



# Our Family Tree

A Newsletter For The Employees and Friends Of Wright Tree Service

VOLUME 7  
NUMBER 2  
SUMMER, 2001

## Safety Honor Roll

*Wright Tree Service congratulates the following employees  
who have not had an accident for six years in a row.*

### CENTRAL DIVISION

Kevin G. Beckmann  
Bobby J. Bumgardner  
Brandon P. Clary  
Lawrence W. Cowan  
James N. Kamp  
Mark W. Moomey  
Jeffery V. Neis  
Doug A. Sibold  
Dennis Slankard  
John F. Willcox  
Tyson R. Young

### NORTHEAST DIVISION

Jay D. Allen  
Thomas S. Bianchi  
John Block  
David L. Cash  
Eric G. Catlin  
Robert M. Coblentz  
Chester H. Fleck  
Christopher S. Goral  
William R. Johnson  
Steven E. Kauffeld  
Scott Laux



James A. Panure  
Jeff A. Peters  
Scott R. Rice  
Everett W. Smith  
Mike J. Suprenand  
Gerald A. Vincent  
Ken E. Weber  
Steven N. Zach

### MT. STATES DIVISION

Mark A. Nelson

### SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Larry Bear  
David L. Elder

George Fields  
Warren Hughes  
Albert Johnson  
Kenneth A. Johnson  
Charles E. Love  
Robin R. Soweka, Sr.

### MINNKOTA DIVISION

Gaylen Ackerman  
Larry Bingham  
Jay F. Bult  
Glen R. Crabtree  
Marcus L. Doppler  
Curtiss J. Filtz  
Mark J. Frank  
Keith R. Gugel  
Robert R. Hanson  
Daniel Hawker  
Lester J. Imker  
Dennis D. Jacobs  
Patrick J. Jewison  
Mike Laffey  
Richard A. Nyhus  
Keith Alan Smith  
Robert L. Steadman

*We also commend our employees who have been accident-free for up to  
five consecutive years. Their names appear on pages 6-7 in this issue.*

# News from our **Bran**

## CENTRAL DIVISION

### **Impressed In Iowa City!**

A Mid-American Energy customer in Iowa City, IA couldn't believe her eyes! On a "wet and horrible" day, she looked out her front door and was astonished to see a WTS employee up in a boom truck trimming the trees across the street from her property. To her further amazement, the crew member on the ground raked up, in her own words, "every little thing." "What a crew!" was the customer's summation of a job well done. Congratulations to **Foreman Dean Davolt** and **Trimmer Joe Stroppel** for making this woman's day! Their **General Foreman** is **Doug Hansen**.

### **It's Official!**

**Foreman Phil Kelley** has passed his ISA Arborist test and now is a certified arborist. Congratulations, Phil, on reaching this important milestone!

### **Concern Turns To Compliments**

"This is to commend the four employees who were involved with extensive tree trimming at my home all day yesterday," starts the letter from this Mid-American Energy customer in Iowa City, IA. Concerned that 14 trees on his property might have to be removed because of line interference, the customer was relieved to learn that the trees could be trimmed and continue to provide him with privacy and protection. In addition to praising the work, the customer commented on the crew's "conscientious attention to protecting lawn ornaments and plants." The letter concludes: "It was a pleasure working with this crew." At the receiving end of this commendation are **Foreman Phil Kelley** and **Trimmers Eric Bygness, Ryan Johnson** and **Sal Orona**. **Doug Hansen** is their **General Foreman**.

### **Stewing Over Rabbits!**

A Mid-American customer in Bettendorf, IA wrote the home office directly about her satisfaction with a WTS crew. "I just want you to know what a great job your crew did while they were in my neighborhood clearing trees," the letter states. "The crew was

very courteous and professional. They also took a few steps that went above and beyond what they had to do." The customer was concerned about the safety for a nest of baby rabbits in one of the yards in which the crew would be working and the crew put up an orange cone to mark the spot so the young family wouldn't be accidentally injured. "If the need ever arises again for a crew from Wright Tree Service to come back to this neighborhood, I hope this is the crew that comes," is the customer's wish at the end of the letter. **Foreman Rick Wright** and **Trimmers James Martin, Steve Richey, Jr.** and **Mike Wilkins** were responsible for this customer-pleasing response. Their **General Foreman** is **Mike Sanford**.

### **More Bettendorf Bouquets!**

Jim Puentes of Mid-American Energy asked us to pass along this compliment from one of the utility's customers – and we are only too happy to oblige. According to Jim, the customer phoned the utility "to let us know what a great job Wright Tree Service had done in removing her tree." The customer stated the crew was courteous, cleaned the whole area up and "everything looks great." This praise belongs in the personnel files of **Foreman Terri Kremer** and **Trimmer Steve Richey, Jr.** **Mike Sanford** is their **General Foreman**.

### **Amen!**

Larry McCullough of KPL e-mailed his gratitude to **Division Manager Steve Pietzyk** who supplied the equipment and labor to trim some trees on a house property owned by the church Larry attends. **General Foreman Roger Farley** and **Trimmer Adrian Oliver** handled the job on a Saturday morning and Larry says they did an excellent job. "This was a liability issue for us and the limbs were too high in the trees for me to safely remove," Larry stated. Stay out of those trees, Larry – it's not worth an accident just to get a few feet closer to heaven!

