

# Firestone



## NEWS

### Bennettsville

## Six Years Of Safety

•• Six years doing business without a time-loss injury. At the Bennettsville Firestone Textiles plant, that represents some 1,570,000 manhours at the job of producing tire fabric.

This signal achievement in injury control was marked in February.

"We made that day a historic one," said factory manager Edwin Fuller. "Of course, we kept right on working safely, but when refreshment breaks came during the day, the goodies were 'on the house'."

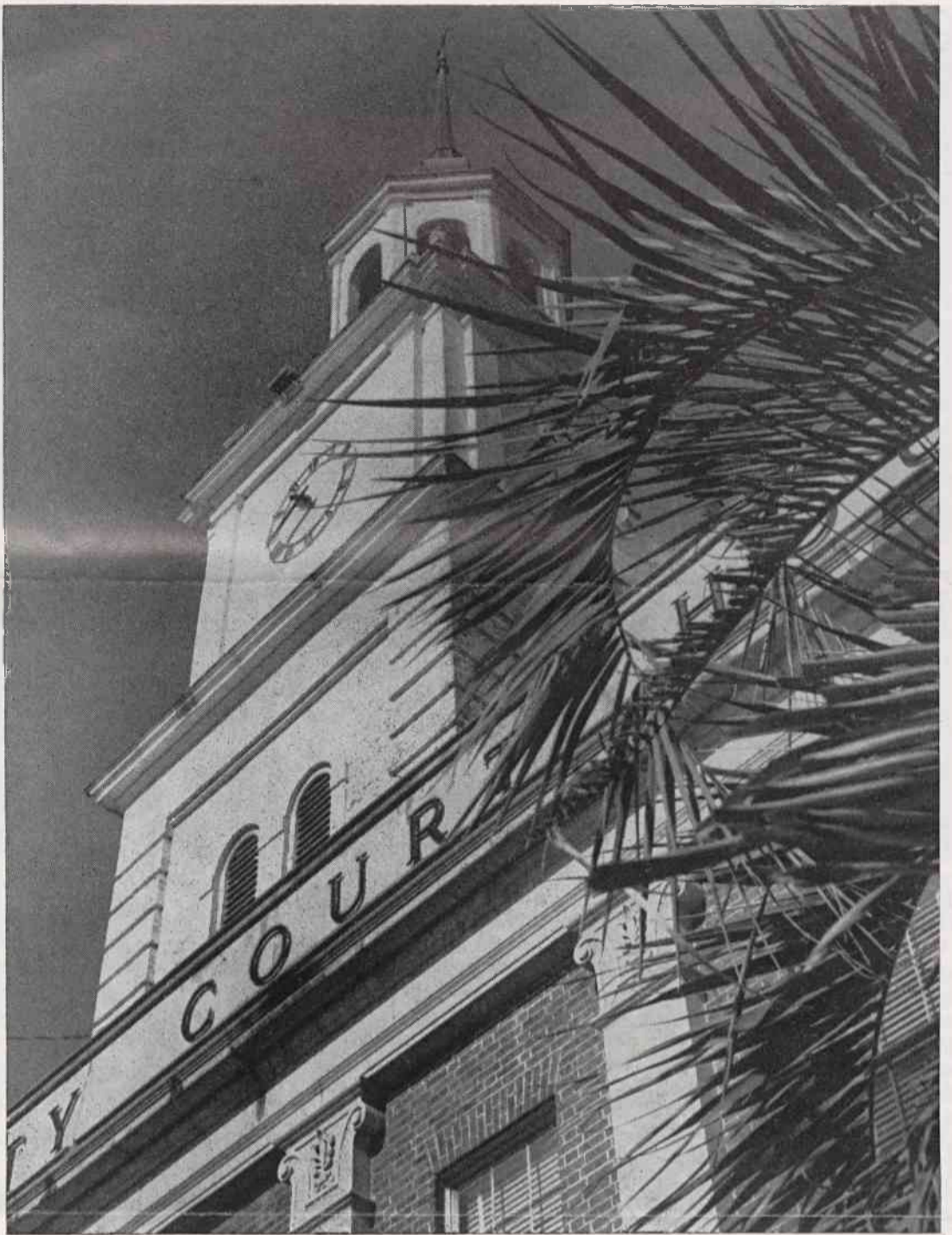
The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company sent a certificate commemorating the safety milestone. It was one of several honors in recent months. Upon the safe-operating record attained at the five-year mark, the plant was recognized by awards from the South Carolina Occupational Safety Council, the SC Department of Labor, the parent Firestone company, and Liberty Mutual Insurance.

