



Our Family Tree

A Newsletter For The Employees and Friends Of Wright Tree Service

VOLUME 7
NUMBER 1
SPRING, 2001



Ol' Man Winter's "Christmas Present"

(See page 4)

Heinz, Frank and Nyhus Mark 25 Years with WTS

Northeast Division Supervisor Phil Heinz, left, and Minnkota Division Foreman Mark Frank, right, accept 25-year congratulations from President John Wright at the 2001 Annual Banquet. Another 25-year awardee, Minnkota Division Foreman Richard "Rick" Nyhus was unable to attend the banquet, but he sent us a picture of himself (and his family) which appears on page 10.

(See page 9 for article)



News from our

CENTRAL

Salutes From Sanford!

General Foreman Robert Sanford and his Sioux City crews answered the call to help out in Oklahoma following the Christmas ice storm. Robert submitted some dramatic photos of the storm, which appear elsewhere in this issue, to illustrate to everyone "just what we were up against." Robert's report continued, "I want to thank all the crews for all the hard work and making themselves look so good. I believe everyone deserves an equal 'atta boy' for all the cooperation and the diligent work. I was proud to say they were under my supervision." Those who joined Robert in this huge restoration project were: **Foremen Tom Bertrand, Jeremy Buckholtz, Kevin Counter, Jason Davis, Sean Hegarty, Chris Presnall and Craig Sandvick; Trimmers Bryan Baker, Jeremy Cason, Travis Dunagan, Austin Gaffey, Darin House, Larry Peterson and Jason Waugh; and Groundpersons Nichole Davis and Murlin Gier.**

Robert also expressed his gratitude to those who stayed back and "ran the show" in Sioux City. They were **Foremen Pat Boyd and John Church, Trimmers Aaron Cox, Jerry Holder, Dave Martinez and Justin Olson, and Groundperson Terry Church.** "To all the other WTS employees I met down in Oklahoma," Bob wrote, "it was a pleasure meeting you. Thank you for the respect and cooperation you gave me." And thank you, Robert, for taking the time to acknowledge the great effort put forth by these crews.

Re-JOYCE, Mitch!

Division Manager Steve Pietzyk passes along a letter he received from Joyce Wendling, KPL Estimating Department, Topeka, KS, commending **General Foreman Mitch Frye.** "I just wanted you to know what a pleasant and helpful person Mitch is to work with," Wendling wrote. "He is always willing to meet on site with my customers and me to discuss the work to

be done. He also helps with calculating job costs, which improves the accuracy of my overall estimates. This level of service helps prevent potential complaints, making my job easier. I just want to express my appreciation for the professional performance and excellent customer service provided by Mitch and his crews." Thanks, Mitch, for going the extra mile for this utility customer!

A December To Remember!

Foreman Dean Davolt and his wife Arlene celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary on December 12, 2000, became proud grandparents of Isaiah Michael Dean Johnson on December 15 – then Dean, along with five crews from Iowa City, "celebrated" New Year's Eve in Oklahoma fighting the ice storm. **Doug Hansen** is Dean's **General Foreman.**

Did They Use A Snowball?

General Foreman Jim Bruner, Foreman Melvin Raygor and Trimmers Eddie Caras and Mike Hasse put together a co-ed softball team for the Snowbird Softball Tournament held annually in the Quad Cities. The tournament is a fund-raising event to help fight muscular dystrophy. A fun way to raise money for a good cause!

How'd We Miss This?

General Foreman Tim Leiser exchanged wedding vows with Christina Cano in Artesia, NM, back in September. Our belated congratulations!

One of Tim's foremen in the Eureka, KS area, **Tyson Young**, followed in his boss' footsteps, marrying Kerri Stapleford in mid-January. Our best wishes to the Youngs!

NORTHEAST

Repeat Performance!

On December 14, a WEPCO customer in Milwaukee, WI called the utility to extol **Foreman Mike Suprenand** and his crew for the excellent trimming job at her house. "The crew was so polite and did such

a nice job cleaning up," the customer commented. A day later, another customer just a block away called the utility and echoed the first customer's praise. "Just another example of the fine work we have come to expect from WTS," noted Mike Bognar, WEPCO'S Regional Forester, "and our hats are off to Mike and his crew." Mike's crew was made up of **Trimmers John Bodamer, Steve Hurt, Deb Spoerke, Joe Stevenson and Boyd Rasmussen.** Our thanks to you, Mike, and your crew for making such a great impression. Their **General Foreman** is **Jeff Wood.**

Mulch Put To Good Use!

A "Keep Indianapolis Beautiful" project in October involved revitalizing the school grounds of an Indianapolis elementary school. The work included the creation of a pond, a butterfly garden, an archeological dig area, street-side tree planting, a nature trail and more. When the word went out that mulch was needed for the nature trail, Line Clearing Supervisor Chuck Miller of Indianapolis Power & Light Co. (IPL) arranged for the delivery of eight loads of coarse mulch from WTS. Miller passed along letters he received from the principal and a student, thanking him for the much. In his reply to the principal, Miller gave credit to **WTS Project Manager John Hurst** for providing the mulch. Thanks, John, for taking advantage of this excellent public relations opportunity.

The Stork Stopped Here!

Foreman Dan Davies and his wife Jody "couldn't be more thrilled" with the arrival of Abigail Diane in early December. Our heartiest congratulations!

Sincerest Condolences

We regret to report the death of **Foreman Dan Birmingham** who died following an at-home accident on December 9, 2000. According to **General Foreman Danny McMillen,** Birmingham had worked for our company since May, 1999 when WTS was appointed to serve the CILCO account.

Branches

SOUTHWEST

Crew Saves Man From Certain Death

While working the ice storm in Arkansas, **Foreman Jason Frasl** and **Trimmers Billy Chism, Pepper Runnels** and **Rocky Wilson** came across an elderly man who had fallen on the ice and was unable to get up. He had been lying in the snow for about five hours when the crew heard his call for help. It was getting dark when they found him and he surely would have died from exposure if the crew had not discovered him. The crew carried the man inside and called for an ambulance. We thank **General Foreman Pete Burkett** for this astonishing story. Pete added this comment: "Praise to these men for saving a life and to the attention and care they gave to this situation." To which we say, AMEN!

