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Free Coffee Day!

To celebrate those employees with birthdays in April (see Birthdays on page 3), there will be **free coffee** from the vending machine starting early AM on Monday, April 25 through early AM on Tuesday, April 26.

ENJOY! **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!**

Improvement Idea Winner By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Congratulations to Rob Forbes, Furnace Operator first shift, for being the Improvement Idea winner for March. In addition to Rob's winning idea there were nine other ideas submitted in March. Ray Souder submitted those nine ideas. Thank you Rob and Ray for letting us know your ideas for improvement here at Rex.



Rob's idea is to get plywood and cut pieces to about the size of a skid. We will use this plywood to put between the screens on the 100 line. It will make it much easier to access the screens and keep them in good shape. Currently, the screens are stacked on one another. The wires get bent and the screens get caught on each other -- making it difficult to separate them. It will also be safer for operators as hands are constantly getting scratched by the screens when trying to dig them out.

The next Improvement Idea spin will be held on Monday, April 25 at 3:10 pm in the Induction area. Rob will be drawing the name of one employee for the "Monthly Employee Appreciation" spin. Come to the spin to see if your name is chosen. Then you will be the lucky person taking a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance.

Can you think of an idea for an improvement here at Rex? Just write it down on a piece of paper and drop it into the box outside the Production office door. You could be the next winner taking a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance.

DEADLINE FOR APRIL IMPROVEMENT IDEAS
Wednesday, April 20, 2016, noon

Monthly Winners

By Scott Wagner, Plant Manager



Nancy Viola and Ray Souder receive Lottery tickets from Scott Wagner for submitting Improvement Ideas in February. Others who submitted but not pictured: Greg Smith, Tom Felder, Bob Feldman, and Jim Forbes.



Our Improvement Idea winner for February was **Jeremy Hayhurst, Furnace Operator second shift**. Jeremy won a \$200 award on his spin. Besides Jeremy's winning idea, there were eight other Improvement Ideas submitted in February. Jeremy submitted a second idea, Greg Smith submitted two ideas, and Tom Felder, Bob Feldman, Jim Forbes, Ray Souder and Nancy Viola submitted one idea each.



Jeremy Hayhurst, February Improvement Idea winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner, Plant Manager



Rex Riddle winner Ray DeHaven is congratulated by Scott Wagner.

The lucky winner of Monthly Employee Appreciation was **Bob Feldman**, who won a \$100 reward on his spin. Five names were drawn from a bucket that contained the names of all Rex employees. **Dave Brough, Sharley Dubisette, Art Hurt, Ron Makos, and Frank Rapine** each received a \$5 Instant lottery ticket. **Ray DeHaven** was the **Rex Riddle** winner and he, too, received a \$5 lottery ticket. Several employees at the spin were celebrating an anniversary and received an anniversary gift from Scott Wagner, Plant Manager.



Bob Feldman, Monthly Employee Appreciation winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner.



Scott Wagner (21 yrs) receives his anniversary gift from Johnathan Rex. Scott then presented Robert Forbes (4 yrs) with his anniversary gift. Others celebrating but not pictured: Vernell Donaldson (9 yrs) and Mike Sweney (30 yrs).



Sharley Dubisette receives his Lottery ticket from Scott Wagner. Other winners: Dave Brough, Art Hurt, Ron Makos, and Frank Rapine.

For refreshments, we all enjoyed cookies and coffee. Please come to the next month's spin to see if your name is the one picked to be the Monthly Employee Appreciation winner. Then you will have an opportunity to take a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance.

Those Pesky Income Taxes

We pay individual income taxes thanks to the ratification of the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that took place on February 3, 1913.

Actually mandatory individual income taxes date back to the Civil War when Congress passed the Revenue Act of 1861 which included a tax on personal incomes to help pay war expenses. That tax was repealed 10 years later. However, in 1894 Congress enacted a flat rate Federal income tax, which was ruled unconstitutional the following year by the U.S. Supreme Court because it was a direct tax not apportioned according to the population of each state – the manner in which taxes were levied at that time.



The 16th Amendment removed this objection by allowing the Federal government to tax the income of individuals without regard to the population of each state.

April 15 was not always the filing deadline. March 1 was the date specified by the 16th Amendment. In 1918, Congress pushed the date forward to March 15, where it remained until the tax overhaul of 1954, when the date was moved ahead to April 15.

Stinkin' Good Time on National Garlic Day



No one has claimed the honor of creating National Garlic Day—more than likely it was the brainchild of garlic growers wishing to boost the notoriety of these pungent little bulbs. Dubbed the ‘stinking rose’ because of its overpowering taste and smell, garlic is known for causing bad breath, which apparently can be neutralized by sipping milk or eating parsley.

Despite its illustrious reputation for causing bad breath, garlic has also long been admired for its powers as an aphrodisiac. Legend has it that Tibetan monks were forbidden from entering monasteries if they had eaten garlic because of its reputation for arousing sexual desire. Then there’s the myth that garlic deters vampires and protects against the evil eye if worn around the neck. In the Middle

Ages, plague-phobic Europeans ate whole cloves of garlic to fight off the scourge known as the Black Death.

On a more positive note, garlic has been called nature’s wonder drug for its wide-reaching medicinal properties in the treatment and prevention of disease. It has been credited with extending human longevity, preventing certain cancers, lowering cholesterol levels, reversing high blood pressure, resisting the common cold and overcoming fatigue.

The herb, which can also be deemed a vegetable too, is rich in protein, vitamins A, B-1 and C and contains essential minerals such as calcium, magnesium and iron. It also contains 17 different amino acids.



Employees celebrating a birthday in **April** are listed below. Let's wish them a happy day.

