

GASTONIA  
NORTH CAROLINA

BENNETTSVILLE  
SOUTH CAROLINA

AUGUST, 1972

BOWLING GREEN  
KENTUCKY

## Tennessee Plant

### All-steel radial lines

The Firestone company's newest tire plant will be in production near Nashville, Tenn., in August. At Interchange City, 15 miles from downtown Nashville, the plant will produce truck tires, including all-steel radial lines.

The one-story plant, designed for expansion in stages, was begun in late 1971 on the 170-acre site on Interstate 24.

"Growth of the truck-tire market has made this new facility necessary," said Robert D. Thomas, Firestone president. "The Nashville area was chosen for its southcentral location, its closeness to markets, good transportation facilities, labor supply and availability of utilities."

Firestone has operated a tire plant in Memphis for the past 35 years; and has district sales offices and distribution centers in Memphis and Nashville.

Around 300 persons are being

employed for initial production at the new Tennessee plant.

All-steel radial lines included in production at the new facility will increase demand for steel fabric, such as that being produced at Gastonia, and at other Firestone facilities.

Gastonia production of steel fabric will be increased considerably when three additional looms go into service later this summer. Installation specifications are for a total of six looms eventually.

The company has plans for another wire-fabric facility to be built at Danville, Ky.

## \$50 IDEA He Tried Again and Won

A Firestone man at Gastonia—one who a while back earned \$50 for one of his ideas—has some tips on suggestion participation:

Think carefully about your job and how you perform it. Question routine operations. Consider how changes might improve things.

Write up your ideas as complete as you can (and get help if you need it); turn in ideas often (the more volume, the better chance of success.)

Be prepared for some rejections. But don't get discouraged. Stick by your ideas if you are convinced they're good.

Sometimes you have to re-submit an idea.

**THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED** in the case of Joel Carpenter's suggestion to install switches to back infra-red units in Nylon Treating.

Carpenter's proposal to add

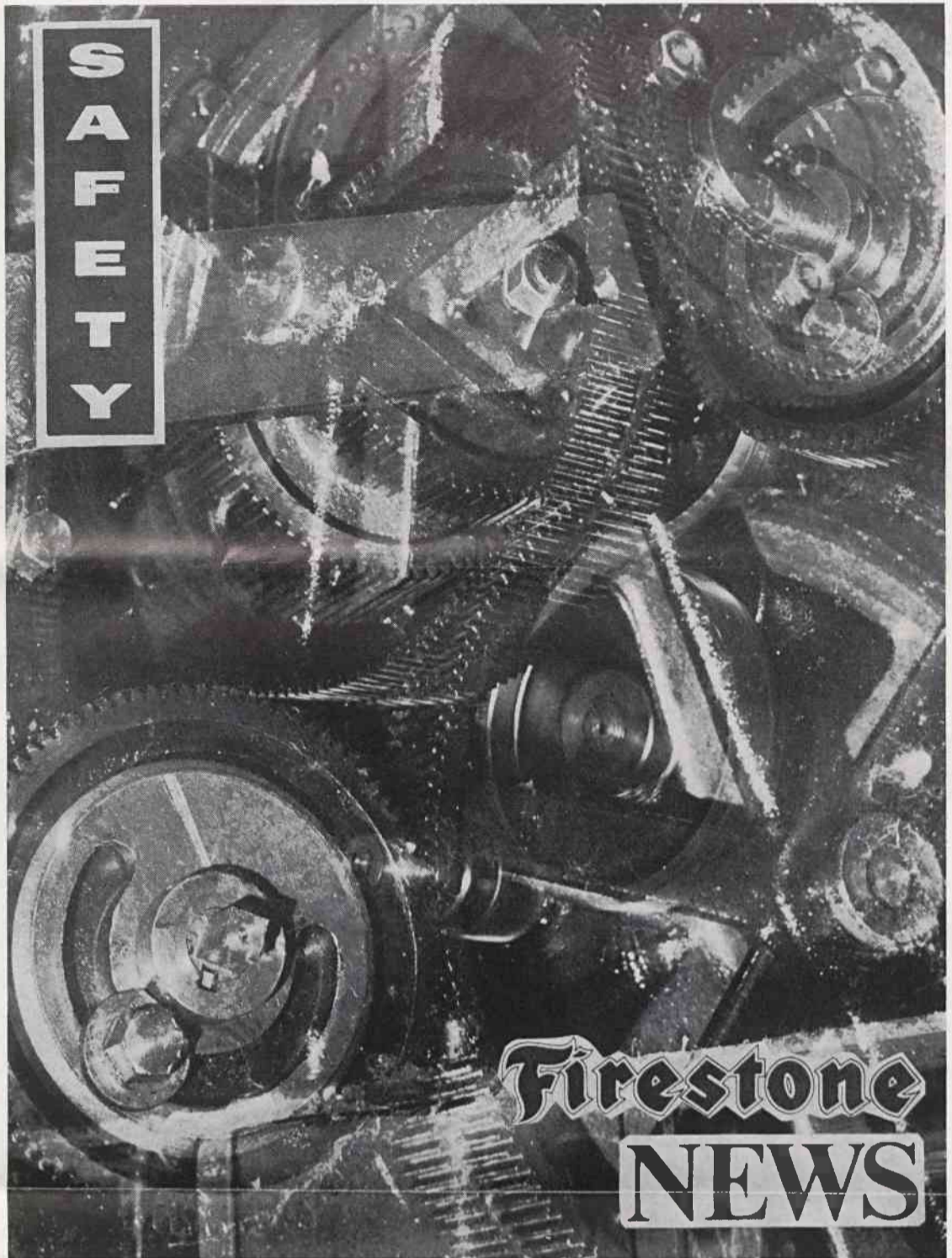
the switches at three pull-stands of beam (fabric) wind-up was originally turned down.

