



# Our Family Tree

A Newsletter For The Employees and Friends Of Wright Tree Service

VOLUME 6  
NUMBER 4  
WINTER, 2000



*"It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day...but there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day. And that is keeping Christmas. And if you can keep it for a day – why not always?" – Henry VanDyke*

Keeping the true meaning and spirit of Christmas all the year long. This is an intention each of us has in our hearts as we go about our normal routines. Such acts of love, sharing, caring and sacrificing are the good things Henry VanDyke was referring to when he wrote *"keeping Christmas always."*

It is my firm belief that Wright Tree Service employees are good examples of "keeping Christmas always" on the job. I've said this before, but it's worth repeating: This year again the home office has received probably hundreds of notes and letters from our customers and the many homeowners whose trees we must often trim or remove in order to do our job. These letters are usually highly commendable in their praise of

the work we did: The cleanup, our friendliness, positive attitude and our professionalism. More often than not, the homeowner will include the names of the employees on the job. Many times the homeowners write to us directly; often they write to our utility customers, who pass their good words on to us. We regularly receive complimentary letters or calls from our customers, as well.

None of this surprises me. We are a company with a solid reputation for professional work, integrity and ethics in our industry. And every one of you plays an important part in presenting this image. You should know that Wright Tree Service as a company strives to do its part in *keeping Christmas*

*always.* Throughout the year, we send thousands of dollars in contributions to charitable and civic organizations and to healthcare organizations for the education, prevention and treatment of life-threatening conditions or diseases. Your good work, in the field and here at home, and the customers who have faith in us, have made this generosity possible.

*"It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day."* The challenge is to keep the meaning and intent all year long.

But for now, it's time to celebrate and enjoy the season. And in that spirit, my wish is that each of you and your families have a meaningful, joyous and safe holiday.

# News from our

## CENTRAL

### **Tops In Topeka!**

Larry McCullough of Western Resources, the utility that serves Topeka, KS shared a letter he received from a very satisfied customer. "The residents of southeast Topeka and I appreciate the job 'well done' by Wright Tree Service last week," the letter began. "My humble appreciation goes out to the crew of **General Foreman Mitch Frye**, **Foreman Ron Pratt**, **Trimmer Raul Linares** and **Groundman Jason Dale** showed excellent customer service and customer property respect. Their work ethic and the ability to perform their duties efficiently and safely were exceptional at all times. Thanks for the excellent choice you made to allow Wright Tree Service to provide the enhancement of electrical system reliability and customer satisfaction." May we add our congratulations to Jason, Ron and Raul for this superb commendation.

### **More Fan Mail For Mitch!**

Mike Pettit of Western Resources heard from a happy customer who was pleased with another **General Foreman Mitch Frye** crew. "Thank you for the speedy service on tree trimming," the customer wrote. "I know you only have so many people to handle that and I'm sure you have been swamped with the few storms we have had this year." Here comes the good part: "I was really impressed with the Wright Tree Service crew (**Foreman Bruce Fuchs** and **Trimmer Siosiua Tupou**). They greeted me as I was leaving this morning and asked what I was concerned about and what they could actually do. They even asked me if I cared if they drove on my yard. Very impressive! Thanks a bunch!" Thanks to this considerate crew for making the Wright impression.

### **More Praise From Mike**

Another Western Resources customer contacted Mike Pettit to express her happiness with a WTS crew. "The crew was very polite and cleaned up the mess very professionally. Good job," the customer stated. At the receiving end of

this praise are **Foreman Wardel Dicus**, **Trimmer Justin Bennett** and **Groundman Abel Juniga**. **Mitch Frye** is their **General Foreman**.

### **"Does Not Go Unnoticed"**

Those little things you do as a member of a WTS crew are sincerely appreciated by the customer. A Mid-American Energy customer contacted the utility's Jeff Schirm and Jim Puentes with this glowing tribute: "Just wanted you to know that you have one outstanding crew. Very professional, customer-oriented and clean! My wife said all she had to do was sweep off the deck, not a leaf on the ground. My neighbors also told me that, after the storm two weeks ago, they were very pleased with the service Wright Tree Service provided. Just wanted you to know that your service does not go unnoticed." We'll bet this considerate crew will sweep the deck the next time, too. They are **Foreman Ray Barlow** and **Trimmers Pat Lannen** and **Dan Roberson**. **Tony Gadola** is their **General Foreman**.

