

Firestone

Textiles Company NEWS

Gastonia
North Carolina

Bennettsville
South Carolina

Bowling Green
Kentucky

June-August

Coming up: Another season of recreation for West Gastonia youngsters in Firestone Playground. The facility in front of the textile plant has its wading pool as main attraction for children who would "while away the lazy days of Summer."

The company-owned playground each Summer is made available for operation as a part of the City of Gastonia Recreation Department's system of parks and playgrounds.

Children at play are supervised by personnel employed by City Recreation.

In addition to the wading pool, the playground has swings, seesaws and horseshoe pits. A special feature in recent years has been instruction in arts and crafts. Competition in various areas of play and crafts participation chooses winners at season's end. This, a part of the overall City Recreation program, also schedules nature hikes and outings to points of interest around Gastonia.

Slack Promoted

Terry J. Slack recently was appointed supervisor of training and employee relations, Bowling Green plant. Slack, a graduate of Western Kentucky University, has been with Firestone's BG plant since 1974.

He was employee interviewer and counselor in the Industrial Relations department before his promotion to supervisor of training and employee relations. He and his wife Marilyn live in Bowling Green.

NO DAMAGE

Earl Taylor Jr., benchman, and his fellow Shop worker Glenn Boyce were transferring a heavy steel pipe onto a hand-truck one day last month. The pipe "got away" from them and one end came whacking down across Earl's left foot. Fortunately, it struck the steel-supported toecap of his shoe. To comply with established standards, the steel cap in a safety shoe (weighing only about two ounces) must be capable of supporting a static load of 2,500 pounds.

So, no damage to Earl's foot—just heavy vibrations. Earl always wears his safety shoes at work, but still "hates to think what it would've been like without them."

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• Earl's foot rests on the 400-pound pipe that fell but did no harm.

29 Consecutive Years Safety

• For 29 consecutive years, Firestone at Gastonia has been recognized by the Gaston County Chamber of Commerce and the North Carolina Department of Labor for noteworthy achievement in industrial safety.

Latest of the awards was presented in April to Bill Passmore, plant safety manager "on behalf of all the Firestone people." Firestone Textiles Company was among the 111 Gaston County companies receiving awards.

Firestone and one other firm were specially recognized—Firestone for being one of only five firms in the State entitled to the award over the past 29 years. The other firm, Threads, Inc., was honored for one million safe-operation employee hours.

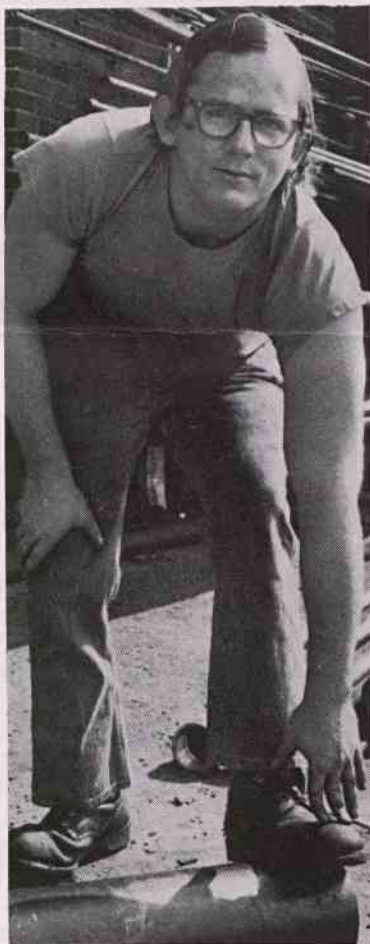
Firestone's citation this year

Company President 'Most Outstanding'

Richard A. Riley, president and chief executive officer of the Firestone company recently was named "most outstanding chief executive of the year in the rubber and tire industry" in Financial World's annual competition to honor America's top executives.

Selection was made by a panel of "48 leading security analysts" said the magazine.

Mr. Riley was cited for contributions to his "company," industry, business in general and the community at large.



recognizes the Gastonia plant's 1975 record of operating 50 per cent, or better, below the injury-frequency rate in the entire North Carolina textile industry. The plant's rate last year was 77.5 per cent below the State's average in textiles.

Other ways a firm is eligible for the NC Department of Labor award: To have no loss of time resulting from on-job injuries, and for a company to best its own established safety record. Through the years, Firestone has qualified in all three ways.

First of the long series of Department of Labor awards was made to Firestone in 1947 in Raleigh. That was a year before the awards meetings were made an annual event in Gastonia.

TWO MERIT WINNERS FROM TEXTILES DIVISION

• Forty-nine outstanding high school students are winners of 1976 college scholarships with a potential value of nearly \$550,000 in The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company's Scholarship Awards Program.

The winners, all sons and daughters of Firestone employees, were announced by Raymond C. Firestone, company chairman, in late April.

Grants the students receive are worth up to \$11,200 each toward tuition, fees, required textbooks and room and board expense during four years of college.

SCHOLARSHIP winners may attend any accredited college or university in the United States and pursue any desired course leading to a degree.

In addition to the 49 Scholarship recipients, a Certificate of Merit and 10 shares of Firestone common stock were awarded to



At Plant •

Safety Board Linda Weaver (left) and Betty Hayes, with latest NC Department of Labor Award plaque. Linda and Betty are loom knotters in TC Weaving.

Awards have been in the form of certificates, plaques, and inscribed bars added to plaques representing five-year periods.

1976 College Scholarships

each of 101 applicants in recognition of their outstanding high school records.



Teresa Jones Renee Setzer

One of the Merit winners is from a Firestone Textiles Company family: Greta Renee Setzer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Setzer of Bessemer City, N.C. She is a senior at Bessemer City High School. Her father is a shop mechanic at the Gastonia Firestone plant.

Also, Teresa D. Jones of Bowling Green, Ky., won a Certifi-

cate of Merit and Firestone stock. Teresa, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Jones, is a senior at Warren East High School. Her father is an inspector in Quality Control, Bowling Green Plant.

The 150 Scholarship and Certificate of Merit winners for 1976 live in 28 states and were selected from 423 applicants. Of Scholarship winners, 33 are girls and 16 are boys. The 101 Merit winners include 66 girls and 35 boys.

In the 24 years Firestone has made awards in this program, 786 college scholarships have been awarded.

Purpose of the program is to give financial assistance to worthy sons and daughters of Firestone employees who seek college educations.

The scholarship program for employees' children is but one (more on page 4)

Discounts & Refund Benefits

• Employees, retired persons, widows of retirees and the surviving spouse of any employee who was eligible for early retirement at the time of his or her death.

They're all eligible for discounts and refund benefits when buying tires, auto services and home & auto supplies from Firestone.

Every year the people who are eligible save hundreds of thousands of dollars through purchases and at the same time add to their own job security through doing business with the company.

The substantial discounts and refunds are an important part of

each employee's "benefits package."

DISCOUNTS on first-class passenger tires, based on store suggested retail price, range from 10 to 25 percent depending on tire type. On blemished tires the discount is 20 percent off regular employee price for new tires.

Current employee discount on light truck and recreational vehicle tires is the exchange price less 10 percent. Substantial price

THROUGH STORES

reductions are also offered for retread tires.

When new tires are offered to the public as part of a major passenger tire promotion, employees and retirees can buy the tires (except Champion) at 10 percent below the advertised price or at the normal employee price, whichever is lower.

TO CHANGE over from new tires (if mold marks are still visible) to Firestone tires of the same type and quality, the employee or retiree pays \$1 per tire, including balancing.

(more on page 2)