



Our Family Tree

WINTER 2006
VOLUME 12
NUMBER 3



A Newsletter for the Employees and Friends of Wright Tree Service

*Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for
A Happy and Prosperous New Year*



*Note: Our Christmas Message this year has a special meaning.
See the insert inside this issue which is suitable for framing.*

News from the Branches

CENTRAL DIVISION

Praise For A Porter Crew

"Thank you so much for having such quality employees." That is how a MidAmerican Energy customer in Des Moines IA ended her thank-you note to the Home Office, expressing her satisfaction for a job well done. She complimented the work of **Foreman Chad Luckow** and **Trimmer Ryan Lewis**.

"They were very careful not to crush my shrubs and plants and they did a wonderful job."

Will Porter is their **General Foreman**.

...More Praise

A very satisfied customer of MidAmerican Energy in Capitol Heights IA also commended the tree trimming work of **Foreman Chad Luckow** and **Trimmer Ryan Lewis**. In an email to the utility, the customer wrote that the tree trimming crew did an "excellent job."

...And Even More Praise!

A MidAmerican Energy customer in Capitol Heights IA phoned the utility concerning a pine tree that had grown into a power line. The customer requested that the tree be topped so he could cut it down if necessary. MidAmerican's District Forester Jim Young

visited with the customer regarding the trimming and called in **Foreman Chad Luckow** and **Trimmer Ryan Lewis** to take care of the problem. Chad and Ryan did "an excellent job," according to the customer.

Back In The Saddle Again!

After nearly ten years of being off the system, WTS was awarded seven new crews and a multi-year contract by Omaha Public Power District (OPPD). WTS will be working in the southern suburbs of Omaha NE and as far south as the Kansas border. **Shawn Huff** is the **General Foreman** for the OPPD project.

Will Still Knows His Ropes!

A woman in Pleasant Hill IA whose husband is an Iowa Guardsman serving in Iraq, was in desperate need of a tree removal and trimming around her home. One of the couple's friends asked **Will Nutter**, **Senior Vice President of Operations**, for his help. Will became a one-man crew, running saws, swinging around in trees that needed trimming and felling a Spruce tree. The "ground crew," made up of the husband's coworkers, cleared the debris. Needless to say,

the Guardsman's wife was overjoyed and very appreciative of Will's hard work.

We Regret To Report. . .

Foreman Andrew Boyer who has worked for WTS since 1997 died in October. Our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

NORTH DIVISION

We're Good Scouts, Too!

The Greater St. Louis Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America expressed its deep gratitude to a WTS crew for a volunteer project. In a letter to the Home Office, WTS was commended for letting **Foreman Ricky Cravens** and **Groundman Scott Oermann** volunteer their time to clear the Scouts' camp road. "The work done by your staff has saved the Beaumont Scout Reservation employees from weeks of tree trimming and has opened the road to a usable width." In addition, the crew left all of the wood chips which were used to fill ditches, providing community service opportunities for the scouts. **Scott Lay** is their **General Foreman**. A thank you was also given to **Division Supervisor Phil Heinz** for allowing the men to use WTS equipment.

"Chipping In" For The Kids

Terry Tate, Vegetation Management for CILCO, passed on a note of thanks he received from a nursery school in Washington IL. The letter thanked WTS for an expedient delivery of wood chips which were used to help prepare an outside playground for the children. Thanks go out to **Foremen Brad Moreland** and **Brian Bennett**. **Danny McMillen** is their **General Foreman**.

We Regret To Report. . .

Foreman George Hess, a WTS employee since 1999, died in October. Our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Window Peeping?

"I have been so impressed as I watched them work from my window. I love trees but I know they must be kept back from power lines. My first thought was it will surely look bare and chopped up but they have done such a good job and it looks very neat and trim." Those comments were directed to **Foreman Kenneth Long** and **Groundman Mark Baker** in a letter to their **General Foreman Scott Ogden** from a very satisfied customer in Duncan OK. Her note to Scott continued: "I just had to get your address and their names so I



From the Treetop



By Kevin Fitzpatrick
Equipment Supervisor

could tell you what fine employees you have. I intend to call the city and tell them also – you see so many these days who take no pride in their work. Those who do are to be commended and it speaks well for their employer also.”

No Need To Worry With WTS!

