

• Magan Patel (left) and Chiman Patel grew up in "textile country" of India. For them now, it's tire-fabric production at the Firestone Gastonia plant.

FROM INDIA To Work And To Learn

From the southwest coast of India on the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, to the United States and Gaston County:

To learn and to work.

Although they have the same last name, Magan P. Patel and Chiman M. Patel are not related. Their hometowns are near each other back home.

The Gaston Community College students have been on the second shift at Firestone since late March. They like their work as loom starters, and sometimes they get to try their hand at weaving.

"SINCE COMING here, many of our friends told us of Firestone. So we were glad they took us when we applied for a job during our stay at Gaston College," said Magan.

The students had known of Firestone back in India, especially because of the company's two plants located in that country—Bareilly (butadaine, synthetic rubber and styrene), and Bombay (tires and tubes).

In their home country, the horizontal hand loom (forerunner, in principle, of the loom on which they are working here) was perfected nearly 3,000 years ago.

Magan is from Motipura; Chiman, from Vadu. Both towns are near Ahmedabad, northwest of Bombay.

"Ahmedabad, with more than a half-million population is a big textile center—cotton mills and other factories which process all the modern synthetic fibers," notes Chiman.

Magan, at Gaston College the past two quarters, is studying for a career in civil engineering. In the U.S. the past two years, he came at the urging of a brother who went to college in this country and stayed on as an engineer in Chicago.

Back home, Magan has three more brothers and three sisters.

Of his many memorable experiences, Magan likes to recall his trip to Chicago and Detroit—with their pictures of bustling commerce and industry, and the contrasting primitive atmosphere of Mackinac Island "at the top end of Michigan."

"MACKINAC'S quaint and Old World-like," he remembers. "No motorcars—just horse-

• More, Page 4

Firestone NEWS

JUNE • 1970

GASTONIA
NORTH CAROLINA

1970 Scouting Awards

RICHARD REDANO
MEDALLION WINNER

"Richard has a fine record in Scouting, and deserves the honor" (the Raymond C. Firestone Award for 1970), recommended Ralph F. Johnson, Firestone employee relations manager and coordinator of the company's Boy Scout Honors program in Gaston County.

For Richard Theodore Redano, there were other high recommendations. Bruce Wofford, his Scoutmaster, said:

"He is a very bright boy . . . shows a lot of Scout enthusiasm; helps the younger boys at meetings. Knows his Scout work well."

Added Father Gregory of St. Michael's Church:

"He is a lad of high ideals, loyal, adaptable, studious, and ambitious in the right way."

So, for outstanding excellence in Scouting, Richard Redano became the 25th Gaston County Boy Scout to receive the Firestone company's high honor. Presentation was at the annual Scout Dinner in the plant recreation center, May 21.

The award, presented by James B. Call, president of Firestone Textiles Company, is symbolized by the prized Silver Medallion. Richard also received a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, and a company check of \$23.60 to apply on expenses for a week's stay at Schiele Scout Reservation in Polk County, or for his purchase of scouting equipment.

Richard was singled out from among 35 Gaston County Scouts who were all recognized for their noteworthy achievement over the past year.

The other 34 each were presented a Certificate of Merit

and a \$23.60 check for camp expenses or for equipment.

Richard Redano, a member of Gastonia Troop 13, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph R. Redano, 1612 Belmar Drive. He has been in Scouting since late

1967. Richard, who will be 14 in July, is an Eagle Scout with 24 Merit badges. He attends St. Michael's School and Church.

Among the 34 Scouts receiving Certificates of Merit was Jon S. Ward, 1969 winner of the Medallion top award. Jon is in Gastonia Troop 25.

