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## Improvement Idea Winner

By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

**Congratulations! Gregory Smith**, a Furnace Operator in the 100 Group on "A" shift, is the Improvement Idea winner for the month of August.



Greg submitted an idea to clean and level the floor area next to the computer station on the 100 line. This is the primary racking location on the 100 line, and many of the parts that get loaded need to be stood up while tooling is positioned over it and secured. With the uneven floor, it becomes a safety issue and difficult to stabilize a tube or shaft.

A total of 3 improvement ideas were submitted in the month of August. Others contributing ideas were **Vindon Griffin Jr.** and **Derek McAlarney**. Thank you, everyone, for letting us know your ideas for improvements here at Rex.

The next Improvement Idea spin will be held on Monday, September 17, at 3:10 PM in the Induction area. Greg will be drawing the name of one lucky employee for the "Employee Appreciation" spin. Will it be you?

What are your ideas for improvements here at Rex? Write them down and place them in the box outside of door of the Production office. You could be taking a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance!



Fall begins September 22

### Free Coffee Day!

To celebrate those employees with Birthdays in September (see Birthday Listing on page 3), there will be **free coffee** from the vending machine starting early AM on September 17th through early AM on September 18th. ENJOY!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!**

## Monthly Winners

By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Our Improvement Idea winner for the month of July was **Terry Copenhaver**, a Furnace Operator in the 600 Group on 1st shift. Terry, along with Cory Hunter, Brian Wingate, Evelyn Chmielewski, Robert Feldman, Gregory Smith, Chuba Blaze, Vindon Griffin Jr., Keith Bannon, and John Moss, who also put in improvement ideas in July, received a "Thank You" pin and a \$5 lottery ticket.



Terry Copenhaver (right), the Improvement Idea winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner, Plant Manager.

Before he took his spin, we had Terry draw a name for the "Monthly Employee Appreciation" reward. That lucky winner was **Bill Attieh**, Heat Treat Supervisor. Bill won a reward of \$100 on his spin.

When **Terry** took his spin, he won a reward of \$100.

Out of all the correct guesses submitted for **The Rex Riddle**, one name was drawn to receive a \$5 instant lottery ticket. That winner was **Lewis Natale**. Lewis was unavailable for a photo.



Bill Attieh (right), the Employee Appreciation winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner, Plant Manager.



Ten people submitted improvement ideas in the month of July. Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr., hands out "Thank You" pins and lottery tickets to Cory Hunter, Brian Wingate, Evelyn Chmielewski, Robert Feldman, Gregory Smith, Chuba Blaze, Vindon Griffin Jr., Keith Bannon, and John Moss.

Slips were drawn from a bucket that contained the names of all Rex employees. Terry drew 5 names and the winners each received a \$5 instant lottery ticket. Those 5 lucky winners of lottery tickets were **Nenneth "Lee" Holder, Yao Kangni Soukpe, Cory Hunter, Nancy Gardner, and Frank Rapine.**

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# So Long, Pete! We'll Miss You!



I retired from Rex today . . .

After 38 years with Rex Heat Treat, and one day after his 63rd birthday, Peter Kropff has officially retired! Pete has been Director of Quality Control here at Rex Heat Treat - Lansdale since 1989, and boy, are we going to miss him!

Pete graduated from North Penn High School in 1967 then went to Montgomery County Community College for two years to study engineering. He served his country in the US Army as a gas turbine generator repairman in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970.

I retired from Rex today,  
Doo-dah, doo-dah!  
Time to spend my 401k,  
Oh, doo-dah day!  
Goin' to have fun all night;  
Goin' to have fun all day.  
Sleep in late & do whatever I want,  
Every single day!



In a letter of application for a job at Rex, he said—"In response to your ad in the North Penn Reporter, I am sending a personal résumé. I would appreciate the opportunity to gain engineering experience. The only actual experience I have, in the field, is from the Leeds and Northrup Company; I worked in the Drafting Department but left because the work had no challenge . . ."

Pete was hired into an entry Lab position way back on July 15, 1974 at the age of 24. After joining Rex he enrolled in Temple night school in 1975 taking courses in Metallurgy and earning a Mechanical Engineering Degree in 1991. He became a Lab Technician in 1984 and then moved into the position of Director of Quality Control in 1989.

Over the past 25 years, Pete has been a key leader in our organization. An extremely low-key kind of guy, Pete never seemed to have a bad day. In his work, Pete has been methodical, consistent, persistent, personable, dependable, reliable, and humorous, too!

Before he left, we had a little luncheon to wish Pete a happy retirement. Co-workers had a chance to say their good-byes and everyone enjoyed some pizza, soda, and cake.



John Rex, the Company President, spoke glowingly of Pete's years with Rex—about how our jobs depend on the quality of the product that we produce and the part Pete played in making sure we are doing what we say we will do and what our customers ask for.

John Rex presented Pete with a beautiful wooden rocking chair in appreciation of his many years of service.



In working with Pete over the years in Quality Control, Tom Felder, an Inspector in QC, got to know Pete pretty well. Tom knew he was very interested in nostalgia and presented Pete with some DVD's covering the decades of the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. He also gave Pete some car show DVD's and even a couple of small model cars.

Pete is quite a car buff and has an impressive collection of cars in his barn. Having worked at Kelly's Auto Body as a Body Refinisher before coming to Rex, he enjoys restoring Corvettes. He is looking forward to having more time to spend working on his cars.

