



Our Family Tree

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A Newsletter for the Employees and Friends of Wright Tree Service

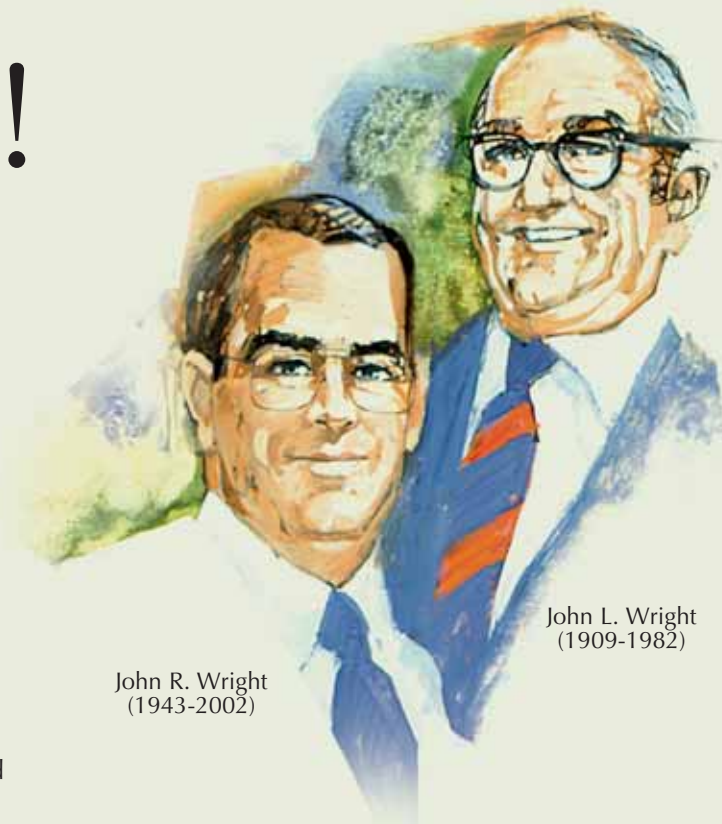
HEY, KIDS!

Here's Your Chance To Win A \$500 Savings Bond

Two companies long associated with Wright Tree Service, the Davis Law Firm and O'Halloran International, Inc., have announced an award competition "just for kids" with the entrants vying for the "John Wright Memorial Arbor Day Award." Through the years at Wright Tree Service, both **John L.** and **John R. Wright**, believed in preserving trees as much as possible and both understood the importance of trees. In order to honor the memory of both John L. and John R., this contest has been developed for the children and grandchildren of Wright Tree Service and Wright Tree Care to further their understanding of Arbor Day and to promote the significance of Arbor Day.

Arbor Day is a national holiday, usually celebrated on the last Friday of April. It was the idea of J. Sterling Morton, a pioneer who arrived in Nebraska in 1854 to find a treeless plain. Morton and his wife were lovers of nature and quickly planted trees, shrubs and flowers around their new home. Through Morton's influence, Arbor Day was founded in Nebraska in April, 1872 and became a national holiday in 1882.

There are two divisions for the contest. The first division is open to children in grades 3 to 5. The second division is for children in grades 6 through 8. Children must submit their entry based on the grade they are in at the time of submission. An entry form is enclosed with this issue of *The Family Tree*.



John R. Wright
(1943-2002)

John L. Wright
(1909-1982)

Contestants in grades 3-5 are to submit a drawing on the meaning of Arbor Day. Contestants in grades 6-8 are to submit a written report of 400 to 500 words, also on the importance of Arbor Day.

All entries are due by December 16, 2005.

Winners will be announced on January 16, 2006, with the winning drawings and essays on display at the Annual Meeting Banquet in March. There will be three prizes in each division: 1st place, a \$500 savings bond; 2nd place, a \$300 bond; and 3rd place, a \$200 bond.

So, kids – grab your crayons and pencils and get started!