A Fort Worth TX customer of Texas Utilities (TXU) was pleased with the prompt response she received from the utility about her concern over tree trimming in her yard. In her follow-up email to the utility, she wrote “a very nice gentleman from Wright Tree Service came to my home to look over my yard and discuss the situation. He assured me that the trimming would be done in a professional way and that there would be very little trimming in my yard.” That “very nice gentleman” was **Division Supervisor Tim Bingaman**. Thanks, Tim, for alleviating this customer’s concern.

We Regret To Report. . .

Foreman James William Bushue, who retired from WTS in 2004 after working for WTS for 25 years, died in early November. Our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

(continued on page 5)

Quickly closing in on a year since I began as Equipment Supervisor, I’ve been asked to share a little of my first experiences and impressions. Let me start here where I started in January – on the road.

It’s been a whirlwind tour of the company. I’ve traveled from the ice and snow in South Dakota and Minnesota to the heat and mesquite in Texas and New Mexico, then traveled from the blue sky and mountains of Colorado and Utah to the corn fields and plains of Iowa and Indiana. I’ve been there repeatedly in the past ten months.

Averaging 3,000 miles a week seems excessive until you talk to others in the company and discover this kind of travel is common-

place. And this lifestyle is not solely reserved for managers. **I have witnessed trimmers and general foremen also driving hours from home to work, not returning until the end of the week, away from family, friends and routine. My sincere and new found respect goes out to those dedicated individuals who sacrifice in this way.**

During the course of establishing new relationships with fellow employees and equipment manufacturers and reestablishing old friendships, I’ve found myself humbled and genuinely grateful to everyone I’ve met. For my family and I have been welcomed with open and supportive arms and made to feel at home. No small task for a guy who has moved to seven different states in 21 years.

Although I consider myself a mechanically oriented individual, I am on a steep learning curve. What I’ve had to learn to date and what I will have to learn in order to successfully perform my job is considerable. This deepens my respect for my boss, Bob Myers, who holds most of this information at his mental finger tips.

The most important thing I’ve learned so far comes with both triumph and tribulation. It can be summarized best as a phrase seen on some police squad cars: “To protect and

serve.” This to me is best translated as protecting the integrity of the company and serving those employed by it. **The premise being, field personnel are the driving force in the company and every effort must be made to support them.** This revelation is a personal triumph and a standard credo by those in the Home Office.

The tribulation comes with implementing my role. On the surface my job seems simple. Purchase state-of-the-art equipment at a good price, coordinate the distribution and delivery of this equipment and sell it

when you’re done. But subsurface, the job gets complicated. Equipment and thus vendors can have problems with quality manufacturing which become

warranty issues. The process of discovery and the resolution of these warranty issues can be prolonged. This complicates every day operations and exacerbates frustration from the field.

Viewing myself as a critical aid to those in the field, I accept an extremely personal responsibility to provide high quality, long lasting, trouble free machinery. This is to say that equipment that goes into the field and does not meet expectations or is riddled with warranty issues is taken personally. I sometimes feel that I let you down. And yet I realize that there is no perfect equipment or vendor. Warranty issues have always been there and more than likely will always remain. What I find unique is the patience and sense of team work from the field in rectifying these matters. From adversity brings the true measure of a person. Your vigilance has been greatly appreciated.

Furthermore, everyone has a stake in the equipment we buy as an ESOP company. It’s impossible to do our work without it functioning properly, and properly-maintained equipment adds to the bottom line and aids in future sales. We are in this together.



General Foreman Paul Dwight, Division 45, sends in a compliment – and a dig! First, the compliment: “Special thanks to all my crew members for doing a great job, a safe job – keep it up!” The crew members, top row, left to right, Trimmer Ralph Brown; Foremen David Somervill, Dan Somervill, Chris Poling, Nate White and Kim Foster; Trimmer Jason Snyder, Foremen Chad Jackson, Brian Stone, John Fry, Sr., and Dan Smith. Bottom row, left to right, Trimmers Joe Garcia, Jay Reed, Travis Burke, Scott Sands, Jon Gross and John Fry, Jr.; Groundman Charles Terrell and Foreman Paul Kreps. And the dig, directed to his Iowa friends: “Oh, yes, Michigan beat Iowa! Ha, ha!”