NOW, WITH the six-year record "on the books", the plant is well along toward the second million manhours of injury-free operation. It is sharing a goal with Firestone Textiles Company's Bowling Green, Ky., plant which is also in the "home stretch" of a two million safe-manhours record.

All these safe hours at Bennettsville — how many years would they represent, figuring, say, on a one-shift, five-day-a-week basis? Some Gastonia Methods & Standards people took to the calculator. Its figuring revealed:

That would "put us back in Time" roughly 755 years, or near 1217 A.D.

• More on page 2



### MARLBORO Scene

South Carolina's state tree, the palmetto, shares this look, photographed in February, of Marlboro County's historic Court House clock tower and cupola. The Bennettsville landmark building faces Broad Street.

Bennettsville, founded 1819, has been county seat since 1820. Residents like to speak of their town as having grace, charm and serenity, friendliness and neighborliness . . . a proud past and a growing future.

Marlboro people, long used to a rich agricultural heritage, have brought in diversification through manufacturing and other industries. A leading one of these in Firestone Textiles, producer of quality tire fabrics since 1943. It contributes to the city's diversification which maintains a balance between agriculture and industry.

## OSHA: Always Room For Improvement

Throughout most years of its history, the Firestone Company has had a safety and occupational-health program at work. Safety performance has been—and continues—outstanding, with many an achievement recorded and noted by safety awards from local to national level.

As in all human endeavors, there's always room for improvement. Safety, for example. You have to keep everlastingly at it.

Comes now "Instruction from the Top"—the Federal Government.

Since April 28, 1971, the Occupational Safety and Health Act has been in effect nationwide, and by now most people in industry are acquainted with it.

This Federal legislation, under consideration for years, was signed into law by the President in December, 1970. Its bedrock purpose:

**Make as safe as possible the environmental conditions under which people work in occupational employment....**

OSHA sets Federal requirements and standards to help the employer and the person on the job toward doing away with causes of occupational illnesses, injuries and fatalities.

The new law makes it compulsory for every employer to keep his place of employment "free from hazards that are likely to cause illness, serious harm, or death" to people at work.

This legislation—what's different about it?

### Who's Affected By OSHA?

**Any employer whose business affects commerce—from the shoeshine stand that employs one worker and uses polish shipped from another state, to the country's largest corporation. OSHA covers some 4.5 million employers and 60 million workers.**

• It provides a Federal overview for working conditions; gives broad authority to the U.S. Department of Labor and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW).

• It sets up and operates a Federal agency to enforce the law (The Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission), and fixes uniform safety and health standards for those who work in business and industry engaged in interstate commerce. (Before OSHA, standards varied from state to state.)

• The Act imposes penalties for violation of these standards, and provides for investigation of conditions, plus research on hazards and harmful materials.

More on  
Page 2

Discovery/ accomplishment for these treasure-hunters photographed at a West Second Avenue search of a Springtime past.



### Egg In The Basket

"Something hidden—Go and find it!"

The "something": Hundreds of colorfully decorated eggs at the annual hunt for employee children and other youngsters of the Firestone plant community. Saturday morning, April 1. The hunt is traditionally the day before Easter Sunday.

This springtime event at the Firestone plant is a part of the City of Gastonia Recreation Department egg hunts staged on

Easter weekend for children and elderly people at several locations.

The Firestone hunt, a children's "version", is programmed by Industrial Relations manager Ralph Johnson and others of his department.

Mrs. Ida Byers, Recreation Center hostess, supervises the dyeing and decorating of "treasure to be tucked away and discovered." Most eggs are "face value" but a few ones are premiums.