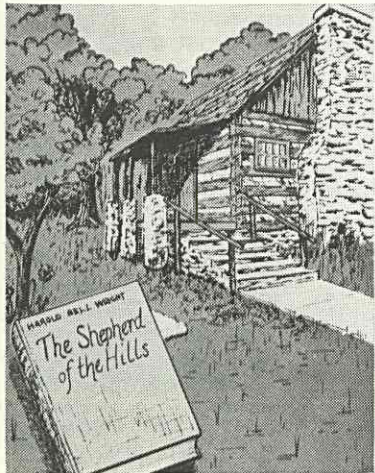


Firestone

NEWS

GASTONIA
NORTH CAROLINA

JULY • 1970



Travel Trails

• LONG-RANGE VACATION TRAVEL? Out in the Missouri Ozarks it's another season of the live re-enactment of Harold Bell Wright's immortal story, "The Shepherd of the Hills." See "People Going Places," page 4, for notes on this and other vacation "treats."

At 1970 NC

Safety Meeting

Fred Hardee, general foreman in weaving-TC, was one of eight men from industry who took part in a safety-speechmaking competition at the 1970 North Carolina Safety Conference in late May at Winston-Salem.

First-place winner was Samuel Williams, a supervisor with a Kannapolis textile firm.

Participants represented the eight across-the-State safety councils operated under sponsorship of the NC Industrial Commission. Hardee represented the Blue Ridge Safety Council which is comprised of Gaston, Cleveland, Rutherford, Burke, Polk, McDowell and Lincoln counties of the Western Piedmont and Foothills region.

The Firestone supervisor won a place in the Winston-Salem speechmaking in industrial safety by taking first honors and a prize of \$75 in the Blue Ridge regional contest this spring.

Besides Hardee, Firestone people attending the State Safety Conference were James B. Call, president of Firestone Textiles Company; and plant management staff members H. G. Hall, Terry Kirby, Ray Thomas, Raymond Mack and Carl Rape; also Mrs. Hardee and Mrs. Rape.

☆☆☆

• A recent survey of the tire industry shows that there are more different rayon-cord passenger car tires on the market today than ever before. These include all types: Conventional 2 and 4-ply/bias tires, the new belted-bias variety, and radial-ply tires, for both automobile original equipment and the replacement market.

AT BENNETTSVILLE

High Safety Achievement

Firestone's Bennettsville textile plant continues to extend its outstanding record of safe on-the-job operation. It is in the seventh month of operating toward its second million manhours without a disabling injury.

For its first million manhours of injury-free operation in recent years, the South Carolina plant of Firestone Textiles Company has received two major awards:

The National Safety Council's Award of Merit and the Certificate of Safety Achievement from the State of South Carolina Department of Labor.

The Award of Merit, second highest recognition which the National Safety Council makes for industrial and institutional safety, is the second one which the Bennettsville plant has received (the first was in 1956).

For what achievement was the most recent NSC Award of Merit presented? In recognition of the plant's operation for 1,038,205 manhours without a disabling injury, over the period of Feb. 9, 1966 through Dec. 31, 1969.

Historic Day Recalled At SC Plant

In its June 12 issue, the Bennettsville (S.C.) Marlboro Herald-Advocate recalled a page of Firestone history. This from the column "Backward Glances" (from the files 25 years ago):

"In a very imposing ceremony at the Firestone Textile plant on Tuesday, the joint Army-

Navy "E" Award was presented to the employees by Lt. Col. Alexander R. Davis of the office of Chief of Ordnance.

"The program commenced exactly at 2 p.m., when a squadron of planes from the Maxton Base zoomed at tree-top level over the plant."

IN TOP 10 AT National Spelling Bee

Robinette Caldwell, Gaston County's spelling whiz, finished in the top 10 in the 43rd National Spelling Bee at Washington, D. C., in June.

Robinette "acquitted herself well", in fact, turned in the best performance ever by a Gaston County contestant. The word she drew in the 13th round she'd never heard of: "kulak". She tried with "kulack."

But she'd remained in the tough competition, outlasting 63 of the other 74 young spellers from across the nation and as far away as Okinawa. Another

North Carolina girl, Libby Childress of Mt. Airy was declared winner.

The young spellers represented the best of 7.5 million school children involved in the national competition.

Robinette, who will be a ninth-grader at Gastonia's Myrtle School this fall, earned a \$75 prize for her good spelling in Washington. She had won the opportunity to compete in the finals by taking the Charlotte regional contest in April.

WHEN she won the regional title this year, it was the third time she had gone to Charlotte as Gaston County Champion. That first time she was the youngest ever to make the regional finals in the fourth grade. She missed out the next two years but came back to win a second time last year. Her win this year was her "last chance" of eligibility.

Robinette's participation and expenses-paid trip to Washington were sponsored by The Charlotte Observer. Besides her \$75 prize in the national competition, in regional honors she had won a 24-volume set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, a Britannica Book of the Year, and a pen and pencil set. Also, her school will receive a Britannica film each month during the upcoming school year.

