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Free Coffee Day!

To celebrate those employees with birthdays in September (see Birthdays on page 3), there will be **free coffee** from the vending machine starting early AM on Monday, September 18 through early AM Tuesday, September 19. ENJOY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

Improvement Idea Winner By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Congratulations to **Frank Rapine, Pyrometry Technician**, for being the Improvement Idea winner for August. There were five improvement ideas submitted in August. In addition to Frank's winning idea, **Ryan O'Donnell** submitted two ideas, and **Trevor Levonski** and **Greg Smith** submitted one idea each. Thank you all for letting us know your ideas for improvement here at Rex.



Frank's improvement idea is to designate a container (bin/can/drum) at the thermocouple station to store used thermocouple wire that is good enough to use for wiring loads or active thermocouples to the load. It has become a common practice for operators to cut a few feet of new thermocouple wire to secure the actual thermocouple to the load. It is often used (by the dozen) as ties to keep longer length thermocouples together. Most of the time, it is the high temp white wire being used which is \$.83 per foot. We are wasting money every day because we use new thermocouple in this manner. By collecting used or scrap thermocouple wire that's good enough to use as tie-ups for any purpose, we will save money.

The next Improvement Idea spin will be held on Monday, September 18 at 3:10 pm in the Induction area. Frank 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 SEPTEMBER IMPROVEMENT IDEAS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 9 A.M.

Monthly Winners

By Scott Wagner, Plant Manager



Chris Kent, July Improvement idea winner, is congratulated by Plant Manager, Scott Wagner.

Our Improvement Idea winner for July was Furnace Operator **Chris Kent**. Chris won \$200 on his spin. There were 12 Improvement Ideas submitted in July. Chris submitted a second idea, and **Paul Moss** and **Ryan O'Donnell** submitted two ideas each. **Tom Felder**, **Jim Forbes**, **Chris Hainey**, **Frank Rapine**, **Theresa Scargill**, and **Greg Smith** submitted one idea each. They all received a "Good Idea" pin and \$5 lottery ticket.



Scott congratulates Maria Monje for being the Employee Appreciation winner, and for perfect attendance for last quarter.

The lucky winner of "Monthly Employee Appreciation" was **Maria Monje** who won \$75 on her spin. Five names were drawn from a bucket that contained the names of all Rex employees. **Ricky Banyai**, **Chris Constable**, **Terry Copenhaver**, **Spencer Freund**, and **Theresa Scargill** each received a \$5 instant lottery ticket. **Patrick McCabe** was the Rex Riddle winner and he, too, received a \$5 lottery ticket. Several employees celebrating anniversaries received their anniversary gifts from Scott Wagner, Plant Manager.

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



Scott Wagner thanks employees who submitted Improvement Ideas in July: (Top from left): Tom Felder, Jim Forbes, Paul Moss. (Bottom from left): Frank Rapine, Theresa Scargill, and Greg Smith. Chris Hainey and Ryan O'Donnell also submitted ideas but are not pictured.



Employees who received their anniversary gifts from Scott: (From left) Keith Bannon (23 yrs), Terry Copenhaver (39 yrs), Bob Feldman (6 yrs), Spencer Freund (1 yr), and Brian Wingate (6 yrs). Another celebrant—Rich Harris (20 yrs) is not pictured.



Scott congratulates lottery ticket winners: (Top from left): Ricky Banyai, Chris Constable, Terry Copenhaver. (Bottom from left): Spencer Freund, Theresa Scargill.

Touch of History in our Backyard

Some friends met one evening at a Phoenixville restaurant called Fitzwater Station. All they knew was that it was a charming restored 19th century tavern that served good food and was located on the Schuylkill canal.

When they arrived, however, they soon learned that Fitzwater Station has an illustrious history. It had been a stop on the anti-slavery underground railway during the turbulent Civil War years. The station was named for Abel Fitzwater, a noted land owner and churchman of Upper Providence Township. The station was part of a large track of farmland that Fitzwater purchased in 1825. His sprawling farm occupied much of the land in this section of the township along the Schuylkill River.



Abel Fitzwater was a secret participant of the Abolitionist Movement, which was an effort to end slavery in our nation that valued personal freedom and believed "all men are created equal." Over time abolitionists grew more strident in their demands and conflicted with slave owners entrenched in their beliefs. This division led to the Civil War.

The Underground Railroad was the term used to describe a network of meeting places, secret routes, passageways and safe houses such as Fitzwater Station used by slaves to escape slave holding southern states and find safe passage to northern states and Canada. Established in the early 1800s and aided by people like Abel Fitzwater, the Underground Railroad helped an estimated 100,000 slaves escape from the South between 1810 and 1850. Aiding them in their flight was this system of safe houses and abolitionists determined to free as many slaves as possible even though such actions violated many state laws.

While the friends sat on the outdoor patio of Fitzwater Station enjoying their meal and watching the ducks swim by on the canal, they expressed amazement at how this tavern has been in operation for nearly 200 years weathering a lot of societal changes, and wondered if it could talk, what it would advise 2017 America.

