



Our Family Tree

A Newsletter For The Employees and Friends Of Wright Tree Service

VOLUME 9
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70
Years
1933-2003

Wright Tree Service Employees Shine In Climbing Competitions



Trimmer Randy Hake, competing here in the work climb, won the Master Challenge at the Topeka event.



Foreman Bruce Williams won first place in the aerial rescue competition at Topeka.



Foreman Jeremy Fox placed first in the throw line competition at Topeka.

Central Division's Randy Hake Places Second In Springfield MO And First In Topeka KS Events

Tree climbers from WTS and several competitors got a good workout at two competitions held this summer in the Central Division.

The ISA Midwest Chapter Climbing Competition was held in Springfield MO in mid-June. Along with being a major sponsor of the event, WTS supplied several judges, including **Safety Supervisors Jim Lorrigan and Randy Rempe; General Foreman Jim Bruner and Foremen Lorimer and Mike Christianson, Central Division.**

Trimmer Randy Hake, Central Division, placed third in the aerial rescue, fifth in the throw line and first in the Master Challenge which enabled him to finish second in the overall competition. His **General Foreman is Jim Bruner. Foreman Jeremy Fox, Central Division,** won first in the throw line, second in the belayed speed climb and tenth overall. **Will Porter** is his **General Foreman. Foreman Bruce Williams, Southwest Division/Residential,** placed first in the Aerial Rescue and thirteenth overall. **Scott Bloch** is his supervisor.

Foreman Chad Behnke, Central Division, won a trip to California to climb giant redwoods in a special body thrust challenge put to the judges. **Chad's General Foreman is Jim Bruner.**

A second competition took place in late July at the Midwest Regional Rodeo Climbing Competition in Topeka KS, also sponsored in part by WTS. **General Foreman Charlie McClure** helped plan and supervise the event. The judges included **General Foremen Roger Farley and Greg Williams and Foremen Marcus Cornett, Adrian Oliver and Tyson Young,** all from **Central Division.**

Obviously using the Springfield competition as a warmup, **Randy Hake** won the overall championship after placing first in the throw line and foot lock, third in the work climb and tied for second in the body thrust. **Bruce Williams** placed second in the throw line to come in fourth overall. **Jeremy Fox** placed first in the aerial rescue, second in the foot lock and tied for second in the body thrust. **Foreman Lorimer Christenson and Trimmer Larry Lawrence** also had very respectable performances, coming in 6th and 13th overall respectively.

Our congratulations to the participants. Our thanks to the judges and others involved in the success of all the events and for representing WTS so well!.

News from our Branch

CENTRAL

Kudos From Kansas!

A Western Resources customer in Lansing KS wrote **General Foreman Tim Leiser** a glowing note about the service he received from one of Tim's crews, **Foreman Lawrence Eisermann** and **Trimmers Brian Ruud** and **Max Stevanov**. "I want to compliment you on your crew," the note read. "These men trimmed the trees behind my yard under the electric lines. They also helped me with a couple of trees in my yard. Mr. Eisermann was especially helpful and gave me some advice on how to trim some trees in my yard so they would grow properly. They were very courteous." What more can we add except our thanks for a job well done!

Making The Days Easier

"A thank you once in awhile sure makes the days easier." That's how Mike Horniman of Western Resources ended his email to **Operations Manager Steve Pietzyk**. Mike was reporting on a phone call the utility's phone center had received from a very satisfied customer in Topeka KS. The customer called to express his appreciation, especially to **General Foreman Mitch Frye**, in getting the trees out of the lines. We extend our appreciation also to Mitch and his capable crew on this job: **Foreman John Bigham** and **Trimmers Jon Hanson** and **Ron Pratt**.

"Very Pleasant To Have Around"

James Puentes of MidAmerican Energy reported on an online message from one of its Iowa City customers. "I recently had a large tree removed from my yard that died over the winter and unfortunately was in the middle of a triangle of wires and very close to the house," the message read. "The men that took the tree down were GREAT! Not a single limb hit the house and they were so pleasant to have around. That was wonderful because I have small children and they were fascinated with the workers. They were very professional and did an excellent job.

My thanks to you and to them." This praise belongs to **Foremen Chuck Boesenberg** and **Rick Gaunt**; **Trimmers Ryan Johnson**, **Tom Moore** and **Kurt Schneckloth**; and **Groundman Rich Hofmann**. Their **General Foreman** is **Doug Hansen**.

Delighted In Davenport!

