

• Southern magnolia and some leafless trees of winter frame the Confederate Soldier statue atop granite shaft on lawn of Marlboro County Court House, Bennettsville, S. C.

At base of monument is a memorial marker to those who have served in all wars.

Right: Impressive cupola and center section of Marlboro Court House. The S. C. historical marker on the lawn says: "Four court houses for Marlboro District or County have stood on this square since April 4, 1820."

"The first Court House was completed before 1824, was replaced by a new building in 1852. This was occupied by Union troops in 1865. A third building was finished in 1885. The present Court House was constructed 1951-1952."

Bowling Green

## Fiber B Facility Under Construction

A major expansion program underway at Firestone Textiles Company's Bowling Green, Ky., plant will provide the first large-capacity facility in the tirecord industry for treating Fiber B fabric material.

James B. Call, Firestone Textiles Company president, announcing beginning construction of the new unit in December, pointed out:

"The new facility, scheduled for completion in September, 1973, will house a new unit which will more than double the Bowling Green plant's fabric-treating capacity."

The new treating unit will be capable of processing up to 40 million pounds of nylon, polyester and DuPont's new Fiber B per year. Fiber B is a new material stronger than steelcord. It is being used by Firestone on a limited scale in its Radial V-1 tires.

Through dipping, heating and stretching processes, fabric-treating units "temper" tire fabrics to minimize the amount of stretching in use.

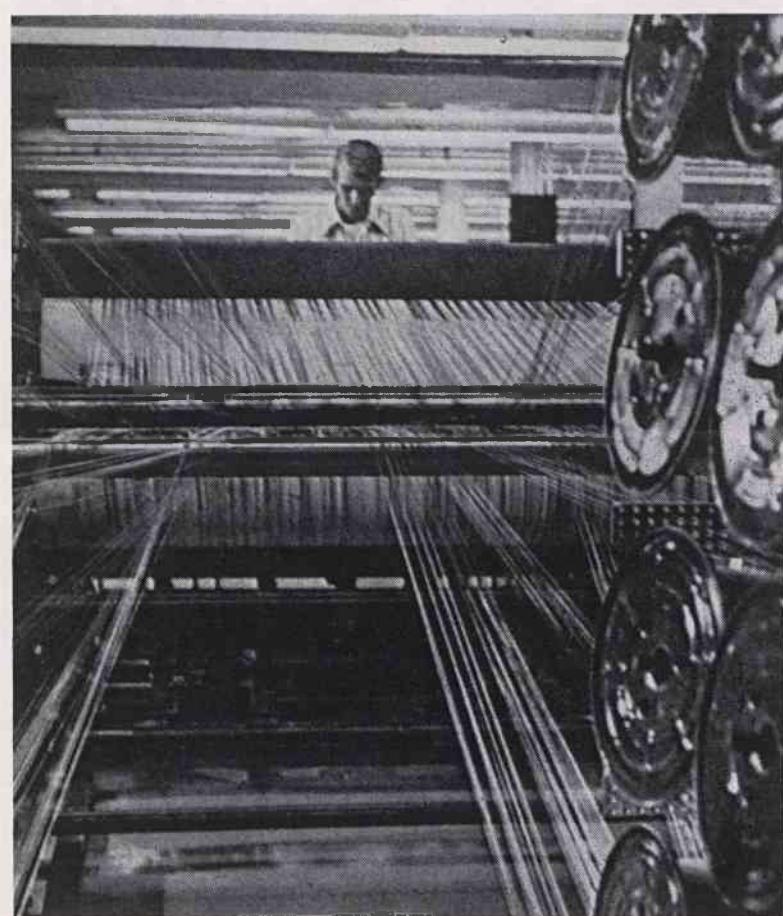
Firestone Textiles Company, a division of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Com-

pany, is headquartered at Gastonia, N. C. Besides Gastonia and Bowling Green, the division operates a plant at Bennettsville, S. C.

The newest Bowling Green fabric-treating facility will be the fifth unit operating within the Firestone Textiles Company division.

