



# Firestone Textiles Company

APRIL  
1979

IN KENTUCKY • Switzer Bridge in Franklin County served from its earlier days of foot traffic and animal-drawn vehicles and into the age of the rubber-tired motorcar. No longer in service, Switzer is 1 of 17 surviving covered bridges in the state. Once there were more than 200 in Kentucky. Only 11 are in use today. Close by Switzer is a newer structure that carries traffic across Elkhorn Creek. (Photo: Ky. Department of Public Information.)

Gastonia, North Carolina

Bennettsville, South Carolina

Bowling Green, Kentucky

## 3 plant areas \$25 million

Operations of the 3 U. S. plants of Firestone Textiles Company added more than \$25 million to their area economies during the last fiscal year. This amount includes payroll for factory and office workers and purchases of goods and services.

The plants • Gastonia (headquarters) total for operations—\$14.6 million, of which \$12.4 was payroll and \$2.2 for purchase of goods and services. Bowling Green—total \$9 million. Of this, \$8 million was payroll and \$750,000 went for goods and services. Bennettsville total \$2 million; payroll \$1.3 million and for goods and services, \$600,000.

**IN OTHER AREAS** and in community service • The Gastonia plant and its employees contributed 48,000 to United Way of Gaston County and the company financially supported such programs as Schiele Museum of Natural History, Gaston County Heart Association, the Salvation Army, Boy Scouts and Chamber of Commerce.

End of work shift at GOING Firestone Textiles plant HOME on an afternoon in March.

Employees were involved in many civic activities, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Schiele Museum and Community Action Board.

The Bowling Green plant and its people pledged nearly \$18,000 to Bowling Green-Warren County United Way, and the company financially supported programs such as Bowling Green-Warren County and Kentucky Chambers of Commerce, Kentucky Council on Economic Education and Associated Industries of Kentucky. Firestone also sponsors a cooperative education program with Warren East High School.

Employees are involved in civic work such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League baseball, The United Way, Jaycees, Red Cross, Humane Society, Rotary and City-County Hospital.

Bennettsville people and plant contributed \$3,250 to United

•• Firestone Textiles (Gastonia) passed 2-million people-on-the-job hours without a lost-time injury in early April. This safety achievement dates to May 1978. At that time the plant had operated 5 million hours without a chargeable injury. Now the goal: On to 3 million hours! Firestone's 1979 corporate goal in safety is to reduce the accident rate by 10 per cent.

### NCIC safety course completed

Forty employees, salaried and hourly-paid, recently completed a 40-hour course in Accident Prevention at Gastonia. Boyd Lane, safety representative of the North Carolina Industrial Commission, led the training program.

Fund of Marlboro County and Firestone financially supported programs of the Rotary Club, the South Carolina and Marlboro County Chambers of Commerce.

Employees are involved in such civic activities as Kiwanis, Dixie Youth Baseball, Boy Scouts, United Fund and Marlboro County Chamber of Commerce.

Those who took the course represent all 3 plant shifts: Bill Baker, John E. Butts, Ralph Carpenter, Kenneth C. Cauthen, S. E. Crawford, G. O. Eury Jr., Jack Hall, C. W. Hamrick, Charles A. Hinson, Dan Howe, Arvil Hodge, Jerry Howie, Horace Hughes, David Huss.

George Jackson, B. C. Jordan, L. H. Keenum, James C. Martin, Scott McCarter, Clee McCaslin, Richard McGinnis, Miles Michaels, John Mitchell, Sarah Nall, Paul Neal, Jesse S. Parks Jr., Bill Passmore, Clyde Phillips, Ralph Reep, Harold Robinson, Thomas J. Ross, Grier Smith, William Summey, Ray Stiles, William Tomberlin, James H. Wilkes.

See Note Above

### 'Let me shine 'em'

• During Roger "Jump-Up" Hardin's 48 years "shining" experience, he has whetted his skills to perfection—developing his own ways of cleaning, applying wax and buffing leather. And keeping his customers happy.

"I used to shine maybe 200 pairs on a good week . . . now not that many. Still, I gotta keep on 'cause there's a lot of people asking for me. Roger was busy—and talking—in his workplace of a Gastonia barbershop on Franklin Boulevard.

He takes pride in the trade and at being master in a dwindling profession. Hardin is among the very few "shine boys" left around Gastonia. These days, lots of footwear is made of plastic and fabric, so there's not as much to be polished anymore.

Last a groundskeeper of the Firestone Textiles Shop, he retired in late 1977. "Bottle boy" in Refreshment and sweeper in Carding were other jobs he had.

**DURING HIS 15** Firestone years he did shoe-shining evenings and weekends. Now he works 3 or 4 days a week. Some long-time patrons bring

more on page 2

## Toward 3 million hours

Note • Roger Hardin (story beginning this page) died April 4, following a brief illness, and as this was being printed. The story is published as written 2 weeks before his death. Editor.

### 2 secretaries assigned GASTONIA

Gail Cook was promoted to secretary/personnel manager, effective April 1. She succeeds Jeanette (Jean) Brock, who returned to the position of secretary/general factory manager. Gail had been secretary/technical services manager. Jean had been in the division personnel manager's office the past 4 years.



He talked as he worked, entertaining the customer with a funny story—all to the rhythm of his shine cloth.