

Firestone

NEWS

DECEMBER
1978

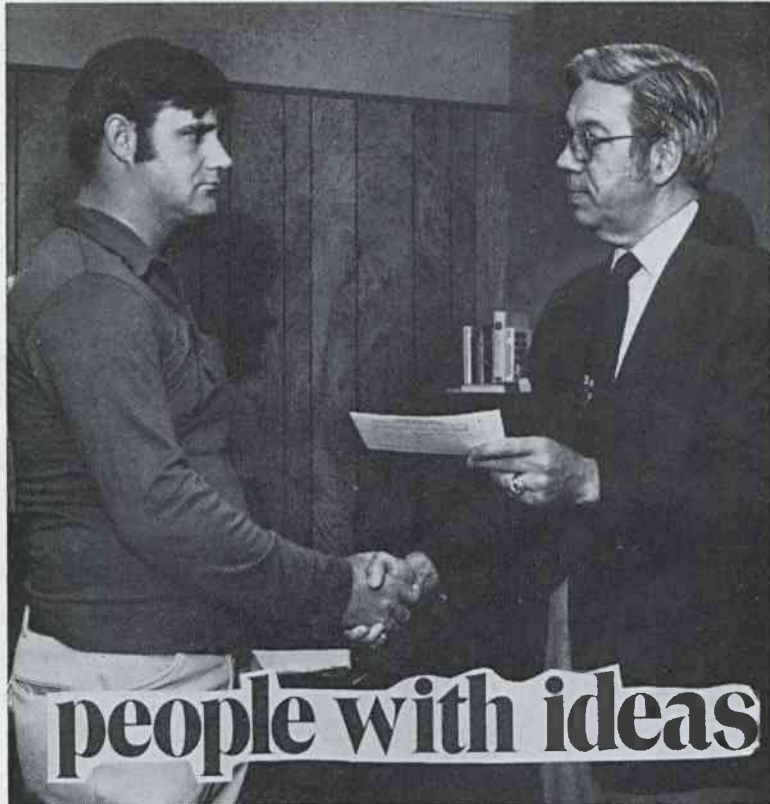
Firestone

Textiles Company

Gastonia, North Carolina

Bennettsville, South Carolina

Bowling Green, Kentucky



For Better Cleaning

• For Robert Wentz (left), congratulations and the award check from Firestone Textiles President James B. Call.

"To Clean Smog Hogs" Robert Allen Wentz titled a suggestion on pollutant-cleaning in October. His idea proved to be so valid that it brought the largest award payment ever made at the Firestone Gastonia plant: \$4,465. The suggestion was originally presented in late 1977.

Wentz, an air-pollution technician (Shop), figured out a way to improve a process and save the company about \$43,000 a year. His idea was a better way for a cleaning mix/operation of No. 8 treating unit.

He suggested adding a wetting agent to a commercial brand of detergent in regular use, and raising the water temperature in the process that cleans up waste, preventing it from polluting the environment.

HIS suggested wetting agent and the hotter water produced a better-foaming cleaner. While Wentz's improved mix/hot-water method was being tried

out, he added another point to the original suggestion: use solid boards instead of the regular screens in the washing vats. That made the detergent more effective and longer-lasting.

Wentz's combination idea, in use since Feb. 1, is proving itself on performance and cost-saving—as expected.

Two years ago the ready-prepared detergent for the smog-cleanup operation at No. 8 was costing nearly \$100,000 annually. Change to another brand in 1977 cut the cost in half. Now, the Wentz suggestion is reducing the detergent cost to about \$15,000 a year.

BENNETTSVILLE

100% UF Participation

People of the Bennettsville plant delivered their combined contributions to the United Fund of Marlboro County last month, toward the United Fund county goal of \$57,575.

The plant campaign was completed with 100 per cent employee participation and 60 per cent of contributors giving "FairShare."

A drawing of Fair Share people's names November 18 decided winners of 6 prizes:

Charles Sweatt, tote bag; William Ellison, electric blanket; Ronald Brown, blender; Sarah Townsend, camera; Redona David and Willie McIvory, each an \$18.75 U. S. Savings Bond.

Frances Fletcher and M. D. Coleman were chairpersons for the United Way in-plant effort. They were helped by O. W. Frye, C. Chavis, George Woodberry, J. Covington and L. F. Williams. E. W. Perkins Jr., plant manager, was chairman for the industrial division of Marlboro United Way this year.

NEW NAME

Domestic Tire Division

Firestone's domestic tire division—a separate reporting unit since 1974—now is known as Firestone Tire Company (U. S.). The new designation was effective November 1.

Frank A. LePage, executive vice president in charge of the

1977-78 Year

HIGHLIGHTS

Production • Total of the 3 domestic plants of textiles division: 148,883,355 pounds. By plants—Gastonia: 73,078,836; Bowling Green: 60,305,580; Bennettsville: 15,447,939.

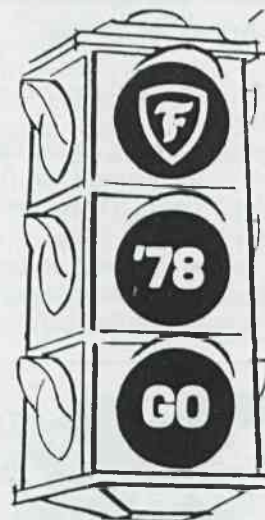
Wages and Benefits • Wage increase of \$.08 per hour for hourly-rated jobs effective late fiscal year. Of benefits, Christmas Eve (or day after Christmas when Christmas falls on a Sunday) added as paid holiday. This brought total paid holidays to 8.

Vacation provisions liberalized. Time reduced to qualify for 1 through 4 weeks paid vacation. The new schedule:

Years Service	Weeks Vacation With Pay
1-3	1
3-13	2
13-18	3
18 or more	4

A & S Benefits. Accident and sickness hospital insurance pay effective, to begin first day in hospital (it used to begin on 8th day).

COLA—Cost Of Living Allowance. It was the second year of COLA paid to all employees, the amount based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) of U. S. Department of Labor. Figured and paid on quarterly basis. Firestone is one of very few companies in Gastonia, Bennettsville, Bowling Green areas that have COLA benefits. The 4 increases last year averaged \$.35 per hour, or pay of \$14 per week to both clock and salaried people.



Progress in the

Year of the
GREEN LIGHT

Physical Improvements and Additions • Gastonia: Construction began and mostly completed on \$3-million Warehouse with 172,000 square feet working space, plus offices, loading docks and rail line extended into new structure.

Completed plant's 7th employee parking area of 68 vehicle spaces. Powertruck maintenance garage rebuilt; upgrading of capabilities of Smog Hog (pollution control of #8 treating unit.)

Others: Addition extending More on page 3



The Most Joyful News...

That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared among them, and the landscape shone bright with the glory of the Lord. They were badly frightened, but the angel reassured them.

"Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone! The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem. How will you recognize him? You will find a baby wrapped in a blanket, lying in a manger.

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven," they sang, "and peace on earth for all those pleasing him."

When this great army of angels had returned again to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Come on! Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

They ran to the village and found their way to Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

From The Living Bible

Religious Heritage of America
Washington, D. C.



To The People
Of Firestone
Textiles Company

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Holiday Season again reminds us of our many blessings and achievements. The efforts and contributions you made toward the success of our work during 1978 are much appreciated.

We ask for your continued help and loyal support in the year 1979. I wish for you and your families a Blessed Holiday Season. May it bring you good health, happiness and peace.

JAMES B. CALL, President
Firestone Textiles Company