

Firestone

NEWS

BENNETTSVILLE
SOUTH CAROLINA

MAY
1973

GASTONIA
NORTH CAROLINA

BOWLING GREEN
KENTUCKY

26 Years SAFETY LEADERSHIP

Every Spring for a quarter-century, Firestone at Gastonia has been honored by the Gaston County Chamber of Commerce and the North Carolina Department of Labor. The recognition is for outstanding achievement in industrial safety.

Latest of these awards presented April 17 at the annual Chamber of Commerce Safety Awards Banquet, continues the Firestone record for number of years presented in Gaston County.

At the Dixie Village meeting, 184 businesses and other firms were recognized for good work in safety.

The 1973 honor to Firestone is the 26th presented. First of the long series of awards was presented in Raleigh in 1947, one year before the every-spring awards meetings were begun in Gastonia.

Parking Improved; Trees Gone

•• A Bennettsville construction firm recently improved parking lots at the South Carolina Firestone Textiles plant with a new "face" of asphalt. Also removed were five oak trees, around 70 years old.

The N. C. Department of Labor awards are represented by certificates, plaques and inscribed bars attached to plaques for "in between" years. The 25th award last year was a plaque.

The 26th award is represented by a special-design plaque, and is the fifth of plaques to have been presented across the years.

To become eligible for the latest recognition in safety, the Gastonia operation for 1972 established a record of 50 per cent or better rate below the injury-frequency rate in the total North Carolina textile industry.

The other two ways a firm can qualify are: To have no loss of time resulting from on-job injuries, and a firm's beating by 40 per cent its own safety record from the previous year. Throughout the years, Firestone has qualified in all these three ways.

Francis B. Galligan, Firestone Textiles Company general factories manager, received the 1973 award "on behalf of all the people who helped to earn it at the Gastonia plant."



May: Off-Job Safety

•• May comes on with her green and fertile world—a time to listen and look, a time to go and enjoy the outdoors. But go safely. Travel is but one phase of safe living emphasized during May each year among people at Firestone plants.

For many years the company has been trying to build a continuing awareness for off-job safe living across the whole

year, with special emphasis in May and December.

Figures show that in these months have been concentrated the heaviest toll of injuries and fatalities in the wide areas of off-job activities—home, travel, recreation, many more.

"So often safety suffers because it's a matter of people failing to practice good common-sense principles which they

•• Along North Carolina's Outer Banks. An example of "a good place to go—but safely." Photo: N. C. Dept. Natural and Economic Resources. Other travel suggestions, Page 4.

know very well from practice on the job at work," says R. E. Mack, plant safety manager at Gastonia. He points out that—

Increase of many outdoor activities in May is a major reason for placing special stress on safety awareness and practice.

Two Scholarships; Two Merit Awards

Firestone Textiles Company division has two winners in The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company's 1973 Scholarship Awards Program. They are:

- Barry Richard Robinson, Gastonia.
- Charles Melvin Willis, Bowling Green.

And of this year's awards, Certificate of Merit winners in the textiles division are Janice Rebecca Stiles and Rachel Elizabeth

Whitworth from the Gastonia area.

Barry Robinson, Gastonia winner of the college scholarship, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold N. Robinson. A senior at Hunter Huss High School, Barry plans to study music therapy in college beginning this fall.

At Huss, he is a member of the Key Club, pop club and the yearbook staff, and the American Field Service group.

His father is warehouse manager at the Gastonia Firestone plant.

Charles M. Willis is a senior at Warren East High School, Bowling Green, Ky. His scholarship is the first which the company has awarded at Bowling Green.

Charles plans to study physics and astronomy in college. His father, Charles, works in the Maintenance department at Bowling Green. Mrs. (Pearl)

Willis, works in Splicing. Charles and Pearl were employed at the Gastonia Firestone plant before transferring to the Bowling Green plant in early 1968.

The Gastonia-area Merit winners:

Janice Rebecca Stiles, senior at Bessemer City High School, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Buster G. Stiles. Her father works in the TC Weaving department at Firestone, Gastonia.

Rachel Elizabeth Whitworth, senior at Hunter Huss High School, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whitworth. Her mother, Barbara Whitworth, works in the Cloth Room at the Gastonia plant.

This year's two Gastonia and Bowling Green winners of full college scholarships are among the 46 outstanding high-school students to win Firestone College scholarships for 1973.

Potential value of the total number awarded is in excess of \$300,000.

• More Page 2



People Make Quality

•• These looms at the Bennettsville, S.C., Firestone Textiles Company plant produce nylon and other synthetic fabric for tires. A major

'ingredient' of the high-quality product are people—ever present on the job, but here just outside the photo.

The Bennettsville facility annually turns out around 13 million pounds of nylon fabric alone. The material is used principally in production of Firestone truck tires.

NCVTS Placement Service

North Carolina Vocational Textile School at Belmont has added to the textile industry a new placement service. Beginning with 1973 graduates, the school will arrange on-campus interviews for corporate manpower recruiters.

Only graduates of the school's new two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree Program will be eligible for interviewing. Fifteen members of this first graduating class will be avail-

able for on-campus interviews through May.

Each of these graduates have a minimum of three years of practical mill experience, in addition to two years of formal instruction at the textile school.

Richard M. Jackson, the school's assistant director, has details on the new placement service. The school's address is P. O. Box 1044, Belmont, N. C. 28012. Telephone: 704/825-3737.