Nifty Household Tips To Try



- Deodorize your car by placing several paper or plastic grocery bags or cardboard boxes filled with wadded up newspaper in the car overnight. Shut all the doors and windows. The carbon in the black newsprint acts like the activated carbon used in odor removing filters.
- The same goes if a container has a "fragrance" from onions or other food stores in it for several days. Wash the containers in hot soapy water, rinse and dry, then crumple a piece of black and white newsprint into the container, seal and leave overnight. The next morning - no odor.
- When cleaning the microwave, cover soiled areas with two wet paper towels and turn on the microwave for 20 seconds. The spill can be easily wiped away.
- Prevent wax drippings from a birthday candle running onto cake frosting by using small marshmallows as candleholders.
- Sharpen your scissors by cutting sandpaper with them.
- Use a bleach pen, such as one sold by Clorox, to trace light or white grout lines without getting bleach all over your tiles. Wait 10 minutes and rinse. It may need a second application.
- Rather than buying expensive window cleaners, just add white vinegar to water in your spray bottle and that will do the trick.
- Barbeque clean-up. Place a sheet of aluminum foil shiny side down on the grate. Turn the flame on high and leave the grill cover closed for a few minutes. Any remaining food turns to ash and can be easily brushed off.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

10 Greg Bruno

REX RIDDLE #73

A doctor and a bus driver are both in love with the same woman, an attractive gal named Molly. The bus driver had to go on a long bus trip that would last a week. Before he left, he gave Molly seven apples. Why?



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:

If a cat can jump five feet high, then why can't it jump through a window that is three feet high?

Answer: The window is closed.

Yearly Work Anniversaries

The following employees are celebrating Work anniversaries in September:

1 to 5 Years

Alex Rutkowski (5 yrs)
Mike Townsend (5 yrs)

6-10 Years

Adrian Rivera (9 yrs)

Over 10 Years

Sid Heflin (62 yrs)
Nancy Viola (11 yrs)

Roll back to 1959

For those of you who were around in 1959 and for those of you who weren't, the following "concerns" are laughable compared to today's living standards. Some dramatic changes have occurred in 58 years.

- If things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20.
- If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.
- Who ever thought gas would cost 30 cents a gallon! Guess we'd better leave the car in the garage.
- No one can afford to be sick any more. \$35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood.
- If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it. I'll have my wife learn to cut hair.
- Did you hear that the Post Office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?



- If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.
- Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball! It wouldn't surprise me if someday they earn more than the President.
- I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now.
- Do you suppose television will ever reach our part of the country?
- It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. Pretty soon young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work.
- Thank goodness, I won't live to see the day when the government takes half our income in taxes.



Getting a Grip on Hand Safety



Hand safety practices help prevent hand injuries on the job. OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) sets the standards and policies to help protect workers, however, when people fail to follow safety requirements, injuries can happen. Hand and finger injuries can range from bruises, pinches, lacerations, abrasions, and strains to severe amputation, dislocation, and carpal tunnel syndrome, to name a few.

The latest statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that there are over 250,000 workplace related hand injuries per year. This number includes injuries to the hands, wrists, and one or more fingers.

Here are some of the top causes of hand injuries:

- **Repetitive movements** -- The more a worker engages in an activity, the greater the risk of complacency and the less likely that he or she will be fully aware of every movement—each of which is an opportunity for injury. Some common excuses are: “I’ve done this job so many times, I can do it in my sleep, or I only did it that way one time.” Injuries happen when full attention is not on the task at hand.
- **Putting your hands in places you cannot see** – It’s important for workers to watch where they are putting their hands and where they reach. For safety sake, *never blind reach* especially if no protective gloves are being worn.



- **Messy housekeeping at the work station** –Work station housekeeping is a critical factor in hand safety. Sharp shavings, parts and tools laying about can give nasty surprises. Also chemical spills need immediate and thorough neutralizing and cleanup.
- **Not wearing the appropriate hand protection** – Many hand injuries can be eliminated through the use of appropriate hand protection. It’s important to use the proper glove for the task. Be sure that properly fitting gloves give the dexterity needed for the job, that they don’t have any cuts, tears and holes in them, and that they are the right length for the job. When running machinery, remove rings and bracelets, and do not wear loose fitting clothing or gloves that can get caught.
- **Using the wrong tools or faulty tools** – Lacerations and cuts are often associated with sharp tools, but many hand injuries come from burrs or equipment that was never intended to be sharp but developed an edge through wear, and from equipment not performing as expected. All tools used in the workplace must be substantial and in good working order. It is extremely important to match tools to both the task and the worker. In addition, machine, energy and chemical guards should be in place and secure at all times to limit any potential for injury. It is essential that employees not expose themselves or others to hazards by removing or avoiding these guards.

There are many different types of gloves:

Leather gloves protect hands from rough surfaces.

Insulated gloves provide protection from hot objects.

Cut-resistant gloves prevent or reduce cuts from knives or sharp edges.

Chemical resistant gloves prevent contact with chemicals.

Anti-vibration gloves protect against excessive vibration from hand tools and machinery.