News from the Branches

CENTRAL

A Vigilant Eye Saves Man's Life

Foreman Donny Glick's keen eyesight allowed him to spot something moving in some tall grass in a ditch along a rural road. It was early June when Donny and **Trimmer Angel Acevedo** were unloading chips near Norwalk, IA, along with **Foreman Jason Dix** and **Trimmer Dave Meyer** who were in another truck. Donny was following Jason Dix when he noticed what looked like a human leg pumping up and down. Donny stopped immediately and discovered an elderly man whose moped had gone into the ditch. Donny called 911 and stayed with the man to comfort him until the ambulance arrived. The combination of keen eyes, a helpless leg raised in the air and Donny's higher view from the truck contributed to saving the man's life. In a letter to Donny from the man's wife, she wrote: "He owes you his life. We would have had a terrible time finding him as you couldn't see him from the road." The man ended up with broken ribs, a punctured lung, a broken shoulder and neck. The letter concludes: "We thank you so very much for going the extra mile to help him. We think you are a great man" – and we totally agree! We are proud of you, Donny, we're proud, too, that you work for WTS. Donny's **General Foreman** is **Wayne Fancher**.

Phone Calls We Like!

A MidAmerican Energy customer in West Des Moines, IA called the Home Office to tell us how impressed she was with two of our employees, **Foreman Chad Luckow** and **Trimmer Andre White**. According to the customer, the crew did an exceptionally good job and cleaned up the area completely. Thanks for making us look good, Chad and Andre!

Happy Birthday, Morgan!

Foreman Rob Philipson wants us to know that his daughter, Morgan Skylar, celebrated her third birthday in late June.

NORTH

Hats Off To Heinz And Crew!

Thanks to **Will Nutter, Vice President/Division Operations**, for sharing a letter which he received from Bill Kleiman, Project Director of The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Chapter. The Conservancy is a non-profit organization that focuses on the protection of rare plants, animals and natural communities. Kleiman has worked with **Division Supervisor Phil Heinz** in a project that involves thinning brush with a Geoboy in various areas of Illinois. In his letter to

Will, Kleiman states that "Phil has been a great guy to work with. He handles all the hurdles that come up with this kind of work and supported his operators in various ways that helped them be successful." Kleiman also had high praise for **Trimmer Duane Westhafer** and **Foreman Jerry Alton**. "Duane did a fine job, works hard and got a lot done – great guy," Kleiman wrote. The letter continued: "Jerry works hard, too. When I showed up at 7 a.m., he was already here, the machine was warmed up and moving out to mow. A few times he was working up to and past 6 p.m. He operated the machine well, did the work we asked, had good suggestions for getting the most done and was a pleasure to work with." Congratulations, Phil, on this commendation and congratulations, too, to Duane and Jerry.

Making A Good Impression

A farmer, who was planting his crops on the outskirts of Princeville, IL, noticed a WTS crew doing some trimming on a road bordering his farm. A former Ameren/Cilco employee, the farmer was naturally interested in their work. In his email to Linda Hohenbery of Ameren/Cilco, he stated: "I observed them working in a safe and steady work environment. Their safety gear was on at all times while working. They cut and cleaned the area thoroughly (even though there was terrible brush to contend with). Being an Ameren/Cilco employee for many

years and also a customer, I was very pleased to see their work, their pride and courteous manner." Linda passed along the farmer's comments to **Division Supervisor Phil Heinz**. In her email to Phil, Linda commented: "I've been in this business for three decades and I know what is right and should be done in and for this business. The crew is working for our company and I for one want it done like I would personally do the job. The guys were very nice and dressed neatly, not sloppy. We have to work together in this busy and hectic society. That's what makes good teamwork. Thanks again." Thanks to Phil's crew, **Foreman Kevin Ketchmark** and **Trimmer Bill Hillier** for representing WTS so superbly!

SOUTHWEST

A customer of Red River Valley Coop called the utility to compliment a WTS crew "for the professional job they did on his property." The crew removed a large oak tree that was in close proximity to a single phase line. The customer commented that these guys were courteous, professional and hard workers. The crew that earned this praise was **Foreman Gary Claborn** and **Trimmer Terry Bean, Sr.** Thanks to **Scott Ogden**, their **General Foreman**, for sending us this excellent report.



From the Treetop



By Keith Sheriff,
S.E.T. Director

I DIVISION 45 Keep On Truckin'!

Division Manager John Hurst received a letter from a very grateful truck driver. The driver's semi lost power and he had to make an emergency stop. Come to find out, he was out of fuel. He noticed a fleet of WTS trucks nearby and walked up to one of the crewmen, **General Foreman Paul Dwight**. "I have a problem," the man wrote, "and my problem became Paul's. He came up with an appropriate can and next thing I know, I'm back on the road. There were a lot of smiling faces and thumbs up from your people – they really made my day." Thank you, Paul, for going "above and beyond" for this truck driver

"Absolutely Great Job!"