A glowing compliment for a WTS crew in Davenport IA came to us by way of an email from Dennis Haack of MidAmerican Energy. "I want to commend two young men who trimmed our trees today," the email stated. "**Foreman Scott Dundee** and **Trimmer Fabian Gonzales** were most courteous and considerate. I have many flowers, shrubs and landscaping that makes it very difficult to work around without harm to them. These two were very careful to make sure that there was no damage and trimmed the trees as carefully as could have been done. My husband and I are very pleased with the outcome. Thank you and thanks to them." Wow - it doesn't get any better than that! Hats off to Scott and Fabian and to their **General Foreman, Jim Bruner**.

High Fives From Iowa City!

A couple in Iowa City IA, who had experienced a storm outage, was so impressed with the work of a WTS crew, they contacted Kathleen Evans of MidAmerican Energy to compliment their work. Kathleen, in turn, contacted the utility's Mark Grell to learn the identity of the crew. In his email to Kathleen, Mark wrote: "Much of the credit goes to **General Foreman Doug Hansen**, who was the first person to talk to this customer, and his crew made up of **Foremen Dean Davolt** and **Rick Gaunt** and **Trimmer Mike Foulks**. Mark's email concluded: "All of the Wright Tree Service crews did a great job for us that night." A well earned commendation for all of Doug's crews who obviously put in a long night.

Twenty Years Of Bliss

Our congratulations to **Trimmer Doug Smith** and his wife Laurie who are celebrating 20 years of marriage.

Dog Catchers?

A MidAmerican customer in Iowa City IA penned a note to the utility in praise of work done by their crew and a WTS crew. "One of my trees was in the power lines," the note related. "Your employees came here Saturday to take care of the immediate problem. A few days later, Wright Tree Service came and took care of the branches. They did an excellent job, including taking away the smaller limbs. The service from the MidAmerican employees and Wright Tree Service was excellent, very timely and they were very nice people to deal with. The tree people even had to help me catch my puppy in the backyard. Thanks to you all." This very accommodating crew was made up of **General Foreman Doug Hansen**, **Foreman Chuck Boesenberg** and **Trimmer Ryan Johnson**. Thanks, men, for making us look so good!

Joy In Johnston!

A MidAmerican customer in Johnston IA called the home office to compliment a WTS crew. She didn't say much, only that the crew was very professional and cleaned up everything well. To this unnamed crew, our deepest thanks!

We Regret To Report

Trimmer David Stapleford's mother-in-law, who was also **Foreman Tyson Young's** wife's grandmother, passed away in June. Our sincerest condolences to the family.

NORTH

A Big "WOW" From Wisconsin!

Sally Maddick, Executive Director of the Industrial Corridor Corporation (ICC), an association of manufacturers along an industrial strip in Milwaukee WI, recently shared her appreciation of Wright Tree Service in a letter to **President/CEO Scott Packard**. All of the businesses backed a rail line that ran the length of the corridor. The thick overgrowth of brush and trees between the rail line and the buildings provided an ideal habitat for criminals who were

using the cover to break into the buildings and steal power equipment, computers, power tools, etc. Volunteers from the businesses had started the long, arduous task of clearing out the brush when Sally contacted Carolyn Simpson of WE Energies to discuss lighting the corridor.

Carolyn recommended that Sally contact **General Foreman Jeff Wood** to help with the clearing. The next word in Sally's letter was "WOW!" That was her reaction once Jeff got involved. The letter continued: "Jeff was great about looking at what we were attempting to do, which was much more than we first imagined. He enthusiastically encouraged his guys to pitch in to help our worthwhile effort. Working alongside our volunteers, primarily the fellows from a correctional facility, the volunteer crews from Wright Tree Service have moved this project along immensely. . . I can't say enough for Jeff and Wright Tree Service helping out on this hands-on anti-crime initiative." Thank you, Jeff, for making us proud – and thanks to all of your crew members who worked on this mammoth volunteer project. There were: **Foremen Jay Allen, Mike Collins, Mike Kuhrt, Jay Hafemeister, Rich Lemke, Aaron Lorrigan, Brian Marion and Doug Thomas**; and **Trimmers George Anderson, George Hess, Mike Hebert and Nate Stone**. (See adjacent photos.) The crew members in the Milwaukee metro area are supervised by Mike Bognar of WE Energies.

