

# Firestone

DECEMBER • 1973

# NEWS

GASTONIA  
NORTH CAROLINA

BENNETTSVILLE  
SOUTH CAROLINA

BOWLING GREEN  
KENTUCKY

## Bennettsville Plant

### Into 31st Year

Firestone Textiles Bennettsville, S. C., plant marked its 30th anniversary of business November 15. On the following day there was open house, attended by employees and their families, retirees and their families, and friends.

The open house from 2 to 4 p.m., brought some 400 persons for refreshments and tours of the facility.

**THE PLANT** is located within the city limits of Bennettsville, east side, in Marlboro County.

The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company purchased the property November 15, 1943. It embraced a one-storey cotton mill with 104 employee dwellings. The original plant, operated for many years as Marlboro Cotton Mills, produced carded sales yarns.

Firestone converted operations to cotton tire-cord fabric under the name of Bennettsville Cotton Mills. In early 1945 the plant was renamed Firestone Textiles and soon thereafter was awarded the Army-Navy E for production excellence in the war effort.

IN 1951 additions were made to the plant to provide space for chafer loom weaving operations and rayon tire-cord production. A new office building was constructed during the same year.

During 1960 the village houses were sold to some of the employees, who had occupied these houses for many years.

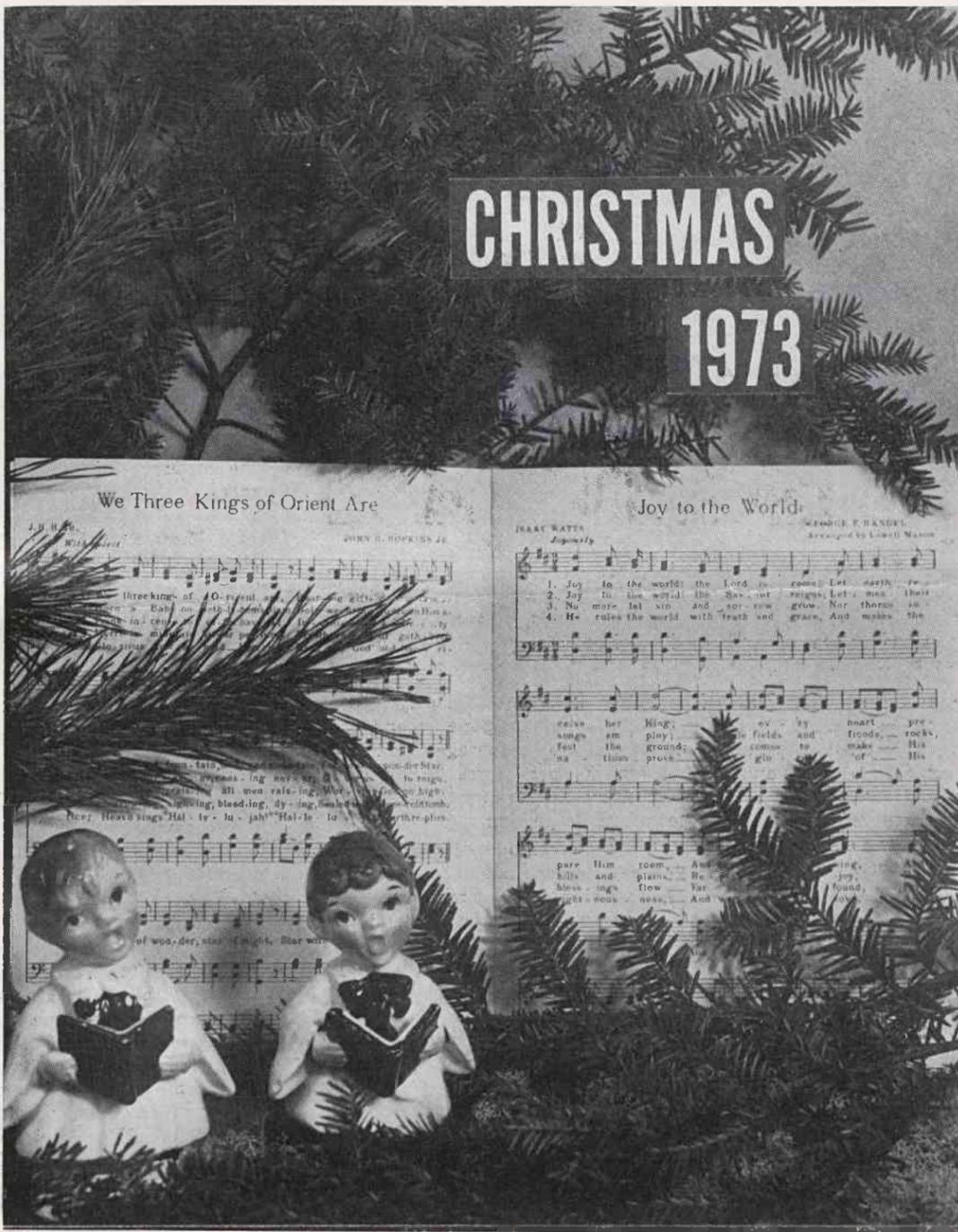
Modernization of the tire-cord equipment, along with purchase of new ply and cable twisters and looms permitted greatly-expanded production capacity in 1967. Nylon tire fabric was the principle product.

