

Ring in the New

(Continued from page 5)

A Sign of the Season



Rose Bielefeldt, administrative specialist, Metallurgy and Ceramics
 "Eat healthy and exercise more, but I'll never keep it. Of course, get John Wheelock to bake a cake."



Patti Boone, clerk typist, Metallurgy and Ceramics
 "Make a valiant effort to help Tim Ellis get more organized. That's basically a full-time job."



Mark Murphy, assistant chief accountant, Accounting
 "I haven't got past September 30 yet."



Thanks to the efforts of John Wheelock, senior research technician, and Anne Coffman, clerk typist, the traditional revolving holiday tree again shines forth from the mezzanine window of Metals Development. So what if John can decorate a tree. What Anne, her office co-workers and everyone else in the Metallurgy and Ceramics Program want to know is can he bake (and decorate) a cake. Time and the treat calendar will tell.

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INSIDER

Newsletter for the Employees of Ames Laboratory ■ Volume 6, Number 11 ■ December 1995

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



If Pam Joab gave her rendition of Bing Crosby's timeless Christmas song, the lyrics might go something like this: "I'm dreaming of a 'bright' Christmas, with every Christmas 'bulb I light.'" And according to her latest estimate, that's somewhere in excess of 30,000.

Building the Industrial Base

Harris Heads New Office of Industrial Outreach

Bob Harris sees a new mission for Ames Lab as we head into the 21st century. It's called industrial outreach.

"The national labs are going to be expected to do more to support the economic development of American industry," he says. "It will require a special focus on industrial outreach to gain the support of industry clients and the general public."

Harris, director of contract research for ISU's Center for Advanced Technology Development (CATD), currently spends two mornings each week at Ames Lab trying to provide that focus with the newly created Office of Industrial Outreach. It's a big job.

... one of the primary duties of the Office of Industrial Outreach is to work with researchers to match their skills with potential partners in the industrial arena.

The new office replaces the Office of Planning and Technology Application that Dan Williams directed prior to his retirement. "Dan's office was responsible for many, many different things; industrial outreach was only a portion of that," says Harris. "But as Tom Barton says, 'Times are tough.' In looking for ways to reduce costs, Dan's various functions were split up among a number of people currently on staff. Industrial outreach needed to receive special consideration."

As Harris notes, heading up the Office of Industrial Outreach will not be like walking into a strange and totally new world for him. Before coming to Iowa

State, he spent 25 years in the industrial-oriented research environment of Battelle Research Institute in Columbus, Ohio. "I also interacted with our northwest facility (Pacific Northwest Laboratory), a DOE lab in Richland, Washington. So I have a feeling for the promises that exist within these laboratories for helping American industry, and also for the problems they have in trying to meet their DOE mission and still provide that help."

Harris says we will need to find ways to work within DOE demands. "We are, after all, a DOE laboratory, and they have looked to us from the beginning as a source for some basic science. We still have that mission until we're told differently. The challenge is going to be to meet those expectations while still finding the time and resources to establish the necessary industrial contacts and start building a base."

In some cases, scientists have already established those contacts because they have colleagues or peers in industry. However, Harris explains that one of the primary duties of the Office of Industrial Outreach is to work with researchers to match their skills with potential partners in the industrial arena.

"It's up to the Office of Industrial Outreach to identify who those companies are, where the money is, and what the problems are," says Harris. "The office will arrange for initial contacts to be made, identify the appropriate contract for the type of research that will be done, and work out financial arrangements to meet everyone's satisfaction. We want to take care of the red tape to make it possible for the researchers to do their jobs."

Currently Harris is reviewing all



Bob Harris

the active Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) to determine how the Lab will renegotiate its relationship with CRADA partners in light of funding cuts. "I also want to go back to our industrial partners on CRADAs we've completed to see if they were satisfied with our work, and if so, whether they would be willing to continue on as permanent clients or research sponsors for us."

"I'm absolutely convinced that the Ames Laboratory is an untapped resource. Most people in American industry have no understanding that it exists and can be

utilized," says Harris. He adds that industry needs the type of sophisticated expertise that is available here at the Lab to supplement the capabilities of their own staff. "There are very few industrial organizations that can tap into the ability to do the theoretical research that's done here and yet give the research an industrial bent. And the work that we do here, while it's on the leading edge of technology, is still directed at some end mission within the

DOE." Drawing a parallel, Harris says, "I see no reason why we can't do exactly the same thing for American industry."