### **Salute To Sanford**

"Mike and his crews made this year very workable and successful!" That's Mid-American Energy Rick Moore's assessment of **General Foreman Mike Sanford** and his crews. Here is what Rick is so pleased about in his own words:

1. With two months left in 2000, the Sheldon, IA area schedule is complete. This pleases me as we have consistently been six to twelve months behind schedule since inception. Several decisions and some hard work on the part of the WTS crews have made this happen.
2. Mike Sanford has been exceptional to work with. He is responsive to our concerns and has gotten his crews organized and focused.
3. The crews that spent the last several months in the area are professional and very thorough.
4. All of the crews did great work but some warrant special mention and

praise. **Foremen Tom Bertrand**, **Jason Davis**, **Chris Presnall**, **Craig Sandvick** and their groundmen have been in the area since early spring and have impressed me with their work and professionalism. They were able to get removals that in the past had been refusals. Complaints about butchering were less than anticipated. The most admirable thing was that these guys just "did it." They worked the maps, dealt with the customers, cleaned up after themselves and, when I had a special job, jumped right on it and got it done.

### **Satisfied In Sioux City**

Mid-American Energy forwarded a letter to us from a very grateful Sioux City, IA customer. In addition to thanking the utility for its brochure, "Tree Pruning For Electric Wires," the customer expressed her gratitude for the WTS crew that was sent to trim her trees. "One of your crews (**Foreman Tom Bertrand** and **Trimmer Wes Shearn**) did a beautiful job on my trees and cleaned up everything wonderfully. They should be commended for such excellent work and I say a big 'thank you' to them. You are wise to dispose of trees endangering your electric power lines." Thanks, Tom and Wes; you have endeared yourselves to this very appreciative customer. **Mike Sanford** is their **General Foreman**.

### **Kudos To Another Sioux City Crew**

**Foreman Craig Sandvick** and **Trimmer Austin Caffey** totally satisfied a Mid-American Sioux City, IA customer. In her letter to the utility, the customer wrote: "I am writing to compliment you for contracting with Wright Tree Service to work in our neighborhood. The team was courteous, cautious and thorough when they removed the walnut tree from our yard. They did a good job and left the yard neat and clean. They were respectful of both my husband and me and followed our wishes completely. We miss the tree and the squirrels are quite confused. However, we realized the tree would cause an ongoing problem and we are glad it is

# Branches

gone.” Well done, Craig and Austin! Their **General Foreman** is **Mike Sanford**.

## **LITTER-ally Clean!**

An Orion, IL Mid-American customer phoned the utility to relate his pleasant experience with a WTS crew. The customer said the crew did a great job of trimming his trees. After the crew had finished its work, the customer went out to clean up but the crew had already picked up so well, he couldn't even fill a paper bag. **Acting Foreman Larry Van Winkle**, and **Trimmers Travis Leigh** and **Mike Serpa** get credit for this squeaky-clean job. Their **General Foreman** is **Tony Gadola**.

## **Night Light By Wright?**

Mid-American Energy tells us about a Sioux City, IA crew that had the task of trimming trees away from a street light. The customer who had requested the work called the utility to say how much she appreciated the trim job. She also attested that she had confidence in the utility now and knows if she needs something done, it will be done right. **Foreman John Church** and **Trimmers Jeremy Buckholtz** and **Terry Church** brought smiles to this customer's face. Their **General Foreman** is **Mike Sanford**.

## **Bravo To Garrow!**

“**Foreman Al Garrow** is to be commended for his professional work and attitude while working on my property. He is an asset to your company. This man truly has the work ethic that employers want in the work place.” Those are the exact words of this very pleased Mid-American Energy customer in the Quad Cities. Al was ably assisted by **Trimmers Sidd Garr** and **Howard Weedon**. **Jim Bruner** is their **General Foreman**.

## **Double Header!**

Two letters written directly to the home office from Kansas Power & Light (KPL) customers in Lawrence, KS extol one of **General Foreman Roger Farley's** crews, made up of **Foreman Paul Jones**, **Trimmer Jamie Woolard** and **Groundman Frank Weeks**. In one letter, the couple writes: “My wife and I

were most pleased with how these representatives of your company performed. Mr. Jones was considerate about our concerns and discussed with us the most beneficial manner of successfully completing the required job. He acted professionally and responsibly.”

