

Four U.S. plants

Almost \$50 million last year

••Firestone Fibers & Textiles Company headquarters plant added \$18,190,185 to the local (Gastonia, NC) economy, manufacturing tire fabric and doing business during 1981. The money was in the form of wages and salaries paid and purchasing goods and services.

Expenditure in the two major categories were: Wages and salaries — \$12,529,855; goods and services — \$2,660,330.

The Bennettsville (SC) plant released \$2,378,411 into the local market area — \$1,721,341 for wages and salaries and \$657,070 to buy goods and services.

For Firestone Bowling Green (Ky.) it was \$2,391,884 — for wages and salaries, \$1,181,025, and for goods and services, \$1,210,859.

The Hopewell (Va.) plant added \$26,940,134 in its area. Payroll amounted to \$20,465,140. Purchase of goods and services cost \$6,774,644.

Together, these U.S. facilities of the fibers/textiles division put \$49,900,614 into the four plant areas of the Carolinas, Kentucky and Virginia. The Firestone textile facility at Woodstock, Ontario, Canada (also a part of the fibers/textiles division) makes a separate report of operating expenditures.



Artwork

Jackie Ramey is a senior art major at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The Gaston County Public Library recently exhibited some of her work. The 20 pieces on display for a month represented her work in pencil, charcoal, oil, acrylic and fiber.

Jackie plans to be employed in some field of art — maybe commercial — after her graduation this Spring.

Her father, James Ramey, is a scheduler-expediter in Firestone Production Planning & Control. Jackie won a Merit Award in the company College Scholarship program of her senior year at Gastonia Ashbrook High School.



Black

Mathis

ASQC awards

The first students to be awarded college scholarships sponsored by the Charlotte Section of American Society for Quality Control are Helen Black of Charlotte and Jacklyn Mathis, Gastonia.

Each received \$500 in January. In past years, ASQC (Charlotte) made money contributions to Clemson University and University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Starting this year, the awards to individual students will be made annually.

The scholarships are given to outstanding students who are in management, engineering or other areas of study that will relate them to some phase of quality control in their work careers.

Jacklyn Mathis is a senior, majoring in Management at Sacred Heart College night school, Belmont. She is employed fulltime at Pneumafil Corp., as customer service coordinator.

Helen Black is a fulltime student in the Manufacturing Engineering Technology Program of Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte.

(See other ASQC story, page 3.)

194 approved suggestions

Firestone/Gastonia employees received more than \$5,300 for ideas shared through the company Suggestion program the past fiscal year.

Of the 1589 suggestions turned in, 194 were adopted and have been put to use, or implemented. Of the total suggestions approved, 180 brought \$20 each (current minimum pay). Awards for the others ranged from \$25 to \$855.

The top (\$855) suggestion came from Ronnie Parks, machinist in the Shop. He designed a new-type chuck for the fabric wind-up and let-off operations in treating units at Gastonia.

The 'Parks' chucks lock the roll rods so there is no rocking motion (this 'wobbling' caused the older-

type chucks to wear out to the tune of a lot of waste.) Estimated saving through the new chucks is \$8,561 a year.

The second-largest suggestion payoff — \$465 — went to Roger Lee Baker, lead operator in Nylon Treating. His method of folding and sewing machine headers on certain-style fabric keeps the material from falling out of the machine. The annual savings are around \$5,000, not to mention efficiency and added operator convenience.

ANOTHER fabric suggestion paid \$312. Calvin Hannah, lead operator in Nylon Treating, showed how to use leader fabric in rethreading when fabric breakouts and burnouts occur. An older method had used nylon rope. Savings from the new way: \$3,125 a year.

Suggestions adopted during the year had to do with savings in

energy, materials, money, etc.; convenience, efficiency, safety, increased production, improved housekeeping, among others.

"A better method . . ."

Thought-starters for your suggestions in the current year? A sampling of the ideas that paid \$20 to \$114 in 1980-81:

Add a box to hold rubber bands . . . provide a hoist . . . erect directional signs . . . put up a safety bulletinboard in . . . mark

pedestrian walks and doors . . . put a white board under treated fabric so QC inspectors can check material easier and more accurately . . . install a light in _____ and on _____.

