



Bicentennial Theme

• Suzanne Powell (left) and her sister Donna like the Continental Soldier design which Boy Scout Troop 9 'painted onto' a fire hydrant in front of the Firestone Gastonia plant.

In keeping with the Bicenten-

nial, the Scout troop decorated this one at West Second and Dalton and another one in Boy Scout uniform in front of Loray Baptist Church on West Franklin Boulevard. Loray Church sponsors Troop 9. Suzanne and Donna have a half-brother, Tom Cook, who is a unit operator in Nylon Treating at Firestone.

Textile Industry Energy-Saving

United effort by textile employees and management to substantially cut down on their companies' energy consumption is proving successful. A recent Department of Commerce report shows that the textile industry—ranking 10th in annual energy consumption by U.S. industries—achieved a 6.6 percent improvement in energy efficiency during the final six months of 1975 over the same period in 1973.

Said the report: Improvement resulted from energy conservation techniques and higher production levels. Some steps textile companies took to raise efficiency were careful scheduling of production, insulation of facilities, use of heat-capturing equipment, lowering thermostats, changes in production techniques, and reducing speeds of company-owned vehicles.

About 80 companies of all sizes report monthly to the energy-conservation program conducted by American Textile Manufacturers Institute (ATMI), the industry's central trade association.

The commerce department notes that the textile industry was one of the earliest to participate in the government's industrial energy-conservation program.

In energy savings is the careful management of all electric-consumer operations at Gastonia, Bowling Green, Bennettsville, Woodstock; and Memphis treating units.

July Bonds Promotion

Almost 10 million buyers of U.S. Savings Bonds "are laying a third-Century cornerstone by contributions to the strength, prosperity and free enterprise that is 'America's Spirit of 1976.'" There'll be lots more before the summer is over.

Firestone is among the more than 40,000 companies that offer payroll purchase of U.S. Savings Bonds.

July 19-30 the company will conduct the annual Savings Bonds Campaign in all its U.S. facilities. This emphasis "will support the nation's Bicentennial offer of an ideal time for each of us to 'Take Stock in America,'" said F. A. Wahl, company general campaign chairman.

Goal for the 12-day Bonds promotion: Sign up at least 50 percent of all non-subscribers at each location, and obtain increased allotments from at least 50 per cent of those already enrolled.



He Changed Jobs

• John V. Darwin has devoted more than 40 years to business and industry. His retirement from Firestone at Gastonia was just a shift in work—from textiles to real estate. But he has more freedom in his schedule now, and likely as not whenever he takes a notion, he'll go fishing, play golf or travel some.

"Mr.D" spent 32 years and 8 months with Firestone Textiles Company, retiring July 1. He had been administrative assistant to division president James B. Call since 1970.

A native of Gaffney, S.C., Darwin was graduated from Gaffney High School in 1930 and from Duke University in 1933. He returned to his hometown for two years' work with a government agency, then in 1935 moved to McColl, S.C. There he taught chemistry and math in the public school. After a year in teaching, he went into industry with Marlboro Cotton Mills, remaining with the Bennettsville company to early 1939.

THEN HE MOVED to Gastonia to work as manager of accounts with Akers Motor Lines for nearly five years. In November 1943 he joined Firestone to be in charge of accounts for the Bennettsville plant which the company had just purchased from Marlboro Cotton Mills.

His promotion as chief accountant of the Gastonia plant

came within a few months. His next job for several years was as sales manager of sales yarn in the "Cotton Days" of the plant's history.

When the late Harold Mercer became president of the textile division in 1966, Darwin was promoted to general manager of the Gastonia plant. He was in

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Three Air Shows

Firestone air shows at three family entertainment centers will continue through Labor Day: Carowinds near Charlotte, N.C.; Kings Island near Cincinnati, Ohio; and Kings Dominion at Ashland, Va.

Performances of "The Greatest Show Off The Earth" at all three parks feature two biplanes, a three-person skydiving team and an 80-foot balloon. Shows are each evening at Kings Island and Kings Dominion; and on week-end evenings at Carowinds.

ENERGY-USE

Conservation 14.41 Per Cent

•• A 14.41 per cent reduction was achieved in Firestone Textiles Company's energy-use conservation for the second quarter of fiscal 1975-76—the months of February, March and April. The savings figure for the first quarter (Nov. 1975-Jan. 1976) was 11.22.

Guido Martinelli, industrial engineer and energy conservation coordinator for the division, noted that the second quarter figure slightly exceeds the goal (13 per cent) aimed for by 1980.

The 14.41 per cent reduction involved the plants at Gastonia, N.C.; Bennettsville, S.C.; Bowling Green, Ky.; three plants at Woodstock, Canada, and the fabric-treating operation at the Firestone Memphis, Tenn., tire-building facility.

RATE OF energy savings is based on number of British Thermal Units (BTUs) it takes to produce and process a yard of fabric.

T. W. Fisher Jr., of the company's Energy Utilization Akron office, points out that the 14.41 reduction in energy use repre-

sents an annual savings of \$657,750, figured at utility and fuel prices as of late June.

"It's good that you have reached your 1976 goal already," wrote Fisher, "and I hope you will continue to reduce energy consumption as a regular thing."

What did we do to reach this point of energy savings? Among major things at the different plants, Martinelli points to . . .

- Boiler modification and two-zone polyethylene pre-tension dip processing in the Gastonia treating unit.

- Belt change on twister frames and modification in treating unit at Bowling Green.

- Alterations in the air-wash conditioning system at Bennettsville.

Also making a big difference

Nine 'New Schedules'

- Evelyn Mayfield started working at the Gastonia Firestone plant in 1937. She, a technician in Quality Control laboratory, is one of nine at Gastonia to 'close out' careers in recent weeks.

Next to Evelyn's 40-years length of service was Opal Bradley of TC Twisting with 28 years and 3 months; then Elizabeth Howell, also of TC Twisting, 26 years.

Ralph Dalton 'was done' with his work in the Shop, finishing 25 years and 5 months; and for Ruth Wilson of Quality Control: 21 years and 4 months.

With 20 years and 19 months: James Hawkins of TC Twisting; and Jerry Edwards, also of TC Twisting, 20 years and 7 months. For Sarvis Bell of TC Twisting: 17 years and 5 months; and Kathleen Jolly, 16 years and 10 months.



SHE KNOTS WARP CORDS

- Gearldine Woodburry is a loom knotter at Firestone Textiles Company's Bennettsville, S. C. plant. Gearldine doesn't really knot looms, but knots warp cords from newly-filled creels as one of the last operations before start-up for weaving. After knotting is completed, the loom starter manipulates the warp through eyeboards and reeds of the loom, putting in a short trial run of filling. Then the cloth doffer removes the start-up end. If all has gone well, the weaver takes over "to let the loom roll on."

Gearldine marked her 30th work anniversary with Firestone in June. Her husband, George Woodburry is a shift foreman.