"I do think due to the technical excellence that exists within the Laboratory, that once industry recognizes we are sincere in wanting to work with them, we're going to find a very willing and receptive audience out there for the type of services we have to offer," Harris continues. "Again, we can't fail our mission with DOE. It's going to be a challenge to do that while basically creating a new mission." ■

In the Spotlight



Dan Williams won the 1995 Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) Harold Metcalf Award. The highest award given by the FLC, the honor recognizes Williams for the exemplary service he provided DOE and the FLC in promoting technology transfer. In a congratulatory letter, DOE Secretary Hazel O'Leary says, "You are a true pioneer in making the FLC what it is today and in making technology transfer the important contributor to this country's industrial competitiveness that it is."

Inside Scoop

Razzle-Dazzle Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

Pam Joab, secretary for the Environment, Safety and Health Group, and her husband, Ron, whom she affectionately calls Bootsie, have been planning and constructing their awesome Christmas light displays since last July. "We started putting up our outside lights during the second week of September, and we're still not done," says Pam, who officially turned the lawn displays on the Friday before Thanksgiving.

"Our biggest worry in the whole project was getting enough electricity," she says. "The electrician just made his sixth trip to our house to get us powered to run our light displays." That may sound like a hefty investment, but if you drive by Pam and Bootsie's Pleasant Hill home, you'll see a spectacular sight that makes the electrician's bill seem but a trifle in the dazzle of Christmastide.

Dressed in a flowing, red-glitter robe outlined in red lights, Mickey Mouse, a five-foot-tall version of the sorcerer's apprentice in Walt Disney's *Fantasia*, radiates Christmas magic from the roof of the Joabs' garage. A majestic figure in his tall sorcerer's hat, Mickey points his finger at a display of shooting stars created by revolving circles of twinkling chasing lights.

In the front yard, outlined in white lights, is Pam and Bootsie's replica of the playful Coke bear. The coolest of the cool in his blue sunglasses, he looks just like the real thing.

Christmas mice? Couldn't live without them. Anyway, that's what Pam thought, so she created Willie and Lucy, four-foot-tall rock 'n' roll mice, complete with ice skates and a poodle skirt for Lucy. "They turned out pretty cute considering I'm not an artist," Pam says. "We play Christmas rock 'n' roll music for them to dance to. That should



Pam Joab

drive the neighbors nuts," she adds with a gleeful smile.

Both this year and last year, the Joabs' unexpectedly placed first in the competition for the best lighting in Pleasant Hill, not bad for two people who hate heights and had to draft their neighbor to put the roof lights on their house. "We'll get on the garage roof, but that's as far as we'll go," says Pam. To repay their neighbor for his Christmas spirit and continued kindness, Pam and Bootsie helped him build an eight-foot-tall gingerbread man to complement his gaily decorated gingerbread house and giant candy canes.

Not only a master of outdoor illumination, Pam does a fair job indoors as well. "It takes me a month or better to decorate inside," she says. "I begin in mid-October." Gracing Pam's home are 19 animated displays and six festive, full-size Christmas trees. One of her two table-top trees is adorned with angels and the other with Disney ornaments, which she receives as a member of the Disney ornament-of-the-month club. Pam even has three complete sets of Christmas china.

"I need a bigger house," she says. "But I'll be buying more Christmas stuff. I'll find somewhere to put it. Next year's display will be even bigger and better." ■

Just Believe

"If you don't believe, you don't receive," says Ames Lab's Santa Claus. "I don't care if you're 59 years old, if you don't believe in Santa Claus, you won't get a present from me. And you're not getting any candy from Santa either," he adds with a chuckle.

Many people in the Administration Division have seen our resident Santa Claus at Christmas parties, and others may have seen him dressed up for Halloween. He's none other than Les Merritt, program manager for Purchasing and Property Services. "I love being Santa," he says. "Everyone loves Santa Claus. When I've got my suit on in the car or when I'm walking down the street, everybody honks and waves and tells me they've been good. It's amazing the number of people who want to talk to Santa. It's fun and it feels good."

Les inherited his Santa suit and jovial personality from his father. "He used to play Santa Claus around the neighborhood," Les says. "The suit is still in good shape, but I recently bought new hair and a beard. And I don't need any pillows. In fact, I've even had to expand the belt a little."

Les says that when playing Santa, the surprise element is important. "I never knock on doors, and you gotta be quick," he explains. "You need to go in, give them candy, wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and get out before they have a chance to think about who you are. When you're gone, they say, 'Where did he come from?'"