Executive Vice President Bob Myers is pictured with the company’s new Volvo truck. As the WTS fleet has increased, so has our need to move heavy equipment from state to state. In just three weeks, Bob put over 10,000 miles on the new Volvo moving equipment.



General Foreman Scot Lay, North Division, has some advice for fellow deer hunters. Before you travel for miles in quest of your kill, it might surprise you what’s in your own backyard. Scot bagged two deer within a five-minute walk from his house.

Tim Bingaman, Southwest Division Supervisor, and the crews of General Foremen Milton Ventura, Wayne Lee and Santos Aguilera received high praise from Brad Mayfield of TXU Electric Delivery. With President Bush scheduled to arrive in Dallas TX, some tree trimming needed to be done at dusk on a feeder line due to reliability issues. The problem area was trimmed by the time the President arrived. “All WTS crews worked in a very professional, safe and efficient manner on this project,” according to Mayfield.



News from the Branches

(continued from page 3)

MOUNTAIN STATES

Forester Denis Green extends a warm welcome to **Don Churchill** as **Groundman** to the division's Conifer crew.

DIVISION 45

We Regret To Report. . .

General Foreman Kelly Gordon McFarlan passed away suddenly at his home in October. Kelly joined the WTS team in October 2003. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kelly's family.

MINNKOTA DIVISION

An Xcel-lent Job!

An Xcel Energy customer in Sioux Falls SD touted the "competent and professional work" by a WTS crew on his property. In his letter to the Home Office, the customer stated: "They trimmed around very high voltage lines and took down a Silver Maple tree which had branches having the potential of falling and knocking down wires and/or damaging nearby houses. I appreciated their explanation concerning the necessity and the nature of the work. I also appreciated their work skills in such a hazardous location. They did a very nice job and were careful not to damage anything. This stellar crew was

made up of **Foreman Gaylen Ackerman** and **Trimmers Larry Bingham** and **Adam Long**. Their **General Foreman** is **Mike Harris**.

"Outstanding Job!"

An Xcel customer in Cottage Grove MN phoned in to say, "The WTS people did an outstanding job of trimming the trees in my power lines." A standing ovation goes to **General Foreman Scott Schweisthal's** crews for their superior performance.

"Of Course We Know!"

"I hope your company knows that you have great people working for you" – that's from a letter to the Home Office from an appreciative couple in Chili WI. The letter affirmed that the crew did a great job of trimming the trees on the couple's property that were

sparking on the high wires. The crew, consisting of **Foreman Jeremy Kocar**, **Work Planner Ted L'Allier**, and **Tree Trimmer Ben Bombagi**, also did a "great job" of cleaning up the debris. **Jeff Harris** is the crew's **General Foreman**.

"Awesome" Work!

General Foreman Tim Hanson received a very nice note complimenting his crew working for Minnesota Power. "The job your crew did trimming our trees under the

power line was awesome," the pleased customer wrote. "Their assiduous care in trimming and cleaning up is commendable!" Give yourselves a big pat on the back, **Foremen Brian Dempsey**, **Marlin King** and **Jeremy Mueller**; **Trimmers Birten Herman** and **Andy Rairdon**; and **Groundman Jason Blaisdell**.

Eighty-seven WTS crews from the North and Central Divisions answered the distress call after seven tornadoes ripped through the St. Louis MO area in July.



WOODSON TERRACE

October 19, 2006

Mayor
Lawrence P. Besmer
Adm. Assistant
William K. Raichford
City Collector
Margaret L. Getz
City Clerk
Margaret M. Wilson
City Attorney
John B. Gray
Aldermen
Robert J. Blatt
John L. Conlon
Kevin L. Crane
Angela G. Lewis
Ronald A. Hogan
Rita A. Martin
Gary B. Strout
Douglas Zaitz

Mr. Scott Packard
Wright Tree Service
139 6th Street
P.O. Box 1718
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Dear Mr. Packard:

On behalf of the City of Woodson Terrace, Missouri I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to your company and its workers for the job you did in St. Louis County. The July storm stopped everyone in its tracks. Without your quick and professional response the power outage would have lasted a significantly longer period of time. I would like to commend your workers for their professionalism during this very trying situation. They continued to work efficiently and effectively through out the entire time period in spite of the conditions.

