

**SYNTHETIC RUBBER
BY END OF 1976**

2.2 Million Tons

Projected increases in output of tires and other rubber products will cause a rise in use of synthetic rubber this year. So, domestic consumption of synthetic rubber during 1976 will climb by 350,000 metric tons to 2.2 million tons.

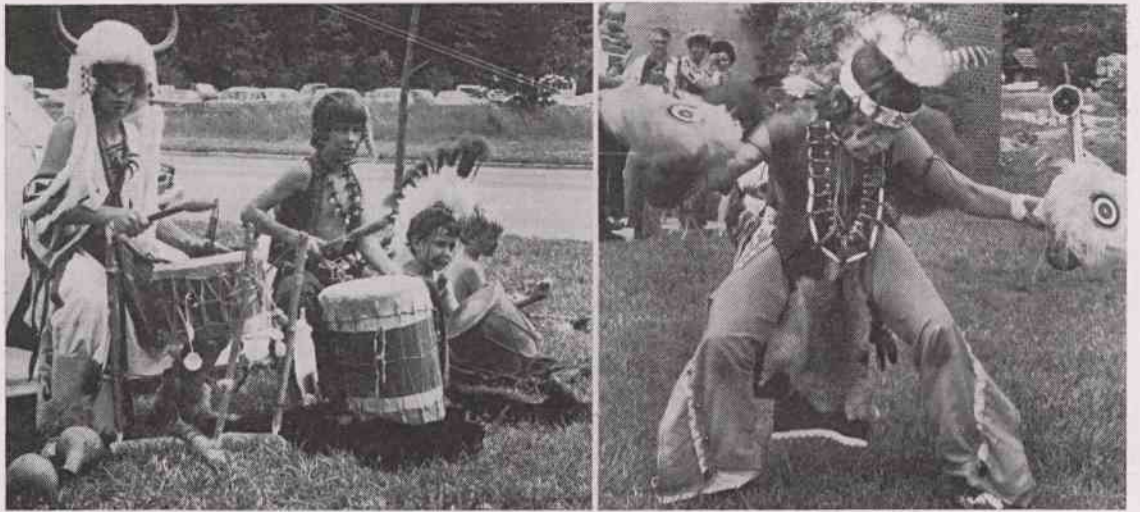
This is about 20 percent over the amount used in 1975, a slow year for the industry. Thomas Salisbury, president of Firestone's synthetic rubber and latex division, has estimated that about 61 percent—or 1.34 million metric tons—of the synthetic will be styrene butadiene rubber (SBR), versatile mainstay of the rubber industry. Firestone also expects 1976 sales of natural rubber to move up—to 740,000 metric tons, a 90,000-ton in-

crease over last year's level. Salisbury noted:

- In the past few years, synthetic rubber has lost some of its market to natural rubber because of the increased radial-tire production. However, we expect more use of synthetic in radials, and that synthetic will regain its former 78 percent share of the market by 1980.
- Synthetic will account for about 75 percent of all rubber used domestically this year.

- About 13 percent increase is expected in sales of retreaded truck tires in 1976—up to 13 million units from the 11.5 million tires retreaded last year.

J. E. Hynds, Firestone manager of retread and repair material sales, looks for continued increases in annual sales of retreaded truck tires throughout the 1970s, reaching 16.6 million units by 1980.



Dancing For The Bicen Festival

- Gastonia's Schiele Museum of Natural History is celebrating a Bicentennial Heritage Festival during the year, with special events on

weekends. On May 15 and 16 there were Indian and Southern Mountains crafts exhibits and demonstrations, and traditional Indian dances by a Gastonia boys group.

The museum is in a funding campaign to extend its facilities and services. Existing main features are the

museum itself, the planetarium, log cabin and pioneer-life exhibits and a nature trail.

Contributions to the expansion fund may be made to Schiele Museum, P.O. Box 953, Gastonia, N. C. 28052, or at the museum, 1500 Garrison Boulevard.

A Bargain . . .

"Give or take a little," it requires 12 miles traveling to consume a penny's worth of life on the tire of a passenger car.

A few months ago a Federal Highway Administration study showed that replacement tires account for less than 3 percent of the per-mile costs of operating an auto for 10 years. In the tests of a standard-size car, the 10-year operating costs are 15.89 cents a mile, of which tires account for only .38 cents (\$.0038) a mile or 2.56 percent of the total.

This reported cost for tires can be lower if drivers follow good

tire care and maintenance programs. Jack B. Scarcliff, Firestone director of consumer affairs, offers these suggestions:

- To get best service, check tire pressures at least once a month. Incorrect pressure can mean higher possibility of sidewall and other failures, reducing tire life.

- Good driver habits are important in getting the most tire mileage. Avoid jack-rabbit starts and stops, drive smoothly and try not to scrape against curbs when rounding corners.

Youth Choir Sang And Visited

The Youth Choir of Loray Baptist Church in the Firestone (Gastonia) community made a three-day trip to Frederick and Brunswick, Md., and Washington, D. C. in early May. The group traveled in the Loray Church bus.

At South End Baptist Church in Frederick the choir presented the patriotic musical, "I Love America," by John Peterson. A second presentation of the musical was in First Baptist Church

of Brunswick. Before leaving for these concerts, the choir presented "I Love America" in the home Loray church April 25.

THE CHOIR of some 25 members and those who accompanied them visited overnight in homes of people of the South End host church.

Don Benfield is director of the Loray Youth Choir. Accompanist is Mrs. Mary Johnson, formerly employed in Firestone's Shipping department. Mrs. Nova Lowe, secretary in Process & Product Development, went with the group and presented solo selections in the two concerts.