3 Chris Sholly
6 Paul Moss
12 Walter Bates
17 Jim Koester
17 Adrian Rivera
19 Tom Felder
28 John Rex

REX RIDDLE 57?

**Two boxers are in a fight.
One boxer knocks the
other out, yet no man
landed a single blow.**

How is this possible?

To submit your guess for The Rex Riddle, take a slip out of the folder in the rack in the Production Office, fill it out, and drop it in the box outside of the Production Office door. Guesses will be taken until the morning of the monthly spin. One name will be drawn from all the correct answers to receive a \$5 instant lottery ticket.

Answer to last month's riddle:

**WHAT WOULD YOU GET IF 100
RABBITS TOOK ONE STEP BACK-
WARD AT THE SAME TIME?**

**ANSWER:
A RECEDING HARELINE**

Yearly Work Anniversaries

The following employees are celebrating their Work anniversaries in **April**

1 to 5 Years

Trevor Levonski (3 yrs)

6 to 10 Years

Greg Smith (9 yrs)

Over 10 Years

Brandon Reynolds (18 yrs)

You will receive your annual gift at the monthly spin.

SPRING CLEANING ...(OR NOT)

Spring – a time of renewal when the doldrums of winter disappear, when spring flowers dot the landscape, when warmer weather and longer days draw us outdoors. Isn't this the most perfect time to declutter, de-germ, and defunk your home? Do you feel the spirit of spring? Are you running to get the mops and brooms? If so...here are a few spring cleaning suggestions from Good Housekeeping.

- Start with the closet where things fall on your head when you open the door. Get rid of anything you haven't used in a year. Why let stuff rot in your closet when someone else could use it? There are plenty of second hand stores that will accept your clutter.
- In the bedroom, strip the bed. Wash your mattress pad, pillow cases, sheets and blankets. Clean out your closet of unworn clothes – donate things that are still wearable.
- In the bathroom, toss old toiletries, expired medicines, frayed bristle toothbrushes, and mildew loofahs.
- In the hallway, take throw rugs outside for a good shake. Air them outside for a few hours.
- In the kitchen, purge the fridge. Get rid of moldy leftovers, spoiled food and open bottles of condiments with a use date older than a year.
- In your garage and basement, take a few days, recruit the family and do an honest "do we really need this" – clean out. Recycle metal, donate usable items, organize what you want to keep.

(If you don't feel inspired – grab a beer, sit back and watch somebody else do it.)

**MY HOUSE WAS CLEAN
YESTERDAY. SORRY YOU
MISSED IT.**

Forklifts: Backbone of The Industry

(reprinted with permission from MHEDA—Material Handling Equipment Distributors Association)

The forklift or fork truck is a practical and popular machine for moving products over short distances. It's one of the most important, yet overlooked, industrial innovations in modern times. Today, material handlers buy hundreds of thousands of forklifts every year.

Lift trucks evolved from hoists, which were the primary means of lifting and moving heavy items in the late 1800s. These hoists, essentially chains and winches, gave way to wooden platform trucks around the turn of the century. Soon after, these trucks and their trailers were outfitted with electric motors and traction batteries.



Around the First World War, machines were designed with an electrical platform that could be raised or lowered. The war effort sprouted other new innovations, including a bomb-handling crane with a power lifting mechanism, considered to be the first electric lift truck.

Early lift trucks were quite simplistic, with no hydraulics or even forks. These early models were designed to lift a load only a few inches, so chains and manpower were usually enough to move a load laterally a few feet. Even with the limited lifting capacities, these machines made the unloading and loading of freight much easier and more efficient, which became even more necessary during the labor shortage caused by the war.

What is generally credited as the forerunner of the seated counterbalanced truck was produced by Clark in 1917. Known as a Tructractor, it was originally developed solely for use in Clark's axle plant, but visitors saw its practicality and requested their own models. Then in 1920, the first industrial truck to use hydraulic power to lift its load was introduced. In 1923, Yale produced the first electric truck with raising forks and an elevated mast, today considered the first fork lift truck. The lift worked via a ratchet and pinion system.

The new forklift trucks did not immediately surge in popularity, but a major breakthrough occurred upon the development of the standardized pallet in the late 1930s. The pallet allowed loads to be stacked uniformly and led directly to the increased development of the forklift.

World War II was another major catalyst in the development of the forklift truck, as laborers needed a more efficient way to load the vast quantities of war goods onto the numerous wagons and ships. One company's shipments increased from 500 units in 1939 to 23,500 units during the later war years. The continual movement of goods throughout this period also made it necessary for the electric trucks to last longer, and models were developed that could work a full eight-hour shift without needing to be recharged.

By the 1950s, it became clear that more efficient storage methods were needed, and warehouses began to expand upward rather than outward. Thus, more powerful and more maneuverable forklifts were required. New models could fit into narrower aisles and lift materials up to 50 feet above the ground, higher than ever before. Narrow aisle forklifts helped revolutionize the warehousing industry, as more shelving could be placed into the same space.

With the increased lift heights came legitimate safety concerns. Objects that fell from those heights could very easily injure lift truck operators. By the late 1950s and early 1960s, forklift manufacturers began to offer options for load backrests and operator cages. These items eventually became standard, and issues of forklift safety have not gone away. Operator restraint systems were made standard in the early 1980s, and forklift safety remains an important engineering concern today. New developments in truck and load balancing technology keep vehicles from tipping over.

In addition to safety innovations, lift trucks are changing in other ways. Environmental and emissions concerns have led to the development of different types of engines. Power sources for trucks continue to evolve from battery power to electricity to propane to compressed natural gas, among others. Hydrogen fuel cells are on the horizon, and in 2000, a prototype was constructed using fuel cells as a source of driving power in a forklift truck. The forklift has come a long way since those early chains and winches, with technology a driving force behind continued innovation.