The other letter cites the same crew for “an efficient, courteous and professional job.” Unfortunately, during the work, a large limb swung into a metal shed beneath the trees and damaged it. Being a true professional, Paul reported the mishap to the customer immediately and agreed to repair it at no cost to the customer. Two days later, the crew was back and repaired the damaged shed.

The customer's letter concludes: “Regardless of how careful one is, an occasional accident is surely unavoidable in the tree trimming business. The important thing from your standpoint is that I am writing to commend the conduct of your crew, and particularly Mr. Jones, in promptly and fairly dealing with the situation, all the while showing courtesy and concerns for my legitimate interests. This attitude and conduct on the part of this crew in these circumstances certainly reflects well on the reputation of your company, and you should know of the good and honest job performed. I hope all of your employees are of this same high caliber.” Thanks to Paul and his crew for representing WTS so superbly!

## **Melton Makes The News!**

**Trimmer James Melton, Jr.** was pictured in the *Omaha World-Herald*, lowering a 180 lb. dummy in a competition sponsored by the Nebraska Arborist Association in an Omaha, NE park. James placed third in the overall event which also included rope-throwing, speed climb and work climb. Another WTS entrant, **Foreman Matt Grell** finished in “the middle of the pack” among 15 competitors, according to **Division Manager Steve Pietzyk**.

## **“The Bells Are Ringing”**

Our best wishes to **Foreman Lance Even** and Lisa Detje who were married in late October and to **Foreman Douglas**

**Buffington** and Corrine Styx who exchanged vows in early November.

## **More Knot-Tying**

Tom Snyder and his girl friend of five years finally said “we do” in July, honeymooned in August and found out in October there will be a little Snyder in May. Tom also celebrated the big “29” in November.

## **Date Mates**

**General Foreman Robert Sanford** wants to wish his wife Tammy and his brother, **Minnkota Division Supervisor J. D. Sanford**, a happy birthday. Both Tammy and J. D. have the same birth date of December 8.

## **NORTHEAST**

## **Wows From Jeff Treu!**

“Wow! What a letter! Thanks for your professional and courteous treatment of this customer. I'm proud to be associated with you.” WEPCO's Jeff Treu made that notation on a letter sent to the utility from one of its customers in Whitewater, WI. In the letter the customer cited **Foreman Mike Gilbert** and **Trimmers Nate Berge, Bret Chocholous** and **Larry Nickel** for their excellent job of trimming. “I would like to give them all high recommendations,” the letter concluded. Thank you, men, for a great job and thanks to Jeff for passing along these wonderful comments. Their **General Foreman** is **Wayne Fancher**.

Jeff also shares two more letters with us. In one letter, the customer thanked the WTS crew for the “great work your men did down my very long driveway. There wasn't a twig or leaf left behind.” We totally agree with Jeff's comment: “You did it the ‘Wright’ way the first time!” At the receiving end of this praise are **Foreman John Woythal** and **Trimmers Dennis Betschler, Edgar Koester, Jay O'Laughlin** and **Jason Wendt**. Their **General Foreman** is **Wayne Fancher**.

The other letter was from one of the utility's customers in Brookfield, WI. “Just a quick note to thank you for sending in Wright Tree Service to clear the electric lines,” the letter begins.

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# Unpopular Poplar!

*A Mid-American three-phase line running through this poplar tree required its removal. Foreman Wes Bagby (top photo) is cutting a log off from the bucket. In left photo, left to right, Trimmer Ed Brown, Foreman Kenny Einfelt and Trimmer Josh Thorpe strike a victory stance on the stump; and, in bottom photo, Kenny takes a break while lying on the stump. Thanks to Central Division General Foreman Bobby Bailey for capturing this sequence on film.*



## News from our

*(continued from page 3)*

"After multiple power outages in the recent past, it's wonderful to see the power lines again. I wish to compliment the crew that did the work in our area. They were hard-working, courteous and explained the projects that needed to be done to do the job right. Their excellent cleanup was also appreciated." **Foreman Tom Bianchi** and **Trimmers Ken Carlson** and **Robert Walker** merited this praise. Their **General Foreman** is **Joe Schulz**.

