

APRIL 1976

# Firestone

Gastonia  
North Carolina

Bennettsville  
South Carolina

Bowling Green  
Kentucky

## Textiles Company NEWS

### HIGH Bennettville SAFETY MARK

•• Ten years without a lost-time industrial injury. In Bennettville, Mayor Charles Hollis declared a "Firststone Recognition Day." And during that day, March 25, the 135 people of Firestone Textiles Company's plant were honored at a luncheon program and a ceremony at the factory. Safety Recognition Day involved top officials of the textiles division and The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, civic leaders and representatives of government.

There were awards, congratulations, special recognition and a challenge to continuing achievement.

The high safety-performance mark was set Feb. 10, and from then until the special recognition day, Bennettville people added 40,000 more injury-free manhours, bringing the total hours worked without a lost-time injury to around 2,685,000.

"THIS IS a record 'first' in the textile industry and among the very finest ever set by American industry generally," said James B. Call, president of Firestone Textiles Company. "This is also a record within the 75-

year history of the worldwide Firestone organization. . . . It can be described only as 'stupendous,' indeed, a 'fantabulous' safety record."

Awards presented at a plant ceremony following a luncheon program were the National Safety Council's Award of Merit, a plaque from the SC Department of Labor and Firestone's corporate Safety Achievement Award.

Employees at the Bennettville plant have received National Safety Council honors of one form or another on 14 occasions over the past 22 years.

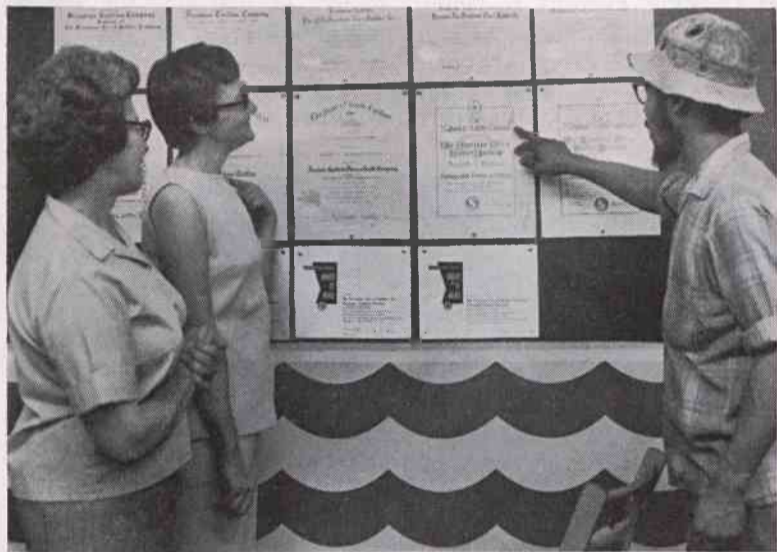
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Richard A. Riley, president and chief executive officer of the Firestone company, speaking at the Bennettville plant ceremony on "Tops in Safety" Honor Day. On platform (from left): Glen Cross, Firestone corporate manager of

organization planning, safety and suggestions; W. L. Kinney Jr., editor-publisher of Marlboro Herald-Advocate and representing U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond from South Carolina; Frank LePage, Firestone director and executive vice president; Bennettville Mayor

Charles Hollis; James B. Call, Firestone Textiles Company president; Edgar A. McGowan, commissioner of the S.C. Department of Labor; and Jay Rosenson, Firestone vice president, chemicals and raw materials group which includes Firestone Textiles Company.



Employees looking over plant safety award certificates of the past (from left): Annie Mae Watson, Sylvia Lockamy and Freddie Brown. Another grouping of plaques and trophies was displayed at speakers' platform.

### Smith, Fuller & Farmer: New Assignments

Claude W. Smith, named manager of the Bennettville plant in March, succeeds Edwin E. Fuller, who was at Bennettville the past six years. Fuller, appointed technical manager of the Bowling Green plant, is temporarily assigned to Gastonia and will move to the new job in June.

B. R. Farmer, since 1970 the Gastonia Process & Product Development projects manager, succeeds Smith as manager of technical services.

Smith has been on that assignment at the Gastonia division headquarters since July of 1973. From Union, S. C., he has a B.S. degree in textile management from Clemson University.

FROM a textile firm in Georgia, he joined Firestone at Gastonia in July of 1965, and soon afterward was transferred to Buenos Aires as assistant plant manager of the company's textile operation. He returned to Gastonia from Argentina after two years, and in early 1968 was transferred to Bowling Green. He was plant production manager there until his move back to Gastonia in 1973.

The Smith family will move to Bennettville in June. Mrs.

(Hursey) Smith is a special education teacher in Costner Elementary School of Gastonia. The Smiths' sons—Jeffrey, 11 and Brad, 8, are students at Gastonia Gardner Park School.

In Gastonia, Mr. and Mrs. Smith each teach a Sunday school class in Parkwood Baptist Church. He is cub master of Cub Scout Pack 503 of Gardner Park.

B. R. Farmer, from Wilson, N. C., has a B.S. degree in textile engineering from NC State University. From a textile job in Kinston, N. C., he joined Firestone at Gastonia in early 1964. Soon thereafter he was appointed manager of the company's textile plant in Buenos Aires.

AFTER more than four years  
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Above: Claude Smith (left) and Edwin Fuller



B. R. Farmer

• Textiles—one of the earliest great American industries, today employs more than a million people, producing 17 billion yards of fabric annually.

### Grant Honorary ATIE Member

Thomas A. Grant, manager of Industrial Engineering at Firestone, Gastonia, has been made honorary continuing member of the Association of Textile Industrial Engineers. At the Atlanta meeting in March, Grant was recognized for contributions to the group during his 20 years of membership.

The IE department manager has been president, vice president, treasurer and a member of the board of directors. He contributed a chapter to TIME STUDY MANUAL, one of two books which the organization has published. The other book is INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING MANUAL.

ANOTHER Firestone Textiles

member of ATIE is Luther C. Brown, formerly of the Gastonia plant and now IE member at Bowling Green.

ATIE, organized in 1951 as Southern Textile Methods and Standards Association, was redesignated Association of Textile Industrial Engineers in 1971. That same year its regional limitations were removed.

Purpose of ATIE is to advance sound and equitable principles of industrial engineering in the textile industry through inquiry and research, conferences and educational programs. Its two scheduled meetings each year are held in Atlanta and Charlotte.

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• The city of Bowling Green, Ky. offers land space for people to grow vegetables through its free Garden Plot Program. For this 1976 growing season plots are being made available in Pedigo Park, Kereiakes Park and on land off Lee Drive.

Applications are made through City Hall and by now, most likely all the spaces have been assigned. . . . A good thing for a city to do! An example of City Hall serving the people.

THE WEAVER

### Six Ended Work Careers

Gertrude McDaniel, reclamer in preparation, was 5 months into her 41st year of employment at the Gastonia Firestone plant when she retired in March. Wayne Odell, weaver in TC Weaving, had 36 years and 7 months when he finished his employment record last month.

Others who retired in March: George Honeycutt, section supervisor in Chafer Weaving, 33 years and 5 months; Claude S. Jonas, section supervisor in Chafer Weaving, 29 years and 4 months.

Those retiring as of April 1 were Nelson Jackson, cleaner in Shop, 35 years and 2 months; Joe Burroughs, shift maintenance technician, Shop, 30 years; and William Broome, yarn sorter in Preparation, 33 years and 5 months.