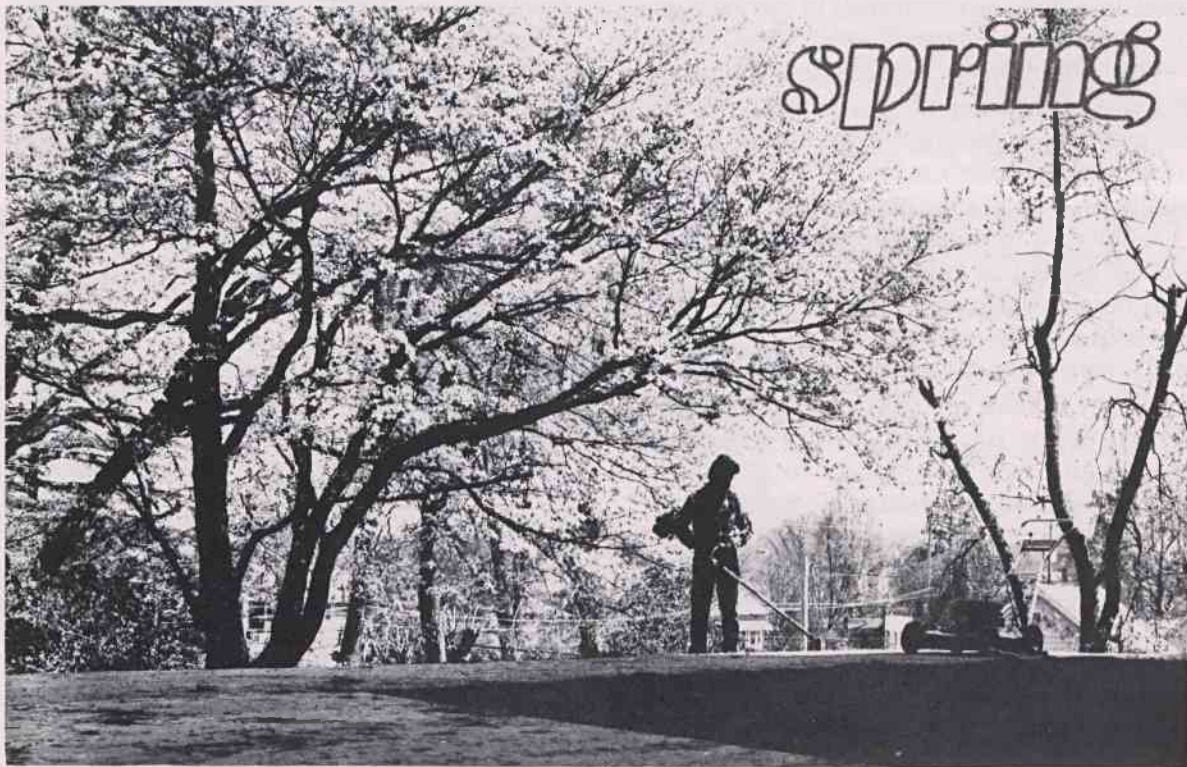


Firestone NEWS

May 1982

Fibers & Textiles Company Gastonia, North Carolina • Bennettsville, South Carolina
Bowling Green, Kentucky • Hopewell, Virginia • Woodstock, Ontario, Canada



'ZIP plus 4' by late 1983

• The hyphenated 9-digit Postal Service ZIP code went into use with some mass mailers earlier this year. Large-volume mailers, including business and industry, will have the "ZIP plus 4" code in full use by late 1983. The already-used 5 digits, a hyphen and 4 extra numbers make up the new code. Firestone U.S. facilities and their new codes:

Gastonia, NC 28052-1278
Bennettsville, SC 29512-0016
Bowling Green, KY 42010-0008
Hopewell, VA 23860-0450

The Postal System began assigning the new numbers in 1980. The first digits represent (as they have since the 1960s) area of country, city and other locations. The added 4 numbers further pinpoint the place of delivery. As in the case of Firestone plants, the added digits refer to the main post office box numbers.

Adding the 4 digits is the first major change in the ZIP system since the code plan began in 1963. The 9-digit system will put to use optical character and C-bar code readers to fully automate mail-handling.

As of now, the new system does not apply to individual mailers. With the large-volume mailers, use of the new code represents some saving among the large firms and organizations that send more than 100 million pieces of mail per year. The post office promises these mailers, as incentive to use the new codes, up to 1¢ reduction in postage charges per letter. The changeover to the 9-digit ZIP is keystone of a Postal Service effort to save money by sorting more mail with fewer workers.

• Grass-tending and other groundskeeping jobs were back in season at Firestone/Gastonia in April. Trees were putting forth leaves and by mid-month the dogwoods were blossoming.

Here, Shop carpenter James Hallbrook mowed and trimmed under the venerable white dogwood, one of two growing in front of the mill. This largest one has been gracing the landscape since the early 1940s. It is the cornus florida variety, North Carolina's state flower.