Bouquets From Brookfield

WE Energies' Jeff Treu relayed thanks from one of the utility's customers in Brookfield WI who had received help twice from WTS crews. About a year ago the customer had tree damage on his wires during a storm and attested the response from WTS was great. More recently, the customer had two trees growing close to his primary wires. The trees were doing poorly and he asked for assistance to remove them. In the latter instance, **Foreman Rick Reed** and **Trimmer Tom Bianchi** took care of the customer's needs. In a note to the crew, Jeff wrote: "Thanks for your great work; our customers really appreciate you" – and so do we! Their **General Foreman** is **Joe Schulz**. *(continued on page 4)*



Cleaning Up The Corridor

WTS crew members from the North Division volunteered to help clear out this overgrown brush (top photo) which provided an ideal cover for criminals breaking into buildings along this industrial corridor in Milwaukee WI. In second photo, Foreman Aaron Lorrigan and Jay Allen tackle some of the brush. In third photo, Trimmer George Anderson, working with an inmate from a correctional facility, oversees the chipping operation (see complete story in News from the Branches.)

News from our Branches

(continued from page 3)

Don Finally Wins!

Division Manager Don Heyel finally won his own golf tournament. The 11th annual two-man best ball event was held July 12 at the Meadow Springs Country Club in Ft. Atkinson WI. Playing with Rick Schulte of UP Timberland, Don and Rick edged out **Foreman Jay Hafemeister** and his father-in-law, Jerry Fisher. Longest drive honors went to **Trimmer Tom Brumm**; shortest drive, **Foreman Jamie Watkins**; closest to the pin, **Trimmer Arik Swetik**; longest putt, **General Foreman Herb Coy**; and highest team score, Jamie Watkins and his brother, Scott. According to Don, it was a beautiful day for golf (we wonder if he would say that if he had lost!).

INDIANA

Happy To Help Out!

General Foreman Dave Miller received a letter from Burnell Fisher, Indiana State Forester, thanking him and other WTS crew members for their tremendous help in Tornado Turn Around last May in Indianapolis IN. "My staff was particularly impressed that your arborists worked the day as volunteers," the letter said, "giving up a Saturday, working in the rain and smiling the entire day." The letter continued: "It is great to know that businesses will come forward to help our communities in need. Wright tree Service performed a commendable public service." We're smiling, too, knowing that WTS came through again in a big way.

GADD-zooks!

Nicole Gadd, daughter of **Foreman Charles Gadd** and his wife Lana, was nominated for the state fair queen contest by the Friendly Neighbors Extension Homemakers. Nicole is a high school senior, a member of the National Honor Roll and the MHS "A" Honor Roll. She serves as treasurer of the FFA where she received the SAE Dairy Project Award. Congratulations, Nicole – we hope to report in the next *Our Family Tree* that you won!

SOUTHWEST

BLOCH-Buster Report

Scott Bloch, Residential Supervisor

in Tulsa OK, sent a couple of notes to **President/CEO Scott Packard** from customers, praising the residential crew for their work. One note read:

"Thanks for all your help with the tree and stumps. The service and work was great. I've already recommended you to friends." Another note stated: "Thank you for a good job – your men worked so fast. They all are special. I will recommend your company to my friends." In an accompanying letter, Scott wrote: "I am proud of the personnel representing WTS Residential here in Tulsa. They bust their tails every day, representing us in the way we hope that all employees would every day. The group here is very special; they have taken ownership of this operation and go out with that positive thought process, working on every job. They work without breaks most days, some days no lunches, to get more done." The men Scott was referring to are: **General Foreman Pete Burkett; Certified Arborist Dale Hughes; Foremen Mark Harwick and Bruce Williams; and Trimmers Adolfo Alonso and Jeff Glass.** Thank you, Scott, for keeping us posted on the great work WTS is doing for residential customers in Tulsa.

Attention, Upper Management!

A SWEPCO customer in Magazine AR wants upper management to know that WTS crews are efficient and personable even when they are not being watched. (Tell us something new, right?) In a letter to our Division Office in Tulsa, the couple also expressed their total satisfaction with the crew working at their farm in Magazine, clearing an access way to the power line. "We were very impressed with their work," their letter stated. "The supervisors and workers were not only thorough; they were very polite and conscientious with regards to our land and our requests." The letter concluded with a recommendation "to keep these guys."

Yes, they certainly are "keepers." The crew was made up of **Foremen Bill and John Childress** and **Ron Elmore**; and **Trimmers Charles (Wesley) Collins, Kenneth Noblitt** and **Jason Patterson.** **Ross Self** is their **General Foreman.** (See pictures elsewhere in this issue.)

MT. STATES

Re-QUEST Handled!