### **"Cannot Find Adequate Words To Say 'Thank you'!"**

**Division Manager Don Heyel** sent us a letter he received from WEPCO concerning another very appreciative customer. In the letter, which was written by an elderly lady, the customer laments having to cut down her 87-year old elm tree "which had given me and my family its shade and natural air conditioning during the hot summer days." Unfortunately, the tree had Dutch Elm disease and the Milwaukee Forestry Department told her it had to come down. When the tree limbs started cracking during a windstorm, the customer quickly contacted WEPCO who sent out a WTS crew at 10:00 p.m. on a Saturday night. "They worked well into the night," the customer wrote, "and I cannot find adequate words to say 'thank you' in appreciation of their labors." **Foremen Jay D. Allen** and **Ray Kane**, and **Trimmer George Anderson** made up the crew that came to this person's rescue. It's another testimonial to the professionalism and consideration of WTS crews! Their **General Foreman** is **Jeff Wood**.

### **Update On Dahlgren**

Thanks to WEPCO's Dale Konieczka for the latest on **Foreman Tom Dahlgren** who was shot in an attempted robbery last spring while he was on the job. A "Lumberjack Pancake Brunch" was sponsored by Aid Association for Lutherans, Branch 2673, in late October, raising \$6,500 for Tom's benefit. Wisconsin Electric, Asplundh and Wright Tree Service donated items for a silent auction and numerous employees of these companies made

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personal contributions. Tom is still in a wheel chair and undergoing physical therapy. **You can write him in care of his sister, Kim Ericson, 1308 W. South St., Stoughton, WI 53589.** Tom enjoys visitors and especially wants to thank those who have stayed in touch with him since the shooting. Tom, you're in our thoughts and our prayers.

## SOUTHWEST

### **WTS To The Rescue Of A Lizard?**

The Police Department wouldn't help. The Game and Fish Department said "no," too. So the lady spotted a WTS crew that happened to be coming down the road in a bucket truck and flagged it down. "Would you please get my daughter's pet lizard out of a tree?" was the request. The four-foot reptile had been in the tree for four days. This very accommodating crew obliged and, according to the mother, "made her 8-year old daughter the happiest girl in the world." Thanks to **Safety Supervisor Jim Lorrigan** for submitting this terrific human interest story. And thanks to **Trimmers Alfred Barker and William Watkins** and **Groundpersons Wayne McNabb and Celia Watkins** for granting this "above and beyond" favor. Their **General Foreman** is **Ross Self**.

### **Davey's Loss – Our Gain!**

**General Foreman Pete Burkett** informed us that Davey Tree Service moved out of Oklahoma and WTS was able to absorb many of its workers into the Tulsa, OK crews. "These men have brought a lot of skill and experience with them to WTS," Pete wrote, "and all of us in Tulsa would like to welcome our new foremen and trimmers."

### **A Real McCoy!**

**Trimmer Farriel McCoy** sent us the good news that he and his wife will celebrate the first year anniversary of the final adoption of their son, Andy Tristen Michael McCoy, in February. "God truly gave us the desire of our

# The Fury Of Fire



*A devastating high meadow forest fire in the Pine, CO area destroyed numerous homes and thousands of acres of trees. Under the direction of Mountain States Division General Foreman Frank Cordova, immediate action by WTS crews to down and remove the burnt trees enabled Inter Mountain REA to quickly restore power to the area. The top photo shows the utter destruction of someone's home. Three of the "fire fighters" in next photo are, left to right, Forester Denis Green, Foreman Bobby Walker and Trimmer Bob Farow. Trimmer Keith Gallegos was also part of the team. In bottom photo, one of the crew makes a final cut on a towering pine.*



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### And They Call Her The Dummy?