Another Good Deed To Report

Another elderly man from Eufaula, OK wrote the home office with these words of appreciation: "Concerning the ice storm on December 25, 2000, I would very much like to call attention to a group of your men who I feel went above and beyond what they had to do, to help out an old man. They were driving down the road and, seeing my Chevrolet Suburban completely covered with tree limbs, stopped and set about cutting and clearing the limbs off my vehicle. God bless to a great bunch of guys: **General Foreman Kevin Beckmann, Foreman Matt Grell, Jesse Jensen and Ryan Hammers,** and **Trimmers Tim Carmine, Rick Heideman and Victor Moreno.**"

Accolades From Arkansas!

Sharon Priest, Arkansas Secretary of State wrote WTS **Operations Manager Will Nutter** to express her appreciation for "all the help sent to Arkansas during December." Her letter continued: "Without the help of your professional, hard-working and 'very nice' men and women, Arkansas would still be in the dark. Thank you for the help and

please express my gratitude to the crews who were in Arkansas." Take a bow, crews – you did an outstanding job!

Applause From Tammy!

Tammy Hollander, Southwest Division Accountant, would like to send a big thank you to the general foremen and foremen in her area who were working the storm. "You have made great efforts to get time sheets in on time, as well as answer any questions that I had," Tammy writes. "I know you had far more important things going on, but you were always willing to do what I needed to be done. I really appreciate all of your efforts. You guys deserve a hand."

Time For Hugs and Huggies!

General Foreman Cody Magruder and his wife Missy are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Christopher Walker, who was born in December. The baby was named Christopher in memory of Missy's brother, Chris Hallford, a former WTS employee who is now deceased. Our heartiest congratulations to the Magraders!

Twenty Years! Cheers!

Our best wishes to **General Foreman Marlin King** and his wife Renate who celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in early January.

MT. STATES

"Tree Butchers?" Not WTS!

A Public Service Company customer in New Castle, CO wrote the utility to express her thanks for the professional tree trimming job performed by **Foreman Rod Maxell** and **Trimmer Bruce Harold** on her property. The customer apparently had a previous experience with a tree service company that did not turn out so well. Her letter starts: "Around December 12, I came home to find one of those 'announcements' (I used to call them 'warnings') of Public Service's intent to prune (I used to call it 'butcher') my trees away from power lines. I was concerned and asked to talk with

someone on behalf of my trees. Rod responded promptly to my request. He and Bruce answered all my questions thoughtfully, explained what they needed to do, then did it all competently. It was obvious that they cared about preserving the health and appearance of the trees they pruned and I'm sure that your customers, especially the lucky ones served by Rod and Bruce, appreciate it very much. They were a pleasure to meet and talk to. They even went beyond the call of duty and changed an outdoor light I couldn't reach. Please thank them again for me. If you could forward a copy of this letter to Wright Tree Service, I would be grateful. They have two good men in Rod and Bruce." Thank you, Rod and Bruce, for changing this customer's light bulb – and her opinion about tree trimming "The Wright Way." We appreciate your conscientious work and we know Public Service would concur. **O.J. Feay** is their **General Foreman**.

Conifer Congratulations!

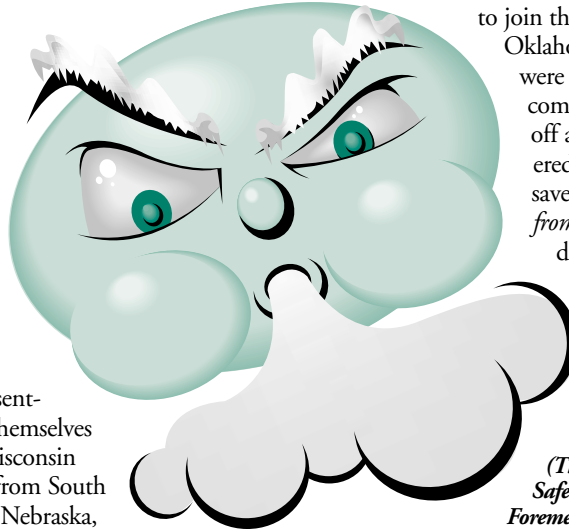
Dennis Williams, District Manager of Intermountain Rural Electrical Assn. (IREA) in Conifer, CO wrote to **General Foreman Frank Cordova** to express his satisfaction "with Wright Tree Service efforts at this time. I thank you for the time and expertise you've provided and look forward to continued benefit in this regard. I want to add to this my remarks about **Denis Green's (WTS Contact Forester)** efforts to support our goals. I appreciate his interest in IREA's requirements, procedures and priorities. Equally important is his ability to convey these concerns and requirements to consumers in an effective way. Comments I have heard from other IREA personnel indicate a similar satisfaction with Denis' efforts. I appreciate the close communication with Denis and this office in regard to crew scheduling and consumer sensitive issues. His demeanor is professional and constructive and he reflects well on your operation." This high praise for Frank and Denis is surely well deserved – good work!

Over 500 WTS “Storm Troopers”

Ol’ Man Winter’s “Christmas Present” Results In Power Outages For Over 1,000,000 Customers

A far-reaching ice storm struck the Southwest Division on Christmas Day, leaving more than 1,000,000 customers without power. **According to Division Manager Allen Taylor**, the storm raged from Lawton, OK east to Memphis, TN and from Fayetteville, AR south to Shreveport, LA. In the hardest hit areas, entire towns were virtually shut down with no electricity, water or phone service. Tragically, 27 deaths were attributable directly to the storm.

