

GASTONIA  
NORTH CAROLINA

BENNETTSVILLE  
SOUTH CAROLINA

# Firestone NEWS

BOWLING GREEN  
KENTUCKY

## Production Steelcord Looms beginning at Bowling Green in October

Six steelcord looms are scheduled to be in operation by October at the Bowling Green Firestone Textiles Company plant. Jim Griffin, appointed this summer project manager of the BG wireweaving operation, said that conventional looms were being modified to weave the steel.

He said the BG steelcord weaving area will be sealed and airconditioned to provide low humidity against oxidation of the steel material.

ALL UNPACKING of steelcord, weaving, handling, and wrapping of the fabric will be

done inside the wire-weave area. This conditioning is required because high humidity contaminates the brass coating on steelcord and adversely affects adhesion of cord fabric to rubber in the tiremaking process.

Griffin noted that creels on the Bowling Green looms will differ from those in operation at the Gastonia plant in that pin-rack trucks will take the place of overhead creels. He said:

"These trucks will be slightly larger than those we use in polyester and nylon tirecord fabric production here at Bowling Green. Also two spools of wire will be placed on each creel pin, instead of the conventional one spool per pin. Griffin added:

"WE ARE PROUD of this opportunity to produce steelcord fabric at Bowling Green, and look forward to seeing the first roll of wire come from our looms." He noted that steelbelted radials are becoming increasingly popular as original equipment and replacement tires; that people who have driven cars with steelbelt radials can vouch for the added stability, good riding qualities, handling and extra mileage they afford.

years. The division's Bennettsville, S.C. plant in recent years was first place in rate of ideas turned in and adopted. It is still among those plants out front in suggestion participation.

### FALL QUARTER NC Vocational Textile School

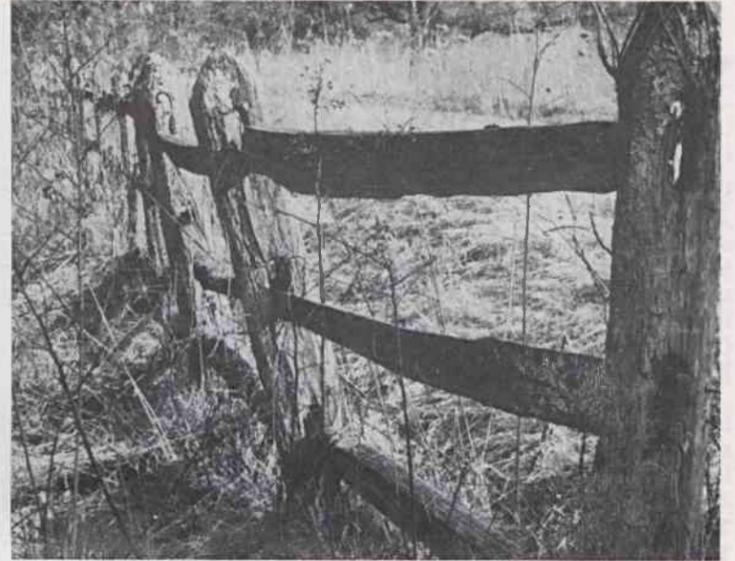
The fall quarter of North Carolina Vocational Textile School begins Sept. 17 with a revised curriculum and classes offered in diploma and associate degree programs.

The Dyeing and Finishing program has been added to the curriculum in the two-year diploma area. Other instruction is in Yarn Manufacturing, Weaving & Designing, Knitting & Designing, Mill Maintenance, and Tailoring.

Apparel Manufacturing has been added to the two-year associate degree program. Apparel Manufacturing, Yarn Manufacturing, Weaving & Designing, Knitting & Designing, and Dyeing & Finishing are in the Textile Manufacturing Technology program.

At NCVTS, students buy textbooks and other materials, but do not pay tuition. All programs are approved for veterans of military service. Convenient class schedules make it possible for students to go to school at NCVTS while holding a regular job on any of the three shifts in industry and business.

The school is located on Wilkinson Boulevard near Belmont. Telephone: 825-3737.



"... And soon on field and hill the wind shall whistle chill."—George Arnold—'SEPTEMBER'

SEPTEMBER • 1973

## Two Assignments AND BOWLING GREEN

GASTONIA

Thomas L. Yelton, since 1970 the manager of technical services for Firestone Textiles Company with headquarters at Gastonia, last month began duties as production manager of the division's Bowling Green, Ky., plant.

Claude W. Smith, Bowling Green production manager since 1968, replaced Yelton as manager of technical services and began his work at Gastonia last month.

Yelton, from Rutherfordton, N. C., is a graduate of Clemson University, with a degree in textile manufacturing. He was a superintendent at Stonecutter Mills in Forest City when he joined the Firestone company in January of 1960, as a production trainee.