Several years ago Les was invited to a Christmas party and decided to dress up and surprise everyone by going as Santa. "I'm doing my thing, giving everyone candy, and the hostess follows me around saying things like, 'Oh, you're doing great.' As I was leaving she said, 'You can't go



Les Merritt

until you see the children.' I went into the bedroom and gave the kids little candy bars. This time as I was leaving she asked, 'How much do I owe you?' 'Oh no,' I said. 'Santa Claus never takes money,' and I left. After changing clothes, I returned to the party. I went into the kitchen, and there sat another Santa having a drink. The bewildered hostess had apparently hired a Santa, and when I showed up she thought I was the one she'd hired. When I wouldn't accept any money, she was really confused. To this day, she doesn't know I was the first Santa."

Santa Les likes to surprise both young and old alike. "When my daughter was in the second grade, there were some disbelievers in her class, so I decided to pay them a visit," he says. "I walked in saying, 'Ho, Ho, Ho,' and passed out candy to everyone. You could see by the dumbfounded expressions on those faces that there was not a disbeliever in that whole room. I don't care how old you are, when Santa Claus walks into a room everyone says, 'Ahhh, Santa Claus!' For that few minutes at least, everyone is a believer."



Federal Express Shipments For Goods

To Ames Lab: All goods being sent to Ames Lab from vendors will generally be shipped via Federal Express overnight delivery if the package weight is under five pounds. Shipment via Federal Express Priority overnight delivery requires group leader authorization. Some exceptions may arise, such as when the vendor only does business with carriers other than Federal Express.

From Ames Lab: All goods being sent from Ames Lab to others will generally be shipped via Federal Express overnight delivery if the package is under five pounds. Some exceptions may arise, such as when a hazardous material must be shipped to a country using a certain carrier.

Generally, all packages over five pounds will be shipped to and from the Lab via the most economical ground transportation carrier.

Anyone in Purchasing and Property Services can be of assistance if you have questions concerning these procedures.

Purchasing Goes to Phone Answering Service

The Purchasing Office has a new automated telephone answering service, which greets all callers dialing extension 4-1780. The purpose of this service is to allow you to get quickly to the purchasing agent with whom you wish to speak. Of course, if you know the purchasing agent's extension, you can dial direct. Each agent has a voice mail box, and messages can be recorded. The new system should allow the caller and agent to communicate more directly and in a more timely fashion.

Group Photo Available

The deadline for ordering an 8x10 print of the Ames Lab group photo is January 10. Call Public Affairs at 4-1856 to order. The cost is \$2.

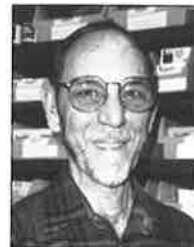
Winning WWW Page

Steve Elbert, head of the Scalable Computing Lab, won the first "Best of Iowa" award sponsored by Iowa Online for pages designed for the World Wide Web. Elbert's page is a list of the initial Iowa Internet sites and can be found on the following Web sites: <http://www.iowa.net/bestofiowa> or at <http://www.scl.ameslab.gov/links/iowa.html>



Happy Holidays

The Great Oz Has Spoken



"I think Ames Lab is one of the best-kept secrets in the state of Iowa," says Lewis Oswood,

better known as Oz. "I had no idea what it would be like when I started working in the Storeroom nine and a half years ago. I can't explain how great it really is. I would never have been able to have one-on-one interactions with people from all around the world if I hadn't come to work here. Everybody should have the opportunity to experience it. The whole flavor of this place is something I never would have imagined. It hasn't been work — it's been fun. I'm really going to miss it."

The thing Oz won't miss is the drive from Marshalltown. "I'm at the point where I hate the drive," he says. "Two hours out of 24 that you can't accomplish anything is a waste of time. And I won't miss the winter driving either. That's one of the reasons I'm leaving on January 2 instead

of waiting until my birthday in April." Oz has too much to do to spend a lot of time in a car. He plans to get a part-time job in Marshalltown and also spend more time raising his 300-400 orchids. "I could take a year just working with my orchids," he says. "I've done a lot of research into light and humidity and what it takes to grow orchids in the wild. I plant them outside in the summer and take them in during the winter. I'd like to work three or four hours in the morning and have the rest of the day to do other things."