An East Lansing, MI customer of Lansing Board of Water & Light (LBWL) mistakenly emailed Consumers Energy to express his total satisfaction with three WTS crews. "They did an absolutely great job," the email read. "I thank you and them for doing the necessary trimming without defacing the trees or the area." Thanks to Rebecca Wildenthal of Consumers Energy for passing along the customer's email with the comment: "I want customers like this." The crews were made of **Foremen Scott Edwards, Dave Ice, Jason McCormick** and

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When we spend a lot of time driving, our vehicle tends to become a second home. It's a place where you can go from one mindless distraction to another, frequently without consequence. We can take care of many things that we didn't have time to do before getting into the vehicle. We might make calls to repair services for the car or home, to friends or relatives to plan the weekend events, to other employees to get or give some bit of information that one of us needs, to business associates for one reason or another, or any one of a million other reasons that a person uses the phone.

We might finish reading the newspaper, relieve the nose of an itch that wasn't there before departure, adjust the seat, the mirror or the clutter on the passenger seat. It's convenient to eat, drink, smoke and chew, find a place to park that wad of gum, tune your radio, swat a fly against the inside of the windshield, stare down at the sexy driver in the car you are passing, wipe the smashed fly off the windshield, or check to see if you have enough cash to stop and get a snack or coffee before you arrive.

Most of us can't just sit and watch traffic around us because it's generally uneventful and boring. Therefore, we go from one distraction to another without giving it much thought. These distractions become bad habits that we don't even think about breaking. They keep our attention off the surrounding traffic, creating an environment ripe for an accident. We are unaware of drivers sitting in parked cars, vehicles moving to exits from parking lots, vehicles approaching intersections too fast, cars weaving in and out of traffic behind us, and any one of a number of other scenarios that are precursors to an accident.

Of course, after the accident we can explain it away by saying, "It wasn't my fault. He shouldn't have . . .".

Let's back down the street and replay the same sequence of events again, but this time you know that the accident will occur. Would you have the accident? Of course you wouldn't. Would you be involved in other distractions while you were replaying the potential accident or would you be watching and trying to figure out how to avoid the accident?

Help me to help you reduce motor vehicle accidents by taking ten minutes from every drive you make and setting aside all other distractions. Begin the ten minutes by looking straight ahead and verbally discussing with yourself all of the potential accidents that you see. Pedestrians, driveways, alleys and crossroads, traffic lights and signs, moving and parked vehicles with drivers in them, and children on adjacent playgrounds, are just some of the potential hazards that must be observed. Evaluate these potential hazards for any danger to your intended path by stating them aloud.

Move your eyes to the right and continue the observations and comments until you have completed a 360 degree circle of observation. This should take less than 30 seconds. Do not stop making verbal evaluations as you continue to observe the circle around you for ten minutes. This exercise will do two things. First, it will increase your awareness of the hazards around you as you drive and, second, it will cause other drivers to laugh at you for driving down the street talking to yourself.

Pay attention to your surroundings, prevent an accident, buckle up and drive safely!

In our last newsletter, we listed those employees who have been accident-free for one to nine years. We inadvertently left out Foreman James Wetter, North Division, who was serving in Iraq, for four accident-free years. We sincerely regret this omission.

News from the Branches

(continued from page 3)

Jason Seaman; and **Trimmers Brian Godby, Jason Green, Tyler Hanson, Rob Natzel, Nate Olson, Alfonso Rodriguez, Brandon Seaman, Justin Seaman, Percy Turner, and Erik Washburn;** and **Groundman Ben Hoover.** Their **General Foreman** is **Aaron Lorrigan.** Thanks to all of you for generating this high praise.

“Phenomenal Job!”

Fernando Diaz of Louisville Gas & Electric relayed a phone message he received from a very satisfied customer in Lexington, KY. The customer stated how pleased he was with the work done by Wright Tree Service. He said they did a “phenomenal job” and were “very good” at what they did. Take a bow, **Foreman Mike Kidd, Ground Foreman Ever Acosta** and your crews: **Trimmers Florencio Alavez, Jose Delarosa, Carlos Escobar, Armando Fierro, Miguel Fierro, Jose Garcia, Luis Garcia, Ramiro Lopez, Daniel Martinez, Victor Matos, Noe Estudillo, Abimael Perez Velasquez, Anjel Perez** (now a



Foreman), Joel Perez, Salvador Rodriguez, Alberto Roman, Teodoro Uribe and Humberto Vargas. Their **General Foreman** is **Cory Kobernick.**

WTS To The Rescue!