During the early part of 1973, 18 new Saur Allma Twisters were purchased and installed as replacements for the Saco-Lowell twisters.

There have been more improvements toward modernization. The 70-year-old waste house was torn down and replaced by a modern waste facility. A 20,000-gallon oil fuel tank was installed underground. The front entrance of main plant has been modernized.

**AIR CONDITIONING** was installed in the splicing, reclaiming and twisting areas. Still another change was a new evaporative cooling system in the ply

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## They Recall Some Memorable Christmases

GASTONIA

It was the Christmas when I was around 10 years old. My most-desired gift was an electric train. And there it was under the Christmas tree! It had, besides the engine, a Baby Ruth coach, a coal car and a red caboosie. We lived in Belmont.

This train spoke of special love from my family. I set the train to running, and I recall how my only brother enjoyed it as much as I did.

I still have the train stored away. Last year I got it out and found that it still runs. If I ever have a son, he'll enjoy it, too.

• **Martin Owens**  
Data Processing

After I moved from the Murphy, N. C., area to Gastonia and started working at Firestone many years ago, I began going back to the mountains at Christmastime. That was while Mother and Father were still living.

I would join the neighbors and go carol-singing. Back at old Friendship Baptist Church, people prepared fruit baskets for elderly folks. On this one memorable Christmas we went to deliver baskets in the remote community of Suit.

As we visited the lonely old people, I'll never forget the tears of joy and hope. One man, dying of cancer but with his new-found hope of Heaven, told us how much our coming meant to him. I was humbled and my heart was made glad.

• **Elease Cole**  
Reclaimer, TC Twisting

The Christmas when I was 9

Four at Bennettsville went into their 31st year of Firestone service this fall. Plant manager Edwin E. Fuller presented 30-year awards — lapel pins and \$100 'appreciation' checks to:

J. W. Mudd, factory foreman; Buster Campbell, Warehouse & Shipping; Coyt W. McLean, supervisor Cord Weaving; Birch Lewis, inspector—Laboratory.

years old, I went with my family to visit Grandmother in Umatilla, Fla. After that, we went several more times to spend the holiday with Grandmother.

Florida was so nice in winter. Sometimes it would be snowing in North Carolina, but always sunny in Florida. Grandmother had citrus trees, so we picked fruit. And her kitchen goodies were superb, especially Grandmother's special peach preserves. She crocheted a doll for me. These are all cherished memories.

• **Nancy Costner**  
Clerk, Payroll

It was 18 years ago, the first year I was a Christian. Organizations of Loray Baptist Church prepared baskets of food and toys for needy families.

I went with one group to deliver baskets to people very

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## Meeting The Energy Crisis

"By all working together, Firestone employees can make a meaningful contribution to conservation in the current energy crisis," said company president Richard A. Riley.

In a recent directive, Mr. Riley pointed to ways which have been put into effect to save energy at the company's plants and other installations.

Among these are the thermostat control of work areas at 68-degrees level; turning off all lights after work, the disconnecting of unnecessary lighting; and maximum speed limit of 50 mph for all company vehicles.

As of late November, the company planned to establish an office of energy conservation at each plant. Its first project is the coordination of car-pool requests from employees.



OPEN HOUSE Employees and visitors in Cord Weaving.

## Six Retired At Gastonia

Two centuries and 15 months. That's the added-up time represented in the careers of six persons at Gastonia, who 'laid up the shuttle' as of Dec. 1.

Hurley W. Brooks of Preparation was out front with the most years on the work record: 38. Maude Bryson of TC Twist-

ing was next with 35 years and 11 months. Then the other four:

Ruth L. Helms, Preparation, 35 years and 8 months; Ruth W. Wallace, TC Weaving, 33 years and 7 months; Bonnie Moses, Cloth Room, 29 years and 5 months; Sara W. Ward, Cloth Room, 28 years and 7 months.