Oz also plans to develop a couple of rose beds, do some landscaping, plant a vegetable garden and eat out once in awhile. "Another hobby of mine is trying new foods, a taste I developed during my 17 years in San Diego. I hope to do a little traveling to places like Minneapolis, Kansas City and Des Moines to eat some good food and visit orchid growers. It'll be fun," adds the wonderful wizard, with a twinkle of anticipation in his eyes. ■

Cutting Back ???



"I've had many good years at the Lab, but when you get older, you get tired, and it's time to go,"

says Willie Wierson, pipefitter, who is retiring on January 5, just short of 33 years of service.

It's no wonder Willie is tired. Besides working full-time at the Lab, he farms 144 crop acres and raises 700-800 hogs. "I look back and don't know how I did it. I used to put in a lot more hours on the farm, but that's harder to do now. After I retire, I'll have 50 more hours a week to work and will be able to farm in the daylight instead of after dark," he says with a grin.

Willie says that his wife has been doing some of the work he should be doing, but now she's going to retire too. "I don't think I'll be able to keep her out of the farrowing house, however, because she won't think I know how to do things good enough," he adds. "That's okay because she's right; she's better at it than

I am. She has more patience than I do and knows more about the medications and shots the hogs need."

Besides farming, Willie plans to spend time with his three children and six grandchildren. "Five of our grandchildren play basketball, baseball or softball in the Radcliffe/Hubbard area, and I'm not going to miss any of those games anymore. My wife has taken in as many as five in a day in three different towns," he says. "I've missed that, but not anymore."

He also plans to do some fishing. "I haven't fished the rivers around here for 15 or 20 years, and I'm looking forward to doing that again. I'll also plant a vegetable garden and a few trees and watch some sports on television. And I'm sure my wife has a list of jobs to keep me busy," he adds with a smile. ■

Remembering a Colleague

The Ames Lab community was saddened this month by the loss of a respected co-worker, skillful educator and dear friend. David Torgeson, physicist, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on December 5. He was 59 years old.

Born in Madison, Wisconsin, Torgeson graduated from high school in Stoughton, Wisconsin, and received a bachelor's degree from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and a master's degree from ISU.

Throughout his 38 years at Ames Laboratory, Torgeson worked and collaborated with

many graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and visiting scientists. He was known for his intelligence, interest, patience and skill in educating others in the laboratory. Mark Lowry, a former graduate student, says, "Dave would guide me to a solution while encouraging me to use my own resources to solve the problem. He had fun solving problems in the lab, and his attitude was delightfully infectious."

Torgeson excelled in the study of hydrogen diffusion in metals and became internationally known in the field of nuclear

magnetic resonance (NMR). He successfully applied this sophisticated technique to diverse problems in solid state physics. Through the years, he designed and developed many spectrometers, which are now used worldwide.

Richard Barnes, former director of the NMR Laboratory, and Ferdinando Borsa, the current director, are both longtime colleagues of Torgeson. "We remember him dearly as a somewhat shy and reserved person, who was very knowledgeable, friendly and always ready to

help," says Borsa. "He will be greatly missed by many people."

He is survived by his wife, Elaine, and three sons, Paul of Renton, Washington; Jim of Hermosa Beach, California; and Richard of Muklito, Washington; two granddaughters, and two brothers, Joseph and Richard, both of Madison, Wisconsin. ■



Ring in the New

Employees Share New Year's Resolutions, or Lack Thereof

Many people make them, most people break them, and others don't even bother. But New Year's resolutions come with the holiday package. And like it or not, 1996 is just around the corner. So take some inspiration from your fellow employees who have given a little (in some cases very little) advance thought to how they plan to make their lives better in the new year.



Trevor Riedemann, graduate assistant, Metallurgy and Ceramics
"Definitely to get my thesis done. Also, exercise more, lose weight and become the world's greatest lover."
(On hearing the second

part of Trevor's resolution, Jack Moorman looked at him and said, "You're living in a fantasy world," to which Trevor replied, "Yeah, it will be hard to lose weight.")



Rollie Struss, division director for Operations
"I want to see Ames Lab's contract renewed and then retire."

Tim Ellis, associate metallurgist, Metallurgy and Ceramics
"I never make a New Year's resolution because I'm not emotionally strong enough to keep one."



Deb Covey, program coordinator, Planning and Intellectual Property
"One, to quit procrastinating, and two, to get at least one date in 1996."



Jim Withers, industrial hygienist, Environment, Safety and Health Group
"Do more leisurely reading."