Wright Tree Service responded to the desperate situation with 188 crews representing over 500 crew members. Dubbing themselves the “storm troopers,” they came from Wisconsin and Minnesota, from Illinois and Iowa, from South Dakota and Kansas, from Colorado and Nebraska,



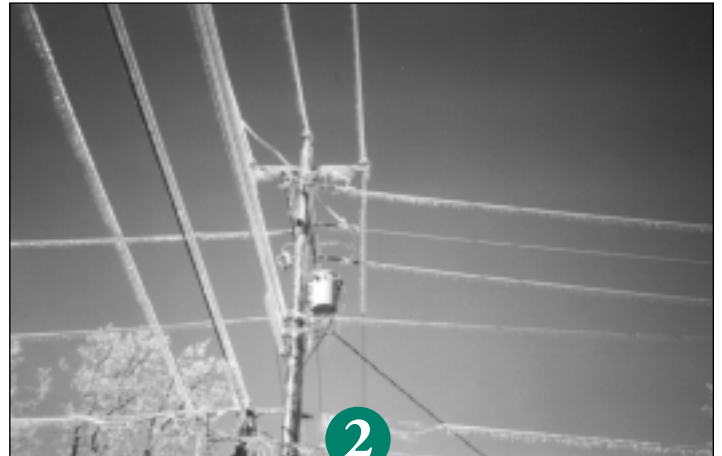
to join the Southwest Division crews in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Christmas celebrations were put on hold, 18-hour workdays were common. One of the crews cleared the limbs off an elderly man’s car; another crew discovered an elderly man in the snow and surely saved him from death by exposure (see *News from the Branches*, Southwest Division for details). We’re sure there are many other stories in which our crews went above and beyond in carrying out their responsibilities. We’re proud of all of you. You are the reason why Wright Tree Service enjoys such an enviable reputation in our industry.

(Thanks to Division Supervisor Tim Bingaman, Safety Supervisor Jim Lorrigan and General Foremen Pete Burkett and Robert Sanford for supplying these storm pictures.)



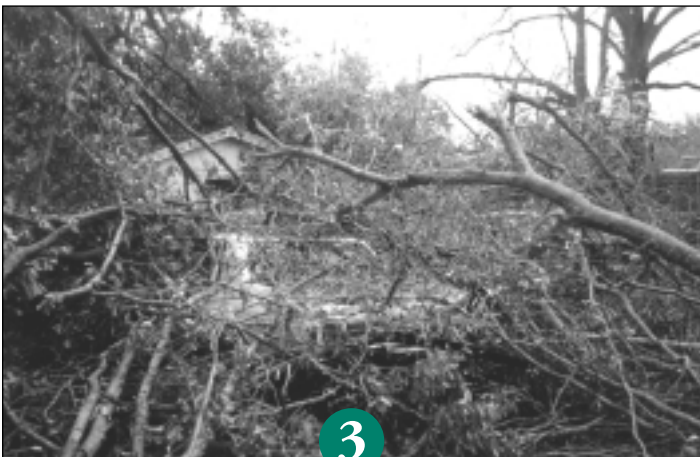
1

*’Twas the night of our Christmas and all through the South,
Not a thing was working in house after house.*



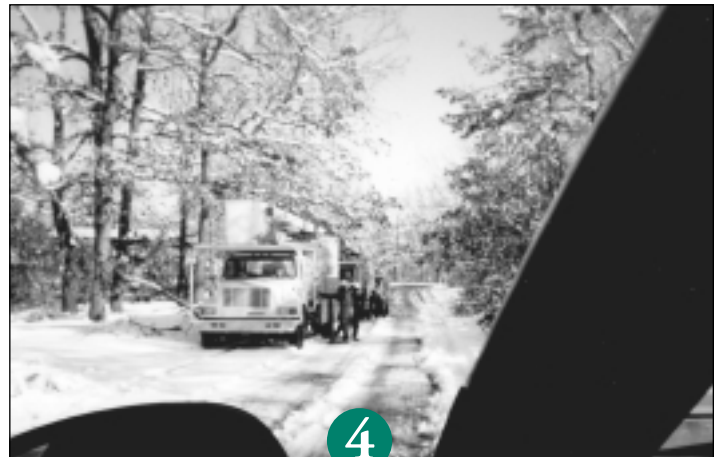
2

*The ice storm came and broke off our trees,
Then down came the lines – we started to freeze.*



3

*The family was buddled in one massive ball,
’Cause there was no heat and no way to call.*



4

*Then soon to the rescue came the crews from Wright Tree,
They fixed all the lines and we shouted with glee!*

Combat Mammoth Ice Storm!



Some of the crew members who were working the ice storm with General Foreman Pete Burkett are, top row, left to right, Trimmer Chris Curry, Foreman Warren Hughes, Trimmers Robert Mizumura, Rocky Wilson, Foreman Bruce Kaase, Trimmers Jason Carey, Stephen Koss and Armando Duran; bottom row, left to right, Trimmer Billy Chism, Foreman Jason Frasl and Trimmer Pepper Runnels.

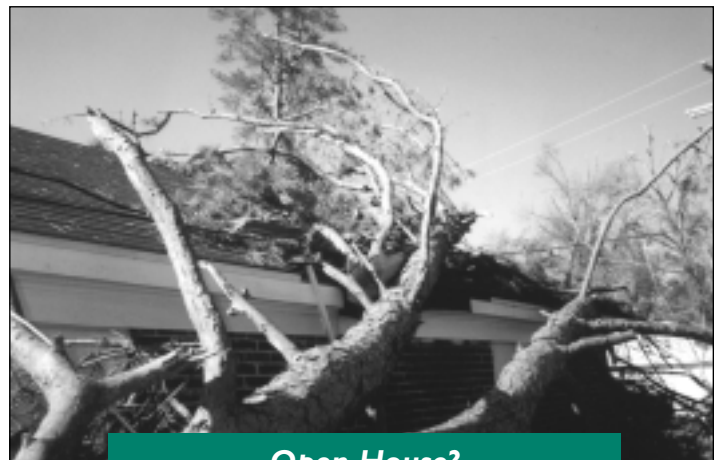


Dead End!

Trees weighted down with ice and blocking roads – a typical scene in the storm area.



Safety Supervisor Jim Lorrigan furnished this picture of crew members taking a well-earned break. They are, on truck, left to right, Foremen Kenny Barker and Shawn Fox, and Trimmer Alfred Barker; next to truck, left to right, Foremen Will Watkins and Dale Gibbs, Groundperson David Blassingame, and Foremen Wayne McNabb, Mike Arthur, Danny Long, Richard Wilk and James Eaton.