### **Pays His Bill – And A Compliment!**

A Mid-American Energy customer included a note with his payment to the

utility. "The tree trimming crew did a thorough, efficient job on all of our trees near power lines, including completely cutting down a tree badly damaged in a storm last year," the note stated. "Not only did they cut the wood into lengths ready to be used for firewood but they left the wood neatly stacked. They also did a very good job of cleaning up all the smaller sticks, etc. They checked before doing the work and made sure we understood and approved. The previous trim crews have all done good work but this group was exceptional." We thank Jim Puentes of Mid-American Energy for taking the time to pass this note on to us – and we also thank **Foreman Doug Vondal** and **Trimmers Poppy Battin, Jon Hunter, Donnie Knight** and **Travis Leigh** for eliciting these comments from a very satisfied customer. **Mike Sanford** is their **General Foreman**.

### **Short And Sweet!**

An East Moline, IL customer of Mid-American Energy phoned the utility to say a WTS crew "did a great job." **Foreman Terri Kremer** and **Trimmer Vern Wright** were on the receiving end of this quickie compliment. Their **General Foreman** is **Mike Sanford**.

### **Breaking Up The Old Gang?**

**Trimmers Daryl Griffin** and **Shawn Huffman** want to send their congratulations to **Foreman Brandon Magee** on the occasion of his marriage in early April. And **Trimmer Nathan Mayeske** and **Cindy Koehn** will be cutting their wedding cake on June 24. Our best wishes to all the newlyweds!

## NORTHEAST DIVISION

### **A Good Deed By Danny**

**General Foreman Danny McMillen** spent a week in Trinidad, not basking in the sun, but doing a good deed. Danny, along with seven others from his church in Peoria, IL, the Northwoods Community Church, journeyed to Barrockpore, a small community outside of Port of Spain, Trinidad, to help paint a new church building. According to Danny, "the

trip was very eventful, beautiful and rewarding.” Thank you, Danny, for sharing this wonderful experience with us! We also wish to congratulate Danny and his wife Linda on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary in early April.

## SOUTHWEST DIVISION

### **A Bouquet For Flowers!**

Bob Owens of Kiamichi Electrical Cooperative in Wilburton, OK shared a note he received with **General Foreman Tom Tucker** who in turn passed it along to us. The note was from a couple in Veterans Colony near Wilburton who wanted to thank **Foreman David Flowers** and **Trimmer James Scarpello** “for the great work they have done in cleaning up around the power lines after the ice storm.” Hats off to David and James for impressing this couple with their excellent work.

### **Great, Scott!**

**Division Supervisor Scott Bloch** received a very complimentary letter from the president of a cemetery association in Eufaula, OK. Scott had arranged for **General Foreman Larkin Howell** and **Foreman Gregory Broadwater** to clean up the debris in the cemetery from the ice storm earlier this year. “Due to Mr. Howell and Mr. Broadwater’s long hours and hard work, the community will be able to have its Decoration Ceremony,” the president wrote. “It is companies like yours and employees like Mr. Howell and Mr. Broadwater, who donated their time and energy, that confirms our belief that we live in a wonderful and blessed country.” Thank you, Larkin and Gregory, for helping remind us once again that volunteerism pays big dividends.

### **Another Dale Carnegie Graduate**

**Safety Supervisor Jim Lorrigan** has successfully completed the twelve-week Dale Carnegie training program. Congratulations, Jim, on this fine achievement!

(continued on page 4)

# Task Force XIX Convenes To Review Approved Work Methods

Is there a better way to do it? A more efficient way? A safer way? These are the questions a specially appointed task force of general foremen and foremen ask themselves every year as they review our Approved Work Methods. Earlier this year, Task Force XIX convened at the home office to go over existing Approved Work Methods for possible changes and updates. The revised AWMs were mailed to the field and are now part of the Foreman’s Manual.



*This year’s task force was made up of, top photo, first row, Bobby Walker, Mountain States; Miguel Duarte, Northeast; and Safety Supervisor Marty Pingel, Northeast; second row, Safety Supervisor Randy Rempe, Central/Minnkota; and Safety Supervisor Herb Coy, Northeast; third row, William Wallen, Northeast, S. E. T. Director Keith Sheriff; and Jack Down, Southeast. Bottom photo, left to right, first row, John Clayton, Northeast; Bob Nelson, Minnkota; Doug Hansen, Central; and Mike Harris, Minnkota; second row, left to right, Mark Rader, Southwest; Jerry Black, Central; Warren Hughes II, Southwest; and Dave Knapp, Minnkota.*

# FROM THE Treetop

By Keith Sheriff

Safety, Education and Training Director

*Editor's Note: With much of the focus in this issue on safety, we asked S.E.T. Director Keith Sheriff to address our safety program in this column.*



It's time to review our safety program and, more importantly, our safety record. I have heard and seen many reports from our customers complimenting us on our outstanding training program. I believe we now have the best and most practical training since my arrival at Wright Tree Service almost nine years ago. As a case in point, I attended a training session in Indianapolis for our employees last April.