Jack Moorman, research technician, Metallurgy and Ceramics
"I'm still working on last year's resolution, which was to build a new garage and shop. That's enough for two years."



Betty Beymer, secretary, Directors' Offices
"Get skinny."



Michael Marti, supervisor, Graphics
"Move into a semi-exciting, larger house, start my own business, and have 3 more kids."
(Kidding about the kids.)



Troy Vareberg, engineer, Facilities Services
"Get involved in more extracurricular activities and go scuba diving next summer."



Vickie Hahn, nurse, Occupational Medicine
"Remember to send birthday and anniversary cards. I'm bad at remembering dates, but every year I think I'm going to change and be good."



Tom Wessels, manager, Office of Assurance and Assessment
"Stop resolving to do things I'm not willing to do."



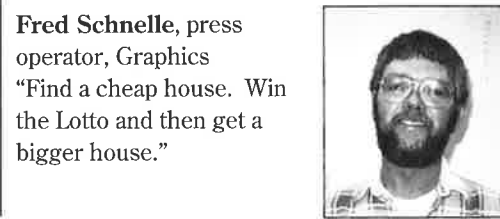
Peggy Lee, secretary, Facilities Services
"My husband wants to live in the country, so I hope that's where we'll be by this time next year."



John Eckert, division director for Administration
"Get an M&O contract for the Lab and lose 50 pounds by June."



Shellie Siders, secretary, Directors' Offices
"I have a goal to lose 40 more pounds. I may not get there, but that's my goal." (Go, Shellie!)



Fred Schnelle, press operator, Graphics
"Find a cheap house. Win the Lotto and then get a bigger house."



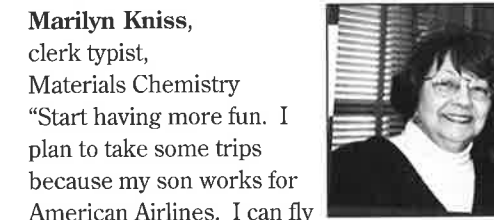
Laurie Leininger, clerk typist, Metallurgy and Ceramics
"Lately I haven't made any because I never follow through. It just makes me into a liar. But this year I resolve to get John Wheelock to bake a cake."



Ron Berrett, electrician, Facilities Services
"Attempt to quit smoking again, and keep the weight gain under 50 pounds. I'd also like to win the Power Ball just once; that would be enough."



Mark Nelson, engineer, Facilities Services
"Spend more individualized time with my family. Read, exercise and diet more." (Mark wants to look good for his 20-year high school class reunion next July.)



Marilyn Kniss, clerk typist, Materials Chemistry
"Start having more fun. I plan to take some trips because my son works for American Airlines. I can fly anywhere in the world by paying only the tax."



Kevin Dennis, assistant metallurgist, Metallurgy and Ceramics
"It's not New Year's yet. It usually takes a couple of glasses of wine for me to decide what I'm going to commit to."



Anne Coffman, clerk typist, Metallurgy and Ceramics
"I haven't accomplished one from three years ago yet. I always plan to spend more time with my family, but that doesn't

happen. I also would like to get John Wheelock to bake a cake."

Les Merritt, program manager, Procurement and Property Services
"Drink less and party more. If you have to think about New Year's resolutions too long, they're probably fake. And if I really was Santa, I'd like to give everybody a six percent pay raise for the year we didn't get one."



Tom Barton, director
"I don't usually make them this early, but I plan to write more papers because there's a huge backlog of them. Also, I'm going skiing the day after New Year's."



Otto Buck, program director, Metallurgy and Ceramics
"To change the Metallurgy and Ceramics treat game rules. There's getting to be too much of a weight problem. I also plan to not waste all of my vacation. I'll use it instead of lose it."

Meng Sun, student sssociate, Materials Chemistry
"To have fun in China while visiting my family."



Jan Ahrens, secretary, Occupational Medicine
"Not take life quite so seriously and maybe enjoy it a little more. Become more physically active and spend more time with family and friends."



Robert McCarley, senior chemist, Materials Chemistry
"I'm a procrastinator. I don't like to think about resolutions until December 31. But my goal is to retire next summer."



Deb Okland, clerk, Accounting
"Exercise less (yes, less) and eat healthier. Spend more quality time with my family."



Saren Johnston, communications specialist, Office of Public Affairs
"See part two of Deb Covey's resolution."