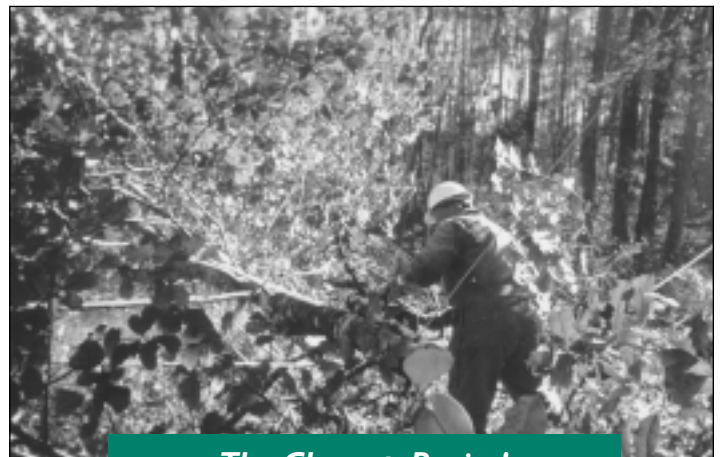


Open House?

Trees crashing down on houses and cars tore down power lines as they fell.



Some of the storm-fighting crews in the Texarkana area were, left to right: Foreman Eddie Briscoe (on truck), Foreman Bill Welsh (with head turned), Foreman Brad Whisenhunt, Foreman Jim Bushue, Trimmer Wille Baez, Foremen Charles Lafayette and Jesse Barden, Trimmers Torry Noble, Derrick Henderson, Greg Briscoe, Alex Smith and Brandon Jordan, Foreman Mike Knieff, and Trimmers Sie Camacho and Steve Gilman.



The Cleanup Begins!

General Foreman Ken Draper tackles a tree that had pulled down some power lines.

Wright Tree Service acknowledges and thanks the for and endless hours of work, helped restore electricity

Operations Manager

Will Nutter

Southwest Division Manager

Allen Taylor

Mt. States Division Manager

Kirk Schuster

Southwest Division Supervisors

Tim Bingham

Scott Bloch

Safety Supervisors

Jim Lorrigan

Randy Rempé

General Foremen and Crew Members

Thomas C. Acker
Gaylen Ackerman
Jeff W. Adams
John L. Akins
Brandon J. Albrecht
Alex K. Alexander
Joseph C. Alexander
David M. Allen
Richard L. Allen
Roberto Alvarez
Ricky A. Anderson
Delores S. Archer
Orlando Z. Arguello
Jeffrey Armstrong
Mike D. Arthur
Melvin Atkins
John W. Atwood
Guillermo Baez
Bryan E. Baker
Alfredo Banos
Mark E. Barber
John R. Barcus
Jesse B. Barden
Johnny R. Bark
Alfred L. Barker
Kenneth W. Barker
Russell D. Barker
James L. Bascue
Erwin K. Bear
Larry Bear
Brian K. Beck
David W. Becker
Kevin K. Becker
Kevin G. Beckmann
Brian R. Bennett
Justin Bennett
Terry D. Berns
Thomas F. Bertrand
John C. Bigham
Timothy A. Bingham Jr.
Larry Bingham
Gregory A. Bishop
Melissa R. Blain
Michael R. Blain
David B. Blassingame
James C. Blevins
Tina A. Boesenberg
Corey W. Booge
William H. Bowlds

Andrew P. Boyer
Terry Brack
Terry L. Branham
Gregory V. Brion
Eddie L. Briscoe
Gregory D. Briscoe
Raymond L. Brock
Dustin L. Bronson
David P. Brown
Edward W. Brown
Jeffrey W. Brown
Robert W. Brown
Terry L. Brown
Thomas L. Brumm
Marty A. Buchanan
Jeremy L. Buckholtz
Jay F. Bult
Bobby J. Bumgardner
Russell Burk
Peter G. Burkett
Damon D. Burkhart
James Bushue
Pete Bustamante
Christopher A. Butler
Erick J. Bygness
Lonnie A. Bynum
Thomas F. Cady
Danny R. Callaway
Sie J. Camacho
Kenneth W. Campbell
Mike D. Arthur
Benjamin V. Cantwell
Jason I. Carey
Timothy L. Carmine
Saturio J. Carreno
Tim L. Cart
Jeremy J. Cason
Shelley D. Cassada
Jonathan Cates
Don H. Causey
Jacob D. Causey
Boesenberg Charles S.
Kevin L. Chase
Chris T. Chesbrough
Bill Childress
John W. Childress
Tony C. Childress
Billy J. Chisum
Keith Christianson
Gary E. Claborn
John C. Clark
Steven Clark
Brandon P. Clary
William C. Cline
Scott A. Coates
Donald R. Coffman
Arthur G. Colbert
C. T. Collins
Crager J. Cook
Joshua C. Cook
Kevin F. Counter
Lawrence W. Cowan
Christopher S. Cox
Jason W. Cox
Glen R. Crabtree

Richard S. Crane
Jason M. Crawford
Christopher D. Curry
Billy W. Curtsinger
Jason R. Dale
Brandon P. Daniels
Ronald G. Daniels
Jason A. Davis
Jim A. Davis
Nichole R. Davis
Woodrow W. Davis
Ben Davis Jr.
Dean Davolt
Dave Denny
Tommy Dial
Leidi Diaz
Michael J. Dorothy
Cyrus A. Dowell
Jeffery N. Dowell
Jack Down
Zachary J. Dragon
Kenneth D. Draper
Daniel D. Driscoll
Travis L. Dunagan
Bobby D. Dunn
Chris N. Dunn
Armando E. Duran
Adam B. Dye
Michael J. Easley
James C. Eaton
Dennis W. Eddleman
Cory M. Edwards
David J. Ehlers
Kenneth G. Einfelt
Lawrence Eisermann
Scott D. Eklofe
Ben A. Elder
David L. Elder
Larry Elliott
Donnie Elmore
Frank W. Elmore
Robert P. Elmore
Ronnie D. Elmore
Daniel R. Embry
Jeremy M. Engler
Daniel L. Epkins
Charles W. Estes
Lance P. Even
Roger L. Farley
James D. Felton
Justin M. Ferguson
George Fields
Christopher T. Finch
Raymond C. Flick
David D. Flowers
Donald G. Floyd
Jason D. Foley
Aaron S. Forrest
Scott D. Fosdyck
Michel E. Foulks
Greg J. Fout
Nick G. Fox
Shaun B. Fox
Jason B. Frasl
Davy R. Freeman