Foreman James Bannister and **Trimmer Henry DeLong** received citations from Consumers Energy “for their willingness, professionalism and skills exhibited in assisting the Perry, MI Fire Department in rescuing a young child from her tree top perch.” Rebecca Wildenthal, Forester for Consumers Energy, signed the citations. We commend you, too, James and Henry, for coming to the aid of this child. **Terry Strayer** is their **General Foreman.**

We’re In The Dark

Sorry, we don’t know which WTS crew should get the credit but an IPL customer in

Indianapolis, IN called the utility to compliment the crew on a “fantastic job.” The customer said it was a pleasure to work with WTS and they were all “very nice guys.”

MTN. STATES War On Weeds!

James Downie, Vegetation Management Coordinator for Xcel Energy, passes along a note he had received from one of his Foremen, Rex Ramirez. Ramirez commented that the weeding program last year was much improved and that this year it was excellent. “The contractor (WTS) has been extremely professional and we have a good system of working together to stay ahead of the weeds at current sites and the new ones that crop up every year. WTS has been very responsive to mowing needs within days of a phone call and able to step up and adjust the schedule when necessary. We are pleased with the effort being made on our behalf.” On the receiving end of this impressive compliment are **General Foremen Doug Beane** and **Jim Swisher;** and **Foremen Dave Jenson** and **Justin Siruta.**

Moving On Up!

Thanks to **Forester Denis Green** for the news that **Larry Lloyd** was recently promoted to **Foreman** in the Strausburg District of Inter Rural Electric Association (IREA). Lloyd’s **General Foreman** is **O.J. Feay.**

MINNKOTA

Deepest Sympathies

Our belated condolences to the family of **Trimmer Clinton Klukas** who died last November. Clint had been with WTS since May, 1999 and worked both transmission and distribution mostly for Xcel Energy.

Congratulations, Gene!

General Foreman Gene Weiss recently received a Certificate of Achievement for completing the Dale Carnegie Course.



Foreman Bill Reese, Central Division, is mighty proud of his wife **Bette** who won first place in the fleece category in a national embroidery contest.



Trimmer David Bowman, Minnkota Division, has his lap full of **Ethan,** who was born to David and his wife **Sunny** last December.



Foreman Max Stevanov, Central Division, and his wife **Jennifer Anne** have a new baby daughter, **Emily Anne,** who was born last May.



Foreman Ray Garcia, Southwest Division, prepares to dance for a celebration honoring the birthday of Hunting Horse, a famous Kiowa Indian. Ray's wife's aunt, Lahoma Horse, is the granddaughter of Roy Horse, a grandson of Hunting Horse.



Trimmer Ed Garcia, Division 45, sent in this picture of his two children, David, left, and Edgar who are being raised by Ed's Uncle Cruz and Aunt Lucia in Mexico while he is working for WTS. We regret we do not know the identity of the two women with Ed's kids.



What's Trimmer Ken Musselman, Minnkota Division, doing in Wichita, KS? Ken was with the many crews from Minnkota Division who went to Wichita last January to assist in the cleanup after a major ice storm.



Administrative Assistant Cyndi Pannkuk enlisted the help of Division Manager Jerry Black and several employees of the Central Division to help remove a large tree that was damming up a creek near Wildwood Hills Ranch, a camp for at-risk kids in St. Charles, IA. Left to right, Aaron Garfield, Wildwood Hills, Trimmer Troy Phillips, Foreman Chad Luckow, Trimmer Andre White and General Foreman Will Porter.



WTS participated in a Hispanic training day held by Kentucky Utilities, since over half of its contractors' work forces are Hispanic. In this photo, Safety Supervisor Marty Pingel and Foreman Victor Torres, Division 45, are giving a course on chipper safety.

S.E.T. News

Congratulations to these seventeen employees who graduated from General Foreman School in May. Front row, left to right, Bob Mongiello, Mtn. States; Randy Lamb, North; John Brezinsky, Minnkota; Jim Bock and Brad Moreland, North; Justin Cherry, Mtn. States; Howard Guimbellot and Jerry Willis, North. Middle row, Lucas Mahal, Minnkota; Danny Arvidson, Div. 45; Nick Fox, S.E.T.; and Larry Bryant, Central. Back row, Paul Dwight, Div. 45; Milton Ventura, Southwest; Rick Dodgen, Mtn. States; Jim Clark, Div. 45; and Chad Behnke, Central.



