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Improvement Idea Winner By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Congratulations to **Chris Hainey, Furnace Operator, third shift**, for being the December Improvement Idea winner. There were five Improvement Ideas submitted in December. Chris submitted a second idea in addition to his winning idea. **Chris Kent, Jacinda Schneider, and Ray Souder** submitted one idea each. Thank you all for letting us know your ideas for improvement here at Rex.



Chris' idea is to put a guide plate between 121 and 128 so the bar can slide between them much easier and safer. This could help prevent the water quench bar from falling as it often does, and potentially hurting someone.

The next Improvement Idea spin will be held on Monday, January 29 at 3:10 pm in the Vacuum Bay area. Chris 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.

Free Coffee Day!

To celebrate those employees with birthdays in January (see Birthdays on page 3), there will be **free coffee** from the vending machine starting early AM on Monday, January 28 through early AM Tuesday, January 29. ENJOY!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

**DEADLINE FOR JANUARY IMPROVEMENT IDEAS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, NOON**

Monthly Winners

By Scott Wagner, Plant Manager



Our Improvement Idea winner for November was **Zoe Rex, Lab Assistant**. Zoe won \$150 on her spin. **Andy Hiddemen, Ray Souder, and Brian Wingate** also submitted ideas in November. They all received a "Good Job" pin and \$5 Instant Lottery ticket.



Scott presents Good Job pin and lottery ticket to Brian Wingate for his Improvement idea. Others who submitted ideas but are not pictured: Andy Hiddemen and Ray Souder.

Scott Wagner, Plant Manager, congratulates Zoe Rex, for being the November Improvement Idea winner.

The lucky winner of "Monthly Employee Appreciation" was **Chris Hainey**, who won a \$100 reward on his spin. Five names were drawn from a bucket that contained the names of all Rex employees. **Jim Brough, Bob Feldman, Derek McAlarney,**



This month's Employee Appreciation winner, Chris Hainey, is congratulated by Scott

Brandon Reynolds, and Alex Rutkowski each received a \$5 Instant Lottery ticket. **Yao Kangni Soukpe** was the Rex Riddle winner and he, too, received a \$5 Instant Lottery ticket.

Employees celebrating anniversaries received their anniversary gifts from Plant Manager Scott Wagner.



Scott presents anniversary gifts to Maria Monje (19 yrs) and Folly Agbo (2 yrs). James Stanton (1 yr) also received a gift but is not pictured.



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



Scott gives Instant Lottery ticket to winner Derek McAlarney. Other winners: Jim Brough, Bob Feldman, Brandon Reynolds, and Alex Rutkowski.

New Year Struts in with the Philadelphia Mummers Parade

One of the most popular New Year's Celebrations in Philadelphia is the Mummers Parade held every year on New Year's Day. This spectacular event includes over 10,000 marchers. It begins at 15th and Market near Dilworth Park for the judging then moves down to City Hall. The parade then travels south where it ends at Broad Street and Washington Avenue.

There are four divisions with multiple clubs in each division: Comic, Fancy, Fancy Brigade, and String Band. They all compete for cash prizes based on their performances. Comic division clubs lampoon modern day local and national political and social themes. The Fancy division clubs wear large, ornate costumes, and perform with floats and props. The Fancy Brigade division clubs also wear large, ornate costumes, and perform intricate dances and drills with elaborate props.

The String Band division, the largest in the parade with 18 member clubs, wear brilliant feathered and sequined costumes like the Fancy and Fancy Brigade divisions, and also drill and perform while playing musical instruments. Parade rules do not permit the use of brass instruments in a String Band; the instrumentation is exclusively saxophones, banjos, accordions, violins, bass violins, and percussion instruments. One of the first String Band clubs was Trilby, that first paraded in 1902 and is still in existence today.

Traditionally, band members, wives and friends made the Mummer's costumes. Today, however, professional designers and costumers are used. The cost of costuming an average 64-piece String Band, for example, is between \$30,000 and \$80,000, with the captain's costume costing as high as \$10,000.