We all wish Pete the best for a long and very happy retirement!





# Happy Birthday

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

8	Virginia Lindquist
10	Gregory Bruno
22	Arthur Hurt

## Yearly Work Anniversaries

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

<u>1 to 5 Years</u>	<u>6 to 10 Years</u>	<u>Over 10 Years</u>
Lewis Natale	Nancy Gardner	Sid Heflin (57)
Adrian Rivera		

You will receive your annual gift at the monthly spin.

## Did You Know?



**COPPER**—The old word cop meant grab or capture. So in the 19th Century, policemen were called coppers because they grabbed or caught criminals.



**FAST AND LOOSE**—Traditionally if you wanted archers to halt and not shoot arrows, you shouted 'fast!'. Archers also 'loosed' arrows. So if you played fast and loose, you said one thing and did another.

**KNOCKING ON WOOD**—Knocking on wood, or simply saying "knock on wood" after making a hopeful statement, is rooted in the idea that you're tempting fate by acknowledging your good fortune. The expression comes from the ancient belief that good spirits lived in trees, so by knocking on something wooden, a person was calling on the spirits for protection.



## A LITTLE HUMOR

Two 90-year-old men, Joe and Sam, have been friends all their lives. It seems that Sam is dying, so Joe comes to visit him. "Sam," says Joe, "You know how we have both played and loved baseball all our lives. Sam, you have to do me one favor. When you go, somehow you've got to tell me if there's baseball in heaven."

Sam looks up at Joe from his death bed and says, "Joe, you've been my friend many years. This favor I'll do for you." And with that, Sam passes on.

It is midnight a couple nights later. Joe is sound asleep when a distant voice calls out to him, "Joe... Joe..."

"Who is it?" says Joe sitting up suddenly. "Who is it?"

"Joe, it's Sam."

"Come on. You're not Sam. Sam died."

"I'm telling you," insists the voice. "It's me, Sam!"

"Sam? Is that you? Where are you?"

"I'm in heaven," says Sam, "and I've got to tell you, I've got some good news and some bad news."

"Tell me the good news first," says Joe.

"The good news," says Sam "is that there is baseball in heaven."

"Really?" says Joe, "That's wonderful! What's the bad news?"

"You're pitching Tuesday!"



## The Rex Riddle - #18 ?

I have streets but no pavement.  
I have cities but no buildings.  
I have forests yet no trees.  
I have rivers yet no water.

What am I?

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

A blue house is made of blue bricks.  
A yellow house is made of yellow bricks.  
A red house is made of red bricks.  
An orange house is made of orange bricks.

What would a green house be made of?

ANSWER: Glass

## Monthly Winners (continued)

Continued from Page 1



Three employees had perfect attendance for the last Quarter: Maria Monje, Terry Copenhaver, and Yao Kangni Soukpe. Maria and Terry (above) receive their \$100 reward from Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

For refreshments everyone enjoyed an assortment of cookies, mini cupcakes, and free hot beverages from the vending machine.

Join us at next month's spin to see if your name is picked as the monthly Employee Appreciation winner. Perhaps you'll be the next person to take a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance!



Cory Hunter, Nancy Gardner, and Frank Rapine were three of the lottery ticket winners.



Quite a number of employees celebrated a service anniversary with the company and Scott Wagner, Plant Manager, presented them with their gifts. Virginia Lindquist (53 years), Terry Copenhaver (34 years), Keith Bannon (18 years), Evelyn Chmielewski (17 years), Cory Hunter (4 years), Robert Feldman (1 year), and Brian Wingate (1 year). Also celebrating an anniversary but not pictured were Victor Lopez (38 years), Richard Harris (18 years), Rafael Abreu (17 years), and Nenneth "Lee" Holder (5 years).

## An Accidental Invention



The microwave oven, which is found in most kitchens and workplaces today, came about somewhat by accident. Dr. Percy Spencer, a self-taught engineer with the Raytheon Corporation, was testing out the magnetron, a new vacuum tube that produced microwaves. He notice that a candy bar he had in his pocket had melted. Being curious, he decided to put some popcorn kernels near the tube to see what would happen. To his surprise, the kernels started popping all over the place! The next day he decided to put an egg near the magnetron. The egg started shaking harder and harder until it finally exploded right in a colleague's face. The microwave was born!

After these experiments, engineers at Raytheon worked on developing the microwave for cooking food. They filed for a patent in 1946, and the first testing was conducted in a Boston restaurant.

The first microwaves were on the market in 1947, but they were industrial-sized (about the size of a refrigerator), 6 feet tall, and weighing 750 pounds! They were also very expensive, costing around \$5,000. They were initially used for reheating large quantities of food in big restaurants and in railroad cars.

Because they were so bulky and expensive, the first microwaves did not go over very big. Sales were slow, so engineers had to work on making them smaller and less costly. They were successful, and today the microwave oven is an indispensable tool in most modern kitchens.



An early microwave oven.



### SAFETY SLOGANS:

THINK SAFETY AND ACT SAFELY.

SAFETY STARTS WITH S BUT BEGINS WITH YOU.

PENCILS HAVE ERASERS—MISHAPS DON'T!

SAFETY—YOU WILL REGRET IT IF YOU FORGET IT.

SAFETY IS SOMETHING YOU LEARN FROM THE START.  
BEING ACCIDENT FREE IS DOING YOUR PART.