Bruce Gummere, a contract inspector for Quest, shared an email with **Project Manager Doug Beane** which Bruce had sent to his two bosses, James Sampson and Sarah Nicholls. Bruce's email begins: "I want to write a short note to both of you about how well Wright Tree Service has been performing. . . Doug Beane and his team have done an outstanding job in completing the assigned work. Due dates have been met consistently and often with extremely short notice. Their workmanship is professional, their billing timely and accurate." Bruce then refers to another "last minute" job involving removal of aerial cable by WTS on a particular Saturday. "This was huge for us," Bruce wrote, "because it ensures we are not the last utility on the poles. Had we been last, we would have had to remove 16 poles at our expense and paid for compacting the backfilled holes. The monkey is now off our back on this. I have found Wright to be a 'can do' outfit that gets the work done and I thought you should know." And we're delighted to know, too. Thanks to **Division Manager Kirk Schuster** for sending us a copy of this email and congratulations to Doug, and to his crew, **Foremen Brent Hunter** and **Mike Coffey** and **Trimmers Vernon Liggett** and **Ishmael Navarro**, for this outstanding job performance.

What A Difference!

An Xcel customer in Littleton CO wrote our Division Office in Denver CO, expressing her gratitude "for the careful and courteous tree trimmers who recently came to my home." The letter continued: "The trimmers left a note on the door handle to say what

(continued on back page)

FROM THE Treetop

How It All Began...

As you know, 2003 is the 70th year of continuous operation for Wright Tree Service. Its history has spanned four generations of the Wright family. Not many firms can claim family ownership over so long a period. In August 2002, a decision that had been in the making for some time became a reality: Wright Tree Service began transferring ownership of the company to you, the employees; a goal dreamed of by the Founder, John L. Wright, and made a reality by his son, John R. Wright.

The long-range plan is that someday, in the foreseeable future, the employees of Wright Tree Service will own the entire company, thus becoming the stewards of a corporation whose reputation for honesty, integrity and professional expertise has been the driving force behind the name and the employees.

Back in 1966, John L. Wright, who was determined to put out a "company newsletter" on a regular basis, began writing a history of Wright Tree Service. He kept this up in his monthly column, covering a period of 15 years that we know about so far. We thought you would be interested in reading about the man, and his determination to succeed, even in the face of daunting odds that marked the depression years and World War II.

The first installment John wrote was like a foreword to a book. This was written in March of 1966: "Thirty years ago Wright Tree Service was not quite three years old at the time. The depression had started to ease just a little bit. Employees, John L. Wright; equipment, second hand car not paid for – no trucks, no power saws, no chippers – \$25.00 more or less in tools, and a strong desire to eat regularly.

"We have come a long way since that March of 30 years ago. I am quite sure that each and every one of us has had a little bit to do in that length of time, with increasing our equipment and personnel and in spreading our services far and wide. For your part in this growth I thank you sincerely."

I recall July, 1933 – the year we started. The writer was a much younger man than now and I am quite sure less experienced. I had been with the National Tree Expert Company from 1928 through 1930. In 1930 the first warning of the depression was appearing and the National Tree Expert Company was "feeling the bite". As a matter of fact, they went out of business not too long after that date. I took a part-time mail carrier job at the tremendous wage of \$.60 per hour and continued in that for the next three years, doing tree work in my spare time...and I had lots of spare time.

When Uncle Sam's Post Office Department decided they would only need me for 4 hours per day and, at \$.60 per hour, this did not look too promising. Therefore, in July of 1933, I packed my suitcases, loaded a few tools, probably

less than \$20.00 worth into a secondhand car and, accompanied by a new wife, took off for Cedar Rapids to found WRIGHT TREE SERVICE. My hopes were high and I was full of enthusiasm, never dreaming (and I am glad I could not see into the future) of all of the headaches and heartaches.

Looking back toward that summer in Cedar Rapids it is sometimes amazing and again sometimes discouraging to see all of the mistakes that I made. I felt quite sure that most of the people in Cedar Rapids would "sprain their arms" calling me for my services. What a disappointment was due us. Not only did very few of them call me but quite a number did not want to talk to me when I called them.

(continued on page 6)



*John L. Wright
(1909 - 1982)*

A Mighty Oak Meets Its Match!