*Minnkota Division General Foremen Bob Lien, left, and General Foreman Scott Schweisthal, along with Mary The Mannequin, attended the NSP/Excel Energy Family Safety Night recently. Mary displayed how effectively chaps work when struck by a chain saw, amazing many of the onlookers. Mary is a regular member of the Lien family, spending most of her time in a swimsuit on a lake dock. Many boaters try to carry on a conversation with her before they realize she's a dummy.*

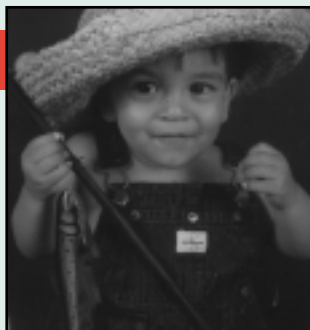


### Data-Mania

*Meet Mirana Lynn Rucker who turned 5 on November 24. Mirana is the youngest daughter of Central Division Trimmer Brian Rucker. Brian also tells us that his oldest daughter Kelsie will be 8 on February 9, his wedding anniversary is December 14 and his birthday is on December 31.*

### Ready To Reel 'Em In!

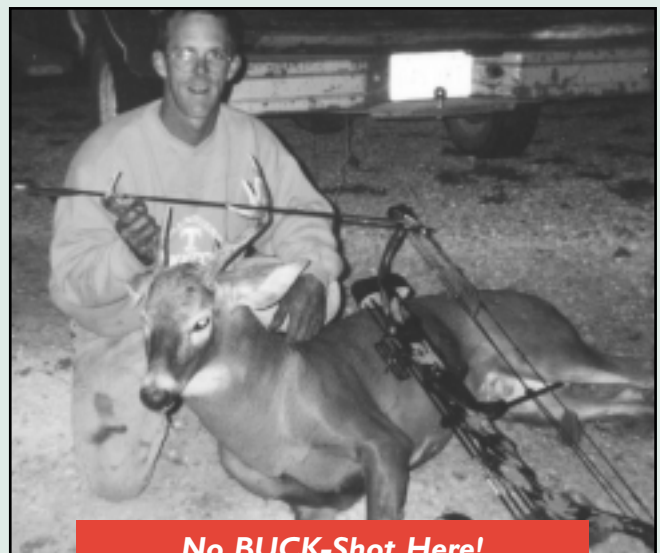
*Judging from the size of the lure, Andy McCoy will think he has a bite every time he casts his line. Andy is the son of Southwest Division Trimmer Farriel McCoy (see related story in News from the Branches).*



### Nothing To Get "Coy" With!

*Northeast Production and Training Supervisor Herb Coy demonstrates what can happen when electric wires come in contact with tree limbs. Herb was participating in Safety Saturday in Waukesha, WI sponsored by Wisconsin Electric.*

*WTS also furnished a bucket truck and chipper for the September event which attracted over 800 safety-tip seekers.*



### No BUCK-Shot Here!

*Central Division Foreman Chuck Boesenberg proudly displays the 8- point whitetail buck he shot with a bow and arrow in October. The deer weighed about 200 lbs.*



## TIMBER!

*Central Division Foremen Chuck Boesenberg (in the bucket) and Phil Kelly team up to fell a large basswood tree.*



## Wedding Bells

*Southwest Division Foreman Charles Lafayette and his bride Michelle celebrated their wedding in early October. Charles' General Foreman is Marlin King whose wife Renate made the wedding cake.*

## "Over The River"

*A huge maple tree interfering with power lines presented a special problem because it was hanging over the Green River in Colona, IL. The Central Division crew, attempting to keep the brush out of the river, used safety straps and zip lines to lower the limbs directly to the chip truck on the bank. No, that's not Rambo in top photo, it's Trimmer Mike Wilkins. In second photo, Foreman Popiel "Poppy" Batton prepares to lower a log to the chipper below, as shown in third photo. Trimmers William Knight and Steve Richey also took part in this complicated tree removal.*







### Picnic Powwow!

*The Central Division Sioux City Area took advantage of a beautiful fall day to go picnicking. Top photo, left to right, Foreman Tom Bertrand, Trimmers Travis Dunagan, Aaron Cox, Jason Waugh and Jeremy Cason, and Foreman Jason Davis; back row, left to right, Trimmer Dave Martinez, Foremen Sean Hegarty and Kevin Counter, Trimmer Darin House, General Foreman Robert Sanford, Foreman Craig Sandvick, Mid-American's Lucky Smith, Central Division Supervisor Tony Gadola, Groundman Jerry Holder, Foreman Chris Presnall and Groundperson Nichole Davis. In second photo, trying on their new WTS caps are, left to right, Craig Sandvick, Darin House, Travis Dunagan, Jerry Holder, Aaron Cox and his wife. In bottom photo, Mid-American's Lucky Smith and Tony Gadola.*



### The Hunting Honeymooners

*Central Division General Foreman Doug Hansen and his wife Judy honeymooned in Scotland following their wedding in October. Both Doug and Judy love to hunt and took advantage of the trip to nail a fallow buck.*



### Ransom Note?

*Southwest Division Foreman Kevin Landers used his glue pot and scissors to fashion this slogan for Wright Tree Service: "So WRIGHT, We're Better." Thanks for the effort, Kevin – we appreciate your commitment to WTS.*



## News from our Branches

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hearts when He gave Andy to us," attests Farriel. Andy was six days old when the McCoys brought him home. His picture appears elsewhere in this issue.