Sincerely yours

Lawrence P. Besmer
Mayor of Woodson Terrace

9351 GUTHRIE AVENUE • WOODSON TERRACE, MISSOURI 63134 • 314/ 427-2600 • FAX 427-0571





Photo 1 – Left to right, Jose Alvarez, Roberto Graciano, Moris Fuentes, Lorenzo Fuentes, Augustin Arreola; kneeling, Adrian Ruiz.

Photo 2 – Left to right, Saul Salmeron, Jose D. Zunigo, Bernardo Pulgarin, Roberto G. Salmeron, Carlos Ventura, Jose S. Romero, Emilio Salmeron and Carlos M. Solmeron; kneeling left to right, Jose A. Romero and Antonio Blanco.

Photo 3 – Back row: Pedro A. Rivas, Jose T. Herrera, Oscar A. Fierro, Beto Berumen, Israel Navarro and Jose Y. Cruz; front row: Milton R. Gusman, Jose Gomez, Alcides Alvares, Erik Molina, Jose T. Flores.

Photo 4 – Back row: Rigoberto Rodriguez, Alvaro Mejia, Moris Herrera, Alfonso Rubalcava and Victor Diaz; front row: Jose Hernandez, Jesus Orellana, Nicolas Romero, Edwin Cruz and Rubran Pulido.

Photo 5 – Left to right, Leonel Velasquez, Jhony Rivas, Raul Varela and Javier Rivas. Not pictured, Reyes Bonilla.

Photo 6 – Left to right, Jose A. Molina, Juan A. Mercado, Florentino Garcia and Efrain Rodriguex; front row, Jose G. Machado.

Photo 7 – Left to right, Jeronimo Escobar, Genner Bernal and Mar Romero.

Photo 8 – Left to right, Carlos He

Photo 9 – Left to right, Juan Ram Ramirez and Santos Carrizalez.

Photo 10 – Rafel Garcia.

In Mem



Michelle

November 1970

Michelle Gray was the fiancée of Tim Bingaman, Southwest Division, Dallas - Fort Worth crews who served the Shriner Children's Hospital.

emory Of

le Gray

– October 2006
nce of Division Supervisor
vision. In her memory, all 22
wn here collected money for
ospital in Tampa Florida.



Herrera, Jose Violante, Jose M.
tin Arango; front row, Jose N.

rnandez and Oscar Salmeron.

irez, Antonio Alvarez, Francisco



Photo 11 – Left to right, Jorge A. Rodriguez, Victor E. Rodriguez,
Jose G. Rodriguez, Victor Rodriguez and Jesus Gonzalez.

Photo 12 – Left to right, Celso Herrera, Pablo A. Rivas, Raul A.
Rivas and David Alvarez.

Photo 13 – Left to right, David Salmeron, Jose L. Romero, Alvaro
Ventura and Francisco Ventura.

Photo 14 – Left to right, Rudis Ventura and Jose Ventura.



Photo 15 – Left to right, Pedro Fuentes, Jose O. Romero,
Darlin A. Martinez, Jose B. Romero and Jose R. Cruz.

Photo 16 – Left to right, Doyle Wayne Lee, Kimberly Self,
Ross Self.

Photo 17 – Left to right, Santos Aguilera, Milton Ventura.

Photo 18 – Left to right, Galacio Lara, Silvano Lara, Javier Lara
and Ernest Martinez.

Just For The Fun Of It!

Home Office employees and their families enjoyed an outing at Wildwood Hills Ranch in St. Charles, IA on a beautiful Saturday in October. Activities included pole pruner toss, pumpkin bowling, egg toss, pony rides, big shot, piñatas, hay stack find and a yummy meal.



President/CEO Scott Packard tries his hand at the pole pruner toss.



Payroll Specialist Lora Wicker gives her daughter Megan a chance to "giddy up."



Financial Assistant Wendy Eckhart helps her son Joey ride as Lora Wicker looks on.



Network Administrator Kevin Patton helps his daughter Reagen gallop along.



Pumpkin bowling attracted Stacey Kies' husband Jeremy and daughter Tiffany as Equipment Manager Kevin Fitzpatrick waits his turn.



Ride 'em cowboy! HR Specialist Cindy Reavis steadies her grandson Gunner as he enjoys a pony ride.



A Clean Sweep!