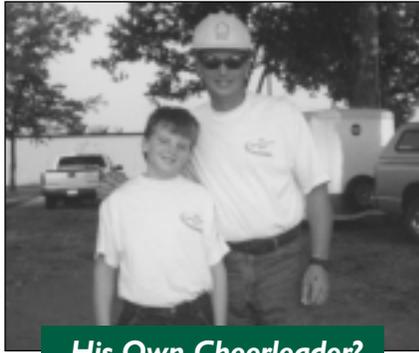
The Indiana Division recently had a private job that required the removal of a dead Red Oak tree over 200 years old. To complicate matters, the tree was surrounded by a gas station, car wash and parking lot. This monumental removal was headed up by

Foreman Matthew Owens, left photo, who celebrates as he nears "victory." In top right photo, Matthew is in the bucket and Foreman Jason Carter stands next to the tree. Middle and bottom right photos show the final cuts being made.



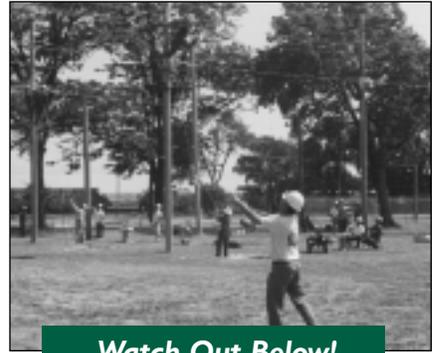
And The Winners Are...

Left to right, Foremen Marcus Cornett and Tyson Young, Central Division, assisted with the judging at the Topeka KS climbing competition (see front page story).



His Own Cheerleader?

Trimmer Larry Lawrence, shown here with his son Michael, performed well at the Topeka KS climbing competition, finishing 13th overall.



Watch Out Below!

Foreman Lorimer "Butch" Christenson competes in the throw ball at the Topeka KS climbing competition. Butch finished 6th in the overall scoring.

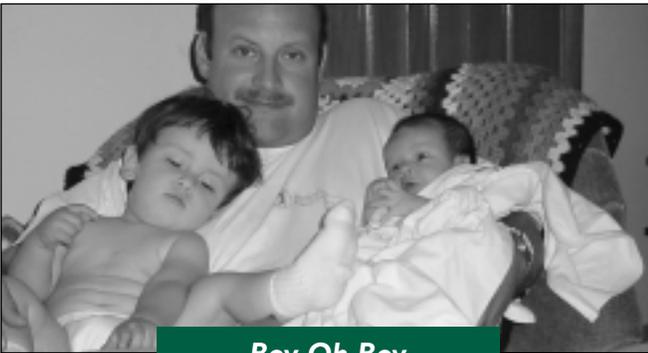


Nothing To Smile About?

Left photo, General Foreman Ross Self, left, and Foreman Ronnie Elmore, Southwest Division, forgot to say "cheese" when photographed by a satisfied customer in Magazine AR where

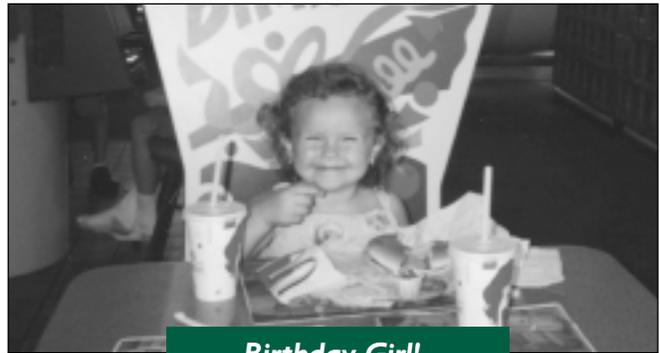


WTS cleared out the access to a power line. In right photo, Trimmer Jason Patterson slips on his gloves, preparing for action (see story in News from the Branches).



Boy Oh Boy

General Foreman Tim Leiser, Central Division, has his hands full with Timothy "T. J." Joseph and his new baby son, Luke Justin (shall we call him "L. J.?" born in May.



Birthday Girl!

Samantha Rose Watkins celebrated her third birthday in August. She is the daughter of Foreman Jamie Watkins, North Division, and wife Rosemary.

And Baby Makes Three!

Foreman Keith Christianson, Minnkota Division, and wife Lindsey with son Blake Allen, born in May. Personal to General Foreman Jeff Harris: "hanks for the gifts."



Diaper Duty!

Trimmer Craig McCoy, Central Division, and his wife Virginia are the proud parents of a new daughter, Lillian, born in June.



A number of people had their regular contractor looking after their trees and they were quite happy with the services being rendered. However, we were able to obtain some work although we had competition to contend with as well as the depression which was at its peak at that time. We had "high hopes" of being "big shots" almost immediately. This "bubble" was most certainly dissolved when, in need of help, we went out and hired a competitor to help us. Very shortly the competitor had drawn the "customer of the day" off to one side and proceeded to sell his own services. The first thing we knew the competitor was doing the work and we were out looking for other jobs. (As a matter of fact, for the next 12 years we ourselves were climbing very consistently and regularly whenever work was available.)