The Mummers Parade is believed to be the oldest folk festival in the United States. It evolved from many European and early American customs. The Parade's theme song, James A. Bland's, "Oh, Dem Golden Slippers" (introduced in 1903), and the 19th century cakewalk, dubbed the "Mummers Strut" or the "2-Street Strut," came from Southern Plantation musical traditions.

The parade's name is derived from the Mummers plays performed in Philadelphia in the 18th century as part of a wide variety of working class street celebrations around Christmas. Even further back – "Momerie" was a popular amusement between the 13th and 16th century in Europe. Mummers were originally bands of masked people who, during winter festivals, paraded the streets and entered houses to dance or play games.

The parade is televised and now there is also a free computer-generated live stream making this one of the most watched parades in the world, with viewers tuning in from far and wide to watch this spectacular event along with thousands of people lining the parade route itself.





Yearly Work Anniversaries
Work anniversaries in January:

<u>1 to 5 Years</u>	<u>6-10 Years</u>	<u>Over 10 Years</u>
Andy Hiddemen (1 yr) Zoe Rex (1 yr)	Joe Carr (6 yrs) Chris Kent (7 yrs)	Dave Brough (45 yrs) Sharley Dubisette (12 yrs) Frank Rapine (14 yrs) Mike Santiago (21 yrs)

Employees receive their annual gifts at the monthly spin.

Employees celebrating January birthdays are listed below. Let's wish them a happy day.

- 4 Olumuyiwa Ipadeola
- 8 Mike Sweney
- 10 Keith Bannon
- 12 Rich Harris
- 13 Ricky Banyai
- 15 Frank Rapine
- 25 Ray DeHaven
- 27 Zoe Rex
- 30 Linda Palmarozza



**THOUGHTS TO CONTEMPLATE
 IN THE NEW YEAR**

REX RIDDLE #90



Clara Clatter was born on January 26th, yet her birthday is always in the summer. 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:
Who can shave 25 times a day and still have a beard?
Answer:
 a barber

One hundred years from now
 It will not matter
 What kind of car I drove,
 What kind of house I lived in,
 How much money I had in my bank account,
 Nor what my clothes looked like.
 But one hundred years from now
 The world may be a little better
 Because I was important
 In the life of a child.

Forest Witcroft, Author

A man stood before God, his heart breaking
 from the pain and injustice in the world.
 "Dear God," he cried, "Look at all the
 suffering, anguish and distress in the world.
 Why don't you send help?"
 God responded, "I did send help.
 I sent you."

David J. Wolpe, Theologian

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person
 by the way he/she handles these three things:
 a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled
 Christmas tree lights.

Maya Angelou, Author and Poet

Holiday Goodies Exchange Festivities



Theresa Scargill is all smiles by the lunch room Christmas tree.



Ray Souder jokes as he samples his very own beef and peppers casserole.



Nancy Viola, recovering from surgery, still has one good hand.

Our Holiday Goodies Exchange on December 17 provided tables full of delicious food and cheerful employees willing to ham it up for the camera. Our employee lunchroom, decorated and welcoming, was filled with the delectable aromas of casseroles and crockpot favorites. A huge assortment of cakes, pies, candies and Christmas cookies tempted even the strongest of willpowers. That feast was topped by a generous luncheon spread supplied by Windover Fabricators for Rex employees. There was plenty of food and fun for all three shifts. Everyone ate and enjoyed.



Scott Wagner samples some of the crockpot goodies.



Adrian Rivera (left) and Mike Sweney smile for the camera.



Chris Kent gives a big smile as he decides what to taste first.



Mike Santiago and Greg Bruno goof around for the camera.



Spencer Freund makes the hard choice as to what to try first.



Long time employees share lunch (from left): Sid Heflin, (64 yrs), Walter Bates (57 yrs), and Dave Brough (45 yrs).



Trevor Levonski has only just begun sampling all the goodies.



Brandon Reynolds, reluctant to have his photo taken, smiles anyway.