The training was strictly on a volunteer basis, but three general foremen, a couple of employee translators, 15 experienced climbers and 15 trainees attended. The climbing training lasted four to five hours and concentrated on showing the new climbers various techniques and allowing them to get comfortable in the tree. This is a wonderful example of team spirit. Everyone was either teaching or learning or both. This kind of commitment should surely be rewarded with a decrease in accidents and personal injuries. Yet, when I examine the *record* for this year, I

am not nearly as elated as I am when I examine the *effort*.

Excluding incidents caused by animal, insect and poisonous plant contact, we have had 161 incidents reported from October 1, 2000 through May 1, 2001. At this pace we will have 276 incidents reported for the year, which is an 18% increase over the number of incidents reported last year. This number represents one accident for every two crews, so if your crew has not had an accident yet this year, it doesn't mean that today or tomorrow you can't have a very

*"...when I examine the record for this year, I am not nearly as elated as I am when I examine the effort."*

serious accident. So far we have not eliminated falls from trees, serious cuts from chain saws, motor vehicle accidents, contact with the power lines, or any other type of accident that has caused serious injury or death in the past.

If our training is so good, we need to ask what is happening when the trainers are not on the scene? Are the general foremen continuing with the training? Are they focusing on safe procedures on the job? Are they spending enough time with each crew to know how the crew

performs? Are the crew leaders continuing with the battle against unsafe practices? Is there always someone watching when an employee is within ten feet of the conductor? Do we all know how to use the chipper safely? Do we always drive defensively? Is the job briefing used at each tree to train new employees and identify hazards? Take time to think about these questions before you answer, and you may discover that you or someone on your crew has the potential to be the next victim.

It's ironic that I am writing this article in the month of May for an issue of *The Family Tree* that is devoted to safety. This is the same month three years ago that Chris Halford was fatally electrocuted by an open secondary. He lay in the hospital for nine days before dying. The following Christmas, his two young nieces sat by the Christmas tree and missed Chris. "We want Chris to give us a piggy back ride and pass out the presents like he did last year," said one niece.

Safety is more than just a priority. It is a prerequisite that you must hold far above everything else. And safety cannot be accomplished alone. Just as you need help from others on your crew, you must also help them to work safely. *Think safety at all times* – it is the only thing that will get you home to your family each night.

## An Awarding Quarter!



Central Division General Foreman Mike Sanford sends us these pictures of two WTS crews honored by Mid-American Energy with the "Outstanding Crew Award" for the quarter. Left photo, left to right, MAE Forester Jim Balmer, Foreman Terri Kremer, Trimmers Travis Leigh and Steve Richey, Jr., and MAE Forester Dennis Haack. Right photo, left to right, Dennis Haack, Trimmer Mark Spriggs and Foreman Phil Boesenberg.



## News from our Branches

(continued from page 3)

### MOUNTAIN STATES

#### **XCEL-lent Job, Victor!**

Terry Hamm of XCEL Energy recently wrote **Division Manager Kirk Schuster** to commend the performance of **Foreman Victor Pena**. "I have received numerous compliments concerning the work Victor is doing in the Western Division," Hamm wrote. "Almost daily someone stops by my office to let me know that the landscaping at MCOC and Clifton Sub looks better than it has in years, or that Victor is a hard worker. I've had a chance to look around a bit and I agree. I also have never seen Victor when he wasn't busy doing something. Victor's work is greatly appreciated and he deserves the recognition."

### MINNKOTA DIVISION

#### **When Does He Sleep?**

Over the past year **General Foreman Jeff Harris** has completed the Dale Carnegie Course and has also become an I. S. A. Certified Arborist. Congratulations, Jeff, on two great accomplishments in one year!

#### **Time For Hugs – And Huggies!**

**Foreman Robert Nelson** and his wife Susan are the proud parents of a new daughter Brooke Lillian, who was born in early May. Congratulations to the Nelsons!

#### **Two More Dale Carnegie Graduates**

**General Foremen Jeff Harris** and **Scott Schweisthal** are both sporting certificates from Dale Carnegie for having completed the twelve-week training program. Congratulations to Jeff and Scott for this great accomplishment!

#### **Ken Is Certified**

**General Foreman Ken Venzke** has received his Certified Arborist designation from the International Society of Arboriculture. Congratulations, Ken, on earning this valued honor!

# Crews Clear Trees From Power Lines

By Laurel Loustau, Daily News Reporter

Climbing a tree near a 7,200-volt power line may not sound wise, but it's been a daily job for a tree trimmer who has spent the last two weeks clearing a Kansas Power and Light line that cuts through the meadows and woods of a property west of Olathe.

"Every tree is different," said **Garran Hodge, foreman for Wright Tree Service**, the contractor hired by KPL, "and so are the hazards involved." For Olathe alone, KPL must budget \$600,000 to clear trees and limbs from the company's power lines, which trace a 725-mile network from distribution pole to distribution pole, said Kim Gronniger, spokesperson for Western Resources, the parent company of KPL.

Wright Tree Service, which has the two-year contract to clear trees away from lines for KPL, forms teams of three trimmers and assigns them a section.

Hodge held up a map of Olathe and some surrounding territory he has to cover. With an orange highlighter, he traced the sections completed. A red line indicated all the line he has left to cover. But, cutting or trimming an average of 30 trees-a-day, his crew makes progress.

