



Gastonia
North Carolina

JUNE • 1977

Bennettsville
South Carolina

Bowling Green
Kentucky

Tuition Refund CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Firestone Tuition Refund Program helps employees to keep on learning.

Company management believes that continuing education for employees can be mutually beneficial in bringing into harmony the employee's personal goals and Firestone's objectives. And it recognizes that Firestone's future growth greatly depends on having a well-trained reserve of capable management personnel.

Education, or colleges and universities accredited by the six nationally-recognized regular accrediting associations.

Since what you study should be related directly to Firestone's needs and goals, you'll have to get approval of the courses you take.

Firestone people within five years of normal retirement age may be reimbursed for courses

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Medical Expenses 1976

Would you like to get a \$37.5-million medical bill? That's what Firestone paid in medical expense costs for its domestic employees in fiscal 1976.

If the employee had to pay for comparable hospital, surgical, major medical insurance, it would probably cost him or her between \$60 and \$70 per month.

The cost may vary greatly depending on the specific level of benefits provided, the extent of use, hospital-medical costs in the area served and other factors. But an annual cost of \$750 is not unrealistic for a program similar to Firestone's, providing nearly

full hospital and surgical benefits as well as such additional items as diagnostic services, post-hospitalization care and other major-type comprehensive benefits.

THIS BROAD medical coverage should give employees peace-of-mind because in time of illness, protection is there to ease the financial burden and help provide care and treatment.

The Firestone medical expense program also protects employees against the rapidly-rising cost of medical and hospital care, which in many areas runs twice as much as it did just five years ago.



One
of
many

Ronald E. Dyer, tape bonder in TC Twisting, was among many Firestone men with whiskers during Gastonia's Centennial observance in May. Three others: page 2.

'Taking The Extra Step ...'

Firestone at Bowling Green is in a special campaign to control injuries at work, with the theme "Take the extra step" (for safety.)

"Taking the extra step" means staying clear of chances and having nothing to do with shortcuts that so often mean injuries," said G.T. Shields, Bowling Green safety engineer.

He lists some of the injuries for April as examples: Cut fing-

ers when one man was victim of a pinch-point while lowering the cage of a work platform, another fell and injured an ankle and arm while pushing a pin-rack truck (slipped on a traveller on the floor), a cut hand when another employee was placing a beam tension rope over beam rim when the tension spring broke loose. Another was using a utility knife to cut polypropylene wrapping on a roll of

fabric and the knife caught in the material, causing lacerations on hand.

"Can you think of ways these injuries could have been prevented," asked Shields. "Taking the extra step" to expect the unexpected could have reduced these injuries—and all others before them."

Toward 4,000,000 Hours

•• As of June 1, the Firestone Textiles (Gastonia) plant passed the 3,320,000 people hours-in-production figure without a disabling injury. For this accomplishment in at-work safety, counting began January 1 of 1976, said safety engineer E. H. (Bill) Passmore.



• P & PD secretary Nova Lowe with model of energy-saving house.

USING ENERGY EFFICIENTLY

•• An exhibit on saving energy at home through insulation and other ways of conservation was in the main mill entrance of Firestone, Gastonia, during May. A house skeletal model showing ways of efficient use of energy was on loan from Gaston Community College.

Another part of the exhibit from Lowe's store showed insulation materials and equipment for energy efficiency. The plant Process & Product Development arranged the exhibit.

Fix
up
the
house
and
save

Thirty per cent of the Firestone company's total sales in 1976 went for wages, salaries and benefits to its 113,000 employees around the world. The people were paid \$1.19 billion for their work-services from the total sales revenue of nearly \$4 billion.

**\$1.19
Billion
For Work**

These are some of the fundamental economic facts about Firestone explained in the company's annual report to employees distributed last month. The booklet breaks down company revenue into the areas of materials and fuel costs, wages and salaries, equipment depreciation, interest on loans, taxes and profit.

In the six-page report, employees see how their efforts have contributed to the company's success and how the company spends its money.

The record 1976 sales of \$3.94 billion place Firestone among the top 40 largest companies in the United States, the report shows. Of total revenue, more than \$2.21 billion went for raw materials and fuel costs and \$1.19 billion was spent on employees' wages, salaries and benefits. These two categories accounted for the spending of almost 87 cents out of every dollar of revenue.