

Mar. 1980

Firestone textiles COMPANY NEWS

Gastonia
North Carolina

Bennettsville
South Carolina

Bowling Green, Kentucky

●● Operations of Firestone Textiles Company put almost \$29 million into the economy of its 3 U. S. plant areas last year. A major part of the \$4-million increase over the 1978 figure is accounted for in the cost of the new warehousing facility at Gastonia.

THE HEADQUARTERS Gastonia (N. C.) plant added more than \$17 million to the area last year. Wages and salaries of \$14.5 million were paid to about 1,050 employees. The report from James B. Call, division president, put the Gastonia spending for goods and services at nearly \$2.5 million.

The Bowling Green (Ky.) operations added almost \$9.7 million to the area economy in 1979. According to plant manager Thomas L. Yelton, Firestone is the 4th-largest employer in the area. It paid above \$8.8 million to approximately 700 employees last year. The plant spent \$830,000 for goods and services in the Bowling Green region.

Firestone at Bennettsville (S. C.) added more than \$2.2 million to that area's economy last year. Plant manager

Ezra W. Perkins reported that Firestone paid \$1.6 million in wages and salaries and spent around \$622,000 on local goods and services.

THESE EXPENDITURES were involved in the production of some 140 million pounds of fabric, principally for use as reinforcement in tires.

Production was mainly in polyester, nylon and rayon. Included were small amounts of other synthetic materials. Gastonia produced (ranking in volume) nylon, polyester and rayon (limited output of steelwire and fiberglass was phased out in 1978).

Bowling Green produced fabric in polyester and nylon principally, with a small volume of fiberglass (wire has been discontinued.) Bennettsville turned out nylon exclusively.

Output of the 3 plants was shipped to Firestone tire factories and to other customers in the United States and Canada; and to Firestone and others in several more countries. Among these: Taiwan, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, Kenya, Uruguay, New Zealand, Venezuela, and The Philippines.

3 U.S.
plant areas
\$29
million



He plans to continue in Scouting as long as he is able.

"I'm not tired yet—of helping, guiding youth. I can see so many good results from helping to train young men through the years," said James W. Abraham Sr.

Pee Dee Area (SC) Council of Scouting recently honored him in appreciation for his many years of service to youth in Bennettsville.

Carl Witt, Scout area field director, presented a plaque commemorating Abraham's 20 years of

The Federal Highway Administration sets a price on your life! The figure comes from the "risk benefit" formula by which federal officials determine a given highway safety hazard should be removed.

The way it's figured: Cost of removing the hazard is divided by number of lives that probably would be saved each year if the hazard were removed. The government's standard figure is \$287,000 per life.

'I'm not tired of helping...'

● James Abraham Sr. (right) receiving plaque from Carl Witt, field director of Pee Dee Area Scout Council.

devoted work to Scouting. He began with Troop 298 when his own son was young.

Abraham and wife Ella have sons James Jr. and Tyrone, and daughter Mrs. Nedra Belin, all of Bennettsville. A member of Evans Metropolitan AME Zion church, James Sr. is superintendent of the church school, president of the usher board, a member of the church board of trustees and serves in several other ways in the congregation. He is an Army veteran and a member of Landmark Lodge 16. He has been employed at Firestone 33 years.

● What business these days does not face problems? John J. Nevin, president and chief operating officer who joined Firestone last December, told shareholders at an early-1980 meeting that he recognizes the company faces problems. He added "But Firestone has extraordinary human resources, extraordinary technical resources with which to face those problems. The company can look to the future with considerable confidence and optimism."

BY
EARLY
MAY

Scholarship winners

Announcement of winners in the 1980 Firestone Scholarship Program is expected in late April or early May. March 3 was closing date for applications and all required materials to have been received in Akron.

The Scholarship Committee chooses scholarship winners on the basis of their high-school academic records, subjects taken, Scholastic Aptitude Test scores and other qualifications. Scholarships are allocated to different areas on the basis of the number of Firestone employees in the various sections of the country.

SCHOLARSHIP payments are worth up to \$12,000 for 4 years study, to pay on tuition, academic fees, required textbooks and room/board expenses while

attending school. The annual award is \$1,500 to students attending tax-supported colleges or universities and \$3,000 for those attending private colleges or universities.

Winners may attend any accredited university or college in the United States.

In the 27 years that the company has made awards, 920 college scholarships have been presented.

Besides the scholarship awards, other deserving applicants will receive Certificates of Merit and Firestone stock.

Near the March 3 deadline, there had been 14 applications from students of Firestone Textiles Company families—8 from the Gastonia plant and 6 from Bowling Green.

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410 suggestions adopted

Of the 3,295 suggestions that the 3 Firestone Textiles U. S. plants received from employees last fiscal year, 410 were adopted and "put to work"—saving energy and materials; increasing efficiency, improving processes, adding conveniences, etc.

Figures for the plants: Gastonia—1,858 suggestions submitted; 219 adopted. Bowling Green—1,239 turned in; 156 adopted. Bennettsville—198 submitted; 35 adopted.

AWARDS ranged from the minimum \$20 to \$5,860, paid to Richard L. McGinnis, Fabric Treating shift supervisor for a way to save fabric for quality samples-testing. His method is saving the company about

\$60,000 a year.

The next-largest payoff went to another Gastonia employee. Robert Wentz, (Shop) air-pollution technician in Fabric Treating, received \$4,465 for proposing a better way to wash "Smog Hog" collector plates. His method in use is reducing the #8 unit's detergent bill by about \$15,000 a year.

Ceiling pay for suggestions is \$25,000.

A sample of steel cords used in tread belts of the new Firestone Radial A/T tire, designed for on-and-off-the-road of 4-

wheel-drive vehicles and light pickup trucks. Steel in tread belts gives maximum durability and handling performance.



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Our
products
RUGGED
STEEL