Crew members from Wright Tree Care and Wright Tree Service took first, second and third place in climbing competition in October sponsored by the Iowa Arborist Association. The winners were, left to right, first row, Foreman Chad Sutherland, WTC, second place, Foreman Mike Cook, WTC, first place, and Trimmer Ryan Lewis, WTS, third place. Other participants, all from WTC, were, left to right, back row, Shawn Warren, Ryan Burlingame and Ron Statham. Not pictured, Eric Speed, also from WTC.



First place winner Foreman Mike Cook, WTC, showed his expertise in Aerial Rescue.

S.E.T. News

North And Mountain States Divisions Win Thanksgiving Challenge

Every employee in the North and Mountain States Divisions received a Wal-Mart coupon for a Thanksgiving turkey. We had EIGHT accidents reported during the two-week Thanksgiving Challenge. Normally we have five reported each week! Last year we had four during the Thanksgiving Challenge. Each incident that occurs could be a serious, disabling accident. If you want help with any safety issue from the S.E.T. Department or your Safety Supervisor, just ask for it. Here are the eight incidents that occurred during the Thanksgiving Challenge period:

SOUTHWEST DIVISION, Roger Hagen, Division Manager
Scott Ogden, General Foreman; Ryan Butler, Foreman –
Trimmer Christopher Blackstock was in the bucket trimming, cut a limb, went to put the chain brake on with his left hand, and his hand went across the brake hitting the running chain saw causing a laceration to his left thumb.

Mark Fuhrman, General Foreman – Foreman Richie Moreno failed to stop and struck a semi that was stopped in traffic. The damage to the semi is the left back insulated door on a refrigerated trailer.

CENTRAL DIVISION, Jerry Black, Division Manager
Tim Leiser, General Foreman – Foreman Carlos Valentin was cutting a log on the ground, the log turned and the chain saw struck his left foot, lacerating his big toe and top of foot.

Roger Farley, General Foreman; Francis Flory, Foreman –
Trimmer Damen Copp knelt down to cut brush with a chain saw and the tip of the chain saw struck his right knee causing a laceration. He did have chaps on but they had slid to the side of his knee.

MINNKOTA DIVISION, John Church, Division Manager;
Jim Engelke, General Foreman – Foreman Brad Despot was raking on a hill at the end of the day, stepped on a stick and sprained his right ankle.

Jim Engelke, General Foreman; Earl Hall, Foreman –
Trimmer Pete Frederickson was pulling hangers, turned and a stick stuck in his ear, puncturing his ear drum.

Jim Engelke, General Foreman; Curt Houle, Foreman –
Foreman Roy Manson flipped the boom over behind the truck to grease the knuckle. He was standing on the deck, went to stow the boom, moved it the wrong way and bent the upper boom cylinder.

DIVISION 45, John Hurst, Division Manager;
Jason Seaman, General Foreman; Stephan Butz, Foreman –
Trimmer Robert Ralph was in the bucket cutting a limb over a service wire with a hand saw. He cut through the limb too fast, causing a laceration to his left hand.

Wright Tree Care News

By Linda Wright, President
Wright Tree Care



WTC once again designed and donated the outdoor Christmas lighting for the winner of the WHO Radio home-decorating contest. Our family had five children who were really happy with our candy cane and stocking design. Plant Health Care Manager John Griffiths, Supervisor Wayne Kautzky, Operations Vice President Rick Hanson and President Linda Wright were the brave souls who showed up at 5 a.m. to install the lighting.



Mark Harwick has been appointed to the position of **Manager, Tulsa Division**. Never short on good, innovative ideas, Mark has already made some positive steps forward. Congratulations, Mark!

Congratulations to **Rick Hanson** and **Wayne Kautsky** who fished their way to a first place in the Iowa Division of the Fishers of Men bass fishing contest. They also placed high enough at the Regional Contest held on Lake Erie to qualify them for a trip to the Nationals in Columbia, SC. next spring.

We have begun residential work in Kansas City on a limited basis. As we are not in the phone book, we rely on radio advertising, cold calling and word of mouth. **Vice President, Sales Ralph Conner** is spending much of his time in KC pursuing and developing leads and is helped out by **General Foreman Mike Overcash** who is overseeing the operation end of it.