Fast-growing trees they take to the ground, while other trees only get branches trimmed, Hodge said.

"A slow-growth tree like an oak you aren't gonna knock back as much as an elm. We beautify as much as we can while still maintaining our four-year clearance."

Trimmers will cater to property owners' requests as much as possible, even leaving a load of chips for mulch if desired, Hodge said.

Surveying how and what to cut is done in the morning and by evening, you can see what you've accomplished, said **Bill Wood, a**

**journeyman trimmer for Wright Tree Service.**

"It's not like a factory job where you do the same thing every day, and your work is shipped off and you never see it," Wood said.

If a road is nearby, the crew will reach from the elevated bucket of a boom truck to saw off branches overhanging power lines. But if the line runs through forest, they have to attach a leather saddle and rope device and muscle themselves up the tree. The Anchor Hitch, the Monkey's Fist, the Blake and the Taut-line Hitch are four of a chapter full of knots the crews learn and use each day, Hodge said.

Safety considerations are a big part of strategizing how to trim each tree, Hodge said. Insulated chain saws and pole-extender tools protect the workers against shock. And there are other hazards, like the barbed wire fences that often run under power lines, not to mention thorn trees.

Hodge pointed to a recent cut on his calloused palm. "I just got through cutting a locust with thorns this long," he said, measuring three inches on his finger. "I always come home beat up in a new way."

But the ruggedness of the job is part of its attraction, trimmers say. "We're out here in the freezing cold and the blistering heat," said **Ray Wolken, advanced climber for Wright.**

"This job tests your body on a daily basis," Hodge said. The Olathe crew compared adventure stories with trimmers nationwide when they went to help trim after ice-laden trees took out power for 5,000 people in Oklahoma last December.

"The Colorado guys told us about hiking mountains and four-wheel drive trucks. The

(continued on page 12)

*We're grateful to Mike Horniman of Kansas Power and Light who sent this article to Central Division Manager Steve Pietzyk. The article appeared in the Daily News, Olathe, KS. We feel the article illustrates the high degree of knowledge and professionalism of our WTS employees.*

# THERE'S SAFETY IN

424 Employees Achieve Accident  
FREEDom For Up To Five  
Straight Years!



**218 Employees**

## CENTRAL DIVISION

Theodore J. Ackman  
Roberto Alvarez  
Bruce A. Fuchs  
Thomas D. Gibson  
Peter Gordon  
Timothy Graham  
Daryl E. Griffin  
Luke Grove  
Richard Ray Hall  
Brian J. Hasse  
Sean P. Hegarty  
Garran T. Hodge  
Kevin J. Hough  
Jesse J. Jensen  
Joseph M. Kamp  
Clint T. Kiddoo  
Lonnie G. Killman  
Keith M. Koehn  
Robert G. Lebeck  
Travis C. Leigh  
Christopher Lenhardt  
Brandon S. MaGee  
Terry J. Mahstedt  
John W. Mains  
Paul F. Mallinger  
Christian N. Mark  
James L. Martin  
Matthew O. Martin  
David Martinez  
Victor M. Moreno  
Adrian T. Oliver  
Devin O'Rourke  
William L. Phillips  
Chris G. Presnall  
LeRoy Raber  
Kevin E. Rhoads  
Christopher Rice  
Daniel L. Roberson  
Charles T. Ross  
Brian L. Rucker  
Thomas R. Shaw  
Tom L. Snyder, Jr.  
Michael W. Swisher  
Darrell E. Thomas  
Steve L. Thomas  
Charles Thompson  
Nick E. Thompson  
Howard M. Weedon  
Chad Williams  
Gregory Williams  
James Williams  
Jamie Woolard

## NORTHEAST DIVISION

Fred A. Beck  
Robert A. Belden  
Joe Bellomo  
Brian R. Bennett  
Nathan J. Berge  
Dan Birmingham  
Jamie R. Bradway  
Henry A. Brown  
Jeff Budsberg  
Bret A. Chocholous  
Keith Christianson  
Michael T. Collins  
Joshua C. Cook  
Jeff Dohn  
Darin L. Elliott  
Mike B. Ellis  
Christopher T. Finch  
Scott R. Gietzel  
Michael J. Gilbert  
Brian J. Hansen  
Daniel C. Heider  
Kenneth M. Hermanson  
George C. Hess  
William Hillier  
Robert E. Hutton  
Sean J. Jacobson  
Edgar F. Koester  
J.R. A. Kusch  
Jason S. Laux  
Mitchell A. Lillie  
Aaron Lorrigan  
Craig Lyles  
Brett McCully  
Mike D. Mibbs  
Keith E. Miller  
Tim Monn  
Bradley E. Moreland  
Jay A. O'Laughlin  
Donald R. Parrish  
Matthew R. Pawlak  
Curtis E. Reser  
Randy L. Reynolds  
Howard Robinson Jr.  
Chris M. Studeman  
Steve J. Swenson  
Albert Thomas  
Gary W. Thorgerson  
Rusty K. Walker  
Jasen L. Wendt  
Thomas R. Winters  
John T. Woythal

