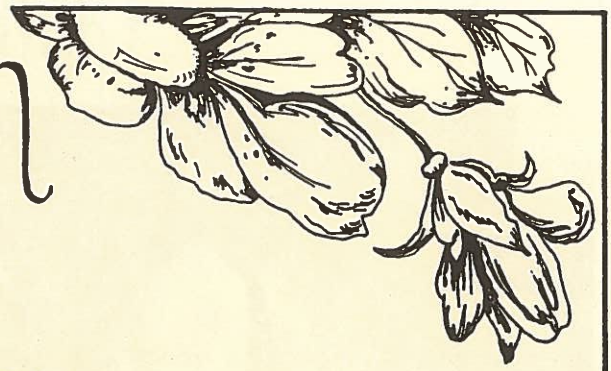
April 1, 1989

O & M Dispatch



COST REDUCTION PROPOSALS

In the March O & M DISPATCH, it was reported that three cost reduction proposals were submitted to the National Association of College and University Business Officers and the USX Foundation, Inc. as part of their annual cost reduction award program. Winners will receive unrestricted grants of cash. The proposals submitted were based on the following projects:

Corrugated Cardboard Recycling Program

Gary Rossman (Assistant Director of Operations) and Jim Trail (Civil Engineer III) implemented a program to recycle corrugated cardboard in July of 1988. Currently, approximately 39% is manually extracted from the waste stream and hauled to a recycling vendor. Total net savings resulting from the implementation of this program is projected at $27,785 each year, and precious landfill space is preserved.

Vacuum Pump Hurling Water Level Control

Many steam heating systems make use of vacuum condensate return systems. A vacuum is maintained in a chamber of the vacuum pump unit by "hurling" water through a nozzle and venturi tube. The water level is maintained by a float switch. Clyde Corzine (Pipefitter Subforeman) recommended that the switch be replaced with an electronic 2 probe water level control arrangement which would eliminate the continual float switch calibration and maintenance, protect the pump seals from burning out, and maintain the correct vacuum in the piping system. Among the 15 pump units converted, no failures have occurred due to hurling water problems. Total net savings resulting from these conversions is about $62,400 a year.

IMPE Swimming Pool Repairs

A severe water loss within the water circulation system at the IMPE indoor pool last winter led to an innovative, cost saving solution. Carl Wegel (Civil Engineer III) and Larry Pridemore (Water Station Foreman) concluded if the recirculation pumps were shut down and small amounts of dye were injected around each filter head at the bottom of the pool, the dye may leak out through one or more of the diffusing inlet nozzles. Bill Greenwood (Construction Project Coordinator II and a registered Scuba diver) dove to the bottom of the pool, injected the dye, and the exact location of the leak was found. After the outdoor pool was opened in May of 1988, the indoor pool was drained, and the worst leaks were repaired within two weeks at a cost of $15,000. Searching for the leak by removing sections of the pool bottom could have escalated costs as high as $200,000 and closed the pool for months. (NOTE: Now that the problems have been pinpointed, all corroded plumbing at each of the pool's 40 inlets is slated to begin July 17 and completed by August 20 at an estimated cost of $50,000.)

A FOND FAREWELL

(Ed Cousins, Associate Director of the Operation and Maintenance Division, recently announced he will retire April 30. We wish him the best of luck.)

When I began employment with the Physical Plant in 1958, there was a total of 809 employees, which included the Police Department, Fire Department, and Mail Messengers. Today, there are approximately 1,200 employees.

During my almost 31 years of employment, I served as a Building Inspector, Project Engineer, and Structural Engineer prior to accepting the position of Associate Director in 1968. This Division has changed its name from Physical Plant to Plant and Services Department and recently to the Operation and Maintenance Division.

Many changes have taken place over the years. The most significant being the move into the Physical Plant Service Building in 1963 from various locations on the north end of campus, such as the basement of Engineering Hall, the Woodshop and the Transportation Building.