Benefits

The Alarming Toll of Cancer in the United States

Cancer affects millions of people and costs several billion dollars to treat. The American Cancer Society reports the following statistics:

Mortality and Morbidity of Cancer:

- In 2004, approximately 563,700 Americans were expected to die of cancer, 6,570 in Iowa.
- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States, exceeded only by heart disease.
- In the United States, cancer causes about 1 of every 4 deaths.
- In 2004, more than 1.3 million new cancer cases were expected to be diagnosed, 15,940 in Iowa. Since 1990, more than 18 million new cancer cases have been diagnosed.
- Two-thirds of all cancer deaths are related to poor diet, lack of physical activity, obesity and tobacco.

Economic Costs and Cancer: It is estimated that cancer,

diabetes and cardiovascular disease combined cost America more than \$600 billion each year.

- The National Institute of Health estimates overall costs of cancer in the year 2003 at \$189.5 billion: \$64.2 billion for direct medical costs (total of all health expenditures); \$16.3 billion for indirect medical costs (cost of lost productivity due to illness); and \$109 billion for indirect mortality costs.

Obesity and Cancer:

The cost to America for obesity – which plays a role in cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease – is estimated at \$117 billion each year.

- Roughly 400,000 deaths occur each year due to poor diet and physical inactivity. Researchers project that if the increasing trend of overweight is not reversed in the next few years, poor diet and physical inactivity will likely overtake tobacco as the leading preventable cause of mortality.

- More than 64% of the population are obese or overweight (BMI > 25).
- 90,000 cancer deaths that occur each year are related to being overweight.
- Scientific evidence suggests that about one-third of the 563,700 cancer deaths expected to occur in 2004 will be related to poor nutrition, physical inactivity, overweight or obesity, and other lifestyle factors, and thus could likely be prevented in most cases.
- Being overweight may account for 20% of all cancer deaths in women (14% in men).

Tobacco Use and Cancer

- Smoking costs Americans more than \$157 billion annually in medical care. This includes smoking-attributable productivity costs and medical expenditures for adults, and smoking-attributable neonatal medical expenditures.
- Tobacco use, the most preventable cause of death in our society, accounts for at

least 30% of all cancer deaths.

- Smoking causes nearly 87% of all lung cancers. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death. Stopping tobacco use could nearly wipe out this cancer.
 - Each year, secondhand smoke may be responsible for about 3,000 lung cancer deaths in non-smoking adults and an additional 35,000 to 40,000 cases of heart disease in non-smokers.
 - Oral cancer occurs several times more frequently among snuff users than non-users, and long-term users may have nearly a 50-fold greater risk of cheek and gum cancers.
 - The Centers for Disease Control estimates that \$157 billion could be saved in annual healthcare and lost productivity costs if people did not use tobacco products.
- Women and Cancer**
- Women have a 1 in 3 lifetime risk of developing some type of cancer.

Wright Tree Care News

By Linda Wright, President
Wright Tree Care

Chargin' Ahead In Kansas City!

Wright Tree Care was awarded the city street tree contract for Kansas City, MO and within a matter of weeks, we received a major add-on to the contract. We now have seven crews and two general foremen in place. We're getting rave reviews – this is typical of the comments: "They did a fantastic job. I've never seen such a good job on the city trees. The workers were very courteous and did a great job of cleaning up."

Onward and Upward!

Mike McFarland, Des Moines, was promoted to **General Foreman** in Kansas City. Mike has been with us for several years, has prior line clearance experience and is an ISA Certified Arborist. **Wayne Kautzky**, Des Moines, has been promoted to **General Foreman**. Wayne, an ISA Certified Arborist, has been a foreman for several years. **Mike Overcash**, Kansas City, is being promoted to **General Foreman** in KC. He has residential and line clearance experience and will take his ISA Certified Arborist test in August. **Mike Cook**, Des Moines, passed the ISA test with flying colors, and is our newest Certified Arborist. Mike has been a **Foreman** since joining WTC in 2002.

Ankeny Under Siege

Following a major hit from a very isolated storm, WTC crews spent the better part of two weeks cleaning up in the aftermath. Thanks to all for working through the 4th of July weekend so that Ankeny (IA) could be ready for their big celebration the following weekend. We appreciate these words from Al Olson with the City of Ankeny.