## MT. STATES DIVISION

Kelly R. Bohl  
Aric W. Bovie  
Guadalup Bustos-Mendoza  
Kathleen Chytka  
Walter L. Derby  
Bobby L. Fairrow  
Mauricio R. Jimenez  
Joseph Laschober  
Rodolfo Ledesma  
Jorge Lopez  
James Mahaffey  
Luis Maldonado  
Rodney K. Maxwell

Benedicto Moran  
Oscar Recinos  
Manuel Rodriguez  
Joe M. Valdez

## SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Joseph C. Alexander  
James L. Bascue  
Jerry L. Baucom  
Brian K. Beck  
Taft C. Bell Jr.  
James P. Bennett  
Michael R. Blain  
William H. Bowlds  
Robert W. Brown  
Sie Camacho  
Saturio J. Carreno  
Tony C. Childress  
Billy J. Chisum  
Gary E. Claborn  
William C. Cline  
Scott A. Coates  
Billy W. Curtsinger  
Ronald G. Daniels  
John E. De Hoyes  
Chris N. Dunn  
Michael J. Easley  
Scott D. Eklofe  
Daniel A. Factor  
Noah A. Factor  
Aaron S. Forrest  
Jason B. Frasl  
Tommy T. Galan  
Daniel A. Gallion  
Javiel Garcia  
Stephen A. Gillman  
Kent A. Hale  
James W. Hardin  
Michael Heath  
James R. Heikes  
Jimmy W. Hicks  
Jeremy M. Jackson  
Jason C. Kaiser  
Tommy D. Kelley  
Bryan M. Kelsey  
Robert E. Kelty  
Michael D. Knieff  
Charles E. Lafayette  
Kevin B. Landers  
Davin Laws  
Joe W. Leverich  
Robert V. Mizumura  
Adrian D. Nicholson  
Sammie L. Noble  
James Paterson  
David E. Peasnall  
Herman Peeper  
Derrick P. Pickard  
David L. Rader  
Terry Lee Ratliff  
Chad M. Rose  
Leonard A. Santos  
Leisha G. Self  
Robert Self  
Keith A. Slate  
Calvin E. Smith  
Wilson Tiger

Brian M. Timmons  
Dustin A. Tomlinson  
Carlos Trinidad  
Pamela M. Venokur  
Ivan Wagoner  
William Warren  
Christopher Wells  
Richard S. Wilk  
Christopher R. Williams  
Clinton M. Trewin

## MINNKOTA DIVISION

Carl A. Braatz  
Gary Cernohous  
Joel Collette  
Lewis Critelli  
Robert J. Cummins  
Stephen R. Hendershot  
Jeffrey S. Hernandez  
Brian M. King  
Clinton J. Klukas  
David A. Knapp  
Michael J. Ratz  
Ronald L. Royal  
Leif Ruona  
William Sorensen  
Antonio Soto  
Roger D. Stahl  
Randy J. Sterry  
Jim Davis  
Ronald Stevens  
Charles Truax  
Wade A. Brueggeman  
Paul Pacocha  
Michael W. Papenfuss  
Steven A. Janousek  
Timothy J. Koshollek  
Jeremy J. Newby  
Eric J. Richter



**97 Employees**

## CENTRAL DIVISION

Jeff W. Adams  
Robert D. Anderson  
Terry D. Berns  
Jeffery W. Brown  
Russell Burk  
Timothy L. Carmine  
Jason A. Davis  
Tommy Dial  
Michael J. Dorothy  
Travis L. Dunagan  
Scott D. Dundee  
Timothy J. Edwards  
Lance P. Even  
Jerrad R. Garrett  
Albert Jr. Garrow  
Patrick A. Giesler

# THESE NUMBERS!

Jerry L. Ginter  
Jay F. Graham  
Frank Haller  
Rick Heideman  
Shawn M. Huff  
Roy F. Huske III  
Michael P. Jud  
Rick A. Lee  
David A. Lenning  
Asa Mapes  
Nathan Mayeske  
Danny McDonald  
Dan M. O'Reilly  
Travis D. Platt  
Todd D. Powers  
Ronald Pratt  
Scott Swisher  
Ronald W. III Thornton  
Joshua D. Thorpe  
William Villarta

## NORTHEAST DIVISION

Gregory J. Arndt  
Thomas L. Brumm  
John Bucher  
Jerry Lee II Coy  
Daniel R. Davies  
Jonathon J. Davies  
Harold J. Heider  
Troy John Heinz  
Troy D. Jacob  
Raymond J. Kane  
David C. Kasch  
Seth Kauffeld  
Jeff J. Krueger  
Jeffery W. Lander  
Richard A. Lemke  
Jason R. Miller  
Paul A. Minnich  
Robert Nelson  
Dale Panas  
Dave Scott  
Brent J. Seibert  
Joseph W. Stevenson  
James F. Witucki  
Bruce W. Wuchterl

## MT. STATES DIVISION

Derrick K. Coffman  
Edward P. Cullen  
David L. Jenson  
Gregory Luper  
Amanda C. Moen  
Bernal Joel Ojeda  
Edyn Ronaldo Recinos  
Stacy D. Robinson  
Ernesto Casilla Rodriguez  
William R. Sutherlin  
Gary E. Tibbs

## SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Lonnie A. Bynum  
William Frye  
Michael Dwayne Hamm  
Eddie M. McCarty  
Lester H. Miles  
Leonardo L. Ponce