I am leaving the O & M Division in good hands; knowing that each of you are capable of coping with new developments in technology, management concepts, and equipment in light of limited resources. I have enjoyed the time spent working on a daily basis with you to provide the students, faculty, and staff a great place to obtain a valuable education.

I am looking forward to a long and enjoyable retirement with hopefully a continuation of the many friendships made during my stay with the University. I wish you all the best as my wife, Eleese, and I ride off into the sunset.

-- *Ed Cousins (Associate Director)*

P A R K I N G P R O B L E M S !

Overcrowding in Lot E-14 has become a real cause for concern. The Division of Campus Parking realizes there is a problem, and several hundred more spaces are being added to accomodate O & M and Central Stores employees. The construction will be completed by the end of summer.

Employees with E-14 permits are reminded that they may park in any designated space on the paved surface in the entire lot (located south of Florida Avenue between First and Oak streets), except the one lane of 44 spaces reserved for shuttle parking. Employees with E-14 or E-22 permits may also park on Stadium Drive between Oak and First streets (Lot E-8).

MOONLIGHT BOWL

O & M employees and their guests are invited to participate in the 6th Annual O&M Moonlight Bowl for couples at Old Orchard Lanes Saturday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. The cost is $11/couple and includes 3 games and prize money. Reservations will be accepted at the Payroll Window until April 28. Checks should be made payable to Phyllis Steward.

NEW FORMAT

Your input and interest in the monthly O & M DISPATCH has been much appreciated. In order to further develop existing features, add new features, and present more articles and photos on O & M employees and major projects, O & M DISPATCH will expand into an 8 to 12 page newsletter, which will be issued quarterly beginning July 1. The new format is designed to further meet your information needs. Ideas or copy are welcomed and appreciated. Call Jeff Buenting at 333-1364 or write to: Operation and Maintenance Division, 1501 S. Oak Street, Champaign, IL. 61820.

O&M Spotlight

The SPOTLIGHT for this month shines on the Machine Shop, located in Room 112 at the Physical Plant Service Building. Our Tool and Instrument Mechanics and Machinists respond to approximately 300 service calls each month for the maintenance and repair of all types of pumps, compressors, and fan bearings, among others.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

Prior to its move to the new Physical Plant Service Building in 1963, the Machine Shop was located within the old Physical Plant complex across from the Physics Building. In the early days, Machine Shop staff performed a great deal of blacksmith work to fabricate tools and parts for repairing equipment by hand. The machines were not as sophisticated as they are today, extensive design specifications were not needed to diagnose problems or malfunctions, and repair procedures were more simplified. Over the years, the staff and the equipment used in the shop has been expanded to handle the increasing workload and the repair of the new, more advanced systems on campus.

RESPONSIBILITIES/SERVICES

When a service order is received, the Machine Shop first diagnoses the problem or malfunction within the equipment and determines if the unit can be repaired on site or must be transported back to the shop. Based on the results of this diagnosis, the Tool and Instrument Mechanic or Machinist dismantles the unit; repairs, replaces, or fabricates the inoperable parts; reassembles the unit; and performs tests to assure its proper operation.

The Machine Shop is responsible for the maintenance and repair of a variety of machines and equipment on campus, including all sump pumps, heat pumps, condensate pumps, chilled water pumps, vacuum pumps, air compressors, gear boxes, fan bearings, and fine instruments. Due to the age and deteriorating condition of some of the above-mentioned items, Machine Shop staff are often required to completely tear down and rebuild the affected unit when a breakdown occurs.

The Machine Shop is often required to make component parts to repair equipment when the parts needed are unavailable, obsolete, or cost more to purchase than to fabricate in the shop. Unique tools and equipment are also made in the shop to provide campus departments with new testing instruments required for research purposes.

STAFF

The Machine Shop is staffed with a Foreman (Ron Scheurich); a Subforeman (Dan Ivey); five Tool and Instrument Mechanics (Lee Clark, Robert Colman, Ralph Lieb, Dale Owens, and Henry Wood); and two Machinists (Walter Lineberry and Joe Marriott).

