



●● Some heliopsis stems and their empty seedpods near a parking lot at the Gastonia plant are weathered garments of another winter past. The stems were

ice-coated along with the March 25 surprise light snow. But came April—and new growth, bringing another “greenup time” in the unending procession of the seasons.

27TH AWARD

Safety Performance

Every Spring the past 27 years, Firestone Textiles Company at Gastonia has been recognized by the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce and the North Carolina Department of Labor for outstanding achievement in industrial safety.

Latest of the awards, the 27th citation, was presented in April at the annual Chamber of Commerce Safety Awards banquet. Firestone was at the top of the roster for having been awarded the honor the most times since 1947 when the State Labor Department began the program.

N.C. Commissioner of Labor Billy Creel made the award to Firestone “on behalf of all the people at the Gastonia plant whose safe work performance earned it.”

THE 1974 awards to industries and businesses in Gaston County were based on an outstanding accident-free record for the year 1973, or on a record that was 50 percent better than the 1972 average in safety performance

in the various industry-business categories.

Firestone's safety record was better than 50 percent of the record in the whole of North Carolina's textile industry.

The Firestone honors throughout the years have been symbolized by award plaques generally at five-year intervals, with inscribed bars for in-between years.

THE 26th one last year was a new-style plaque.

Up through 1972, the awards in Gaston County were presented by the late Frank Crane, N.C. Commissioner of Labor. Beginning with 1973, Commissioner Creel started making the awards. With that year, another long-running program of awards was begun, in a second quarter-century of recognizing safe operation in business and industry.

Six Retired At Gastonia

●● Luther R. Foy, working supervisor of the can-teen service, led with the longest service length of the six persons who retired at the Gastonia plant as of the end of March. He had worked 38 years and almost 9 months.

Next to Foy in service length was Pauline A. Hanna, cloth burler in Preparation. She closed out her “textile career days” after 38 years and 8 months on the job.

Then, Cramer L. Little, machine shop foreman, who retired with 38 years and almost 4 months.

Floy J. Green, respooler operator in TC Twisting, recorded 33 years and 7 months. And the record for Ellene M. Neesmith: 25 years and 3 months. She retired as a respooler operator in TC Twisting.

Broadus Jackson, cleaner in TC Twisting, had an even 21 years of service.

APRIL
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GASTONIA
NORTH CAROLINA

BENNETTSVILLE • SOUTH CAROLINA

Firestone
Textiles Company NEWS

BOWLING GREEN • KENTUCKY

☆☆☆

‘Big No. 1’ Rolling Strong

NEWEST
UNIT

Firestone's newest fabric-treating unit, No. 1, at Bowling Green is capable of processing fabric at 125 yards per minute. The only facility of its kind known to have the 400-kw dielectric section, it features an installation 195 feet high, set in 15,000 square feet of floor space.

This makes it one of the world's largest units of its kind. Gayron Riddle is production foreman.

The dielectric equipment treats cords of fabric from the inside out—a microwave operation. Also unique of the new installation which went into production late last year is a 10,000 cfm catalytic oxidation unit. It controls pollution emissions from the exhaust stacks.

IN OPERATION, the Bowling Green unit is able to process up to 40 million pounds per year of nylon, polyester and DuPont's new Kevlar, originally designated Fiber B. It is the first large-scale facility in the industry for treating Kevlar.

A high-strength yarn principally developed for tire fabric, Kevlar had been supplied up to recent months for textile and tire plants from market-development equipment. But DuPont's new expanded facility for

Kevlar production began operating at Richmond, Va., in January.

Kevlar was recently assigned the generic designation “aramid” by the Federal Trade Commission. It was introduced to the tire market as Fiber B in 1970. It tests at five times stronger than steel, pound-for-pound; has tremendous stretch resistance and requires no special handling in a tire manufacturing plant.

TIRES featuring Kevlar have excellent tread life, durability, ride and handling characteristics.

Firestone Textiles Company first experimentally processed Fiber B at Gastonia soon after the new material was available around three years ago. Since then, the Bowling Green plant has been processing it.

Firestone and other tire companies first evaluated Kevlar as the reinforcing material for belts of radial passenger tires.

From recent developments, the manufacturer considers Kevlar a versatile material that can be used in the belt and carcass of radial tires, with potential application in most other current tire designs.

Kevlar has other applications, such as in automotive, marine, electrical and sporting-goods products.

Chemist In Treated Fabric

Michael Flanigan has been appointed Divisional Chemist of Treated-Fabric Processing with Firestone Textiles Company. Division president James B. Call announced the assignment in late March.

Flanigan, with the company at Gastonia for the past five years, is a native of Princeton, W.Va. He has a B.S. Degree in Chemistry from Concord College at Athens, W.Va.

He joined Firestone as plant chemist at Gastonia, to develop chemical laboratory testing facilities for the textile division in 1968.

He was senior chemist of the Gastonia fabric-treating operations for three years, and for the past two years represented Firestone Textiles Company in technical services and development in fabric treating to the company's foreign and domestic facilities.

After graduating from Concord College, he worked nearly four years for the DuPont company as a chemist.

Flanigan will continue working at the Gastonia headquarters, dealing primarily with the fabric-treating units at Gastonia and Bowling Green.

FACTS About Firestone

Firestone produces thousands of tires and other rubber products and thousands more of diversified items in 59 U.S. and 55 foreign plants.

The 1974 compilation of “Facts About Firestone” lists the company as operating manufacturing plants in 29 countries; having thousands of dealers and stores in the U.S.A., and sales outlets in 135 foreign countries.

Worldwide, the company has 117,000 employees. Net sales for 1973 were \$3,154,919,000.

Tires & Tubes • Firestone produces 7,999 sizes and types of tires for all kinds of wheeled vehicles. These include domestic and foreign passenger cars, buses, tractors, aircraft, race cars, motorcycles, boat trailers, farm implements, earthmoving and recreation vehicles, wheelbarrows and lawnmowers.

Tires are produced in 16 U.S. plants and 33 foreign plants.

Diversified Operations • Tires and tubes are principal items manufactured, but Firestone produces nearly 40,000 diversified products in 43 U.S. plants and 22 foreign plants.

Products for the automobile, home, farm and industrial uses include:

Rayon, nylon and polyester yarns and tire cord fabric; bead wire and wire for tire cord; natural and synthetic rubbers,

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• Michael
Flanigan,
Divisional
Chemist



Two BG Leaders

COMMUNITY
SERVICE

Jerry Shields, safety director at Firestone's Bowling Green plant, is a new member of the advisory board of Bowling Green Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Shields has been with Firestone since 1968. He and Mrs. (Pat) Shields have a son, Kelly, age 6.

Richard A. Webber, Bowling Green Industrial Relations manager, has been named chairman of the 1974-75 United Givers (UGF) campaign.

The UGF of Bowling Green and Warren County conducts its

annual funds drive in October and into the first month of the following year.

Money raised in the campaign goes to the support of a dozen community agencies.

In the 1973-74 funds-gathering program, the UGF raised \$170,000 which is now at work in support of 11 participating “people” services.

Webber and his wife Judy have two daughters, Carolyn, 11; and Sarah, 8. The Industrial Relations manager has been with Firestone since early 1968.