Leslie W. Rymer  
Lucko L. Self  
Rocky Soliz  
Elliott Walker  
William E. Welsh

## MINNKOTA DIVISION

Ricky Anderson  
Nathan M. Coblentz  
Timothy L. Correll  
Mark R. Flood  
Keith D. Guimmericer  
Adam R. Helminiak  
Robert K. Kappelhoff  
James J. Klukas  
Ronald J. Knutson  
Cory M. Kobernick  
Scott L. Ladner  
Todd L. Ostoff  
Mark W. Ostoff  
Mark A. Satter  
Kirk D. Venzke



## 54 Employees

## CENTRAL DIVISION

Orlando Z. Arguello  
Earl Jr. Barlow  
Patrick L. Boyd  
Andrew P. Boyer  
Jim Campbell  
Steven Clark  
David L. Day  
Howard S. Fritz  
Fabian Gonzales  
Jon B. Hunter  
Wayne G. III Johnson  
Ryan R. Johnson  
Gabe R. Jones  
Rodney E. II Kellar  
Juan Raul Linares  
Jason L. Mohr  
Michael Parsons  
Larry Lee Peterson  
Gary L. Randolph  
John M. Rogers  
Robert D. Selhauer  
Richard D. Skov  
Brad Webb

## NORTHEAST DIVISION

Michael R. Euteneier  
James Jerald Feldmann  
William C. Glander  
Shawn C. Grant  
David D. Kieffer  
Brian E. Marion  
Brian D. Matthews

## MT. STATES DIVISION

Jorge Alcocer  
Abel Bernal Flores  
Ronald H. Jr. Hefner  
Dwight E. Jessee  
Jose Alfredo Rodriguez

## SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Melvin Atkins  
Eddie L. Briscoe  
Gregory D. Briscoe  
Larry Elliott  
Frank W. Elmore  
David Flowers  
David Freeman  
Tommy J. Hinkle  
Ismael Rodriguez  
Mathew Silkey  
Richard L. Soweka  
Juan Valle

## MINNKOTA DIVISION

Todd W. Discher  
David R. Hanson  
Royce A. Moody  
David Ness  
John T. Nyberg  
Scott W. Peschges  
Wade W. Young



## 23 Employees

## CENTRAL DIVISION

Terry E. Barrett  
Lawrence Eisermann  
Lavernon P. Wright  
Doug Vondal

## NORTHEAST DIVISION

Allen R. Bienemann  
Jerry Coy  
Stephen B. Hollister  
Kevin J. Jung  
Todd L. Lyles  
Jeffery A. McNamara  
David D. Thomas  
Tim R. Weber

## MT. STATES DIVISION

Tim P. Jennings  
William McCormick  
Antonio Moreno

## SOUTHWEST DIVISION

James P. Bennett  
Scott Ogden  
Diane K. Vasquez

## MINNKOTA DIVISION

Bradley G. Bembenek  
Chad M. Brinkman  
Brian J. Dempsey  
Lonnie H. Frank  
Randy S. Nussbaumer



## 32 Employees

## CENTRAL DIVISION

Terry Brack  
Douglas D. Buffington  
Lloyd Fletcher  
Raymond C. Flick  
Sid S. Garr  
Eric J. Kiddoo  
Melvin D. Raygor  
Steve A. Richey  
Dennis F. Rubitsky  
John Waring  
Michael E. Wilkins

## NORTHEAST DIVISION

Thomas E. Ertl  
Jay A. Hafemeister  
Peter A. Nowicki  
Russell L. Pischel  
James D. White  
Dennis M. Wiese

## MT. STATES DIVISION

Steven L. Bond  
Roberto Jr. Lozano  
Daniel S. Morrison  
Tobin M. Wood

## SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Mark Barber  
Jack Down  
Ellis Jr. Ludlow  
Jeffery Rhodes  
Jeffery Layne Scott

## MINNKOTA DIVISION

Landon E. Poppens  
Kevin L. Richter  
Byron O. Stahl  
Kim J. Thomas  
Robert J. Tyson  
Tracy E. Yohnke

*If you were inadvertently omitted, please contact  
Judy Hiatt at the  
Home Office.*



### Chipping Into Our Business?

*Sharp-eyed General Foreman Joe Schulz, Northeast Division, noticed a 24.9K line well within the fall zone of this elm tree which some beavers were working on. To prevent a possible outage, Joe pulled a crew off their feeder*



*to remove the tree before the beavers succeeded. In bottom photo, Trimmer Troy Webster stands next to another tree which the beavers had already taken down, but fortunately it fell away from the line.*



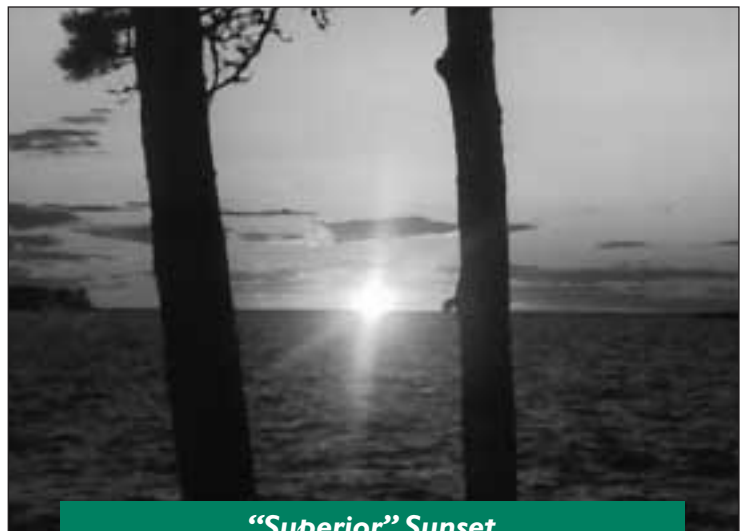
### Just Cheryl And Me – And Babies All Three!

