8-1-1974

Smoke Signals

Jeanne Ramseir

Statitrol Corporation

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wpi.edu/ms055-02-0003-docs

Recommended Citation
Retrieved from: https://digitalcommons.wpi.edu/ms055-02-0003-docs/61

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the MS055-02 Statitrol Records at Digital WPI. It has been accepted for inclusion in MS055-02-0015-0021 Statitrol Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital WPI. For more information, please contact digitalwp@wpi.edu.
PROFIL

"Doc" Bender, of the machine shop, has been a "fixture" at Statitrol for over three years. A Native of Colorado (and that's a rarity), Doc was born and raised in Colorado Springs, spent twenty-two years in the Navy, and joined us from Micro Communications, where he manufactured UHF communications equipment. Doc lives in Bear Valley with his wife, Amelia, who is a hostess for Merchants Greeter Service. They have two married children, James and Judy.

Because they are hidden away in the depths of the east building, the jobs of the men in the machine shop are unfamiliar to many of us. Behind their low profile, they are busily at work performing a number of vital functions to support production.

Ed Campbell, Manufacturing Engineer, oversees the general operation of the shop. Doc runs the model shop, fabricating special tooling and fixtures, such as the plant conveyor belts, to facilitate production. Lou Fearing is in charge of production tooling, assisted by Bob Baker. They modify parts necessary to the manufacture of our products and fabricate from raw materials some parts that are otherwise unavailable. More visible evidence of the shop's versatility can be seen in almost every area of operations. From installation of emergency lighting, to the building of the environmental test chamber, the skill of the men in the shop is on display. Bob Baker, an accomplished carpenter, is responsible for building the new Accounting and Personnel offices upstairs. Lou is currently working on a project designed to make us capable of in-house silk-screening for letters and numbers on detector housings and knobs.

The shop's basic work on tooling, fixtures, and facilities is supplemented by responsibility for maintenance around the plant and office. As a mere "side-light" in their busy schedules, these men repair all sorts of broken things, change lightbulbs, and unstick clogged plumbing. And thank goodness, or we'd never get to see them.

Turn to page 4 for exciting contest news!
It seemed that our report on promotions and moving in the last issue covered every possible permutation. Well, that wasn’t all of it. Bob Hartman, formerly Manager of Accounting, is now Statitrol’s Controller. His promotion was announced July 26th by Art Mooney, who made special mention of our fine showing in the annual audit. The Accounting, Credit, and Personnel departments are moving into new offices adjacent to the space now occupied by Materials Control. Engineering is taking over the entire Western Front building (Did you ever see the movie Calitiki the Immortal Monster?). Margie Storms, the Engineering Department’s only secretary, will now bear sole responsibility for tending the Coke machine and making coffee in that building. Inconveniences of this sort are an inevitable part of the rapid expansion we are experiencing. Growth has its rewards, too. Remember the fireside chat on profit sharing?

We are happy to welcome Reva Atchison, new secretary to Tom Bellinghausen, Vice President of Marketing, and Ken Klapmeier, National Sales Manager. Reva and her family moved here in May from Laguna Hills, California. Her husband, Pete, works for Rigsby United Truck Lines, and she has two children, Steve, 13, and Nicole, 2. Reva replaces Vel Bernard, who moved to Florida when her husband was transferred there. Her last letter to us indicated that she is happily adjusting to the switch, and although we miss her, we are pleased to have such a capable and charming new associate.

Statitrol now has a Midwest Regional office in Chicago. Managed by Lee Schmitz, this office will be acting as our liaison with large commercial customers, our Factory Reps in the midwest, and such agencies as Underwriters’ Laboratories and Factory Mutual.

EDITORIAL

Duane Pearsall’s letter to us of August 8th regarding ex-President Nixon’s resignation and the scandal surrounding his administration made an important point: it is vital for us to instill in our you people a faith in the integrity of our political and business institutions. I agree wholeheartedly, and would like to make a corollary point.

Ethical behavior is not created in a vacuum. If we expect our leaders to merit the responsibility we delegate to them, it is not enough for us to sit passively on the sidelines and expect that somehow things will turn out all right. Now, more than ever, the old saw “Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom!” holds true. America’s political system was fashioned to allow each citizen a voice in the selection of leaders and a voice in influencing the decisions those leaders make. Use your voice. Make it your business to inform yourself about what is going on. Have an opinion, and make it heard. Public scrutiny of the day-to-day workings of government would do a great deal to prevent such worry situations as the one, which, hopefully, ended with President Ford’s inauguration.