Our Christmas lighting - Brite Ideas franchise - business has grown this season with an additional 30 -35 customers to date. A WTC-decorated home was also featured on the front cover of a new magazine published by the Des Moines-based Hy-Vee supermarket chain.

"Good job" reports continue to roll in from satisfied clients. A sample of the kind of calls and letters comes from a new West Des Moines client. "I would like to commend your company for handpicking and hiring such well trained, skilled, courteous, polite and knowledgeable employees. I had the privilege to meet **Rick Hanson** who gave me an estimate. Personality is his greatest asset, along with knowing his profession well and conducting himself very professionally. **Foreman Mike Cook** is a very skilled, talented and knowledgeable person who seems to love what he does professionally. I have never seen anybody take command of trees the way he did, and dangling from a rope at great heights just amazed me. **Crew Member Willie Valasquez** never stopped working, hauling limbs away as fast as they hit the ground. When the job was finished my property looked like no one had been there! All I can say is these men are a valuable asset to your company!" Enough said!

Benefits

Sometimes referred to as a *cafeteria plan*, *flex plan*, or a *Section 125 plan*, a **Flexible Spending Account (FSA)** lets employees set aside a certain amount of each paycheck into an account – before paying income taxes.

Wright Tree Service provides all union and non-union employees who have met the probationary period the opportunity to enroll in the Flexible Spending Account. To be eligible an employee must have worked to the first of the month following 90-days of employment.

During the year, participants have access to this account for reimbursement of expenses – not covered by insurance – that they regularly pay for, such as:

- Deductibles, co-pays, and other eligible expenses not covered by insurance.
- Prescription drugs and medical supplies.
- Over-the-counter drugs that are medically necessary like allergy medications, aspirin, or antacids.
- Dietary supplements and vitamins with doctor's letter of medical necessity.
- Dental services, orthodontics and dentures.
- Eyeglasses, contacts, solutions and eye surgery.
- Weight-loss programs (associated with a specific disease).
- Weight-loss over-the-counter drugs with doctor's letter of medical necessity.
- Chiropractic services.
- Psychiatric care and psychologist's fees.
- Smoking-cessation programs.

Now You Can Bank " Part Of Your Paycheck Tax-Free In A...

FLEXIBLE Spending Account

- Smoking-cessation over-the-counter drugs.
- Adult and child daycare services.
- Adoption expenses.

When employees use tax-free dollars to pay for these expenses, they realize an increase in their spending power, and substantial tax savings. The company saves, too – about 8% (FICA match) on every dollar employees contribute to the plan.

To enroll in the Wright Tree Service Flexible Spending Account for 2007, contact Michelle Eggleston at the Home Office by Friday December 22, 2006, 800-882-1216 or 515-277-6291.

The portion of salary which an employee directs to the FSA plan is not taxed. The employee will save:

- **Federal income tax.**
- **State and local taxes (where applicable).**
- **Social security tax (assuming the employee's salary is below the maximum social security wage base).**

The employee's savings will depend on the amount directed to the FSA plan and the employee's tax rate. What happens to the money that an employee puts into the FSA Plan? The employee's redirected salary is "banked" by the employer in an account maintained for the employee. Qualified expenses incurred by the employee are reimbursed tax-free from dollars "banked" in the account. A paper claim form and the qualified receipts must be filed prior to being reimbursed from Kabel Business Services. Direct deposit is also available at no charge.



General Foreman Doug Hansen, Foreman Rick Gaunt and Trimmers Zack Alberts and Mike Foulks worked with volunteers from MidAmerican Energy, The Nature Conservancy and Americorps to clear trees from Big Sand Mound in Muscatine IA, the largest sand



prairie in the state. The goal was to remove woody plants to open up the area and promote regrowth of the prairie. Home to the endangered Illinois Mud Turtle, the land is very sensitive ecologically.



Foreman Christopher Clark, Central Division, was married to Valerie Weishar in late October in Kansas City MO. Congratulations and best wishes to the newly weds.



Groundman James Sullivan, North Division, and his wife Kenna would like you to meet their twin daughters, Alexis and Alexandra, who are four years old. James, who has been in the tree trimming business for over 15 years, joined WTS in September. Welcome to WTS!



Congratulations to Foreman Charles Farley, Division 45, and his wife Teresa on the birth of their new baby boy, Bradock, who was born last June.