IN APRIL, 1960 he became manager of Firestone's textile plant at Buenos Aires, Argentina, remaining until in 1962 when he transferred to the company's Sao Paulo, Brazil textile plant as assistant manager. He later became manager and remained in that assignment until 1966 when he returned to Gastonia to become coordinator of a Zero Defects program.

Yelton was appointed technical services engineer in May of 1968 and made manager in 1970.

Smith, new manager of technical services for the division, is a native of Union, S. C. A graduate of Clemson University



YELTON SMITH

with a BS degree in textile management, he came from a Gainesville, Ga., plant of Deering-Milliken to join Firestone at Gastonia in July, 1965.

HIS FIRST appointment was as assistant plant manager of the company's Buenos Aires operation. He was on the Argentine assignment from October, 1965 to July, 1967. He then returned to the Gastonia plant and stayed a few months in training before being assigned as production manager of the Bowling Green plant when it began operating in early 1968.

In the division job, Smith maintains a liaison between the company's three textile units—Gastonia, Bowling Green and Bennettsville, S. C., and with Firestone tire plants and customers.

## Bennettsville Scouts Had Campout

Members of Troop 631, Boy Scouts, sponsored by Firestone Textiles at Bennettsville, had a swim session and overnight campout at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base in late summer. A tour of the air facility as a highlight of their base visit.

The scouts were accompanied by troop committeeman J. W.

Mudd, scoutmaster Benny Hendrix; and chefs Jimmy McCaskill and Clyde Polson.

Also during summer, the Firestone-sponsored Cub Scouts had a swimming day and campout at Camp Coker, Society Hill, S. C. Charles Sweatt Jr. accompanied the Cubs.

## Personality Traits & Accidents

Some years ago the Executive Analysis Corporation concluded that persons with a tendency to be involved in accidents have some definite personality traits. The EAC, basing findings on extensive studies and testing, learned:

- Among traits belonging to the accident-prone are a superabundance of (false) self-confidence (cockiness); an aggressiveness leading to the attitude that teamwork is not necessary; the tendency to be easily distracted; and little disposition to conform to social customs.

## \$2.5 Million FOR SUGGESTIONS

Extra money amounting to nearly \$2.5 million has been earned by Firestone employees who have received awards during the history of the company's suggestion program.

Thousands of employee "good ideas" have been adopted by the company over the years. An average of 25 per cent of submitted suggestions are accepted and 'put to work'.

Largest single award paid since the program began was \$10,000 earned last year by Grace Fagan of Akron, Ohio. A Firestone International employee, Miss Fagan devised a new method for shipping tire molds to overseas plants.

SUGGESTION topics center primarily in areas of tangible cost savings, quality of production and products, and on-the-

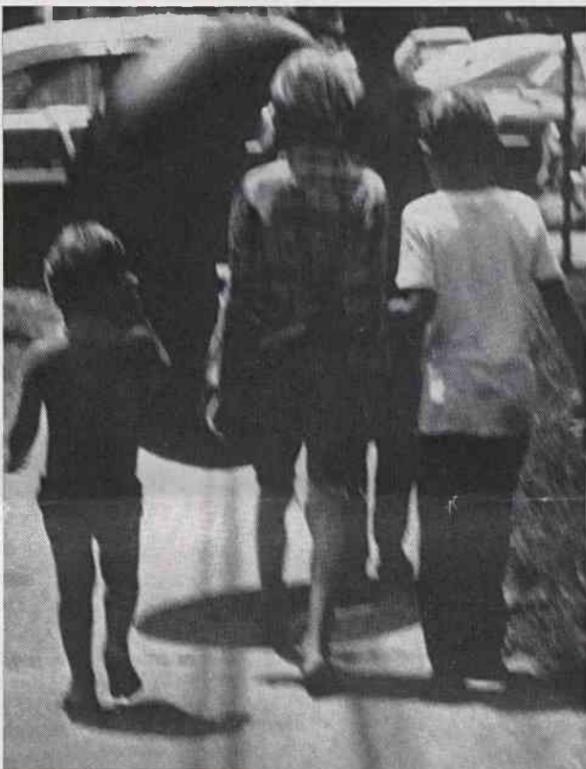
job safety, says H. Bruce Palmer, coordinator of the suggestion program.

As of August, 1973, the company had received more than 18,000 suggestions from employees in Firestone facilities around the world.

Largest award to date this year—\$5,676—was presented to Robert Kimmel, a foreman at the company's Oklahoma City plant. His idea involved modification and positioning of manufacturing equipment.

Firestone Textiles Company has participated in the suggestion program throughout the

## Home From The Dip



Another summer season of fun at Firestone playground in front of the Gastonia plant ended in August. The playground, with wading pool and other recreational facilities, is owned by the company and is each summer operated as a part of the City Recreation Department's system of parks and

playgrounds. Firestone playground activities are a part of the overall city recreation program.

Besides play for youngsters at the Firestone location, the program includes crafts instruction, nature hikes and outings to points of interest around Gastonia.