operation.

SINCE early 1968, the company had been known as Firestone Synthetic Fibers and Textiles Company, with headquarters at Hopewell, Va.



JAMES B. CALL
President of Firestone Textiles Company, with plants at Gastonia, Bennettsville, S. C., and Bowling Green, Ky.

More on page 3

UA Provides 37 Services

Gaston County's 1969-70 United Appeal campaign officially closed in mid-November, but wrap-up collections continued for several days, toward gathering the near-\$10,000 short of the \$498,000 target figure.

Final contribution in the in-plant Firestone solicitation this year was \$31,653.15.

At the close of the official UA campaign, General Chairman Dr. Gary Levinson said that 1 per cent of pledges over the county was yet to be collected.

Levinson noted that the 98 per cent realized of the goal during the official campaign period was a "realistic achievement."

"I finish this campaign knowing that I live in a community that cares," he added.

"The people didn't let us down—they supported the effort."

MONEY GIFTS to United Appeal go toward operation of 37 local and national people-helping services in Gastonia, Dallas, Cherryville, Lowell,

Mount Holly, Cramerton, Stanley and Ranlo.

Of the agencies financially undergirded for 1970 operation, there are 23 local and 14 national services. All of them benefit Gaston County people primarily, also others in communities represented in the Firestone, Gastonia, employment.

Matching Gifts To Education

Twenty persons who work at Firestone, Gastonia, each made a contribution in the "help the college of your choice" plan through the company's matching-gifts program to educational institutions this year.

The report dated to early November, with additional gifts to be counted through December of the current calendar year.

Four institutions of higher learning benefited from the Gastonia-employee gifts which amounted to \$500. The matching company gift brought that figure to \$1,000.

AS OF the November report, 279 colleges and universities had been named beneficiaries of 534 money gifts from Firestone employees throughout the country. Amount donated was \$128,679 which, matched by the company, brought the total to \$247,538.

The Firestone matching-gifts program to educational institutions was begun in 1967. When an employee, or the husband or wife of an employee, contrib-

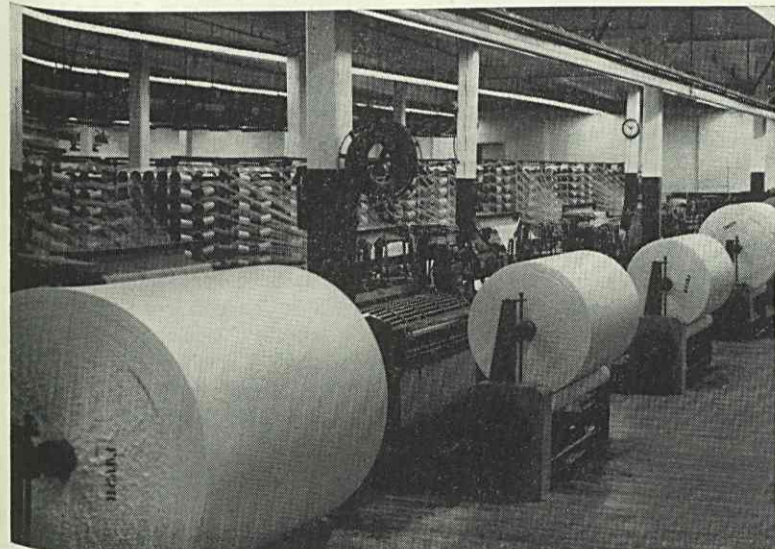
utes up to \$1,000 per year to any accredited tax-supported college or university in the United States or up to \$2,000 per year to any accredited non-tax-supported college, university or secondary school in the country, the company donates an equal amount.

TO BE matched, an employee's gift must be at least \$25.

Firestone is among the some 350 corporations which match or otherwise supplement employees' gifts to education.

As a direct result of matching programs in effect, educational institutions have received well more than \$45 million over the past 12 years.

The "matching plan" is the most-recently-established segment of Firestone's broad aid-to-education program.



• Modern looms and other updated equipment, together with dedicated skills of people on the job, turn out high-quality tire fabric, all from man-made fibers.

**Product:
Tire Fabric**

Some Holiday Goodies

• Isadora Brumbles, preparation department. She shares a good Old Southern recipe—Page 4.



SC Plant: 27th Year

Firestone's textile plant at Bennettsville, S. C. is entering its 27th year of operation—now exclusively in tire-fabric production.

The factory, one of the leading employers of South Carolina's Upper Coastal Plain, became a Firestone facility in late 1943. Many years before that, the factory had been operated as a section of Marlboro Cotton Mills.

During the more than a quarter-century of Firestone ownership and operation, the plant has been converted from wholly-cotton processing to synthetic tire fabrics exclusively.

Major improvements in recent years include construction of the present main office building, installation of fluorescent lighting and air conditioning, interior painting and color-coding for safety; installation of updated machinery and equipment.

Ralph King has been factory manager since 1966.

Gamble Heads Optimist Club

O'Neil Gamble became president of the Optimist Club of Firestone, when new leadership took office this fall. Outgoing president Thomas A. Grant became an ex-officio member of the board of directors. From Optimist International, Grant was awarded an engraved plaque in token of "outstanding leadership as club president for the year 1968-69."

Besides Gamble, Firestone men who are current officers are Ray Thomas, first vice-president; Joe Brooks, secretary-treasurer. Earl Redding is chaplain; Freddie Elkins, sergeant-at-arms.

Of the present board of directors, five are from Firestone: Thomas A. Grant, Samuel Crawford, James Burr, Thomas Yelton, Elam Kaylor.

All past presidents of the club are Firestone men: T. E. Gibson, Jr., Freddie Elkins, Thomas A. Grant, and Payton Lewis (retired).

Service Ended

Retired this fall at Firestone, Bennettsville: Henry H. Sanders, who had been shipping clerk and maintenance superintendent for the past 24 years.

At Sanders' retirement, Otis W. Frye was promoted to shipping clerk and maintenance superintendent. Frye, with 20 years service, had been in quality control.