What it all boils down to is paying attention, in the voting booth, at home, and at work. Studs Terkel put it pretty strongly when he said “Dissent is no longer a privilege in this country; it’s an obligation.” By that, he meant that we can’t afford to stand unprotesting while those who are hungrier for power or money than we are run our lives. I prefer to see our obligations in broader terms than those of dissent alone. The more involved each of us becomes, the more honest, responsible, and responsive to our needs the power structure will become. To drag out another worn axiom, “If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.”

Be sure not to miss the contest on page 4!
Picnic Notes

As everyone knows, our picnic was held August 11th, and it was a huge success. The event, at El Dorado Springs this year, was characterized by food, games, swimming, rock-climbing, and general folderol. Herewith, my award nominations for superlative performance in several picnic-related categories:

The Walter Brennan Memorial Horseshoe Pitcher of the Year: Jim Shanahan

Prettiest Legs: Jeff Titterington

Prettiest Baby: This prize should be shared by every baby there; I have never seen so many beautiful children in one place before.

The Bobby Fischer Award for Competitive Spirit: Keith Weidenfeller, who won every game I watched, including both the children's and adults' Grand Championship playoffs. He had to beat his own mother in that last one.

Nicest Sounds: The anonymous bluegrass group that picked so well. No one can tell me who they were, but they sounded wonderful.

The Skitch Henderson Noisy Shirt Award: Al Munk

Non-stop Dog Petting and Smiling: Duane Pearsall, who seemed to be petting dogs and smiling all afternoon.

The First Annual Evil Knieval Award for Daredevil Driving: Neal Johnson, whose spectacular drive over a small hill in front of the parking lot in his slightly disreputable pick-up left the audience gasping.

Singlemindedness and Dedication to a Fixed Purpose: Those people who simply would not stop playing volleyball.

As Al Munk would say, "and a good time was had by all." A special award is suggested for those people who worked so hard to make this event so enjoyable for us. They are, in no particular order, Jean Sonsthagen, who arranged for the food, Sam Savajian and Fa... Jones, who ran the games almost single-handed, Dick Moore, in charge of "Physical Arrangements" (whatever that means), who, with his committee of Assistant Physical Arrangers, Bev Carey, Sam, and Pam Johnson, arranged things very capably. And a final, fervent thanks to Rick Baldacci and Marlene McMenemey, who managed the "groundwork" chores of finding a site, taking reservations, distributing tickets, and "overseeing" the entire project.

One final sour note: Because I'm a perfectionist, I can't help mentioning the one unfortunate aspect of the picnic. Those ladies who have, reportedly, been studying belly dancing failed us miserably by refusing to perform. You know who you are, and you'd better not disappoint us next time.

ODDS AND ENDS

Our distributors in Anchorage, Ruth and Walt Jerde, of Northern Services, paid us a visit in early June. They brought a present for Al Munk—a genuine Alaskan oosik. This publication is rated G, so we won't discuss oosiks any further.

An unusual problem has cropped up for John Rials, of Industrial Carbonics, our distributor in Charleston, South Carolina. Termites invaded his warehouse and ate all the SmokeGard boxes and manuals he had. We've had reports of dog-munching, and now, termites. Perhaps the beasties know something we don't.

Jim Shanahan had an unsettling experience. When he packed up to leave Las Vegas, he realized that he'd forgotten to pack the silverware. Because he was in a hurry, he stuffed it in his briefcase, only to set off every alarm in the place when he check through airport security. They emptied his case and confiscated the table knives until the end of the trip. Maybe they thought he'd threaten to butter someone if they didn't fly him to Cuba.

We're glad to see Jean Phegley, Vina Gutierrez, and Joan Coronado back at work with us after recovering from illnesses. Rose Beghtol is recuperating at home after surgery; we look forward to seeing her soon. Dick Moore is in St. Anthony's Hospital following surgery on the 20th. Word has it that he is doing very well.

On a happier note, Pat Martin is on maternity leave, and Hans Rugullies's wife has been expecting a baby any minute for some time.
The pictures on this page were taken by Pete Smith in or around the plant. Anyone who can correctly identify all three will win five dollars and our hearty congratulations. The best smart-aleck answers will also win a prize (probably more hearty congratulati ). Anyway, phone or write your answers to Betsy Scown, Credit Department, extension 26. If more than one person guesses correctly, the one who turned his answers in first will be the winner. You may enter more than once, but each entry must have answers for all three pictures. Contest deadline is 12:00 noon, August 30th.