Howard S. Fritz
Mitchell J. Frye
William Frye
Bruce A. Fuchs
Mark C. Fuhrman
Justin B. Fuller
Patrick J. Fultz
Austin J. Gaffey
Ronald L. Gande
Derek D. Gates
Dale A. Gibbs
Thomas D. Gibson
Murlin V. Gier
Stephen A. Gilman
Jeffrey A. Gilmore
James S. Glass
William D. Glover
Jose C. Gonzalez
James I. Gray
Ricky D. Green
Matt L. Grell
Daryl E. Griffin
Luke J. Grove
Valerian Gruna
Eric S. Gustafson
Phillip T. Gustafson
Allen K. Haddock
Kent A. Hale
Christian L. Hall
Marshal A. Hall
Frank Haller
Michael L. Halverson
Frankie Hamm
Franklin W. Hamm
Michael D. Hamm
Ryan W. Hammers
Douglas R. Hansen
James W. Hardin
Michael J. Harris
Randy G. Harry
Micheal Heath
Sean P. Hegarty
Rick Heideman
James R. Heikes
Jeffery H. Helland
Derrick T. Henderson
Joseph D. Henderson
Kenneth M. Hermanson
Joseph S. Higgins
Tim A. Hill
Paul J. Hillebrandt
William Hillier
Shane R. Hinderliter
Thomas Hinds
Tommy J. Hinkle
Shawn L. Hirt
Garran T. Hodge
Gerald L. Hoffman
Dale D. Holleman
Samuel K. Hott
Kevin J. Hough
Darin E. House
Jess R. Hout
Kyle H. Hout
Glen R. Howard

Following men and women whose dedication to service to the storm-struck areas of the Southwest Division.

Larkin Howell
Shawn M. Huff
Shawn Huffman
Warren Hughes
Roy F. Huske
Robert E. Hutton
Jeremey M. Jackson
Roy Jackson
Ben L. Jacobs
Mark J. Jaquith
Jesse J. Jensen
Alton Jerry D.
Albert Johnson
Kenneth A. Johnson
Ned P. Johnson
Ryan R. Johnson
James S. Jones
Jasen M. Jones
Leotis J. Jones
Paul Jones
Randall D. Jones Jr
Daniel W. Jopling
Brandon M. Jordon
Michael P. Jud
Bronzee A. Junior
Bruce W. Kaase
Jason C. Kaiser
Jason M. Kamalakris
Joseph M. Kamp
Brad A. Keen
Rodney E. Kellar
Phillip K. Kelley
Tommy D. Kelley
Mitchael J. Kelty
Robert E. Kelty
Lonnie G. Killman
Winfred Kimble
Marlin D. King
Douglas P. Kirk
Robert Kirtley
David A. Knapp
Michael D. Knieff
Cory M. Kobernick
Justin K. Kobernick
Stephan L. Koss
Donald D. Kraft Jr.
Charles E. Lafayette
John M. Laird
Kevin B. Landers
James C. Lane
Filamir Lara
Jeffrey A. Laskowski
Davin Laws
Tim Leiser
Christopher Lenhardt
David A. Lenning
Robert M. Lien
Mitchell A. Lillie
Juan R. Linares
Ron L. Lockard
Danny L. Long
Ricky L. Long
Noel A. Lopez
Charles E. Love
Kris A. Lowery

Ellis J. Ludlow
Brandon S. Magee
Cody Magruder
Terry J. Mahlstedt
Jerrod W. Main
John W. Mains
Paul F. Mallinger
Farriel Mc Coy Jr.
Edmond C. McBride
Charles B. McClure
Jeremy McColley
Brett G. McCully
Danny McDonald
Danny McMillen
Hughland D. McNabb
Norman E. McNac
Issac McNown
Ken J. Mead
Lucas D. Meek
Mike D. Mibbs
Lester H. Miles
Geoff R. Miller
Keith E. Miller
Rockford L. Miller
Robert V. Mizumura
Jason L. Mohr
Timothy E. Monn
Royce A. Moody
Mark W. Moomey
Ron Moore
Bradley E. Moreland
Victor M. Moreno
Joshua M. Morgenstern
Matt Morrison
Jeremy R. Mounce
David B. Myers
Jeffery V. Neis
Robert J. Nelson
Rodney L. Nichols
Adrian D. Nicholson
Sammie L. Noble
Torry K. Noble
Frank G. Nonic
Scott Ogden
Adrian T. Oliver
Craig A. Oney
Dan M. O'Reilly
Mark I. Owens
Kevin Paddyaker
Donald R. Parrish
Micheal D. Pascal
Joshua L. Pate
Jason D. Patterson
Joseph R. Patterson
Travis Patterson
Joseph K. Payne
Scott L. Pequeen
Scott W. Peschges
Jeffrey A. Peterson
Larry L. Peterson
Bryan N. Petricek
Larry A. Phillips
William L. Phillips
Derrick P. Pickard
Tony D. Pierce

Russell L. Pischel
Travis D. Platt
Leonardo L. Ponce
James Poppe
Landon E. Poppens
Jason E. Poteet
Michael Powell
Chris G. Presnall
Jason L. Pressler
Loren M. Pruitt Jr.
Mark Rader
Terry L. Ratliff
Harold D. Ray
Kevin M. Ray
Kevin J. Remington
Randy L. Reynolds
Stephen A. Rhein
Jeffery L. Rhodes
Christopher Rice
Michael W. Richardson, Jr.
Ricardo Robles
Jose E. Robles
John M. Rogers
Chad M. Rose
Lawrence J. Rothbauer
William J. Runnels
John Ruppert
Leslie W. Rymer
Jose I. Sanchez
Craig J. Sandvick
Robert M. Sanford
Leonard A. Santos
Chad A. Schardin
Darrell L. Schmitt
Kurt A. Schneckloth
Dan A. Scott
Jeffrey L. Scott
Gwen D. Self
Kimberly S. Self
Leisha G. Self
Lucko L. Self
Robert L. Self
Ross R. Self
Robert D. Selhaver
Dave Sharon
Jim Sieverding
Matthew Silkey
Kevin L. Simmering
Dennis Slankard
Alex W. Smith
Keith A. Smith
Robert L. Smith
Michael L. Sobotka
Rocky Soliz
Richard L. Soweka
Robin R. Soweka
Mark E. Spriggs
David Sprinkle
Aaron L. Stacey
Tommy J. Stacks
David E. Stapleford
Ronald J. Stapp
Toby T. Stash
Robert L. Steadman
Raymond L. Stewart

