

NOVEMBER
1976

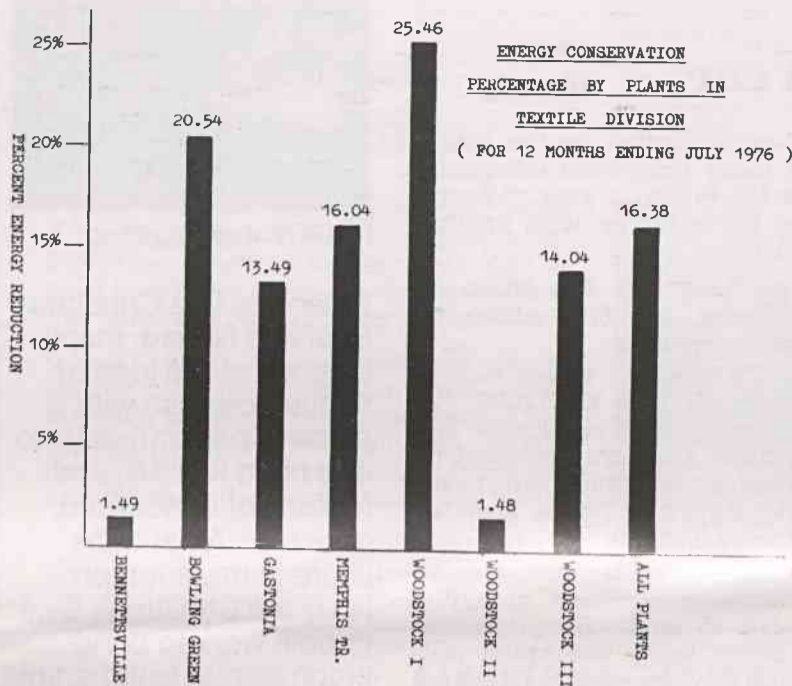
Firestone

Textiles Company NEWS

Gastonia
North Carolina

Bennettsville
South Carolina

Bowling Green • Kentucky



TEXTILE DIVISION Energy-Use Down

Energy consumption at six Firestone Textiles Company plants and the Memphis, Tenn., tire factory treating unit has been reduced 16.38 per cent from the 1972 energy-use base rate for these facilities. Textile engineer Guido A. Martinelli points out:

• This division-wide reduction rate represents savings of enough energy of all kinds in use, to run the entire Gastonia operation for seven months.

Martinelli, energy coordinator for the division, said that because of curtailment of natural gas to a minimal level, the Gastonia, Bowling Green and Bennettsville plants will be operating principally on standby No. 2 and 6 fuel oil during the coldest

months of upcoming winter.

INCLUDED in the division program of energy savings are the textile plants at Gastonia, N.C.; Bennettsville, S.C.; Bowling Green, Ky.; Woodstock, Canada (three plants) and the treating unit at Memphis.

Major users of combustion energy are the fabric-treating operations at Memphis, Gastonia and Bowling Green and boilers at all facilities involved.

Top Pay Now — \$25,000

The least—\$15. The most—\$25,000. Maximum Firestone award for a single suggestion went into effect November 1. The "top going price" for a suggestion had been \$10,000 for several years.

Increase in the amount, approved by Richard A. Riley, chairman, applies to suggestion programs at participating plants and loca-

tions of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company and its subsidiaries in the U.S. and Canada.

"This increase in the amount of our maximum award marks an important milestone of our Suggestion Program," said H. B. Palmer, manager of the corporate suggestion department.

more on page 2

YOUR GIFTS Will Do So Much

• The \$46,553.20 which Firestone Gastonia employees contributed to the United Way of Gaston County in October will go to helping people through 34 community services and agencies during 1977.

Through pledges to be paid by payroll deduction, Firestone people will add this major portion to the other contributed funds, toward reaching the overall county goal of \$763,000.

Thomas A. Grant and Ralph Reep, chairmen of the annual in-plant solicitation, reported that...

• Firestone participation in giving was 94.7 per cent of employment. Fair Share giving was 63.2 per cent.

