

• Cotton, natural fiber ages-old, dates to the near-beginning of textiles as an art/industry. For many uses, it will always be a fiber in demand. But for tire reinforcements, cotton is almost a 'thing of the past'

In the mid-to-late 1930s at Firestone's Gastonia plant and the early 1940s at Bennettsville, it was cotton production altogether. This was tire fabric, along with a variety of sales goods. But cotton started to go out with the increasing use of synthetics around 1940—first, rayon, then nylon. Since then, a lot more of chemically-produced fibers.

Bowling Green, the other U.S. plant of Firestone Textiles Company, came on the scene in 1968, so was never much involved with cotton. Now, in 1978, at Bowling Green and Gastonia, there is only about 7 per cent cotton in the combined volume of raw material processed at both plants.

The ply-twisted cotton is bought on cones, then made loom-ready by winding onto Unifil quills. It becomes filling for weaving leaders and headers (types of start-up strips on the ends of rolls of synthetic tire fabric.) Bennettsville has gone from all-cotton, to today's total output of nylon tire fabric.

## Manager B'ville Plant

Ezra W. Perkins, Jr. became manager of the Bennettsville plant May 1, the appointment announced by James B. Call, president of Firestone Textiles Company.

Since last June, Perkins had been acting manager at Bennettsville, following plant manager Claude Smith's transfer to Firestone's Milan, Tenn., Corry foam products plant.

Perkins joined Firestone at Gastonia in 1969, following graduation from NC State University with a degree in textile technology. He was a trainee mainly in Preparation before going to Bennettsville in late 1970 as plant staff assistant.

In Sept., 1972 he became department manager in charge of all plant production, and stayed in that assignment until he became acting manager last summer.



A native of New Bern, N.C., Perkins is active in Bennettsville civic affairs. He is vice president and president-elect of Kiwanis and a member of the club's board of directors. He is on the board of directors of Marlboro County United Fund and chairman of the UF industrial division.

He and Mrs. (Sandra) Perkins have a daughter, Jennifer, 15 months old.

## About Deductions For Taxes

It used to be that deductions were calculated on the number of dependents a wage-earner claimed on his/her personnel record. This has been changed. In February, 1978, the company began withholding an additional amount of State and Federal taxes in cases where employees wanted it that way.

If you arrange for this additional withholding, it must be in specific \$ amounts per pay period. To change your tax deductions, see Payroll where you work—Gastonia, Bennettsville, Bowling Green.

"It's a little easier to pay all along over a year, than to 'shell out' all in one batch." The comment of one employee, speaking for lots of others who "wound up" paying more State and Federal income tax than had been set aside through payroll last year.

**Firestone** Gastonia, North Carolina **MAY 1978**  
**Textiles Company** Bennettsville Bowling Green  
South Carolina Kentucky

## N C Department Of Labor 31st Safety Award

• Firestone Textiles Company Gastonia plant was recognized for achievement in safety during 1977, at the annual Gaston County Chamber of Commerce Safety Awards Banquet, April 18. The program at Ashbrook High School cafeteria honored more than 140 industries, companies and other firms for at-work safety last year.

The awards are from the North Carolina Department of Labor. It was the 31st for Firestone Textiles. This latest award cites Firestone and its people for last year's record of operating 50 per cent, or better, below the injury-frequency rate in the entire North Carolina textile industry.

Firestone's record was no lost-time injuries for the year. It was during this period that the plant approached the 5,000,000 employee hours mark free of lost-time injury.

### Films For Schools

Gastonia and Bowling Green are among the dozen Firestone plant cities this year receiving the company-sponsored Screen News Digest Films for use in public schools.

"The Art of Diplomacy" is the most recent color motion picture in the monthly instructional film program. It documents events, persons and places that shaped U.S. foreign policy from the Declaration of Independence to the Monroe Doctrine.

The film may be borrowed from schools for showing before local groups.

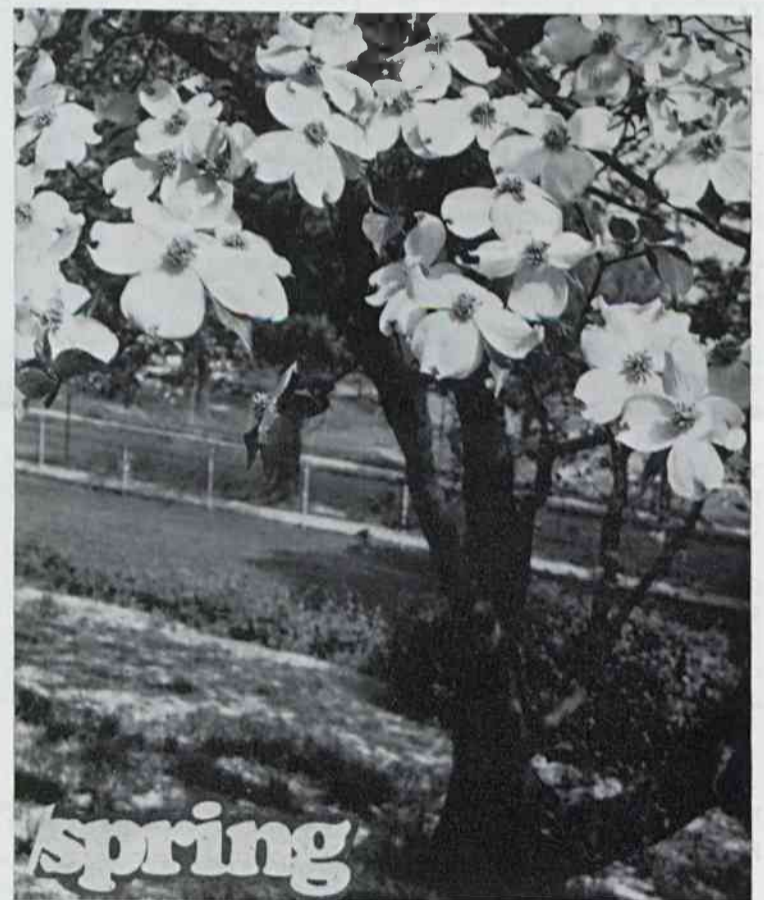
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Going to Washington, D.C.? "Something to See" at The Textile Museum (2320 S Street NW): Work of the internationally-known fiber artist Sirpa Yarmolinsky, through June 17. She produces wall hangings and sculptural free-standing or suspended woven forms done in different techniques and in materials from rough hand-spun linen to shining synthetics. And at the Museum, June 10: Miguel Andrango, weaver from Ecuador, demonstrating traditional weaving on a backstrap loom.

tion began in Gastonia the following year.

Symbols of the awards through the years have been certificates and plaques of varying designs. For the past 7 years it has been standardized to a polished rectangular wooden mount, with metal plate for inscription.

### Advisory Board

Samuel E. Crawford was appointed to the Safety Advisory Board of North Carolina Department of Labor in April. The manager of Industrial Relations at Firestone Textiles (Gastonia) follows A.V. Riley who was serving on the Board at the time of his retirement as division Personnel manager of Firestone Textiles last June.



"APRIL—YOU WERE HERE" • A flowering (white) dogwood on east lawn at Firestone Textiles Company, Gastonia plant.