*Foreman Alan Dobie must have used high-speed film to catch his two-year-old triplets on film without a blur; left to right, Samuel, Rose and Claire. Alan tells us he and his wife Cheryl have their hands full chasing, changing, feeding and refereeing – oh, really? Alan also has a son Nathan who is 12 and a daughter Margaret, a senior in high school.*



### “Bearly” Worth It!

*After succeeding to get the lid off the trash can, this bear came up empty-handed. Foreman Craig Thompson, Northeast Division, caught this action in Upper Michigan.*



### “Superior” Sunset

*Thanks also to Foreman Craig Thompson, Northeast Division, for this spectacular photo of sunset on Lake Superior in Upper Michigan.*





**Bucket Brigade!**

*Thanks to Jim Puentes of Mid-American Energy for sending us this picture of two Central Division WTS crews cleaning up in LeClaire, IA following a flat windstorm (although General Foreman Mike Sanford will give you ten-to-one it was a tornado). In left bucket, Foreman Wayne Johnson; in right bucket, Foreman Doug Vondal. A huge tree had fallen on a power line, breaking off at least four or five power poles, according to Mike. Other crew members included Trimmer Poppy Battin and Trimmer Mike Serpa.*



**A New Look!**

*New signage for our fleet of trucks was recently unveiled at the home office. The new design gives more prominence to the WTS logo as seen here on our pickup truck door. The new signage will be gradually introduced in the field as our trucks are replaced with newer models.*



**An Electrifying Experience!**

*General Foreman Ken Venzke, Minnkota Division, sends in this picture with the comment, "I guess this squirrel bit off more than he could chew." The photo was taken by Foreman Rick Nyhus.*



**A One Year Pardon?**

*While deer hunting last winter, Minnkota Division Supervisor J. D. Sanford came across this deer, impaled across a tree limb. Being a true sportsman, J. D. freed the animal, probably hoping to meet up again next season.*



**Skirting The Issue?**

*Northeast Division Safety Supervisor Marty Pingel celebrated his 51st birthday at a place called Joe's Crab Shack – but we don't know where he got the grass skirt.*

# Attitude And Enthusiasm Make Voluntary Climbing Classes A Success In Indianapolis

Faced with a large contract in a new area, how do you fast-start some new, inexperienced employees?

That was the big question as we undertook a new venture in the contract with Indianapolis Power and Light. **Northeast Division Manager Don Heyel, John Hurst, Project Manager for Indianapolis and Safety Supervisor Marty Pingel, Northeast Division,** came up with a solution for part of the problem in Indianapolis that focused on the training of new employees.

Marty has been holding evening classroom training on climbing methods and techniques and, on Saturdays, conducts a "hands on" training session for all new employees who are interested in attending. The results have been

outstanding, as employees are beginning to climb in a few weeks rather than a few months. Everyone gets individualized instruction and lots of encouragement as they begin to get comfortable in the tree.

The fourth climbing class this year was held on April 21. The training started at 9:00 a.m. and, again, was offered on a strictly volunteer basis. Of the attendees at the class, there were 12 new employees, two prospective employees, 15 experienced climbers, two employee translators, three general foremen and Marty Pingel.

After a brief welcome and preview of the day by Marty, each general foreman took a group of climbers and trainees to various trees and worked on problems frequently encountered when climbing

and moving about in a tree. Trainees worked with different problems for about four hours.

The highlight of the day was observing all of the training that was going on at one time. Groups that were not involved with climbing or training, were working on knots and trying out various equipment. It was a light atmosphere, but the top priority was to help each other learn how to climb better.

Our thanks to Marty, the general foremen, the translators and all of the employees who gave up their Saturday morning to learn to climb safer and more efficiently. The true success of this training is due to the effort, attitude and enthusiasm demonstrated by all of the participants.



*General Foreman Brian Hendrickson reviews some rope knots with Trimmer Becky Shirley.*



*General Foreman Joe Pulera demonstrates the proper way to rope-climb a tree.*



*Safety Supervisor Mary Pingel and Trimmer Becky Shirley observe the progress of a tree climber.*



*Work Planner Miguel Duarte, right, translates a performance review into Spanish for Trimmer Abel Guerrero*

## BENEFITS

### Notice Regarding The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998

Under federal law, group health plans and health insurance issuers providing benefits for a mastectomy must also provide, in connection with the mastectomy for which the participant or beneficiary is receiving benefits, coverage for:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and
- Prostheses and physical complications of mastectomy, including lymphodemas; in a manner determined in consultation between the attending physician and the patient.