The other 33 honored at the May 21 dinner:

• More, Page 2

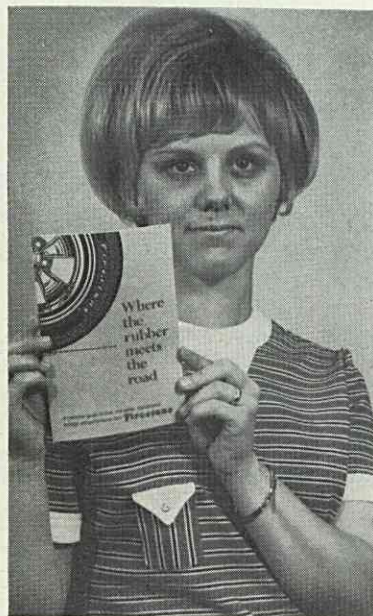


• Richard Redano, winner of inscribed Silver Medallion, congratulated by James B. Call, president of Firestone Textiles Company. With them is Scout's pastor, Fr. Gregory Eichenlaub of St. Michael's Church.

Booklet Tells About Tires

A car rides on four "rubber footprints" not much larger than a page in The Reader's Digest magazine. And since a car's directional control, roadability and riding comfort are greatly dependent on the tires, you ought to carefully select and maintain your tires.

These are facts from a Firestone-sponsored consumer guide to tires, tire safety, maintenance and performance, the guide a removable section of the June issue of The Reader's Digest.



• Carol (Mrs. Michael) Payne, secretary in the quality control department at Gastonia, wants you to have a copy of the Firestone consumer guide to tires.

The booklet, "Where the Rubber Meets the Road", has 12 pages of illustration and text describing types of tire construction, tire sizes and other terms. It has a questionnaire as a tire-buying guide, has advice on maintenance, tells how tires are engineered and tested.

INCLUDED in the booklet is a certificate for a complimentary tire-rotation and inspection service. The company is making the offer to encourage motorists to get started on a regular program of tire care.

The booklet, intended to "clear up confusion about tires," deals with basic construction and different types of tires, advice on tire maintenance, and other helpful information.

Additional copies of "Where the Rubber Meets the Road", including quantities for driver-training classes or other groups, are available at no cost from the company's consumer relations department.

Firestone employee inquiries in the Gastonia and Bennettsville locations may be made to the personnel office of either plant.

'We're Looking For Your Suggestion'

At least one suggestion from every person on the job during the year. That's the goal of the suggestion committee at Gastonia and at Bennettsville Firestone plants during 1970.

And the harvest of ideas is always ripe, reminds William D. Teague, chief accountant in main office and chairman of the Gastonia Firestone plant committee on suggestions.

"When your suggestions have merit and promise a useful application with our company, everyone will benefit and the author of the idea gets paid for sharing it," Teague adds.

One good thing to keep remembering, he continues, is that payment for suggestions is based on their projected value to the company.

The suggestion committee makes every effort to carefully and fairly consider each suggestion turned in. The value of each idea is thoroughly studied

and weighed and when it shows merit, the committee assigns a price payment to the person who turned it in.

Ralph Johnson, manager of employee relations and secretary of the Gastonia suggestion committee, points up three major ways a person on the job can "glean a harvest of ideas":

• **Examine Your Own Job.** Some of the best ideas spring from this source. Since you are familiar with your own work, you are in a good position to examine such questions as "Is there an easier way?" "Is this step or process necessary?" "How can I improve the quality of my work?" "Can I do it quicker, better, and with less effort?"

• **Make A Breakdown Of**

Your Job. Try jotting down all operations by steps, and think of which ones might be eliminated or improved upon by your ideas. Put each one on paper and study it through. Make some sketches if you think that will help put across your thinking. Such artwork need not be fancy.

• **Develop The Observation Habit.** Look all around you, beyond your own job "circle." From an almost endless list, here are some things to look for:

Operations that can be simplified, combined, rearranged, refined. Needless operations or parts of operations.

Eliminating needless work, overlapping effort, wasted time. Improving methods of production. How about better equipment to do a better job?

Reducing or eliminating waste materials. Adding convenience; promoting safety; improving worker relationships.

"As you look for ideas, you'll see that this list can grow much longer," says Johnson, and adds:

"We're looking for your suggestion."