• Average gift per contributor was \$36.48.

"You have done it again—people helping people," said Philip R. Williams, Gastonia factory manager. He pointed out the significant increase over that

contributed last year (the 1975 amount was \$41,098.)

At the Firestone Bowling Green (Ky.) plant, employees added \$14,483 to the BG-Warren County United Givers Fund toward this year's county goal of \$190,000. Of the 562 employees making UGF pledges, nearly 77 per cent were Fair-Share contributors.

Employees at Bennettsville contributed \$3,851.04 to the United Fund of Marlboro County. This represents 100 per cent participation of the employment, and 81 per cent Fair Share giving.

Leaders of the fund campaign were M.D. Coleman and Frances Fletcher.



Winter's almost here again and the U.S. Bicentennial Year is drawing to a close. Guinn Costner is ready for cold weather, with her commemorative knit cap and its 1776-1976 Bicentennial design. Guinn's parents work at Firestone, Gastonia—David, a twister bobbin changer in TC Twisting; and Linda, a re-spooler operator in the same department.

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More Cycle Tires

Firestone has re-entered the production of motorcycle tires for both on and off-highway use—the tires to be on the market by Spring 1977.

The company last made motorcycle tires in the U.S. in 1960. For the past two years it has been in development work and testing of motorcycle tires.

Tires being produced incorporate advance designs and the latest rubber compounds; will be marketed to motorcycle accessory distributors which will sell the tires to motorcycle dealers. Tires will also be available to motorcycle manufacturers.

IMC Tour Of Plant



More than 100 members of International Management Club Gaston County chapter visited Firestone in October. Their tour of the plant followed the club monthly meeting at the YMCA and was part of a continuing program of visiting business and industry in the county.

Here, club member-visitor Daniel Cunningham (left) and Lee Welch watched

Hazel Splawn operate a Terrell splicing machine in TC Weaving, and (right) Boyd Pittman examined spools of yarn in TC Twisting.

Current Gaston chapter IMC membership includes five persons from Firestone Textiles—Rita Franks of Quality Control; Bryan Schroeder, Shop; Kenneth Cash, George High and James Wilkes of TC Twisting.

J. B. CALL The Year Ahead: 'Promise'

• Fiscal year 1976-77 holds considerable promise for our business over 1975-76, James B. Call said at the managers and controllers conference in October.

"It could be a record year if we seize the opportunities," he added.

The division president and general factory manager R. L. King led in the two-day Gastonia meeting, reviewing the past year of division operations and presenting plans for the new business year which began Nov. 1.

In addition to the review and outlook, the information exchange treated a variety of subjects. Among topics were sales and profits, Equal Employment Opportunity, wages and cost control, fabric usage, customer relations, scheduling, fabric treating and packaging improvement, energy conservation, pollution control, safety, product quality, accounting, process and product development, maintenance and improvements; employment practices, training and benefits.

SEVERAL Gastonia staff people presented special reports on phases of the division operations.

Representing the plants of the division: Gastonia—P. R. Williams, factory manager, and H. S. Laver, controller; Bennettsville—Claude Smith, manager; Bowling Green, T. L. Yelton, manager, and Joseph Duffy, controller; Woodstock—Hugh Dorman, general manager, and Frank Masek, controller.

Eight With 'New Status'

•• It was "so long" to the quill and loom, drillpress, keypunch machine and all other things at work for 8 at Gastonia, Oct. 31. Of "the years put in" by the time they retired, Clarence Case, Shop balance machine operator, had the most: 40 plus 1 month.

Next was Novella James, keypunch operator in Data Processing, with a few days more than 39 years. Then, Meta Gathins, weaver in Cotton (chafer) Weaving, 34 years, 5 months.

Johnny Byrd, quill handler in Cotton (chafer) Weaving, 31 years, 6 months; John A. Jenkins, Warehouse shift supervisor, 29 years, 7 months.

With 29 years, 6 months: Porter Cable, loom starter in TC Weaving; and Paul Nolen, Shop electrician, 27 years, 2 months. Paul Gann, Shop millwright, retired with 10 years and 10 months service.