### **A Happy Ending To A Tragedy**

**General Foreman Ross Self's** wife, **Foreman Kimberly Self**, and his sister, **Trimmer Tammy Hicks** were both struck by a car in early October while on the job. We are happy to report Kimberly is back at work and Tammy is expected to return by the end of the year.

### **And Baby Makes Three!**

**Foreman Richard Wilk** and **Trimmer Kim Jackson** are expecting their first child in April.

### **Diaper Derby**

Best wishes to **General Foreman Arthur Thomas** and his wife Tamara who have a new baby boy, Asaid Latrell, born in early September.

### **Draper's Delight!**

**General Foreman Ken Draper's** daughter Brooke Beaver was inducted into the National Honor Society for four-year university academics at Texas A&M in Commerce, TX. In addition, she has won six journalism awards for the college newspaper and became a member of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority.

### **We Regret To Report!**

Our sincerest condolences to **Groundman Thomas Taylor** whose mother passed away in late October.

## MT. STATES

### **Pampers Parade**

**Trimmer Jorge Alcocer** and his wife Vianey are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Mireya Anali, who was born in late September. Our congratulations!

### **Maybe They Like Humble Pie!**

**General Foreman O. J. Feay** and **Tom Wipf** wish to extend their deepest sympathies to those unfortunate elk hunters who are not going to be eating

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# FROM THE Treetop

**Editor's Note:** *General Foreman Tom Wipf sent us a letter from a former employee, Forester Chet Morrison. Chet left WTS to join the Peace Corps in Haiti. As Tom attests, "Chet is a very special person and has dedicated two to three years of his life to help people in the world less fortunate than most." Tom hopes Chet will rejoin the WTS family once he finishes his tour of duty. Considering the season we're celebrating now, we think it is most appropriate to share Chet's letter with you.*

Dear Tom,

What's up? Been busy planting trees, collecting seeds and teaching every day – everything! Well, okay, not tree climbing. These people put our crews to shame. They climb coconut trees without ropes, ladders, spikes, etc.

I bought a dog, horse and mule to help out the reforestation work. My butt is always sore from riding the pretty rugged terrain. It's just another day on the ranch, sort of.

People here are poor, some malnourished, and beg endlessly. They get financial support from churches in the states. I'm attached to the

Comprehensive Development Project (CODEP). It's planting time and I've been helping move and fertilize about 15 different kinds of trees. I had to give the horse a week off when he fell twice last Tuesday. He had a load of 50 coffee trees each time. So the mule will work alone. He has a bad attitude but is stronger and more sure-footed.

Our area has no electricity but I see power lines when I travel. Looks like high voltage codes are maintained but secondary codes are violated often (by U. S. standards). Tree clearance isn't adequate, overhangs everywhere. I never see crews trimming line clearance but I've seen a few bucket trucks (fairly new) for line maintenance.

Two demonstration erosion control projects are established and there are plans for starting three new ones soon. Don't know if I'll finish December 2001 or stay another year. The work is fun but the heat, hiking, diet (or lack of), colds etc. are taking their toll on this 43-year old body. I'll decide next year.

Take care. If anyone asks, I'm working harder than ever though it seems I don't change much. Send a note sometime I'd like news of Wright and the folks, friends, crews, etc.

