

SEPTEMBER
1976

Gastonia
North Carolina

Bennettsville
South Carolina

Bowling Green • Kentucky

Firestone

Textiles Company NEWS



Fall Festival

• The 13th annual Festival in the Park (Freedom Park in

Charlotte) is September 21-26. This Firestone News photo is from last year. The festival this month is among lots and lots of

September-October "things special" in the Carolinas and Kentucky that make for Fun & Adventure (more on page 4).

An Enterprise Fair At WKU

Firestone Textiles Company Bowling Green (Ky.) plant is among some 75 business and industrial firms participating in a Free Enterprise Fair, Sept. 17-18 at Western Kentucky University.

The Fair, focusing on the impact of economics in the community, attempts to acquaint high school and college students and the general public with the essence and spirit of the American Free Enterprise Way.

At the WKU Paul L. Garrett Conference Center, participating business and industrial firms during the two-day fair display product information, public relations materials, information on productivity, gross national product, and our individual en-

terprise system and how it works.

EXHIBITS also show certain standard information about the participating firms—number of employees, payroll, taxes paid to local, state and federal government, and related facts.

Sponsors of the Fair are the College of Business and Community Affairs of WKU, the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, Southern Kentucky Association of Life Underwriters and the Center for Economic Education.

Coordinating Firestone's participation in the Fair are Fred DeHoag, working supervisor—data processing; and Terry J. Slack, supervisor of training and employee relations.

Variety In 333 Suggestions

From May through August, the suggestion board at Gastonia considered 333 ideas and approved 71 of them. For these, the company paid employees \$1,350 in awards—with most of them being the minimum \$15.

Several of the not-approved suggestions rated further study for possible adoption.

APPROVED suggestions were in award payments from the minimum (for example) Bobbie Baldwin's idea for relocating a telephone cord in the Industrial Relations office where she is secretary, to \$300 for Jesse Lee Parks Jr.'s improved method of loading fabric for rail shipment.

Parks, lead vehicle mechanic, Shop, got approval of his original suggestion a year ago and it has been in use since then. His loading method provides for a set of squeeze clamps on lift trucks. They go underneath each

end of fabric rolls at floor level and transport them to lengthwise loading in railroad cars.

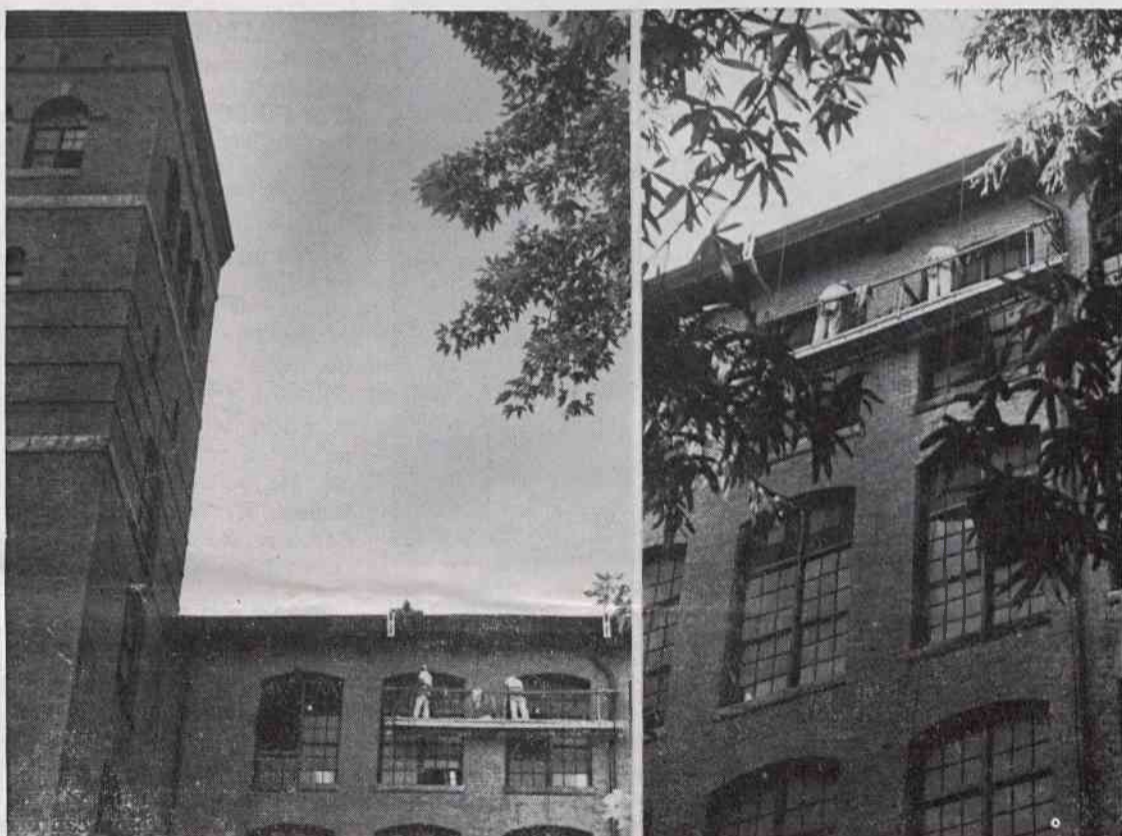
Original payment was \$300. Because the Bowling Green plant adopted his loading method this summer, Parks was awarded an additional \$300 in June.

