

# The ReX Files

Newsletter Volume 15, Issue 8 August 2014

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#### Free Coffee Day!

To celebrate those employees with Birthdays in August (See Birthday Listing on page 3), there will be free coffee from the vending machine starting early AM on August 25th through early AM on August 26th. ENJOY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

# Improvement Idea Winner

By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Congratulations to Michael Townsend, a Furnace Operator in the 600 Group on 2nd shift, for being the improvement Idea winner for the month of July.

Mike's idea is to install a device that will help the Operators line up the part onto the two mill/inspection stations in the back room. This is being done by eye now, and having a laser or other device to make it easier to see the correct location will help to eliminate mistakes and provide our customers with a better part.



There were a total of 13 improvement ideas submitted in the month of July, making it difficult to pick a winner. Besides the winning idea, Mike submitted 3 more. Others submitting improvement ideas were Brian Wingate, with 5 ideas, Gregory Smith, with 2 ideas, and James Forbes and Vindon Griffin, Jr., with 1 idea each. Thank you all for letting us know your ideas for improvements here at Rex.

The next Improvement Idea spin will be held on Monday, August 25, at 3:10 PM in the Induction area. Mike 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'd 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 of the Production office door. You could be taking a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance!

#### **Monthly Winners**

By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Our Improvement Idea winner for the month of June was Frank Rapine, a Pyrometry Technician in the Quality Assurance Department. Frank, along with Michael Townsend, James Forbes, and Theresa Scargill, who also put in improvement ideas in June, received a "Thank You" pin and a \$5 lottery ticket.



Frank drew a name for the "Monthly Employee Appreciation" reward. That lucky winner was Ricky Banyai, a Furnace Operator in the 600 Group on 1st shift. He won a reward of \$50 on his spin.

Wagner, Plant Manager,

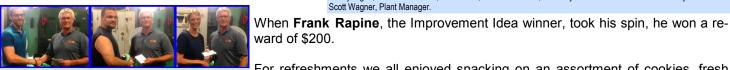
Frank drew 5 names from a bucket that contained the names of all Rex employees, and Ricky Banyai (left), Frank Rapine (right), the the winners each received a \$5 instant lottery ticket. Those 5 lucky winners were Sandy winner, is congratulated by

Improvement Idea winner, is congratulated by Scott Zigon, Vindon Griffin Jr., Paul Moss, Chris Constable, and Raymond Souder.



Employee Appreciation

We drew a name from all the correct guesses submitted for the Rex Riddle, one name was drawn for a \$5 lottery ticket. The winner was Terry Copenhaver. Terry was not available for a photo.



Frank Rapine, Michael Townsend, and Theresa Scargill each receive ting improvement ideas in June.

Sandy Zigon, Vindon Griffin Jr., Paul Moss, Chris Constable, and Raymond Souder collect their lottery tickets from Scott Wagner, Plant Manager,

ward of \$200.

For refreshments we all enjoyed snacking on an assortment of cookies, fresh their "Thank You" pins and lottery tickets from Scott Wagner for submit-Clementines, and free hot drinks from the vending machine.

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#### Monthly Winners (continued)

By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

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Sarah Mansuetti (9 yrs.), Theresa Scargill (2 yrs.), and Chris Jacobine (1 yr.) each receive their anniversary gift from Scott Wagner. Not able to be at the spin but also celebrating an anniversary were Johnathan Rex (24 yrs.) and John Sherman (23 yrs.).

Several employees at the spin were celebrating an anniversary and received their anniversary gift from Scott Wagner, Plant Manager.

If you have the time, please come to the next month's spin to see if <u>your name</u> is the one picked to be the next Monthly Employee Appreciation winner. Then you would have an opportunity to take a spin the Rex Wheel of Chance!

#### The Shoe House

If you happen to be driving west on Route 30 near the small town of Hallam, Pennsylvania in York County some day, you'll probably see a building that's enough to make you swerve off the road. It's a giant shoe with a tiny shoe-shaped doghouse next to it. This is the Haines Shoe House, built in 1948 by Mahlon N. Haines, who was the most single-minded shoe salesman in Pennsylvania.



Mahlon came to York County in 1905 by bicycle. He wanted to get away from his home in Ohio to escape a broken engagement. He sold the engagement ring and used the money to buy 10 pairs of shoes. He sold those and bought 12 more pairs. Over the next 40 years, he built an empire of 40 shoe stores throughout Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The dog house next to the shoe house.



Haines loved to be a self-promoter and called himself the "Colonel". He even kept a herd of bison near one of his shoe stores to attract at-

tention. One day he hit upon a new gimmick, when he decided to have a house built in the shape of a high-top work shoe. The building is a wood frame structure covered with stucco. It is 48 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 25 feet high. It has five levels with stained glass windows on three levels. One of the windows even has Haines holding up two shoes with the words "the Shoe Wizard" written below. The house has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a dining room. It was originally used as a guest house.



Haines was the type of person who wanted to give back to the community, so he offered a free weekend stay in the house to elderly couples, who could live like "kings and queens." A maid would bring breakfast to the visitors each morning and a chauffeur drove them to a restaurant each evening. The couple was even outfitted in new clothing donated by local stores. Haines paid all expenses—which gained him great publicity. In 1950 he invited newlyweds from any town with a Haines shoe store to stay in the house.

Mr. Haines died in 1962 and left the house to his employees. The house has been many things over the years, like a museum, a bed and breakfast, and an ice cream parlor. Today it is still open to the public during June, July and August, so stop in if you happen to be passing by sometime this summer.