#1

#2

#3

WEIRD CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENT

The letter below was received from a recent customer:

Dearborn, Mi. 5/20/74

Gentlemen;

Couple months ago I purchased 2 smoke guards, the tweet tweet is not loud enough, is it possible to make it lauder, that it could wake me up, when I am sleeping.
SPORTS

Volleyball

Enthusiasm is mounting to a fever pitch for Bob Marsik's brainstorm volleyball project. Details are being worked out for a monster league, involving anyone who wants to participate as a player, coach, manager, referee, or cheerleader. Bob is circulating lists on which those who are interested should sign up. The unique aspect of this scheme is the manner in which the games will be run. Players will be paid (in Monopoly money) for their talents, team managers will negotiate trades, and a premium will be placed on shifty financial finagling. The beauty of the plan is that each person involved will have a chance to live out his deep-seated fantasies, as a Machiavellian manipulator of people, a power-hungry money magnate, or a chronic victim.

Games will be scheduled for one night a week; the place and time have yet to be chosen. At the end of the season, prizes will be awarded for the winning team, the player with the highest salary, the player traded the most times, and so on. Look forward to further news of this enterprise, which should provide an opportunity for psychological bloodletting, increased in-house "togetherness," and a really good time.

Softball

Statitrol's softballers came back from a slow start to finish their season with a 4-8 record. It is generally supposed that if the season had been a little longer, they would have looked better, because they really got it together in the last few games. Team members, coached by Del Novak, are Ben Orr, Rick Erwin, Jim Souturas, Dave Sherer, Jim Grater, Jim Storms, Rick Baldacci, Andy Anderson, Bob Baker, Lou Fearing, Steve Weaver, Dom Frazier, Dave Antonio, and Neal Johnson.

Chess

For those of you who have been eagerly awaiting the results of Statitrol's First Intermural Lunch-Hour Eat While You Think Whizz-Bang Chess Tournament, here are the final standings: 1. John Tipton, 2. Mike Durrsmith, 3. Rick Baldacci, 4. Tom Collinsworth, 5. Del Novak, 6. Bill Faulkner, 7. Joe Christensen, 8. Neal Johnson. A second tournament will begin next week.

Bowling

Bowling season begins next month. Statitrol's league, consisting of eight five-person teams, will be playing at Applewood Bowlero on Tuesday's from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Although it is too late to sign up to play, spectators are encouraged to come and cheer their favorite teams. Duane Pearsall has signed up to play and vows that this year, he'll be a winner.

Turn back to page 4 if you missed the contest!
Sam Savajian is in Baltimore to attend her niece's wedding. We're glad to see her getting a vacation but question the sanity of anyone who would visit Baltimore in August.

Pete Smith is sane; he spent his vacation on a back-packing trip in Grand Canyon. He took lots of pictures, and was distressed only by the large numbers of people on raft trips who couldn't be parted from their lawn chairs, beer, and radios.

Food news spotlights Mary Tromp of the Model 700 line, who has been providing delicious salads, sandwiches, and casseroles in the lunchroom for everyone who signs up.

There are newlyweds all over the place. Kathy Asher, of Sales, is now Kathy Souturas, after a June wedding to Jim Souturas, of Shipping. Dom Frazier, who works on the dock, is still Dom Frazier, but he gave up his bachelor status to marry Lois Wanderer. They made a charming couple at the picnic, so inseparable that they deserve special mention as Siamese Twins of the Month.

THE WEDDING GUESTS (A PICTORIAL ESSAY)

Captions by D. Pearsall
As Time Goes By...

May birthdays: Sharon Bartling, Toni Bowers, Virginia Gonzales (that's Ginger), Jim Grater, Terry Helzer, Art Mooney, Sam Savajian, Jean Sonsthagen, Paul Staby, Don Steele, Margie Storms, Priscilla Wiederhold, Betty Joan Maybury, Nancy Allen, Susan Steele.


This issue of Smoke Signals has been brought to you by:

Editor: Betsy Scown
Photographer: Pete Smith
Miscellaneous contributions: Sam Savajian

Once again I apologize for the lateness of this issue. This time, I was slowed down by my usual workload and numerous, painful visits with the dentist. The moral of this is: dental floss once a day, get plenty of vitamins, and stop eating garbage, for pity's sake.

Dixie Wooden