"The present system is working well and the cost of your plan would be too great," said the Suggestion Committee report.

But Carpenter, a unit operator, believed his idea to be a sound one, and set about to further prove it.

He observed; gathered additional information. His proof, submitted in a second suggestion, showed how installation of the switches could be done at less cost than one instance of damaged yards of fabric from infra-red burns.

His suggestion, proving its merit, paid Carpenter the \$50.



## Wheels CAN BITE

People who work with or around machinery can't help but know that moving gears are a major danger, especially to fingers and hands

Carpenter, working at the Gastonia plant a little more than a year, is a frequent contributor to the suggestion boxes.

But people too often forget or 'go carelessly about' ignoring or flaunting the hazards.

This photo, double-exposed to exaggerate the gears in a twister-frame end, is a reminder that "cog teeth can be ravenous biters." Although gears such as these are covered in regular operation of the machine, there are many gears on machines that can't be completely shielded from people operators.

So you have to know, think and act Safety—with gears and all other job hazards.

## Latest Indy '500' Picture

"Thirty-three Men—500 Miles" color movie will be on loan to the Gastonia Firestone plant, Sept. 4-15. The film of the 1972 Indianapolis "500" auto race will be available in the Gastonia area to clubs and other groups, and for showing to employees.

Ralph F. Johnson, employee relations manager, will schedule showings at the plant and make the film available to as many interested groups as the 11-day loan will allow.

## State Fairs

August begins the return season for community, regional and state fairs across the land. Here are dates and locations of the three "big ones"—fairs in the states where Firestone Textiles Company has production facilities:

• Kentucky: Aug. 17-26; Louisville.

• North Carolina: Oct. 13-21; Raleigh.

• South Carolina: Oct. 16-21; Columbia.

Tennessee State Fair, Nashville, is Sept. 15-23.

And among regional fairs in South Carolina:

Upper South Carolina Regional Fair, Aug. 31-Sept. 9; Greenville.

Eastern Carolina Fair, Oct. 9-14; Florence.

Piedmont Interstate Fair, Oct. 9-14; Spartanburg.

Coastal Carolina Fair, Oct. 26-Nov. 4; Charleston.



## TEARING DOWN *The Shed*

The old five-car, clapboard shed at the Gastonia Firestone plant's original parking lot last month joined the history of several other land-

marks on the mill property. It was torn down. The shed, dating to the early 1930s, had been a parking place for cars belonging to the plant manager and to other supervisory personnel

Members of the Shop construction crew razed the shed and re-marked parking spaces in the area. And some people stopped to look as debris was cleared away.