

# Firestone textiles COMPANY NEWS

Gastonia, North Carolina • Bennettsville, South Carolina

Bowling Green, Kentucky

AUGUST 1981

## Matching Gifts since 1967

Through the Matching Gift program, Firestone people have been helping the cause of education since 1967. Contributions to schools, colleges and universities now amount to more than \$3 million. Half of it came from employees, retirees and their spouses; the other half from the Company.

Through the Matching Gift plan, Firestone employees, retired persons and their wives or husbands may each give up to \$1,000 a year to any accredited tax-supported college or university in the U.S., and up to \$3,000 a year to any accredited private college, university or secondary school.

"Matching Gift programs reflect the worthy response of employees and others who help through the program. These givers and their companies are the key to one of the greatest stewardship ideas ever to come from the business community, in helping finance higher education. With every employee and other contributor through a Matching Gift program, there is tremendous potential to help. . ."

—more on Page 3

## LOOKING BACK TO . . . The beginning

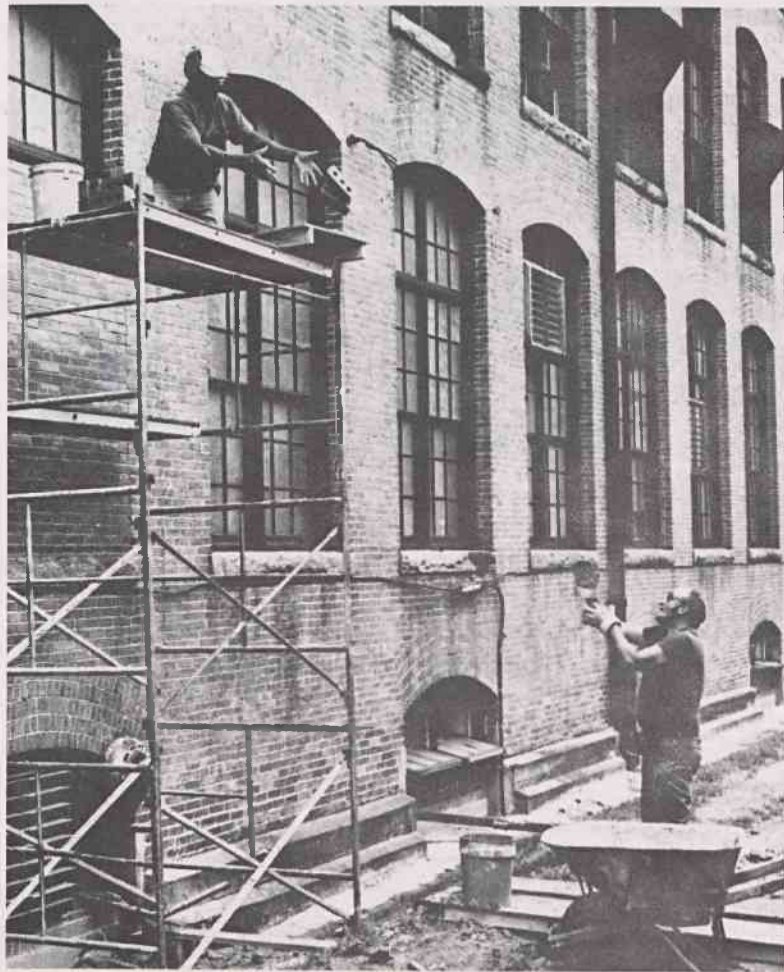
•The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio was chartered as a corporation Aug. 3, 1900. Founder Harvey S. Firestone Sr., put up \$10,000 and his associates supplied another \$10,000 to finance the business venture.

Firestone took over the unexpired leases of a company he had been associated with, Whitman & Barnes. He arranged with the company to continue manufacturing carriage tires, renting a one-room building on location to house the new corporation.

It was divided into a ship-

ping room and 3 small offices. From this little corner, Firestone launched a campaign to sell the tires he had been making, and a new one he had envisioned, to bear his namebrand. At the turn of the century the tire was changing over from the carriage trade to the automobile, just arriving on the American scene.

From this modest beginning grew an international company. Today it produces and sells tires of all kinds and thousands more products — "useful things for others," as the Founder said.



## Some new against the old

•Harold Kirkland mixed mortar and sent up bricks to Ted Williams, as the shop carpenters — 1st cl worked to convert 7 original windows to wall space of the mill next to the Main Office, latest major construction project at the Firestone-Gastonia plant.

New bricks took their place with those of the mill structure, completed around 1903. The new Main Office area provides offices for Cost Accounting. Space which that department had occupied in

Main Office was made into a new workplace for Purchasing. That department will take on a new transfer from Akron, David Hirsch, when the division consolidation is completed by September 1.