Daniel A. Storts
Dale A. Stout
Thomas W. Taylor
Arthur L. Thomas
Darrell E. Thomas
Kim J. Thomas
Marcus L. Thomas
Nick E. Thompson
Ronald W. Thornton
Wilson Tiger
Brian M. Timmons
Dustin A. Tomlinson
Clinton M. Trewin
Ernest E. Troxell
Thomas B. Tucker
Bryan Lee Turpin
Juan Valle
Anthony J. Vasquez
Diane K. Vasquez
Pamela M. Venokur
James Vierti
William Villarta
Ivan C. Wagoner
Elliott L. Walker
Rusty K. Walker
William O. Wallen
Jerry C. Walston
Randy L. Walters
Tyrone E. Ware
John Waring
William C. Warren
Celia J. Watkins
William M. Watkins
Bobby D. Watson
Jason A. Waugh
David Weatherhead
Frank A. Weeks
Christopher J. Wells
William E. Welsh
Duane E. Westhafer
Bradley W. Whisenhunt
David J. Whitney
Richard S. Wilk
John F. Willcox
Chad E. Williams
Christopher R. Williams
Edward L. Williams
James P. Williams
Richard V. Wilson
Robert W. Wilson
Rocky D. Wilson
Thomas R. Winters
Ray L. Wolken
Brian C. Wood
James R. Wood
James L. Woodling
Jamie J. Woolard
Curtis L. Young
Tyson R. Young

Note: These are the employees who were involved with the ice storm work according to our payroll records. If you were overlooked, please let us know.



Safety, Education and Training Director Keith Sheriff, left, and President John Wright, right, congratulate Mountain States Division Manager Kirk Schuster for his division's "lowest incident rate" achievement for the year 2000.



For the year 2000, the Northeast Division showed "the most improved incident rate." Division Manager Don Heyel, center, accepts congratulations from S. E. T. Director Keith Sheriff, left, and President John Wright.



President John Wright, center, thanks two employees who marked their 20th year of service this year. They are Southwest Division Manager Allen Taylor, left, and Northeast Division Foreman Dennis Wiese.



Four of the eight 15 year awardees attended the annual banquet to receive their award from President John Wright, center. They are, left to right, Minnkota Division Supervisor John Sanford; Contract Administrator Kelly Pettijohn; Nancy Jacobson, Central Division Accounting; and Minnkota Division Foreman Glen Crabtree.



Five of the 13 employees with ten years of service received their award at the annual banquet. They are, left to right, Minnkota Foreman Patrick Jenison; Central Division General Foreman Robert Sanford; President John Wright; Carol Saltz, administration; Southwest Division Foreman Charles Love; and Northeast Division Foreman Robert Coblentz.



Wright Tree Service welcomed three former employees to the annual banquet. They are, left to right, Jim Barger, former WTS Vice President; Bill Ripka, former Minnkota Division Manager; and Gene Olson, former North Division Manager.

Annual Banquet News — Sixty-Nine Employees Earn Longevity Awards For Five To Twenty-Five Years Of Service

At the 2001 Annual Banquet on March 2, three WTS employees were recognized for 25 years of service to the company. All told, 69 employees qualified for longevity awards. (See complete list on page 10.)

The three 25-Year awardees were:

Phil Heinz

Northeast Division Supervisor

Phil lives in Ridott, IL just outside of Freeport. He and his wife Laurie have four children: Thad, in the Marine Corps in North Carolina; Travis, a teacher and football coach; Troy, a foreman for WTS in Wisconsin; and Tonya, a high school student. Phil enjoys his work with WTS. "Because of the company's integrity to its employees and customers" is the main reason why Phil has remained with the company for 25 years. Phil was a Division Manager for the East Division before North and East merged.

Mark Frank

Minnkota Division Foreman

Mark lives between Eagle Lake and Mankato in Minnesota. He and his wife Diane are the parents of three children: Dawn, Mark, Jr. and Amanda. Mark is a native of Minnesota and has always worked for WTS in his home state.

