

JANUARY 1979

*Firestone
Textiles
Company*

*Gastonia
North Carolina*

*Bennettsville
South Carolina*

*Bowling Green
Kentucky*

Textile history at museum

Gaston County Art & History Museum in the Old Courthouse at Dallas has a 2 months-long exhibit on the textile industry in the county. In the exhibit running to Feb. 10, Old Lora is among the approximately 20 mills and other facilities featured in history from 1840 to about 1930.

Lora, constructed in the early 1900s and one of the largest factories of its kind, has been a Firestone textile operation since 1935.

Major historical piece for the display is the old Lora/Firestone mill whistle, retired from the roof of the boiler room in the early 1960s. It was acquired by the late Robert Passmore who for many years was a boiler tender. A son, Bill Passmore (now plant safety manager) loaned the whistle for the exhibit. Other materials were old photos and clippings.

In a Museum arts/crafts ex-



● Architect's drawing—New Warehouse of concrete and steel.



New warehousing facility

The new Firestone (Gastonia) Warehouse with 172,000 square-foot floor area was completed in December. One of the finishing-up projects was building racks for beams of fabric and installing a materials-handling conveyor.

Besides the work/storage areas, the facility has offices for Warehouse and Transportation departments, a snack canteen and restrooms. Rail line from main Southern RY road was lowered and extended into west side of warehouse. There are rail docks, and parking areas and docks for trucks.

hibit the month preceding the textile presentation, David N. Lewis shared some of his stained-glass pieces. Lewis, manager of Process & Product Development, is an artist in glass and wood, especially parquetry.

Since 1928

Borg-Warner, with headquarters in Chicago, began in 1928 when stock of Borg & Beck Co., Marvel Carburetor Co. and Warner Gear Co. was acquired.

The firm's products today are mostly components used in items manufactured by other companies. Not many Borg-Warner products are sold directly to the user.

Product-service areas include air conditioners, chemicals and plastics, financial services, industrial products and transportation equipment.

The company has some 50,000 employees in 50 main divisions at about 125 manufacturing facilities in the U. S. (51 facilities in 44 cities and 18 states), Canada, and 20 other countries.

Firestone/Borg-Warner MERGER?

It will be some months before necessary approvals and details are worked out, so that the proposed merger of the Firestone company and Borg Warner corporation can be submitted to directors and stockholders. Meanwhile, much is yet to be done in working out all the specifics. The company will keep employees informed as progress is made.

In November, Firestone and Borg-Warner mutually agreed to consider a merger of the companies. If the combination is realized, both companies will continue to operate as separate entities under a newly-formed holding company based in Chicago. Firestone would keep its headquarters in Akron; Borg-Warner, in Chicago.

A holding company is an organization formed and operated to control one or more companies through stock ownership.

"We believe this is a good move for Firestone and Borg-Warner and for their employees and stockholders," said Richard A. Riley, Firestone chairman. He and Borg-Warner chairman James F. Bere also agreed that

it would benefit customers and the communities in which both companies operate.

BOTH COMPANIES' boards of directors and stockholders must approve a detailed agreement, yet to be worked out. Also governmental regulatory bodies must approve.

Combination of the companies would strengthen financially and competitively, said Riley.

Combined sales of Firestone and Borg-Warner totaled nearly \$6.5 billion in 1977 and earnings were beyond \$215 million. This would make the new company to rank with the 25 largest industrial enterprises in the U. S.



Domestic plant cities of Firestone Textiles Company—Gastonia, N. C., and Bowling Green, Ky.; and Woodstock in Canada, have 1 or more Firestone Stores and dealers. For Bennettsville, S. C., there is a local dealer in nearby Cheraw, S. C., and a Firestone Store in Rockingham, N. C. This photo: At a Firestone dealership, Greenville, S. C.

● The retail system for products and services of The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company has nearly 1,400 Company Stores and some 5,000 franchise or other dealers in the United States and Canada.