"I want to thank you for all your help after our recent storm. I don't know what we would have done without you. You should be extremely proud of your employees. Not only were they hard workers, but very professional as well. These gentlemen made all of us look good."

News from Tulsa

We've added tree problem diagnosis and control in Tulsa, OK and **Foreman Mark Harwick** heads up that program. We are fertilizing and treating for insects and disease, and we're optimistic that we've found a niche not covered by other companies in the area.

Wright Tree Care donated a day working at Webster High School, removing seven hazardous trees and completing some major pruning on a dozen others. Thanks to **Dale Hughes**, **Bryan Merseburgh**, **Clay Bishop**, **Ralph Conner** and **Mark Harwick** for a job well done.

Welcome to Wright Tree Care:

Foreman Robert Mizumra, Tulsa; **Climber Michael Worthington**, Tulsa; **General Foreman Mike Overcash**, Kansas City; **Foreman Steve Wampler**, Kansas City; **Foreman Mike Vermillion**, Kansas City; **PHC Technician Shawn Warren**, Des Moines; **Climber Trainees Dick Paglia** and **Nate Foley**, Des Moines. We're glad to have you with us.

From the Kitchen

Here are two great summertime recipes: One is a mouth-watering, light and airy cake; the other is a quick and easy appetizer, good for company or as a special treat for the family. It tastes great on crackers, but can also be used in a vegetarian sandwich.

LEMONADE CAKE

This sounds time-consuming, but it is really easy to make and simply delicious – a perfect summertime dessert.

2 & 1/2 cups flour	1 tsp. vanilla
3 tsp. baking powder	3 eggs
1/4 tsp. salt	8 oz. lemon yogurt
3 oz. pkg. lemon gelatin	1 cup powdered sugar
3/4 cup butter	12 oz. can frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed
1 & 1/4 cups granulated sugar	

Combine flour, baking powder, salt and lemon gelatin; set aside. Cream butter and granulated sugar until fluffy; mix in vanilla, eggs and yogurt. Pour into greased or floured Bundt or tube pan. Bake in 325 degree oven 30 to 35 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean. To make glaze, stir together powdered sugar and lemonade concentrate until smooth. Set aside 1/4 cup. Pour remaining glaze over warm cake before removing from pan. Let cool then remove from pan and drizzle 1/4 cup glaze over cake.

AVOCADO APPETIZER

- 1 avocado, mashed
- 1 cup cottage cheese, small curd
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, grated
- 2 tsp. mayonnaise
- 2 green onions, minced

Mix, chill and enjoy!

Family Clippings

Carol Saltz, a Home Office employee for 15 years, died last April of cancer. Carol, 62, joined Wright Tree Service in 1990 and soon became private secretary to the late John R. Wright, our company president then. Following the retirement of Ruth Marienau, Corporate Secretary for Wright Service Corporation, Carol took over that job also. Following the death of John R., Carol served President/CEO Scott Packard as Administrative Assistant. Carol and husband Homer were married for over 40 years. She is survived by Homer, two children and six grandchildren. She was a hard worker, dedicated to her job and, most of all, she was totally loyal to Wright Tree Service and her friends. A memorial service was held for Carol in the Home Office shortly after her death.



Payroll Supervisor Lori Ordal and Payroll Specialist Nancy Jacobson spent a day visiting General Foreman Will Porter's crews. Top photo, Foreman James Blake assists Nancy with her hard hat. Right photo, Lori and Nancy relax after a very informative day.



Receptionist Donna White recently returned from a fishing trip with her husband Jim at Lake Pakwash in Ontario, Canada. According to Donna, they caught their limit. Anyone hankering for a fish fry?

Our sincerest condolences to Karen Widen, Home Office Payroll, on the death of her mother, Mary Pyle, in late July.



WTS President/CEO Scott Packard welcomes approximately 40 new employees who were hired to service the new contract for Empire District Electric Co. in Joplin, MO.



With Scott Packard at the wheel, the Home Office of Wright Tree Service entered the Fourth of July Parade, sponsored by the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department. Other employee participants included Lois Ward, Wade Myers, along with his son Will and two daughters, Jessica and Jackie; Julie Chapman's son Mac and daughter Indie; Mark Rader and his son Andrew; Wendy Eckhart; and float coordinator, Terri Smart.

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

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