Richard "Rick" Nyhus

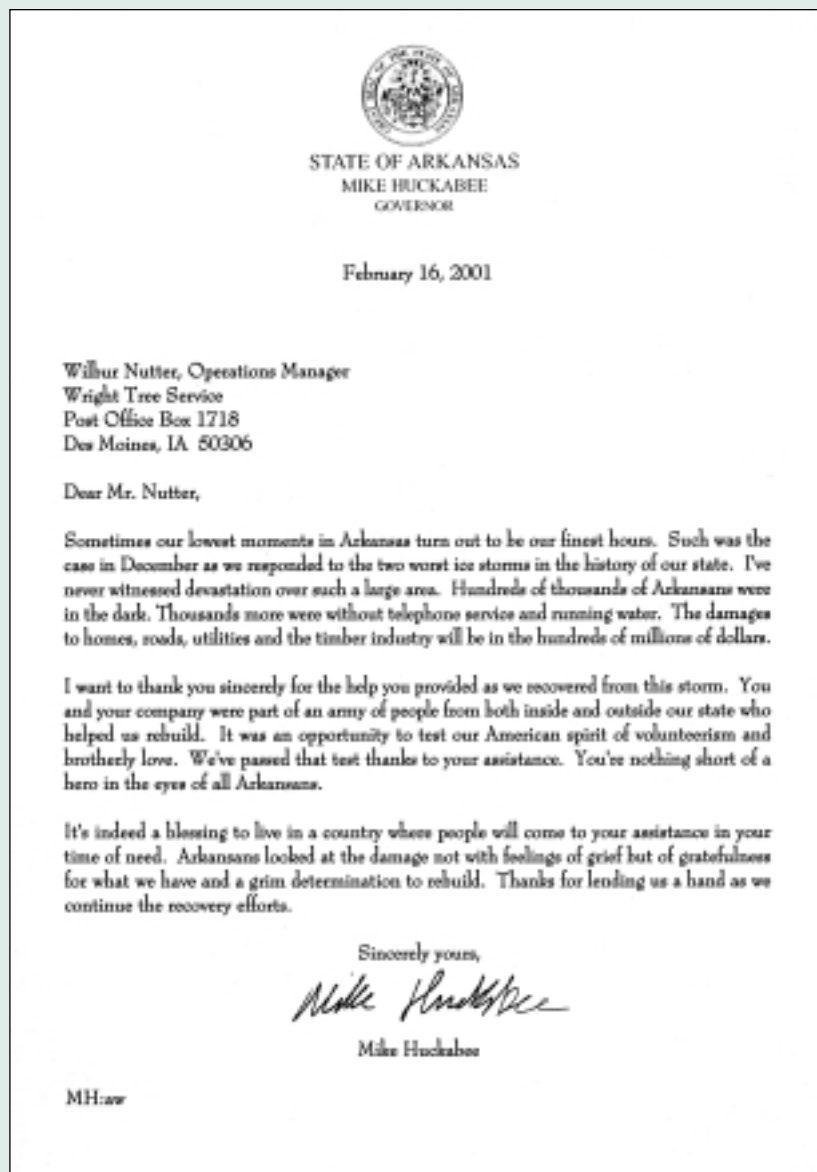
Minnkota Division Foreman

Rick lives in Henning in the west central part of Minnesota. He actually joined WTS in 1965, but left in 1968 for employment in Minneapolis, re-joining the company in 1973. Rick and his wife Linda have four children: David, Burton, Derrick and Miranda. Rick remembers meeting **Founder John L. Wright** on a number of occasions. When he was first hired in 1965, **Gene Olson** (just retired after 50 years with WTS) was his Division Manager.

***Congratulations to Phil, Mark
and Rick for a total of
75 years of service with
Wright Tree Service!***

"It was an opportunity to test our American spirit of volunteerism and brotherly love. We've passed that test thanks to your assistance. You're nothing short of a hero in the eyes of all Arkansans."

—Mike Huckabee
Governor, State of Arkansas



"Thanks, Des Moines"

*This letter appeared in the Des Moines
Register on January 12, 2001.*

My wife and I were without electricity for several days during the recent ice storms in Arkansas.

We finally did get out for groceries on Dec. 28 and were relieved to see four trucks set to trim the ice-covered limbs off the power lines in our neighborhood.

The trucks all had Des Moines, Iowa, listed as home.

We want to thank the Wright Tree Service crews and their families who had to spend their holiday season away from each other.

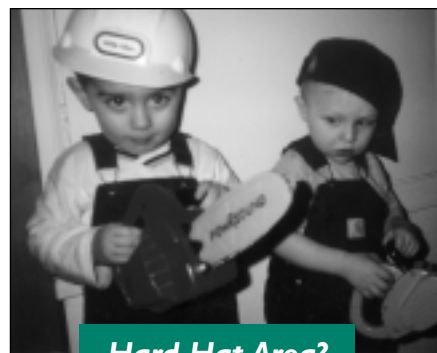
It helped a lot of people in Arkansas.

—George Sevall,
34 North Sunland Dr.,
Cabot, Ark.



XCEL-lent Job!

EXCEL Energy's Don Schieder handed out flashlights and letters of appreciation to WTS employees in the Minnkota Division of Wisconsin for their great work in 2000. Left photo, left to right, Trimmer Chris Chesbrough, Schieder, Foreman Greg Bishop, Trimmers Lucas Muhal and Wade Bruggemann. Right photo, left to right, Trimmer Royce Moody, Foreman Darrell Schmitt, Trimmer Darren Elliott and Schieder. Also receiving recognition but missing from the pictures were Trimmers Ricky Anderson and Keith Christianson plus General Foreman Bob Lien who was the photographer.



Hard Hat Area?

Hunter Bruner, left, son of Central Division General Foreman Jim Bruner, and Desmond Hasse, son of Trimmer Brian Hasse, are looking for some soft wood trees.



Meet Rick's Family

When we learned Minnkota Division Foreman Rick Nyhus couldn't attend the annual banquet to receive his 25-year award, we requested a picture. Rick sent us a family picture and asked us to lift his face from it – but we thought you would like to meet his family, too. Forefront, left to right, sons Burton and Derrick; standing, left to right, granddaughter Greta, daughter-in-law Roxann and husband David, wife Linda, Rick, and daughter Miranda.



Foreman Jason Frasl exchanged vows with Jessica last November. The very creative groom's cake was baked by Jessica. Our best wishes to Jason and Jessica!

2001 Longevity Awards

25 Years

Phil Heinz	Northeast
Mark Frank	Minnkota
Richard Nyhus	Minnkota

20 Years

Dennis Wiese	Northeast
Allen Taylor	Southwest

15 Years

Doug Sibold	Central
James Panure	Northeast
Peter Nowicki	Northeast
Kevin Fitzpatrick	Mountain States
Glen Crabtree	Minnkota
John Sanford	Minnkota
Nancy Jacobson	Home Office
Kelly Pettijohn	Home Office

10 Years

Ryan Hammers	Central
Dennis Slankard	Central
Robert Sanford	Central
Robert Coblentz	Northeast
John Woythal	Northeast

Thomas Wipf	Mountain States
Charles Love	Southwest
Jay Bult	Minnkota
Curtiss Filtz	Minnkota
Robert Hanson	Minnkota
Lester Imker	Minnkota
Patrick Jewison	Minnkota
Carol Saltz	Home Office

5 Years

Terry Barrett	Central
Terry Brack	Central
Rick Brown	Central
Brandon Clary	Central
Lloyd Fletcher	Central
Sid Garr	Central
Albert Garrow	Central
Jerry Ginter	Central
William Glover	Central
Fabian Gonzales	Central
Eric Kiddo	Central
Terri Kremer	Central
Patrick Lannen	Central
Gary Lawver	Central
Gary Randolph	Central
Melvin Raygor	Central
David Rodman	Central

John Rogers	Central
Dennis Rubitsky	Central
John Waring	Central
Michael Wilkins	Central
Ronald Blecha	Northeast
Steven Beisker	Mountain States
Steven Bond	Mountain States
Edward Cullen	Mountain States
James Dolson	Mountain States
Mike Donzal	Mountain States
Roberto Lozano	Mountain States
Daniel Morrison	Mountain States
Melvin Atkins	Southwest
Jimmie Englehardt	Southwest
Mark Fuhrman	Southwest
Michael Hamm	Southwest
Ellis Ludlow	Southwest
Leslie Rymer	Southwest
Jeffrey Scott	Southwest
Mathew Silkey	Southwest
Richard Soweka	Southwest
Chad Brinkman	Minnkota
Kim Thomas	Minnkota
Tracy Yahnke	Minnkota
Melissa Ervin	Home Office
Tom Ordway	Wright Tree Care

BENEFITS

Prescriptions Major Reason For Health Care Cost Jump

According to a new study appearing in *Health Affairs*, a health policy journal, prescription drugs accounted for 44 percent of the increase in health costs last year, while doctors' services represented only 32% of the increase. Outpatient hospital care made up 21 percent of the increase and inpatient hospital care, 3 percent.

