



• Plant manager Claude Smith (left) with Quality-Control & Safety manager David Coleman, noting the 11-year safety mark of Firestone Textiles Company's SC production facility.

2,908,620 People Hours

People of Firestone Textiles Company's Bennettsville, SC plant achieved another high safety record Feb. 9. It marked the 11th year of operation without a lost-time injury and represents 2,908,620 peoples' work hours without a chargeable injury.

"So far as is known, this is a record among the 128 facilities worldwide of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, and is believed to be a record in the entire textile industry," said plant manager Claude Smith. "At least, no one has challenged the claim," he added.

"IT MAY BE said that no one person is responsible for this outstanding safety performance," said M. David Coleman, manager of Quality Control & Safety, "but it is a fact that it all originated with top management where we have always

been taught to practice Safety First."

Coleman points out that four plant managers have given leadership in safety during this 11-year period—Eugene F. Sweeney, manager when the record began in 1966; Ralph L. King who followed Mr. Sweeney when he retired; Edwin Fuller who followed King; and Claude Smith, the present manager who began in March, 1976. Said Coleman:

"These managers who have served during these 11 years, demanded through their staff and supervision that we have a safe work place, that we have a safety program and that we have continuing training in all areas of safety."

WHEN THE Bennettsville plant reached its historic 10-year safety record in 1976, a special day commemorated the achievement.

Bennettsville: No Lost-Time Injuries

Mayor Charles F. Hollis proclaimed "The day of March 25, 1976, in honor of the employees and management of the Firestone plant of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company . . . urging all citizens to honor and dignify the employees and management of the plant. Mayor Hollis also designated a "Firestone Employee Week."

Recalling the "Big Day" last March, activities included tours of the plant, a barbecue meal for all employees, an awards presentation and a civic luncheon. Those attending the luncheon and plant ceremony included Richard A. Riley, president (now chairman) of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, other top company officials; civic leaders and government officials.

\$6.5 Million

Energy Savings

That's how much the Firestone company saved in the first year of a five-year worldwide energy-conservation program. A report on the first year showed the company ahead of its goal of reducing energy consumption by 20 per cent overall by 1980.

Company-wide savings for fiscal 1976 amounted to more than the energy used during 1976 for all of Firestone's Akron, Ohio, operations—including the corporate headquarters, two tire plants, a synthetic rubber plant, central research operation, computer center and other facilities, said Berndt K. Lyckberg, Firestone's corporate manager of energy utilization.

The company figures energy consumption in terms of BTUs required to produce one pound of product (an exception is Firestone Textiles Company where it is a yard of tire fabric). Taken into account are all forms of energy used: Fuel oil, coal, electricity, natural gas.

"RISING energy prices have tripled Firestone's total energy costs since 1972, making conservation measures vitally important, Lyckberg said.

Savings during the first year of the program were achieved mainly by improving boiler operations, reducing leaks, improving insulation, and a steam-trap inspection program.

The company has an energy task force and a person to head the program at each plant, with quarterly reports assembled at Firestone's corporate energy office in Akron.

As of January, the Textiles Division registered an overall 19.88 per cent savings in energy use. This includes plants at Gastonia, Bennettsville, Bowling Green, Memphis (treating) and plants 1, 2, 3 at Woodstock, Canada.

Brian Schroeder, energy coordinator, noted that this is a savings increase of nearly 9 per cent over the rate a year ago. The Textiles Division goal on savings is 13 per cent by 1980.

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In Who's Who



Barbara Mills Mack, daughter of Eula (Mrs. Seemon) Dunlevy of Gastonia, will graduate this spring from Coastal Carolina College of the University of South Carolina, Myrtle Beach. She will receive a degree in secondary education and plans to teach.

Barbara's biography is included in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" for 1976-77.

In the honors program at Coastal, she received the George C. Rodgers Award as Outstanding Student of the Year (1975) and was named Most Valuable Tennis Player.

In 1975-76 she was the student body secretary, a member of the intra-mural sports committee, a class representative and mem-

President-Elect Of BG UGF

Thomas L. Yelton is president-elect of Bowling Green-Warren County (Ky.) United Givers Fund. The Firestone Bowling Green plant manager will serve as general campaign chairman for the UGF 1977 drive, and will assume the presidency in 1978. The BG-Warren UGF gathers and disburses funds for 13 people-helping community services.

Also, plant manager Yelton has been elected to the board of directors of Kentucky Council on Economic Education. KCEE objectives are in line with those supported and promoted by the Firestone company and business generally—to increase economic literacy among teachers, students and the public, so as to improve quality of government and foster economic environment for business and free enterprise.

bar of the student affairs committee.

Barbara is president and a member of the advisory board of Myrtle Beach Tennis Club. Following high school in Gastonia, she worked at Firestone as secretary in (Main Office) Purchasing. Her mother is a weaver in Chafer Weaving.

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Looking Around

Sign in Gastonia taxi station: Please Keep Noise Down to Low Roar. Bumperese—car on Vance Street, Gastonia: Have Teepee—Need Squaw. Along with other graffiti on back of Gastonia city transit seat: Ann She Love Rufus.

Four More 'Went Out'

For four Firestone (Gastonia) people, it was "so long" to payroll checks, bobbins, twister frames, supervisors' tasks and the plant powerhouse. All closing long careers, they had their first day of retirement March 1.

• Beatrice McCarter, Payroll supervisor since late 1974, worked 40 years and 8 months for the company. For her, 32 years of that time were in Payroll and the remainder in factory production.

Beatrice's husband Howard McCarter is retired from Firestone, with a 38-year service record. He is a Security Forces guard at the plant.

• Broadus Moss retired with 37 years and 4 months on the job. His last work was as a bobbin changer in TC Twisting.

• James Paul Chastain was a powerhouse operator when he retired, completing 31 years and 7 months service.

• Moses Player, section supervisor in TC Twisting, 'rounded out an even' 27 years at his retirement.



Patterns In Snow

• Three light and short-lasting snows of the 1976-77 Winter

came to Gastonia and North Carolina's Western Piedmont up through late February. But the unpredictable weather 'schedule'

might have others in store 'up into March.' These patterns were at the Gastonia Firestone Main Office.