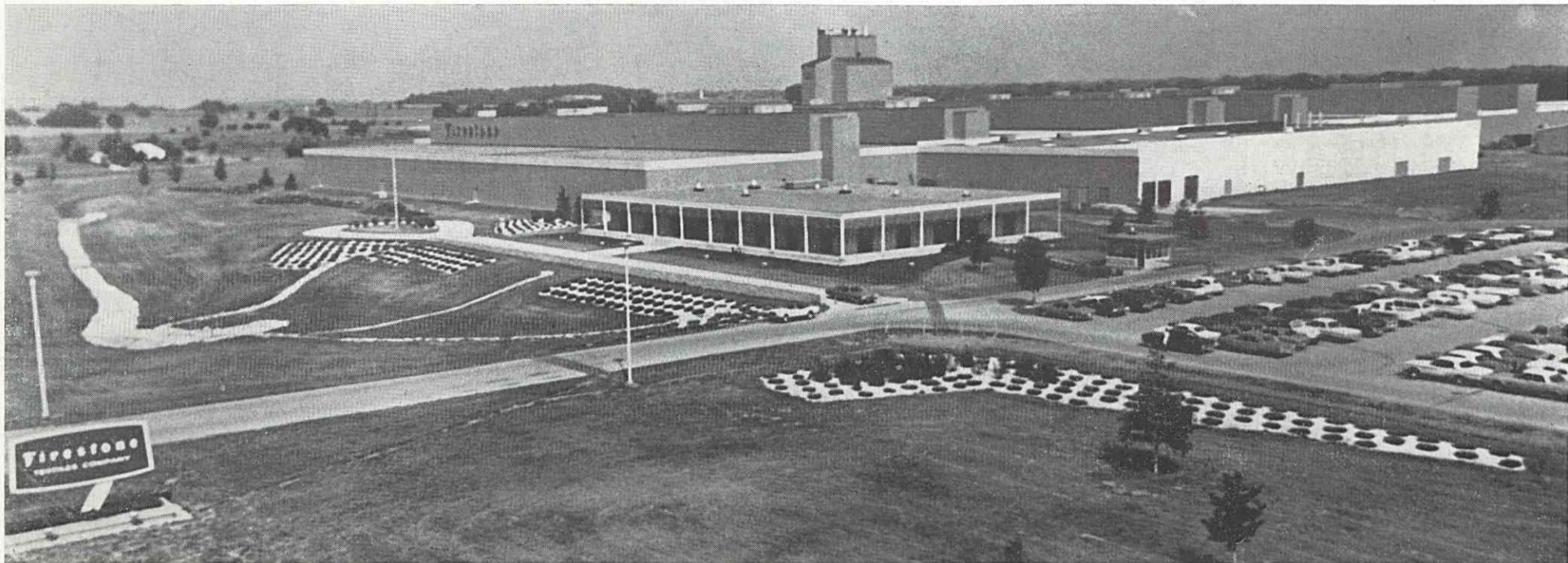


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Tire Fabric From Kentucky

•• Firestone Textiles Company's fabric-producing installation outside Bowling Green, Ky., is newest of the three company division units (Gastonia plant dates to 1935; Bennettsville, S. C., to 1943).

The Bowling Green operation began producing fabric in early 1968 in major section (back left in photo). Behind

shop (right foreground) another production unit was later constructed.

Fabric-treating unit No. 9 (center background) is similar to No. 8 at Gastonia.

Firestone Bowling Green plant was the first textile facility of its kind in Kentucky.



Stories Behind The Names

Firestone Textiles Company production facilities for tire cord-fabric are at Gastonia, N. C. (headquarters), Bennettsville, S. C., and Bowling Green, Ky.

Of these place names, there is only the one Gastonia and the one Bennettsville in all the 50 States. But Bowling Green, Ky., shares its place name with seven other states: Florida, Indiana, Missouri, New York, Ohio, South Carolina and Virginia.

The Kentucky Bowling Green is the largest town of the eight with that name. Next largest is Bowling Green, Ohio. The other six are villages and hamlets.

Gastonia, Bennettsville and Bowling Green. Whence came the names?

Gaston County and its seat of government, Gastonia, are both named for William Gaston, whose fame dates to the early 1800s. He was a U.S. Congressman from North Carolina, later a justice of the NC Supreme Court; and maybe best remembered as writer of "The Old North State Forever" song. Gastonia was incorporated in 1877.

Bennettsville, seat of government for Marlboro County, S.C., was named in honor of Gov. Thomas Bennett. He was South Carolina's Chief Executive at the time of Bennettsville's founding in 1819.

Bowling Green, Ky., a frontier outpost founded in 1780, was incorporated in 1812. The crossroads town in the New West

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Firestone GASTONIA NORTH CAROLINA NEWS

MARCH • 1971

AFTER 36 YEARS

Camp Firestone Closed

A fond farewell to Camp Firestone on Lake James. The Firestone Textiles employee retreat in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Marion closed its 36th consecutive season last October—fittingly, as the "Rooftop of Eastern America" was "decked out in flame and gold."

Upcoming early May would have been the beginning of a new season. However, the camp will not open, because Firestone Textiles Company management announced in February that the facility is being closed permanently.

President James B. Call said the decision was based on a study of attendance over the past several years. The review showed a declining interest in employees' use of the camp, especially on week days.

"Cost of maintaining the facility has increased excessively over the past several years," said Mr. Call. "In view of this, management felt that the small number of our people using the

camp did not justify our continuing its operation."

Mr. Call pointed out that the money the company would spend in continued maintenance and operation of the camp will be applied to other employee-benefits programs.

Camp Firestone Opened In 1935 • That was the year the company began operating the Gastonia plant. Manville-Jenckes, former owners of the Gastonia facility, had operated the Lake James retreat under the name Camp Bridgewater. Nebo is the postoffice there, Bridgewater being a neighborhood nearby.

The camp was one of the South's first recreation facilities

operated by an industry for its employees.

Through the years it has provided employees and members of their families a place for fun, rest and relaxation in a rustic, scenic setting.

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Two More Awards For UCS Participation

The Gastonia Firestone plant and its people for the second year received the Award of Excellence from United Community Services of Gaston County at its annual honors meeting in February.

At the same time, Firestone again was presented the Outstanding Citizenship Award — this the 12th consecutive one. Both awards pay tribute to exceptional company - employee contribution to the UA fund-gathering effort last fall.

The Award of Excellence is the highest UA honor bestowed

for outstanding achievement. The Citizenship Award recognizes participation of 80 per cent or more and pledges averaging \$10 or more among employment of business and industrial firms, schools, hospitals and other institutions.

The plant's contribution to the last UA drive was through vol-

unteer service in the campaign and the in-plant pledges of \$35,258.20 — largest amount ever solicited here.

Contributions averaged 29.43 of total number giving.

Firestone participation in the campaign was a determining contribution to the success of the funds drive, which earned for the Gaston County United Appeal the Jefferson Standard—North Carolina United Appeal Award.

LOST TO USE BUT DEAR TO MEMORY • Through the trees, the row of cabins down the hill to the boat landing, and (right) water's edge in cove on Lake James.