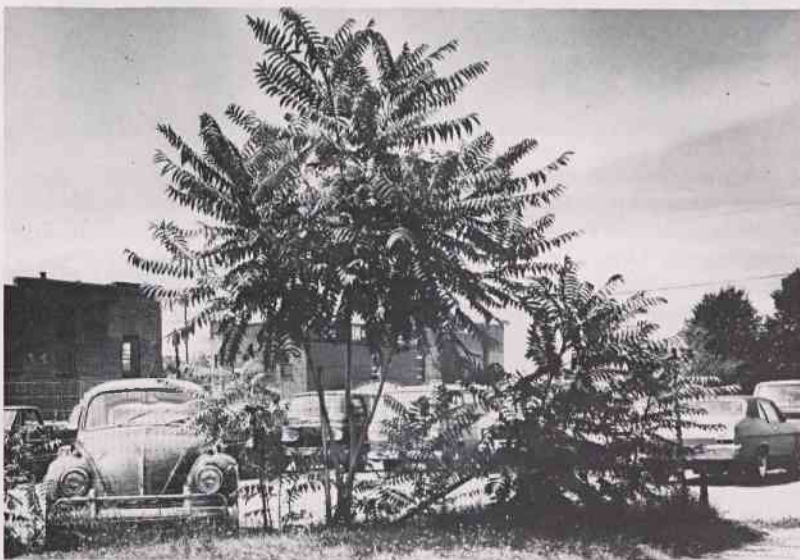
New Name  
In September

Firestone Fibers & Textiles Company, the name resulting from the consolidation, will be

J. L. Patterson with the iron railing he constructed for the east steps of Main Office addition at Gastonia, completed in July. Patterson, a Shop welder, 'turned artist' to fashion the handrail and fencing in keeping with the style of older outside ironwork at Main Office. He has been with Firestone for 38 years. His wife Hazel (winder operator in TC Twisting) has been here since 1955.



official September 1. In the change, the Hopewell, Va., Synthetic Fibers Company joins Firestone Textiles division with its headquarters at Gastonia and plants at Bennettsville, S.C.; Bowling Green, Ky.; and Woodstock, Canada.



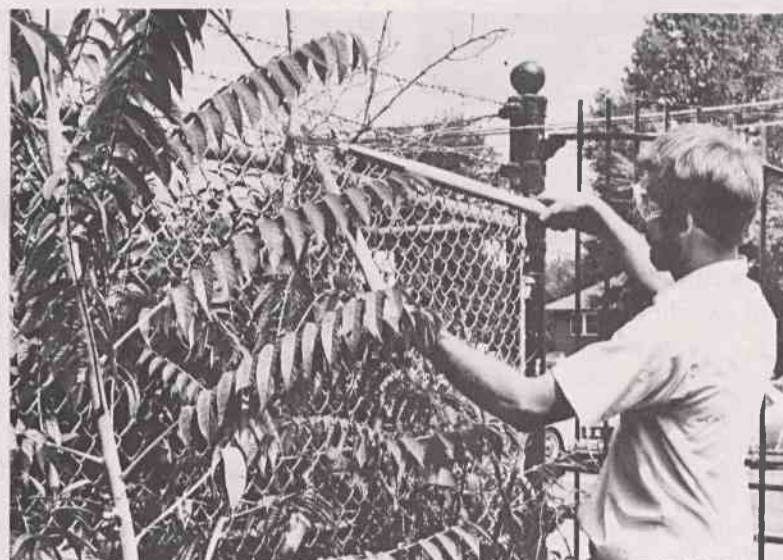
## Tree of Heaven

•An Asian tree, established years ago in the United States, thrives better than some native species on the grounds at Firestone-Gastonia. The Ailanthus, sometimes called Tree of Heaven and in some places "stinkweed," has large compound,

deciduous leaves.

The native of China thrives because its windborne seeds travel afar and once established, is tolerant of smoke, pollution and other handicaps. It is novelist Betty Smith's 'Tree That Grows in Brooklyn.'

Insects leave it alone perhaps



because the male foliage is ill-scented and noxious. It has small yellowish-green flowers with large terminal clusters. Male and female are usually on different trees.

The Ailanthus has become a wild pest in many places. At Firestone it is unwanted; so, after several feet of quick growth every

Tree cluster (left) at one of the employee parking lots was cut the day after photo was made. Ronnie J. Smith (right), carpenter, cut another one in front of Main Office in July.

summer, they are cut down. But they persist in sprouting again and again.

## Firestone HPR in 5 sizes

Firestone's new HPR Radial tire went on sale at the company's retail outlets nationwide in early August. The HPR is produced in 5 sizes at the Firestone Albany, Ga., plant.

It has design and construction features geared toward use on performance vehicles. The tire proved good performance on vehicles in endurance races earlier this year.

## H & HS booklet

Facts about the causes and prevention of cancer are in a publication from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The booklet lists laboratory animal tests to identify cancer-causing agents.

For a free copy of "Everything Doesn't Cause Cancer," write Consumer Information Center, Dept. 650H, Pueblo, CO 81009.