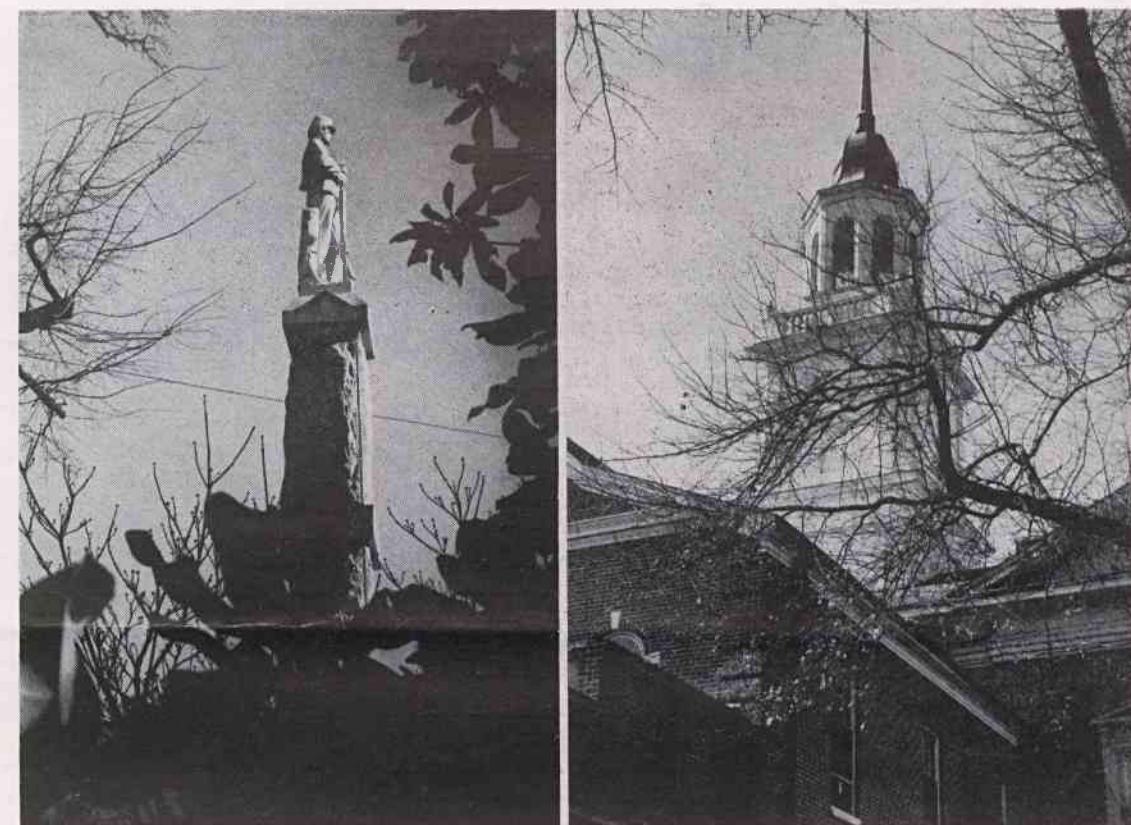
The original — and one of the first of its kind in the world—went into operation at Firestone, Gastonia, in early 1955. Two more units were later added at Gastonia, one of them the huge No. 8 on the site of the open water reservoir. No. 9 unit, now in operation, is the original one at Bowling Green. The newest unit, to be in operation by September, will be designated No. 1.

The Firestone company operates other fabric-treating plants in conjunction with its tire-building facilities.



• Looming wire fabric at Gastonia. This production photo, with E. D. Huss, loom mechanic,

is a part of the diversified products section of the Firestone 1972 Annual Report.



GASTONIA  
NORTH CAROLINA

BENNETTSVILLE  
SOUTH CAROLINA

BOWLING GREEN  
KENTUCKY

JANUARY • 1973

# Firestone NEWS

## 1973 Scholarship Materials In Supply

Information booklets and other application materials have been in distribution since mid-December for the 1973 Firestone College Scholarship competition. Each year the materials are available at personnel or industrial relations offices of all three units of Firestone Textiles Company—Gastonia, Bennettsville and Bowling Green.

Alvin V. Riley, division personnel manager, reminds that the applications are open to sons and daughters of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company employees, and who meet further requirements as outlined in the current information booklets.

High-school seniors who are interested in applying will do well to make application as soon as they can, so as to get all re-

quirements completed, Mr. Riley says.

The latest booklet fully explains the Scholarship Program and includes any changes from requirements and provisions of previous years.

Students apply from all states where the company has major production and service facilities and retail systems.

Closeout of applications re-

ceived in the company's Akron, Ohio, headquarters is March 1, so winners can be announced by late April or early May.

Each full college scholarship is worth up to \$1,750 per year and is renewable up to four years at any approved college or university of the student's choosing.

Besides scholarships, the company each year awards Certificates of Merit and U. S. Savings

• More on page 2

## These Four Retired

Vernon Lovingood had 37 years service with Firestone when he retired at the Bowling Green plant last month. Lovingood, department manager in twisting, had spent most of his service time at Gastonia. He went to Bowling Green when the plant began operations in early 1968.

Upon retirement, Lovingood moved back to Gastonia.

Other Firestone Textiles Company people (these at Gastonia) to retire in late December and early January are:

• Ernest Keenum, Supply manager, who had 33 years and 4 months service.

• William Gilmore, TC Twisting; 29 years and 6 months.

• Robert Froneberger, Industrial Relations (plant protection); 17 years.

## Production Increased

The Gastonia plant of Firestone Textiles Company tripled its capacity for weaving steel cord last year, to meet increased demand of the tire industry for this strong cord material.

The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company's 1972 Annual Report, distributed in mid-December, notes that further gains in Firestone Textiles Company sales to outside customers were recorded last year.

Gastonia, Bennettsville, S. C., and Bowling Green, Ky., plants operated at capacity.

In the Diversified Products section of the Annual Report the Firestone wire-weaving operation is represented by a photograph of a wire-weaving loom, with E. D. Huss, a loom mechanician.

The first wire-weaving loom to operate at Gastonia was dismantled in late 1972 and shipped to the Firestone plant at Lens, France.

Dennis Johnson, a Product & Process Development engineer, will go to Lens in February to help put the loom in operation.

AT THE Lens wire and cable division a major expansion program is now in progress. Completed, it will increase production capacity of steel wire by 300 percent.

This facility, which began operating in 1971, is being enlarged to meet increasing demand of the company's foreign tire plants for steel cord material.

A story on changes in Social Security tax rate and benefits, in Dec. Firestone News, was in error on the maximum amount of annual earnings against which the SS tax is paid. This figure was reported as increasing to \$10,000 as of Jan. 1, 1973. The actual figure: \$10,800.