However, we did have many enjoyable experiences in Cedar Rapids that year and, although our total sales were less than \$600.00 for the year, we managed to eat most of the time until winter arrived whereby work shut down all together. We spent the winter in the Des Moines area mostly here and there visiting relatives, and in the spring of 1934 WRIGHT TREE SERVICE hung out its "shingle" in Des Moines, Iowa and from that time on we have been in this area.

1935 improved over 1934. As a matter of fact, we were fairly busy at certain times during the season. We were still doing some work in Cedar Rapids and made several trips to that area during the course of the year. As we were doing nothing but private work along about November or the first of December we found ourselves with nothing to do - as was the case the previous winter. During the winter of 1934 and 1935 I leased a filling station and spent the winter there. As I recall, my total take was approximately \$50.00 per month. I was glad to get back in the trees, as the income of a tree surgeon in 1935 was a little more than \$50.00 per month.

During the winter of 1935 and 1936 I spent part of the time looking after a gang of "WPA" men on the Veterans Hospital grounds. However, most of my crew were inclined to rake leaves with one of the other gangs since they felt this was considerably easier than climbing trees. As a matter of fact, one of the men had a trap line to run and he said he had to be off at a certain time and, therefore, could not climb trees.

The late winter and early spring of 1936 were extremely difficult times. As a matter of fact, my wife and I decided for a couple of months during February and March that it

would be better to give up our small three room apartment and spend that time with relatives on the farm.

Later in the spring work began to pick up, and we listed Wright Tree Service in the classified ads in the Des Moines telephone book for the first time. Wright Tree Service also became an employer on a more or less regular basis in the spring of 1936. The employee was S.W. Hoover who tagged with the nickname "Doc." We were able to keep fairly busy during the summertime doing pruning, fertilizing, bracing, cabling and cavity work, with some removals from time to time. We also did some work at the state fair grounds, completing our project just as the fair opened.

I recall that during that summer we did work in Cedar Rapids and for several days the temperature was well over 100 - climbing to 112 and 115 for a few days. Work slacked off in the fall and friend "Doc" decided it was more expedient to go on relief than it was to battle the elements and make his own living. I was able to line up fairly good-sized jobs which I worked on for a couple of months. It was necessary to go back and forth by bus as my old car decided it wanted nothing to do with the cold weather and "gave up the ghost."

However, in spite of all of the difficulties, 1936 reflected quite a little growth over the previous year.

As 1937 came around it appeared for a short time that I would no longer be on the list of tree surgeons. I was offered an appointment in the railway mail service which I accepted and was assigned to the terminal in Chicago in February of that year. Rather reluctantly I packed away my tools and took my wife and baby daughter to Chicago. However, it was only a matter of weeks until I had become disillusioned with the big city life and longed to return to the Midwest and the trees.

Consequently early in April, I returned to Des Moines and again took up "tree climbing". I continued to work as a railway mail clerk on an extra basis as business was not great enough to support myself and family. However, as the summer went on our calls began to pick up and we were able to employ a few extra men. "Doc" Hoover returned, my brother from Adel started working with us and in August of that year Bill Inman, known to most of you, first started climbing trees. 1937 finished out in pretty fair shape but we were out of work nearly all winter; we did continue to grow as you will note by our WTS tree.

Editor's Note: John had a hand-drawn tree in each newsletter which, by its size, would indicate whether the company grew or not.

As 1938 came on the horizon things looked somewhat better. We had gained through the years a certain number of steady customers that gave us work each year. There is very little to report for this year but it was a year of continued growth. We may as well take up 1939 here also as the two years were somewhat tied together.

Business looked good enough to perhaps support an aggressive tree company so I gave up my railway mail service work and devoted full time to the tree business. We were able to keep busy most of the time during the summer and in the fall of 1939 we purchased the tree mover familiar to many of you. Of course, this particular piece of equipment has worn out many different trucks and has been modified, remodified and repaired but it still carries the same general equipment. Consequently, the fall of 1939 saw our first venture into transplanting and we did move quite a number of trees that fall.

Fred Manning, recalled by some of you, started in our employ the fall of 1939 and, during the summer of 1939, Bill March was with us for several weeks, working on the grounds of the Soldiers Home in Marshalltown with Bill Inman and Dean Balliet. These two years were not outstanding but we did continue to grow.