Later, Chet



*In addition to himself, Chet's reforestation "team" consists of his horse, mule and a dog. You can write Chet at B. P. 128, HT 9110 Jacmel, Haiti. We'll make sure Chet is on our mailing list for this and future newsletters.*

# S.E.T. NEWS

## Eight "Graduate" From General Foreman Candidate School



*Five foremen and three general foremen attended the General Foreman Candidate School held in October at the home office. Those participating in the school were, left to right, Safety Supervisor Randy Rempe; General Foremen Mark Leohr and Joe Pulera, Foremen Steve Matthews, Cory Kobernick and Curtiss Filtz, all from the Northeast Division; Foreman Davy Foreman and General Foreman Ronald Moore from the Southwest Division; S.E.T. Director Keith Sheriff; and Northeast Division Foreman Don Parrish.*

### Three Divisions

#### Win Turkey Challenge

Keith Sheriff, Safety, Education and Training Department Director, issued his annual turkey challenge for the two-week period from November 13 through November 24. Any division that worked accident-free for that

two-week period was rewarded with a free turkey for every employee. Our congratulations to the three divisions, Central, Northeast and Mountain States, that achieved that distinction and to the over 850 employees who will be feasting on a plump turkey for their wonderful effort.

## News from our Branches

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elk for the holidays. Their condolences go especially to **Mountain States Manager Kirk Schuster**, **Minnkota Supervisor J.D. Sanford** and **General Foreman Jim Saisher**.

### Engaging News!

**Mountain States Supervisor Kevin Fitzpatrick** recently became engaged to Lacey Emerson. The wedding date will be announced later.

## MINNKOTA

### Qualified and Certified

**General Foreman Michael Harris** is proud to announce that **Foremen Glen Crabtree** and **Robert Steadman** have both been named I. S. A. Certified Arborists. Our congratulations to both men!

### Wedding Bells!

Congratulations to **Foreman Kirk Venzke** and his wife Tracy who were married in October.

### We Regret To Report!

Our deepest sympathies to **Foreman Bob Hanson** whose son Brian was killed in a hunting accident in early October.



## Fourth Quarter And Yearly Employee Accident-Free Report

Division	4th Quarter	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	4 Year	5 Year	6 Year
Central	55	77	36	20	3	9	11
Northeast	116	46	24	6	7	6	19
Mountain States	19	17	12	5	3	4	1
Southwest	81	71	12	10	2	5	8
Minnkota	27	26	15	7	5	5	6
Total	298	237	99	48	20	29	45

## BENEFITS

### Take The Challenge – It's The 1% You'll Never Miss Until You Retire!

The journey to retirement can be rewarding. You don't mind the trek, as long as you're making progress. If you are deferring the same percentage as you did last year or the year before, you may not be on the right track for retirement. In fact, you may need to pick up the pace.

A small step, like increasing your deferral by 1%, can make a huge difference over time.

The 1% challenge simply challenges you to increase the amount you contribute to your retirement by 1%. If you are deferring 4% of your income, step it up to 5%. This is especially important if you find yourself worrying about having enough money to reach your retirement goals. You might be surprised how much even a small increase can grow over time – perhaps thousands of dollars by the time you retire.

To accept the challenge, simply call Michelle at the home office at 800-882-1216. A telephone call is all that is required to increase your deferral amount. To help you stay on goal, remember to use the retirement tools available at the Retirement Service Center on the Internet ([www.principal.com](http://www.principal.com)) or call TeleTouch at 800-547-7754.

### “One Of The Best Job Sites I Have Ever Visited”

A representative from St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company visited several crews in northwest Iowa recently to promote the safety efforts that WTS and the insurance company are putting forth to prevent accidents. One of the crews, **Foreman Tom Bertrand** and **Trimmer West Shearn**, was commended for their outstanding work ethic and high safety standards. “This crew and jobsite were one of the best I ever visited,” the representative wrote. “This crew should serve as a model for others. Please pass on my sincere congratulations to Tom and West for a job well done.”



FROM THE



## Kitchen

With Christmas just days away, meal planning and preparation can become somewhat frenzied and “last minute.” Here are two recipes that are fairly simple to prepare and can be made ahead of time. They're great for entertaining or for your own family when having something ready “to stick in the oven” can be so welcome at this time of the year.