Some examples which show the variety of ideas submitted during the past four months: Safety features added to air-operated door, yellow traffic lines painted on parking lot, confidencers installed on telephones in high-noise areas, handles added on windows for easier

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The lead photo on page one of the July 8 NON-SKID featured a ply-twisting operation at the Gastonia Firestone plant. The picture in the company's corporate publication distributed nationally, was titled "On The Beam" and showed section supervisor Robert Bryson of TC Twisting.

He was checking a plying op-



Painting High

Frames and sashes of the approximately 882 windows of the five-floor Gastonia Firestone plant were painted during Summer by R. B. Elam contractors. The crew worked from May into August at scraping, caulking

and painting, from ground to top and counter-clockwise around the mill. Downspouts and gutters got their paint, too.

The windows are painted around every eight years, according to William Lindquist, senior staff engineer. Figuring out spaces for quite a few fans and vents in the window frames, there are at

least 36,000 panes—with all those in-between sashes to be painted.

The big window project done, workmen moved inside to the west end of second floor, painting walls and ceilings in late August. Earlier, another contractor had painted the west end of fifth floor.

PLANT CAMPAIGN — OCT. 4-21

Gaston UW: \$763,000

"As high a participation and as many Fair-Share contributors as we can get" is aim of the Firestone United Way in-plant campaign in October. The Gaston County UW program, Sept. 28-Oct. 29, is reaching for \$763,000 to be divided among 34 organizations ranging from the American Cancer Society to the YMCA.

Last year the county funding program raised \$712,000 to operate 32 people-helping services. And in that effort, Firestone people contributed \$41,098 which was one of the major gifts in the county's funding effort.

For the Firestone in-plant United Way drive, chairmen this year are Thomas A. Grant,

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1976 BG UGF

Needs \$190,000

United Givers Fund of Bowling Green and Warren County (Ky.) 1976 money-raising campaign began after the Labor Day weekend. It is usually completed by the middle of October.

Vernon Holder, president-elect of UGF for 1977 and this year's campaign chairman, said: " . . . This year we have an even-bigger job before us." He

eration from behind the hundreds of polyester filaments being wound off the beam and twisted onto bobbins.

manager of Industrial Engineering; and Ralph L. Reep, shift foreman in TC Weaving. And many other volunteers will help in the solicitation.

Money pledged will be paid through payroll deduction.

Alvin V. Riley, Firestone Textiles Company manager of personnel, is among volunteer workers on the county level of the United Way program.

Albert V. Myers III, a Gastonia textile executive, is this year's campaign chairman for Gaston United Way.

pointed out that all businesses, industry, professionals and wage earners will have opportunity to help make up last year's deficit and raise enough funds for UGF operations in coming months of 1977.

UGF campaign goal this year is \$190,000 to operate the health, welfare and character-building agencies of Bowling Green and Warren County.

The money is being raised to support 12 health, welfare and character-building services next

(More on page 4)