We failed to mention in our last News Letter the tree mover acquired in 1939 was equipped with a hand winch. Some of you might remember this and recall, when using the low side needed for heavy loads, the process of lifting was extremely slow. It was not until the late 1940s that we were able to equip this truck with a power winch.

We also did our first line clearing in 1939 which we neglected to mention last month. This "line clearing," if we can call it such, consisted of clearing interfering branches from a double trolley wire that furnished electricity for the first trackless trolley or electric buses to appear in Des Moines.

In 1940 we did our first actual line clearing and this was carried out for Iowa Power & Light Company (now MidAmerican Energy Co. and a WTS customer throughout Iowa) in the Oskaloosa and Colfax districts. As I recall, we were paid \$.90 per man hour for our efforts plus a truck

rental of \$.50 per hour. From this revenue we, of course, had to pay the men and furnish all operating expenses including insurance. However, 1940 did launch us into a type of operation that has become one of our main sources of revenue.

Outside of this we can recall very little that might be of interest. 1941 followed about the same pattern as 1940 doing some line clearing as well as an increased amount of private work. You will recall that World War II was declared in December of 1941. Although we did not recognize this fact at the time, our operation was to be completely changed over the next four years.

As we mentioned in our November Letter, World War II was declared in December of 1941. We actually did not begin to feel the effects of it until the latter part of 1942.

We continued doing some line clearing and private work. However, during the early fall of 1942, the Armed Forces just about eliminated WTS. All that was left at that time was "yours truly," temporarily deferred because of a bad back, and Leo Snyder who some of you might recall. Leo was 57 years old so you can readily see all that was left was a man with bum back and a 57 year old groundman. It certainly didn't look very rosy.

The two of us cleared the logs from a right-of-way that had been cut several years previously. It was quite a job. We also transplanted several trees and that was also quite a project in as much as we hand-picked through as high as 36" of frost. The future definitely looked a bit bleak as we headed into 1943.

(Watch for a continuation of this series in the next issue of Our Family Tree.)



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BENEFITS

Attention: Current Enrollees In Medical And Dental Benefit Plans – Here's Your Chance To Change Your Type of Plan



If you are currently enrolled for medical or dental with WTS you will be able to change plan types in November 2003, for coverage effective January 1, 2004. This reenrollment period applies to employees already enrolled with WTS as there is no longer an open-enrollment period. An employee must incur a Qualifying Event to gain coverage should they waive coverage, at their initial eligibility. The guidelines for a Qualifying Event are listed below:

For those that are not covered with WTS, who have failed to enroll during their initial eligibility period, the following will still apply:

1. If you currently have other medical and/or dental coverage and you involuntarily lose that coverage (due to divorce, or your spouse stops working, loses eligibility or is terminated), you may enroll for coverage under Wright Tree Service's plan within 31 days of the date you lose your other coverage.
2. If you are currently continuing coverage under a prior employer through COBRA, and your COBRA continuation period expires, you may enroll for coverage under Wright Tree Service's plan within 31 days of the date your COBRA coverage expires.
3. If you gain a dependent by marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption, you and each of your dependents may enroll for coverage under Wright Tree Service's plan within 31 days of the date of marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption.
4. If you are currently not enrolled in the plan, but receive a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO), which requires you to provide insurance for a dependent child, you may enroll yourself and the named dependent child(ren) for coverage under Wright Tree Service's plan.

In order to be eligible for any of the Special Enrollment Events listed above, WTS must have a signed waiver of coverage form on file. If you are unsure that you have returned a signed waiver form please contact Michelle in the Des Moines office. If this form is not on file, Wright Tree Service may require that you provide proof of the Special Enrollment Event prior to approving coverage under the plan.

The reenrollment period is your opportunity to make changes between the Core Plan and the BuyUp Plan. Please start thinking about how this might affect your personal situation. If you wish to make a change, contact Michelle for an enrollment form or feel free to call her with any questions at 1-800-882-1216.





FROM THE

Kitchen



As daylight hours become more precious with the onset of autumn, bushels and bushels of apples ripen on orchard trees. The red, green and yellow fruits plucked from the branches are ready to be turned into tasty treats ranging from apple bars to apple pudding pie. Try these two appealing apple recipes to celebrate fall.