These benefits may be subject to annual deductibles and coinsurance provisions that are appropriate and consistent with other benefits under your plan or coverage.

*Wright Tree Service is required under federal law to provide all plan participants with a written notice of coverage under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act. The notice must be provided upon enrollment, and annually. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Michelle Eggleston, 800-882-1216.*

## S.E.T. NEWS

### Six More "Graduates"



*Six employees attended the General Foreman Candidate School which was held at the home office in late April. Left to right, General Foreman John Church, Central Division; Foreman Bobby Walker, Mountain States Division; General Foreman Roger Hagen, Central Division; General Foreman Cornell Capps, Northeast Division; S. E. T. Director Keith Sheriff; General Foreman Buell Adkins, Northeast Division; and General Foreman John Clayton, Northeast Division.*

## FROM THE Kitchen

Here's an easy-to-make appetizer that is perfect for guests, and one your family will love as well, for an afternoon or late evening snack.

### ENGLISH MUFFIN CHEESE DELIGHTS

6 English muffins,  
halved and buttered

4 oz. grated  
mozzarella cheese

4 oz. grated sharp  
cheddar cheese

3/4 cup  
mayonnaise

Mix cheese and mayonnaise. Spread on muffin halves. Quarter each half muffin and place on Teflon cookie sheet. Broil a couple of minutes until bubbly and brown. Serve immediately. Yum!

(continued from page 5)

**Crews Clear Trees From Power Lines**

California guys told us about helicopter trimming in places where you can't get a vehicle," Wood said.

All new workers for Wright Tree Service are first hired for a 30-day probation period, where the initial task of dragging brush to the truck weeds out weak workers.

"You know they won't last when the first day they're complaining about having to walk through a creek," Wood said.

Once they trim or cut down the trees, the workers must chop them into small enough pieces to thrust into a chipping machine, which spews the broken pieces into a bin.

The National Arbor Day Foundation recently honored KPL with a Tree Line USA Award that goes to utilities which adhere to proper tree trimming, Gronniger Said. KPL was the only Kansas utility to receive the kudos. Property owners are often leery of a person who shows up holding a chain saw, but trimming trees is what keeps electricity shooting toward televisions, toasters and air conditioners, Hodge said.

"Sometimes customers don't understand that trimming trees is what keeps their power on," he said.

**The Results  
Are In!**

**847**

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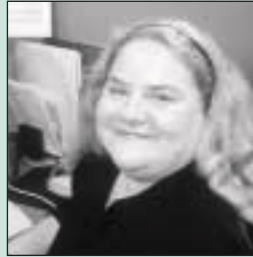
**EMPLOYEES QUALIFIED  
FOR THE SAFETY  
INCENTIVE AWARD**

**During Second Quarter  
Of This Fiscal Year  
(1/01 - 3/01)**

# Family Clippings

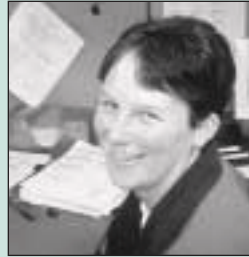
News From The Home Office

## We Would Like You To Meet...



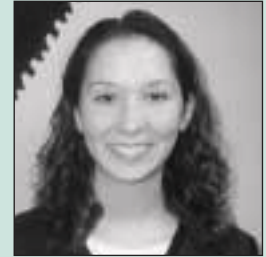
**Kathren Thomas**

**Kathren Thomas** is our new **Personnel Records Administrator**. She grew up in Carlisle, IA and now lives in the historic Valley Junction area in West Des Moines, IA with her mother – and three dogs! In her spare time, Kathren enjoys writing short stories and poems and, like most women, she loves to shop.



**Stacey Peters**

**Stacey Peters** has taken a position in our **Accounts Payable Department**. Stacey lives in Woodward, IA where she owns her own lawn and garden store. Stacey is also a busy student, studying business administration and financial services at the American Institute of Business in Des Moines, IA.



**Amanda Mahlberg**

**Amanda Mahlberg** lends a helping hand in our **Supply and Mailroom**, as well as serving as a backup receptionist. Amanda is a native of Denison, IA. She moved to Des Moines about two years ago to attend the American Institute of Business. She spends much of her free time planning her wedding in 2003.

### Señora White Returns!

**Receptionist Donna White** recently returned from a two-week vacation to Spain and Portugal. The trip was sponsored by the Newman Center at Drake University, Des Moines, IA. While in Portugal, Donna and the tour group visited the famous shrine of "Fatima." "We had a perfectly wonderful time," Donna attests.

### Like Mother, Like Daughter?

**Nancy Jacobson, Division Accounting**, is proudly spreading the news about her daughter, Christin, who recently graduated from Iowa State University, Ames, IA with distinction and honors. Congratulations, Christin, on your scholarly achievements!



### "May Day! May Day!"

On May 1, **Receptionist Donna White** fixed May baskets for everyone at the home office. But that's not all! Donna also arranged for a salad luncheon, corsages, gifts and prizes. A big "thank you" to Donna for all her efforts in arranging such a wonderful "May Day/Employee Appreciation Day" party.

If you have access to the Internet, you can visit us at: <http://www.wrighttree.com>

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