*(Recipes Courtesy of Iowa Egg Council.)*

### SANTA'S SIMPLE SUPER STRATA

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1 10 oz. pkg. frozen broccoli, cooked and cut up | 1/2 tsp. dry mustard       |
| 8 ozs. shredded sharp cheddar cheese             | 1/2 tsp. salt              |
| 2 cups cubed ham                                 | 3 cups milk                |
| 16 slices bread, crusts removed                  | 2 cups crushed corn flakes |
| 6 eggs   | 1/2 cup melted margarine   |

Butter a 9 x 13 inch baking dish and line with 8 slices of bread. Sprinkle with cheese, ham and broccoli. Put 8 slices of bread on top of that mixture. Beat eggs, mustard, salt and milk together. Pour over bread and cover with foil. Refrigerate overnight. Mix together corn flakes and melted margarine. Place on top of bread mixture. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

### PUMPKIN ANGEL CAKE

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 1/2 cups cake flour      | 12 egg whites                 |
| 2 1/2 cups sugar, divided  | 1 1/2 tsps. cream of tartar   |
| 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon | 1 1/2 tsps. vanilla extract   |
| 3/4 tsp. salt              | 1 cup solid-pack pumpkin      |
| 1/2 tsp. ginger            | 1/2 cup white chocolate chips |

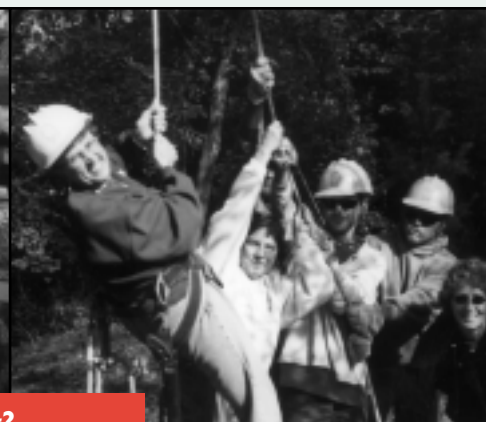
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In medium bowl, mix flour, 1 cup sugar, cinnamon, salt and ginger. In large bowl, with mixer at high speed, beat egg whites and cream of tartar until soft peaks form; beat in vanilla. Beating at high speed, sprinkle in 1 1/2 cups sugar, 2 tablespoons at a time until sugar dissolves and whites stand in stiff peaks. Remove 1 cup beaten egg white mixture to medium bowl; fold in pumpkin. Fold flour mixture into beaten egg whites until flour disappears. Then, gently fold in pumpkin mixture. Do not over mix. Pour batter into lightly greased 10-inch tube pan. Bake 45-50 minutes, or until cake spring backs when lightly touched. Drizzle with melted white chocolate chips.





# Family Clippings

News From The Home Office



## A "Day Off" In Davenport?

*Three WTS employees from the home office recently visited "the field" in the Davenport, IA area. In left photo, standing, left to right, Julie Chapman, HR Manager, Nancy Jacobson, Payroll, and Receptionist Donna White. Seated is Pat Anderson, Administrative Assistant to Jim Puentes of Mid-American Energy. In center photo, Julie gets acquainted with a chain saw and in right photo, Nancy, Julie and the crew give Donna a boost.*



## Creative Costumers

*The Halloween costume participants went all out this year. Standing, left to right, Wendy Weber, Karen Stanton, Kyra Mountsier, Scott Packard, Nancy Jacobson, Joanne Nealon, Belinda Harger and Donna White; in front, left to right, Tammy Hollander, Michelle Eggleston and Kelly Pettijohn. The winner was Karen Stanton.*



## Good Deed Department

*Two teams from the home office volunteered for general yard work at two Des Moines area Hospice Houses. One team was made up of, top photo, left to right, Melissa O'Brien (Michelle Eggleston's sister), Joanne Nealon, Scott Packard, Michelle and Terry McGonegle. The other team, bottom photo, consisted of, left to right, Kyra Mountsier, Michelle's husband Kevin, Tammy Hollander, Wendy Weber and Julie Chapman. "I can't remember when we have gotten so much done in so little time," were the appreciative comments from the Hospice representatives.*



## New Home Office Hires

*Welcome to Karen Stanton, left, AP/Mailroom and Kristen Mason, Payroll.*

## Ain't Life GRAND-Parents?

*WTS President John Wright has a new granddaughter, his second; Kathryn Hope Rozanek, born to his daughter, Laura. And Lois Ward welcomed her fifth grandchild in October, Samantha Ward, born to David and Diane Ward.*

If you have access to the Internet, you can visit us at: <http://www.wrighttree.com> or e-mail us at [hwright@wrighttree.com](mailto:hwright@wrighttree.com)

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