The study in *Health Affairs* attributed one-third of the increase in prescription drug spending to higher prices, with the other two-thirds resulting from a higher volume of sales, the introduction of new medicines and the increased use of existing drugs.

In the last two or three years, the prescription drug issue has been a hot topic. Advertisements touting new and existing drugs are filling media channels and the rising cost of prescription drugs is a concern to every citizen, both young and old. The importance of the issue was underscored last year as both political parties made it a core issue in their political debates.

What Can You Do About It?

While you cannot influence the cost of prescription drugs, you should always remember to present your Wellmark ID card to the pharmacist each time you have a prescription filled. You benefit from the convenience of electronic claims submission and negotiated pricing arrangements. You also help insure that you receive accurate benefits in a timely manner.

If you need additional ID cards, please contact Michelle at the home office.

The Results Are In!

930
EMPLOYEES QUALIFIED
FOR THE SAFETY
INCENTIVE AWARD

During First Quarter
Of This Fiscal Year
(10/00 - 12/00)

Note: In the Spring Issue of Our Family Tree, we normally publish the list of employees who have been accident-free for up to six years. Due to space limitations, this listing will appear in the Summer Issue.

S.E.T. NEWS



Seven employees attended the General Foreman Candidate School which was held at the home office in late January. Herb Coy also attended and assisted in the presentations. Front row, left to right, General Foreman Paul Forkell, Northeast/Indianapolis, and Herb Coy, Safety Training Supervisor, Northwest/Wisconsin; middle row, left to right, Foreman Jeffrey Rhodes, Southwest; General Foreman Brian Hendrickson, Northeast/Indianapolis, and Foreman Jim Engleke, Minnkota; back row, left to right, General Foreman Jim Bruner, Central; General Foreman Greg Williams, Central; Foreman George Proffitt, Northeast/Indianapolis, and Keith Sheriff, Safety, Education & Training Director.

FROM THE Kitchen

Here's an easy and tasty casserole meal the entire family will enjoy.

HAMBURGER HOT DISH

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 envelope dry spaghetti sauce mix
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 tube crescent rolls
- 2 Tbs. margarine
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 8 oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 & 1/2 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese

Brown ground beef with onion. Add dry spaghetti sauce mix and tomato sauce. Heat until bubbly. Combine sour cream and shredded mozzarella cheese. Pour over meat in 7" x 11" Pyrex dish. Pat crescent rolls on top of sour cream mixture. Combine Parmesan cheese and margarine. Crumble on top of rolls. Bake at 375 degrees for 18 to 20 minutes.

News from our Branches

(continued from page 3)

More IREA Fan Mail!

WTS Forester **Denis Green** tells us that IREA has received more than a dozen letters in the last few months from their customers in appreciation of WTS crews and their good work. According to the utility, such praise "is a first for a tree trimming sub-contractor." One customer in Conifer, CO wrote: "It is not often I take time to pay a compliment for service, but I feel a need to do so in regard to Wright Tree Service. **Denis Green** and his crew (**Foreman Fernando Sanchez** and **Trimmer Rodolfo Ledesma**) were most gracious, expeditious and professional in removing three large trees located between my house and nearby power lines. I wish to thank you for your continued good service." Thank you, men, for proving the WTS logo on your equipment means you are the professionals!

Another letter from the Woodland Park District commends **Foreman Bill McCormick** and **Trimmer Walt Derby**. He was also appreciative of Denis who pointed out that the customer's power lines were dangerously close to his trees. "Bill and Walt were both very personable, efficient and completely professional in every way," the letter stated. "It was a real pleasure to meet them. Please thank Denis, Bill and Walt for me for their help in averting a dangerous situation." So thank you, Denis, Bill and Walt, for representing WTS so superbly.

MINNKOTA

Hollywood Calling?

Trimmer Joel Collette recently got his "big break" on the "Hollywood Showdown" game show. Joel qualified in a regional round in Minneapolis, MN to earn a spot on the show. Although Joel didn't win the big money, he and his wife enjoyed the trip to sunny California. The show aired on national television on February 18th on the Game Show Network. Joel's **General Foreman Ken Venzke** tells us Joel has aspirations for an acting career and has had several auditions for TV commercials.

Family Clippings

News From The Home Office



Still Rarin' To Go At 60!

Receptionist Donna White

marked a big birthday in February – her 60th! Back in November, Donna and her husband Jim celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary. Our congratulations and our best wishes for many more years of happiness.

Say Hi To Say!

Meet **Say** (pronounced like "cy" as in cycle) **Lee, our new Information Technology Manager.**

Say grew up in Prairie City, IA. A graduate of the University of Iowa, **Say** has been interested in computers since grade school. His other hobbies include volleyball, basketball, fishing and reading about technology. **Say** is married to Maikao Vue Lee.



We're Sorry To Report

Nancy Jacobson's (Central Division Accounting) husband **Steve** recently slipped on the ice, fell on the ball hitch of his vehicle and ended up in the hospital with internal bleeding, and a blood clot on his lung. At last report, the clot had not cleared up completely and he still is in much pain. Our prayers and best wishes to you, **Steve**.



Wendy's Getting Wedded!

Prior to the WTS annual banquet, **Brian Eckhart** proposed to **Senior Accountant Wendy Weber**. She said yes! The couple is planning a wedding in April, 2002.

Helping Hands!

Benefits Administrator Michelle Eggleston, **Payroll Supervisor Lori Ordal** and **Senior Accountant Wendy Weber** recently gathered up some baby bed materials, toiletries and clothing and contributed the items to the Lighthouse Transitional Living Center, a private, non-profit agency devoted to serving central Iowa's homeless and runaway youth.



A Sure Bet In Las Vegas!

Rick Hanson, manager of tree care and equipment for our sister company, **Wright Tree Care**, married **Elena Wenslay** in Las Vegas in February. Elena is the daughter of **Wright Tree Care President Linda Wright**. Congratulations to **Rick and Elena**!

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

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