While in the area the group went on a quick bus tour of Washington — by the Capitol, White House, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and across the Potomac; and a brief stop in two of the buildings of Smithsonian Institution.

Among members of the Loray Youth Choir from Firestone families are Lori James (father Bobby James in Quality Control Lab., and grandmother Novella James in Payroll); Jamie Prather (mother Betty Prather is in Accounting) and Dale and Becky Smith (parents Wilma and Jimmy Smith both of TC Twisting).



Witherspoon Norwood

NCVTS Grads

Robert James Witherspoon and Donald Gary Norwood will receive the Associate in Applied Science degree in textile technology on June 24 graduation day at North Carolina Vocational Textile School.

They have attended the school at Belmont for two years—Witherspoon in morning classes; Norwood in afternoons. Their study has been in the Weaving & Designing option of the school's five major areas of curriculum.

Witherspoon, a yarn handler in Preparation, has worked at Firestone since May, 1974. His wife Mildred, a respooler operator in TC Twisting, also has been with Firestone since May, 1974.

Norwood, a creeler supervisor in TC Weaving, has worked here since September, 1973.

GASTONIA

40 Years And Other Records

- Buford A. Tate, section supervisor in TC Weaving, led the Gastonia service list last month with 40 years on-job time. Joining him in May with 35 years service: Javen A. Haney, lubrication specialist in TC Twisting. And there were others completing long-service records last month:

- **Thirty Years** • Paul C. Barker, maintenance technician in

Shop; Roy M. Chastain, supervisor—maintenance, Shop; Bertha Ellis, style changer, TC Weaving; Harlon Graham, twister operator, TC Twisting; Lassie L. Greene, respooler operator, fabric baler, TC Weaving; Jack TC Twisting; Arthur N. Moore, T. C. Weaving; Jack W. Morris, pipefitter, Shop.

- **Twenty-Five Years** • Annabelle Conner, respooler operator, TC Twisting.

- **Twenty Years** • Clyde F. Huffstetler, supervisor, Fabric Treating.

- **Ten Years** • Carroll G. Boulware Jr., frame mechanic, T.C. Twisting; Frances R. Gilbert, unifil operator, TC Weaving.

- **Five Years** • Camelene Byars, respooler operator, TC Twisting; Lucy C. Conrad, inspector (Quality Control) in TC Twisting; Howard E. Gunter, millwright, Shop.

**They'd Been Gone
A Long Time**

Bessie Baxley Larson and her sister Mary Baxley Smith visited the Bennettsville plant a while back. They've been gone a long time. Bessie and Mary live in Salt Lake City, Utah but are originally from Marlboro County, S. C.

With them on their Firestone visit were Mrs. Larson's daughters Bonnie Robinson and Thelma Roberson and her husband Floyd Roberson.

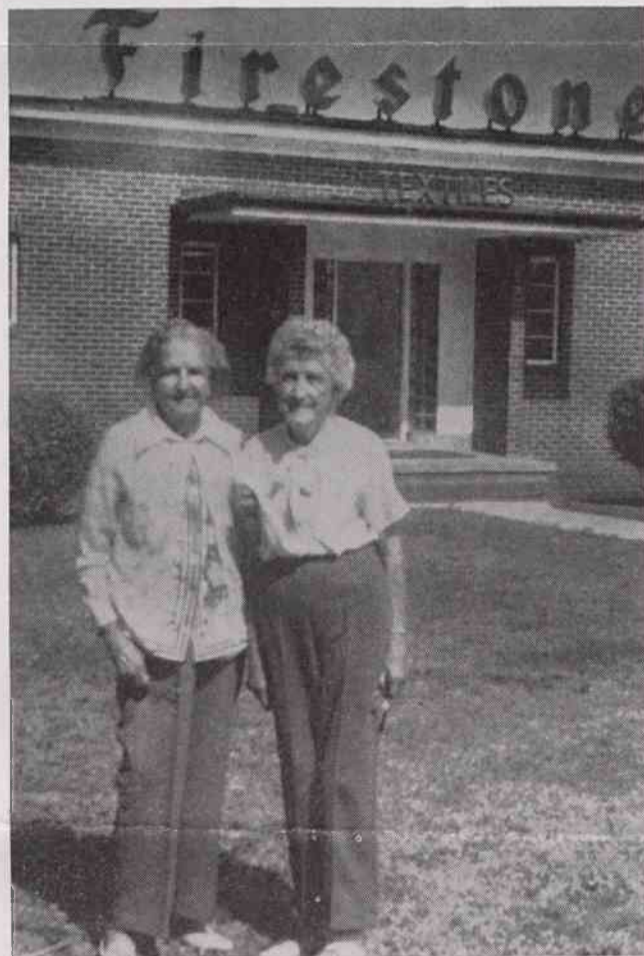
"I worked in this plant (Old Marlboro Cotton Mills) as a spinner in 1901, when I was nine years old," said Mrs. Larson. Her recollections went on:

"**BACK IN** those times people worked for 10 cents a day—meaning 12 hours. I worked at nights and lots of times I'd slip off and go home and go to sleep.

"Sometimes the boss would come after me, stick my head under water to wake me up and make me return to work. I wasn't the only one who did this."

Bessie's sister Mary was too young to work back in 1901. Just the same, she came along with her sister, sat in a chair or slept on the floor while the

Back then: ten cents for twelve hours



others worked at the spinning frames.

Bessie, Mary, Bonnie, Thelma and Floyd went with shift su-

pervisor Otis T. Frye on a tour of the plant and chatted with several members of the Bennettsville staff.

Firestone NEWS

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Frances Fletcher, Redona David, Margaret McCaskill, Jimmy McCaskill

BOWLING GREEN
T. J. Slack

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