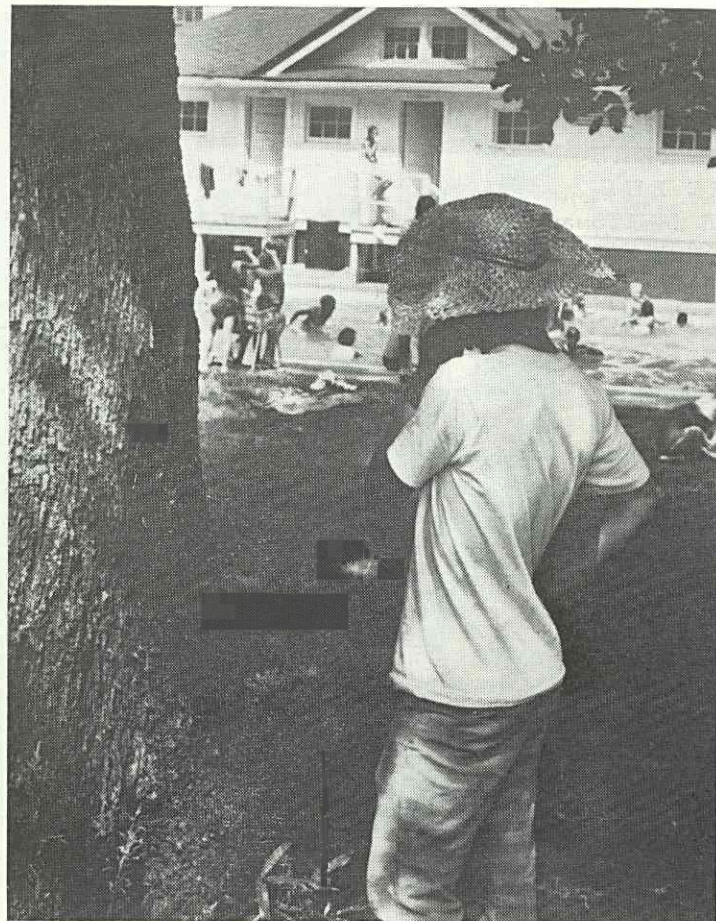
With Robinette in Washington for the spelling bee were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hollifield (Mrs. Hollifield works in

Has Second ABWA Award

Nancy Moore received one of the two scholarship awards presented this year by the Gastonia chapter, American Business Women's Association. It was the second consecutive year that Nancy had received the ABWA award.

Nancy, who was a Firestone summer employee last year, is this year attending summer school at University of North Carolina—Greensboro. She will begin her junior year there this fall.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Moore of Gastonia, her father works in the Firestone shop.



A Good Place To Play

Firestone Playground, along with 16 others in the Gastonia City Recreation Department system, went into "full business" in June. The season will continue toward mid-August.

Playgrounds have leaders who completed a 10 hour Red Cross first-aid course as the season opened.

Besides the usual recreational pursuits which the playgrounds offer, this season's program has a wide assortment of activities

• That's Keybow Sanders under the Huck Finn hat—enjoying shade of the Big Oak at Firestone Playground. He was watching other youngsters take a quick-cool dip in the wading pool.

and special events on schedule. These include crafts instruction, tournaments in marbles, horse-shoes, and other competition.

Other events in special weeks will run to Aug. 14, when Back to School Week will be observed with a farewell party. At season's end, a "best all around" girl and boy will be selected at each playground.

Latex Terminal At Savannah

The textile industry is benefiting from a modern, new latex terminal operated by the Firestone Natural Rubber & Latex Company. It was opened recently in Savannah, Ga., as 1,245 tons of latex from Firestone's Liberian plantations were discharged into the storage facility.

The terminal, leased from the Georgia Ports Authority and operated by Firestone, has a capacity of 440,000 gallons, or 3,500,000 pounds of liquid latex. A. G. Lund, president of Firestone's Natural Rubber division, said:

"Demand for natural rubber latex is increasing in general manufacturing, and in the carpet and textile industries in particular. Sales in the U.S. have increased nearly 40 per cent over the past five years, and this new terminal will enable the company to provide better distribution facilities and service to our carpet and textile customers in the Southeast."

Latex from Firestone's rubber plantations in Liberia comes into the new terminal for re-shipment to customers.



• Robinette and (what else?) a dictionary. One of her most helpful word-study sources has been **PRACTICAL ENGLISH & THE COMMAND OF WORDS**, a gift of her aunt, Jean Brock, a Firestone secretary.

splicing at Firestone, Gastonia); and Robinette's aunt, Mrs. C. L. Brock, secretary in the office of F. B. Galligan, division general factory manager of Firestone Textiles Company.

SOUL FOOD. ANYONE?
See 'Dispatch From Chinquapin Cove' on Page 3 •