### **Safety Slogans:**



Boat load limits-don't exceed them.

Children should always wear a helmet while riding their bikes.

Boat safely; know before you go.

As temperatures rise, stay safety wise. Danger never takes a vacation.



Avoid overexposure; pay attention to the sun.

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#### **Yearly Work Anniversaries**

The following employees are celebrating their Work Anniversaries in **August** 

1 to 5 Years Over 10 Years

Sean Mallon Richard Harris (17)

Brian Wingate Evelyn Chmielewski (19)

Robert Feldman Keith Bannon (20)

Terry Copenhaver (36)

John Rex (52)

You will receive your annual gift at the monthly spin.

## You will receive

Did You Know?

The sun and the moon are the brightest objects in our sky, but there are four other bright objects that we can see with the naked eye.



**Venus** is the next brightest natural object in the sky after the moon. Venus reaches its maximum brightness shortly before sunrise or shortly after sunset, and was referred to by ancient cultures as the Morning Star or Evening Star. We still call it that now!

**Jupiter** is the third brightest natural object in the night sky after the Moon and Venus. And with a large telescope, you would be able to see Jupiter's "great red spot" when it faces Earth.



As the third brightest object in the sky (manmade), the **International Space Station** is easy to see if you know when to look up. The space station looks like a fast-moving plane in the sky.

**Sirius**—in the constellation Canis Major the Greater Dog—is the brightest star visible from any part of Earth. It is the next brightest natural object in the sky after Jupiter. Sirius, which is sometimes called the Dog Star, is 20 times brighter than our sun and is very easy to spot on winter and spring evenings.



#### A LITTLE HUMOR

Two fellows stopped into an English pub for a drink. They called the proprietor over and asked him to settle an argument.

"Are there two pints in a quart or four?" asked one.

"There be two pints in a quart," confirmed the proprietor.

They moved back along the bar and soon the barmaid asked for their order.

"Two pints please, miss, and the bartender offered to buy them for us."

The barmaid doubted that her boss would be so generous, so one of the fellows called out to the proprietor at the other end of the bar, "You did say two pints, didn't you?"

"That's right," he called back, "two pints."



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

- 3 Victor Carrasquillo5 Nancy McKinney
- 12 Evelyn Chmielewski
- 14 Scott Wagner



# The Rex Riddle - #37



A father and his son went on a road trip together, and they got into a bad car accident. The father died, and the son was badly injured. He needed surgery, but in the

hospital when the doctor comes in, the doctor says, "I can't operate on this boy, he's my son."

Who is the doctor?

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.

Can you figure out the riddle?

#### **Answer to Last Month's Riddle**

Screaming, soaring, seeking sky,
Flowers of fire flying high.

Blue, green, red, gold gaze at me in the night.
An amazing feat, I give out light.
Eastern art from ancient time,
Name me now and solve this rhyme.

Answer: Fireworks

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#### **Open Enrollment**

By Michael Sweney, Controller

This is a reminder that soon you will be receiving forms to fill out for the Group Health Open Enrollment. Big changes may be coming as the quoted premiums show substantial increases. As in the past, you will be required to fill out all of the paperwork provided to you within the stated time frame, even if you plan on keeping the same coverage and have made no major life changes normally affecting group health insurance.



We are currently negotiating the group plans with Keystone Health Plan East or Aetna for health, prescriptions and vision, and have settled on Delta Dental to cover dental care. We are also looking at other types of health plans very different from what we are used to.

### Water Safety—On & Off the Job

www.toolboxtopics.com

Whether you are working or enjoying recreational activities near water, the best water hazard insurance you can have is learning to swim and teaching your family to swim. You do not have to be a champion swimmer in order to save yourself in a water emergency. A simple stroke such as a dog paddle can enable you to reach safety. American Red Cross statistics reveal that one half of the annual drowning incidents happen within 30 feet of safety.



Water safety begins with good judgment. Never work alone near water, or swim alone. Know the area where you are working or swimming and do not exceed your ability. Know where the swift currents are. Find out about drop-offs, deep holes, and rocky areas. A few commonsense items that could save your life are:

- Wear flotation devices while working on docks or piers, or while boating. Always keep them buckled, snapped or zipped, so if you fall in, they will stay on.
- Do not mix drinking and swimming at picnics or outings. Over ten percent of all drowning victims had consumed alcoholic beverages.



- Swimming requires a lot of energy and makes muscles susceptible to cramps. If you lose energy, rest on your back in a floating position, and use a minimum amount of motion.
- Undertow or strong currents: There are several types of dangerous marine currents that should be avoided, if possible. If you are caught in a current, do not fight it. Swim parallel to the shore or diagonally toward it, heading shoreward only after you are out of the current.
- Water Temperature: Cold water can cause shock to the body. Blood vessels constrict, your body loses heat, and you can develop an oxygen deficiency that causes unconsciousness and ultimately drowning. Hypothermia caused by cold water can cause death in minutes.
- The old saying you heard as a child is true—Don't go swimming immediately after eating or any vigorous exercise.
   This may cause severe cramps.
- Stay with a swamped boat or canoe. Many boats will not sink even if the hull
  has been ruptured, and they may offer some buoyancy. Sometimes you can
  climb or swim into the swamped boat and paddle to shore. It is also easier for
  emergency rescuers to find you if you are close to the boat.



Consult with your local municipality, Coast Guard office, American Red Cross office, and other authorities for additional water safety tips, rules and regulations.

Finally, abide by the safety rules at all times—on and off the job—when around water. Share these rules and enforce them with your children. Do not let a drowning tragedy strike your workplace or any members of your family.