Exec. vp — sales

Benjamin G. Ammons, 44, is executive vice president — sales, of Firestone's North American Tire, the group to which the Fibers & Textiles division belongs. Ammons' appointment and nomination as corporate vice president was submitted to Firestone's board of directors in April.

He had been vice president of marketing and sales for Carlisle Tire & Rubber Company since 1977. Ammons succeeds James R.

Thomas, who was named executive vice president, wholesale operations, in Firestone's sales/marketing group.

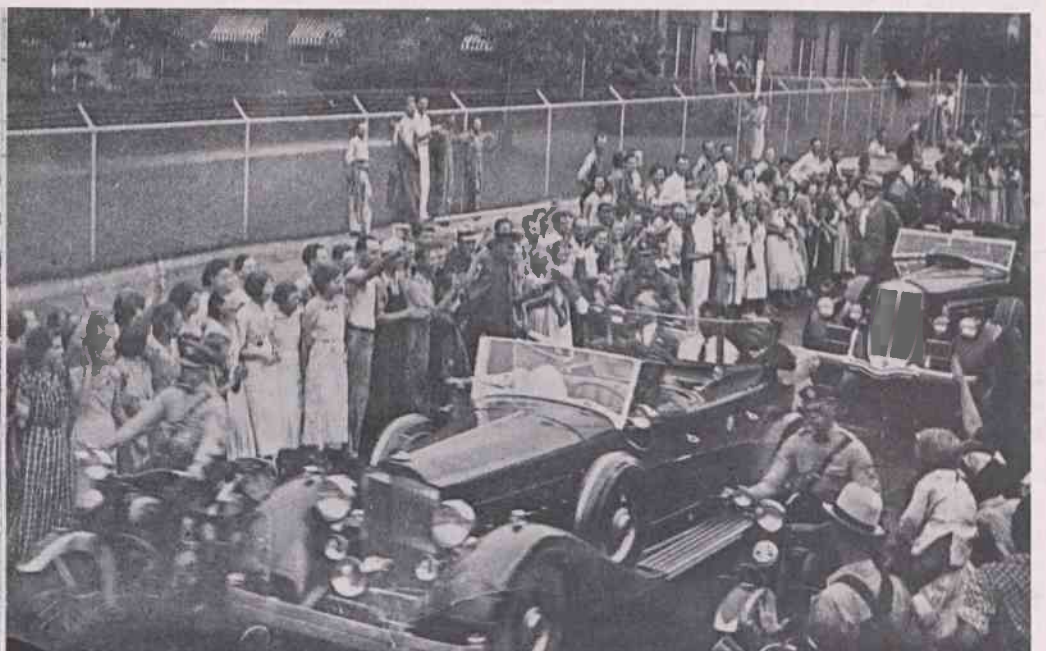
In his NATG post, Ammons is responsible for sales of original-equipment and private-brand tires, product-planning, and Fidesta. Before he went with Carlisle Tire in 1977, he had been with B.F. Goodrich Company in several technical/sales posts since 1962.

ATMI CONTEST First in Group C

Firestone/Gastonia has earned lead place for a second time in the American Textile Manufacturers Institute nationwide safety contest. The Gastonia headquarters plant of the Fibers & Textiles Division is one of more than 100 companies or plants within companies taking part in the nationwide "Let's Make Textiles First In Safety" promotion which began late in 1981.

More than 300,000 employees are represented in the participating firms. Numbers of employees range from 500 to 10,000. Firestone is in Group C — 1,000 through 3,099 employees.

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When FDR visited Firestone Cotton Mills

On an August day in 1937, Franklin D. Roosevelt came through the Firestone/Gastonia community, on the way to Charlotte where he delivered a speech. The President had come up from the Little White House at Warm Springs, Ga.

On that memorable occasion the mill stopped production, so employees could greet the President.

Troy Jones, retired tinsmith

(Firestone Shop), recalls that by the time FDR and his entourage arrived at the outdoor place for his speech in Charlotte, it began to rain. But only for a little while. The sunshine burst through, and the President addressed the multitude.

THESE PHOTOS? They're believed to have been taken on a box Kodak, by William L. ('Roy') Carver, longtime employee of the Shipping department. Prints and

negatives were found in his desk soon after his death in 1966.

The print with engraving of FDR (inset done for reproduction here) shows some people of the waiting crowd being refreshed from Tony Coletta's icecream wagon. Small lettering on 'Welcome' banner reads "You are passing through the community of Firestone Cotton Mills, Inc." (Name changed to Firestone Textiles in 1944.) Note water tower,

a landmark removed several years ago.

Other photo: President in front open car; right, in back seat, greeted the people at the mill's east end. Robert Spencer, Purchasing, had been working at Firestone 2 years at that time. "I was standing right next to the President's car," he recalls.

The year 1982 is the 100th anniversary of Franklin D. Roosevelt's birth.