

: To Ride the Flying Shuttles . . .



Gastonia
North Carolina
Bowling Green • Kentucky

Bennettsville
South Carolina

☆ ☆ ☆ January 1975

\$320,420

**Paid for
Suggestions**

The Firestone Suggestion Program during fiscal 1974 adopted 8,416 ideas from 36,227 submitted, with awards totaling \$320,420. Estimated annual savings resulting from the employees' adopted suggestions: \$2,016,792.

The company's Suggestion Program, now in its 57th year, continued its record-breaking performance over the past 3 years.

Awards ranged from the minimum \$15 to \$7,560 and \$6,500, both at the Decatur (Ill.) Firestone plant.

Ideas submitted through the Factory Suggestion Pro-

gram accounted for more than 35,000 of the total suggestions and \$1.9 million of savings in 1974. The Factory program went beyond the goal of 600 suggestions per 1,000 employees and savings of \$1.5 million. Company President Richard A. Riley established the goal at the beginning of last fiscal year.

For BG
People

BUS SERVICE

Stanley Scully, a foreman in the Twisting department at Bowling Green, Firestone Textiles Company, has gained State authorization for his proposal to operate a commuter bus service for the plant employees who live in the Glasgow, Ky., area.

The Bureau of Vehicle Regulation in Frankfort announced approval of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, allowing Scully to have the required Common Carrier rating.

Stanley, who is from Glasgow, has been operating his bus service for Firestone employees who live in the Glasgow, Horse Cave and Cave City area since May of

1974. His passengers are workers on the plant's "D" Crew.

The bus service operates along Highway 90 to U.S. 31-W at Cave City, then Southwest on U.S. 31-W to the Firestone plant in the Bristow community. The bus returns along the same route.

"Hats off to Stan for rendering a great service which helps Firestone people come to work safely and on time," said Terry J. Slack, employment supervisor.

Five Years

Betty Ann Herndon at Firestone, Bennettsville, will mark 5 years service with the company, Jan. 28, 1975.

Winter Tires

Underinflated tires don't provide better traction in snow, mud, or ice, say engineers of the Firestone company. For good surface contact, proper inflation needs to be maintained in winter as well as summer. And you need some extra checking when temperatures drop or if you drive from a warm to cold climate.

For every 10-degrees drop in temperature, a tire loses about a pound of pressure.

In the beginning, it was all-cotton production. Then came the age of manmade fibers (really, just man-processed) and of recent time, back to natural material—steelwire.

Cotton processing at Firestone Textiles Company's Gastonia and Bennettsville plants was phased out within the past five

years. (Cotton production was never a part of the Bowling Green operation.)

So, now a major use of cotton yarn is in supplying automatic loom batteries which send shuttles flying, to work filling into tire fabric of synthetic warp.

Today, outside suppliers sell Firestone the cotton yarn, wound in cone form and ready to go on the loom.

Again, First . . . Beautification Program

For the sixth consecutive year, the Firestone Bowling Green (Ky.) textile plant has been named to first place in the annual community beautification program in industry. The competition, sponsored by the Beautification Committee of Bowling Green, is in its sixth year.

Because Firestone has been named to first place for all these years, the plant was presented an additional 5-year award, placing it in the "industry hall of fame" of the program.

The honors have come to Firestone because of the plant's exceptional merit in landscape design, overall impact, good maintenance, originality of color; and for Firestone people's cooperation in efforts toward beautification and development of the community.

At a reception for all winners in the contest, plant manager Thomas Yelton—accepting the award for the company—said:

" . . . This speaks of our efforts at being a good corporate citizen; and of our responsibility to contribute to

the environment and physical attractiveness of the place where our plant is located."

Next month the American Red Cross Regional Bloodbank will make the first of two collections in the Gastonia Firestone community during 1975.

Date for the Bloodmobile stop at Loray Baptist Church is February 12.

The second stop of the year will be in August.

It's 'Wheels' For Them

• For Charlie and Eva Plyler, the bicycle is good for all-season fun and recreation. The retired (Firestone, Gastonia) couple have had their 'wheels' since last Spring. His is a Traveler from Firestone Stores; hers, a 3-wheeler with cargo basket. Both are single-speed.

Charlie retired as a loomfixer in TC Weaving, Aug., 1972, with 30 years company service. Eva had 32 years service when she retired as respooler operator in TC Twisting, Feb., 1973.

The Plylers live part of the year in the Myrtle Beach SC Grand Strand area where they take their camper trailer. So, last summer they rode their bikes mostly on trails and in parks at the beach.

A WHILE BACK, they brought the trailer and bikes back home to Gastonia. Charlie and Eva have a second home on the Catawba River 15 miles from Gastonia. Down there, they ride the bikes quite a bit, and some they do on streets and highways.



• The Plylers: Bikes for fun and exercise.

"For this kind of biking, we have to be especially careful of motor traffic and other hazards," says Eva. "Back-country roads are good, but you have to be careful of unexpected traffic there, too."

Biking and camping are favorite pastimes of the Plylers,

but they like gardening, too. Last season they canned more than 500 jars of foodstuff and put a 'big amount' in the freezer.

Looking toward a trip to Florida in February, Charlie and Eva may decide to take along their bikes.

Social Security Changes

Base figure for levying Social Security taxes increased to \$14,100 of each wage-earner's income, as of Jan. 1. The previous ceiling was \$13,200.

An estimated 19 million workers—or 1 in every 5 covered by Social Security earn \$13,200 or more. They and their employers each have to pay a maximum of

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Christmas For Children

A doll for Sue, a game for Debbie, a volleyball for Danny. . .

Gastonia, Bowling Green and Bennettsville plants of Firestone Textiles Company distributed Christmas gifts to children of employee households during the recent holidays.

The gifts, selected for children according to ages, were presented by departments to the youngsters up to 13 years.