Relocate a fire door . . . a better method of greasing looms . . . add a guardrail . . . put some fire extinguishers in _____ . . . put up "No Smoking" signs at _____ . . . standardize the size of stencils for marking _____ . . . use 2 harnesses on looms instead of 4 (if you're running plain-weave).

LOOK for IDEAS
THEY'RE
EVERYWHERE



'Purpose' the key at 'any age'

Age 62, 65, 70 — they're not dividing lines between active involvement in life and resignation to a rocking chair. Some ways to make this so: Cultivate interests, stay busy at things that can bring meaning and reward to your life, now and later on.

Observations from a "senior citizens" seminar in Toronto once stressed this especially:

People in the "crowning years" need to have purpose in life as much as at age 21. A survey of

some 600 retired people found that loneliness was the chief problem, ahead of concerns for money, health and housing.

People, elderly or at any other age "plateau" don't have to be lonely, or, at least they can have some control over it, the seminar emphasized. It had these suggestions for people in the "later years":

Have a purpose. Keep on going. Make yourself heard and help get some of the changes you want.

exhibit; and also as donations to a permanent collection.

A SPECIAL ongoing exhibit shows the variety of items from the permanent collection. It gives credit to those persons who in donating items, have also "shared a bit of history with others." The current exhibit on the museum main floor includes old games, photographs, and household items.

Do you have collector items to lend for the changing exhibit or for the permanent collection? For more information, call the museum at 482-8186. Museum hours are 9-4, Monday-Friday; 2-5, Sunday.

Martha's contributions to 'Opus 2' cookbook

•Martha Kendrick is a Firestone accountant. Away from that work, she is a musician and a cook of no little accomplishment — among others of her 'exercised talents.'

She is past secretary and now treasurer of Gastonia Music Education Foundation. Martha recently contributed some recipes to "Noteworthy Recipes Opus No. 2, 1981" compiled and published by the Foundation.

Members of Sharps & Flats Music Club and Gastonia Music Club contributed recipes for the cookbook.

Martha came to work in Payroll at Firestone/Gastonia in 1947 and since 1949 has been in Accounting for the Bennettsville plant.

Since a teenager, Martha has been in church music. She studied voice at Flora McDonald College, and directing at Westminster Choir College. During her years in musical service at Gastonia First Presbyterian Church, she has been vocalist and assistant choir director; and choir director of Faith Methodist Church.

When Sharps & Flats Music Club was founded in 1948, Martha became a charter member. She was president two terms, and has served in all other offices and all committee chairmanships.

Now in its 31st year, the non-profit Gastonia Music Education Foundation is providing scholarships for students and advancing their musical education. Sales of

"Noteworthy Recipes Opus No. 2" are helping with this single Foundation cause.

The recipe here is from the three that Martha contributed to her cookbook.

- CELERY** 4 cups celery slices (1 inch)
- CASSEROLE** Boiling water Salt
- 1 can (5 oz.) water chestnuts, drained and sliced thin
- 1 can (10½ oz.) cream of chicken soup
- ¼ cup diced pimiento
- ½ cup soft bread crumbs
- ¼ cup toasted slivered almonds
- 2 tablespoons melted margarine

Cook celery in small amount of salted water until crisp tender, about 8 minutes. Drain. Mix celery, water chestnuts, cream of chicken soup and pimiento in a 1-qt. casserole dish. Toss bread crumbs with ½ cup of the toasted almonds and 2 tablespoons melted margarine. Sprinkle on top of mixture. Bake in pre-heated oven 350° for 35-40 minutes, or until bubbly.

Hometown CCH Museum

A changing exhibit at Cleveland County (NC) Historical Museum on the Courtsquare in Shelby is dedicated to persons who collect things. A recent (Jan. through mid-Feb.) exhibit featured a Bird collection of specimens in pinecone seeds, glass, stone, metal, wood and alabaster.

The museum accepts hobby collections on loan for the changing