CARMEL APPLE BARS

1 cup chopped pecans
2/3 cup brown sugar
1 cup coconut
2 1/2 cups flour
1 1/2 cup sugar

1 1/2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp cinnamon
2 eggs

1/2 cup evaporated milk
1/3 cup water
2 cups finely shredded, peeled apples

Combine pecans, brown sugar and coconut in bowl and set aside. In mixing bowl, combine the next six ingredients. In a small bowl combine eggs, milk, water and apples. Add to flour mixture. Mix well. Pour into a greased 10" x 15" pan and sprinkle with nut mixture. Bake 40-45 minutes at 325 degrees.

Topping:
2/3 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup evaporated milk
4 Tbs butter

Combine ingredients in a heavy saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until sugar dissolves and mixture thickens slightly, about 8 minutes. Poke holes with fork in top of hot cake. Immediately spoon topping over cake. Cool.

APPLE PUDDING PIE

1/4 cup margarine or butter
1 cup sugar
1 beaten egg
1 cup flour sifted
1/2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp nutmeg
2 cups unpeeled apples, diced (preferably Jonathan)
1/2 cup chopped pecans (or English walnuts)

Using mixer, cream together margarine (or butter) with sugar. Mix in beaten egg; then add flour sifted with baking soda, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add apples, preferably Jonathan, and nuts. Continue beating with mixer after apples are added. When well mixed, put in buttered pie tin or 8" square baking tin. Bake at 350 degrees from 45 minutes to one hour. Serve plain, with whipped cream, or with ice cream. Serves about eight.

News from our Branches

(continued from page 4)

they would be doing, and to call if I had any questions. I called Stan (WTS Work Planner Stan Len) to discuss the trimming. At times in the past I have had some really bad work. Stan discussed what they would take out of an old olive tree. I asked him to look at an evergreen that might also be a problem. He and the crew came the next week. They did a good job with a minimum of time and fuss. I think you should know what a difference this careful treatment makes to customers." Thank you, Stan, and thanks to your crew, Foreman Tim Gonzales and Trimmers Lorenzo Delgado and Juan Aguilar, for epitomizing The Golden Rule. Their General Forman is Tom Wipf.

It's In His Genes!

Forester Denis Green wants all of us to welcome Groundman Michael Sirochman who has joined a WTS crew in Woodland Park CO. According to Foreman Bill McCormick, Michael is a "natural born climber."

The Bells Are Ringing!

Foreman Jonathan McCormack tied the knot with Patty Quinlivan in a late August wedding. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

We Regret To Report

Foreman David Hayner was hospitalized in early September. He has worked for WTR since April. Cards and well wishes can be sent to David in care of: Georgia Hayner, 2707 LaSalle, Farmington, New Mexico 87401. We miss you, David - hurry back!

MINNKOTA

Pitching In!

Foreman Scott DeRosier wants to thank Division Supervisor John Sanford, Foreman Steve Janousek and WTS for everything they did for his family and him while he was unable to work.

Family Clippings

News From The Home Office



Picture Perfect!

Senior Accountant Wendy Eckhart and her husband Brian shared this photo of their new baby boy, Joseph Godfrey, who was born in April. Congratulations to Wendy and Brian!

California Dreaming?

Receptionist Donna White spends so much time in California, she plans to vote in the recall election. Five dance recitals were on the itinerary during her recent 10-day visit with her son and family. Like a good grandma, Donna attended all five.

A Rain Of Gifts!

Kristy Zeimen, Division Accounting, was honored with a bridal shower in September at the Home Office. While Kristy opened her gifts, everyone enjoyed a taco salad, followed by cake and punch. Nancy Jacobson, Lori Ordal, Donna White and Karen Widen hosted the affair.

Three-Peat!

Payroll Supervisor Lori Ordal and her husband Rick are grandparents again. Their daughter, Leisa and husband David Boles, have two little girls and now their son, Tim Ordal and wife Deb, are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Jonah, born in July.

Welcome Back, Carol!

It's good to see Administrative Assistant Carol Saltz back at the Home Office after a 10-day stint in the hospital. Carol is feeling much better now and hopes the next time she's in a hospital, she'll be a visitor, not a patient.

The Results Are In!

841

EMPLOYEES QUALIFIED FOR THE SAFETY INCENTIVE AWARD

During The Third Quarter Of This Fiscal Year (4/03 - 6/03)



"I'm Baaack!!!"

2003 Turkey Challenge - October 6 ~ 17, 2003

The annual two week 2003 Turkey Challenge starts October 6 and will run through October 17. If your ENTIRE DIVISION works accident free for this two-week period, every employee in the division will receive a free turkey in time for Thanksgiving. Let's make this a company-wide, accident-free two weeks!!

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

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