Foreman Jeremy Buckholtz, Central Division, and his wife Robin welcomed Kenzie Rae into the world last May. Congratulations, Jeremy and Robin!

From the Kitchen

It's holiday time again, and the hustle and bustle of the season doesn't always leave enough time to make those special "good to eat" treats that everyone looks forward to. But we've found two that will be just perfect for the season. A Holiday Candy Cane Cake that is easy to make and so pretty to serve; and Marshmallow Snowman Treats that will be fun for the youngsters to get together and create.

HOLIDAY CANDY CANE CAKE

One box of Betty Crocker® Supermoist® white cake mix

1/2 tsp. red food color

1/2 tsp. peppermint extract

WHITE ICING

1 cup powdered sugar

1 T. milk or water

1/2 tsp. vanilla, if desired

Crushed candy canes or crushed hard peppermint candies, if desired



Generously grease and flour 12-cup bundt cake pan. Make cake batter as directed on box. Pour about 2 cups batter into pan. Into small bowl, pour about 3/4 cup batter; stir in food color and peppermint extract. Carefully pour pink batter over white batter in pan. Carefully pour remaining white batter over pink batter. Bake in 325 degree oven until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes. Turn pan upside down onto cooking rack or heatproof serving plate; remove pan. Cool cake completely, about 1 hour. Mix icing ingredients in small bowl. If necessary, stir in additional milk, 1 teaspoon at a time, until smooth and spreadable. Spread icing over cake and sprinkle top with crushed candy. Makes 12 servings.

MARSHMALLOW SNOWMAN TREATS

Start out with a variety of basic ingredients:

- Plenty of marshmallows
- Marshmallow crème to "glue" everything together
- For decorations: raisins, gumdrops, chocolate chips, jelly beans, etc.
- Stick pretzels for arms, legs



Build the snowman's body using 2-3 marshmallows, either glued on top of each other with the marshmallow crème, or by inserting a pretzel stick through the marshmallows. To decorate, use the pretzel sticks for arms; the face can be chocolate chips or raisins, jelly beans for a funny nose, etc. And M&Ms make fancy buttons. Before you know it, you'll have dandy little marshmallow snowmen – a perfect holiday activity and treat for the kids!

Family Clippings



The Home Office hosted an employee Halloween lunch party. Donna White was the winner of the costume contest for her impersonation of Scott Packard. Left to right, Bonnie Strom, Terri Smart, Angie Jorgensen, Wendy Eckhart, Donna White, Scott Packard, Cyndi Pannkuk, BobbiJo Davis and Karen Widen.



Nancy Jacobson, Payroll Specialist, and her husband Steve recently visited their daughter Christin and her fiance, Stephen Hall, in Phoenix AZ. While they were there, left photo, they took the opportunity to climb Camelback Mountain. Right photo, Steve, Nancy, Christin and Stephen.



A Leader In The Making

Tiler Jorgensen, the daughter of Angie Jorgensen, Accounts Payable, has been nominated to attend the 2007 Junior National Young Leaders Conference this spring in Washington DC. Tiler was nominated by her teacher, Jessi Collison, who recognized Tiler as one of a select group of students with the scholastic merit, maturity and responsibility to represent her school at this unique leadership program for 6th and 7th graders. Congratulations, Tiler!



Meet Samantha

Samantha Kies, daughter of Stacey Kies, Financial Assistant, celebrated her first birthday in November. Belated birthday greetings to Samantha!



Meet Kevin Patton IT Network Administrator

Kevin is responsible for the entire WTS computer network in the Home Office and in the field. He's a trouble shooter, problem solver, security watchdog – anything that has to do with computers. Kevin has been with us for three years. A native of Beckley WV Kevin is married to Stephanie and they have a 2-year-old daughter Reagan, pictured with Kevin. Kevin is a real outdoor sportsman: He likes to camp, bike and play golf. And ladies, he does all the cooking at home! That might be because he formerly owned a restaurant in West Virginia! (He says his wife does all the cleanup work.)



Opening A Branch, Donna?

While on a Mediterranean cruise with a tour group, Receptionist Donna White happened upon this shop in Turkey where Fashion Donna was having a 50% sale. Donna and her husband Jim took the tour to celebrate their 45th anniversary.

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

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