BENEFITS

Thanks to the excellent repair and fabrication work consistently provided by our Tool and Instrument Mechanics and Machinists, campus departments can depend on the smooth operation of their pumps, compressors, fans, and other equipment. Machine Shop staff stay current on new advances in equipment and work procedures and have the ability to diagnose all types of problems so repairs can be performed efficiently.

PAT ON THE BACK

We congratulate the following O & M employees and work groups for receiving special recognition from our customers:

...The staff at the College of Engineering recently commended our Garage/Car Pool personnel for their "helpful, courteous, and professional service."

...Francis Redding, David Livingston, and Robert Carr from the Paint Shop recently received commendations from the Department of Naval Science for their "first-rate painting job in the NROTC spaces."

...Many thanks to O & M Carpenter Dave Carpenter for his suggestion to foam insulate the Ornamental Horticulture Greenhouse, which saved over $1,600 in labor costs.

...Paul Dixon (Project Director) recently commended Keith Erickson (Electrical Engineer III) and Paul Neal (Mechanical Engineer III) for their "competent, professional service" throughout the design and construction of the Beckman Institute.

...Dave Green (Mechanical Engineer II), Bill Lamendola (Temperature Control Foremen), Jim Cantrell (Temperature Control Mechanic), and Doyal Edmison (Pipefitter) recently received special thanks from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering for their outstanding work in the installation of a new air compressor and other projects.

...The following BSWs received special recognition for their floor renovation efforts in preparation for the recent Engineering Open House: Ernest Ammann, James Hannon, Troy Miner, Rick Riddle, Franklin Roy, Dan Northway, Mel Schriefer, Jr., and Wayne Haines. Chuck Hassell (Public Functions Supervisor) and Jim Trail (Civil Engineer III) also received thanks from the committee for their contributions.

...The staff at the Nuclear Physics Lab recently commended Dick Hopkins (Electrician Subforeman) and Electricians Joe Berbaum, Ron Moody, Mike Feigl, Phil Nicholas, and Gene Neef for their fine work in replacing a transformer with a minimum outage time.

...Bill Ellena (Engineering Technician III) wishes to thank the following crafts for meeting the department's deadline in remodeling eight rooms on the 5th floor at Morrill Hall: Painters, Carpenters, Plumbers, Mill Workers, Electricians, and Laborers.

ON THE GRAPEVINE

...We welcome Traice Wells (Routing Dispatcher I); Kenneth Ketchum (Garage Attendant); and John Clark, Kenneth Clark, Ronald Crawford, Donald Dayton, Ozell Hall, Kathy Helmkamp, Jeffery Reed, Gregory Scott, Daniel Watson, and Janis Williams (BSWs) to our staff at O & M.

...As part of the coal conversion process, Abbott Power Plant recently started up an advanced flue-gas desulfurization (FGD) system. This system was featured in the February issue of Power magazine. The FGD system removes sulfur dioxide from the flue gas with high efficiency.

...The year-long experiment using Exam Request Forms between O & M and Personnel Services has been a great success. The form has now been revised to accommodate usage across the campus. If you want to schedule a Civil Service exam, the forms are available at Abbott Power Plant, Garage and Car Pool, Records Office, all BSW clock stations, Water Station, and the O & M Personnel Office (PPSB 135).

...Gene Ducey (Cement Finisher Foreman) attended the "World of Concrete" convention in Atlanta February 19-23.

...Dan Wingler, Kenny Pittman, Nick Kersin, Kenny Kilman, Dave Schmidt, Jim Donaldson, and Dave Karcher from the Garage attended an auto parts and supplies show at McCormick Place in Chicago March 1.

...Congratulations to Steve Mast (Engineering Technician III) who recently received an Associate in General Studies degree from Parkland College.

...Our sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Anne Doak (wife of former O & M Director John Doak) who passed away March 16 in Fort Worth, Texas.