the solution . . . we please to be part of it

Bama Briefs

Volume 22 | Monsanto - Anniston Plant | January/March 1996

MONSANTO SPONSORS LOCAL TEACHERS TO ATTEND NSTA CONVENTION

by Alan Rutherford

Seven science teachers from the greater Calhoun County area got caught up on the latest in science and science teaching, with all expenses paid, thanks to an effort by Monsanto. The local teachers were part of a group of 188 instructors from 20 Monsanto plant cities the company sponsored to attend the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) convention held on March 28-31 in St. Louis. Some 15,000 - 20,000 teachers, college professors, and exhibitors from around the United States and at least 23 foreign countries attended the convention. Monsanto's contribution of $375,000 to the four-day event was by far the largest of the more than 50 corporate sponsors. This year's participation by Monsanto marked the tenth consecutive year of participation, and this year's effort is the company's most extensive. A team of 50 Monsanto people worked for a year planning the company's convention activities, which included a hands-on workshop for 600 teachers, a reception for 1,500 teachers at the St. Louis Science Center, and a private luncheon for 500 teachers with Monsanto CEO Robert Shapiro.



Area teachers attending the National Science Teachers Association convention in St. Louis are pictured left to right - Adam Dasinger (Cleburne County High School), Eddie Bowie (Anniston High School), Janet Evans (Jacksonville High School), Karen Crocket (Tenth Street Elementary School), Jack Mayausky (Monsanto, Plant Manager), and Rob Atkinson (Wellborn High School). Not pictured are Valerie Bain (Oxford High School) and Janice Spivey (Piedmont Middle School).

Health tips for air travelers

Airplane cabins can be prime areas for contagious diseases to spread. Recirculated air, reduced air pressure, and dryness all may cause problems for travelers. Here's what you can do to stay healthy:

1. **Drink** eight ounces of water per hour while you're in the air.

2. **Avoid** alcohol, caffeine, or soft drinks.

3. **An air filter mask** may protect you from germs if you don't mind looking slightly conspicuous.

4. **Bring** bottled water with you on international flights.

5. **Try** not to fly if you're already sick or coming down with something.

6. **Take** your contact lenses out. Cabin air dries out the eyes.

7. **The flu** normally spreads between November and April in the U.S., so be especially careful during those months.

—Corporate Travel

DSW 134007

STLCOPCB4033965

JACK'S CORNER

KEY PROCESS INDICATORS

by Jack Mayausky

Wow, 1995 was a great year for the plant. We met or exceeded every target that was set for or by us in production, cost, quality, safety, and environmental issues. This excellent performance was of course recognized in our large gainsharing payout and more personally in the recent employee/spouse recognition dinners. Thanks for your efforts to support these achievements.

Now we look forward to 1996. The 1996 Key Process Indicators for this year have been developed and most of these have been adopted into our 1996 Gainsharing Plan as developed by the Gainsharing Committee. Please familiarize yourself with these indicators and accept the challenge to do what you can to make 1996 an equal or greater success than 1995.

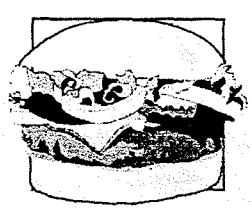
The future risk and rewards of the Anniston plant operations rests with each on of us.

I appreciate your efforts and I welcome your comments and suggestions as we move into 1996.

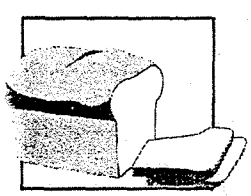
Watch that diet:

• **Granola.** Despite its healthy reputation, most types have about 10 grams of fat per serving. That's more than double the amount found in many other cereals. Granola was once thought to be "health food" because it is made of whole grains and oats.

• **Hold the mayo.** A four-ounce, medium-lean beef hamburger, with one ounce of American cheese, one tablespoon of mayonnaise, mustard, lettuce, tomato, and onion on a bun contains 564 calories and 39 grams of fat. That same burger without the cheese and mayonnaise has only 7 grams of fat.



• **Starchy foods are better than you thought.** Fatty foods are far more likely to give you a plump waistline. Now these "starchy" carbohydrates, such as breads and pasta, are recognized for their limited fat and energy-boosting benefits.



• **Many nutrients don't come in tablet form.** Vitamin pills will give you some supplemental nutrition. But the necessary fiber, carbohydrates, proteins, fats, and fluids required for running your body smoothly are only found in certain foods.

Classified errors

These real classified ads could have used a little more work:

• Lost: One small apricot poodle. Neutered. Like one of the family.

• A superb and inexpensive restaurant. Fine foods expertly served by waitresses in appetizing forms.

• Dinner Special—Turkey $2.35; Chicken or Beef $2.25; Children $2.00.

• For sale: Antique desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers.

• For sale: A quilted high chair that can be made into a table, pottie chair, rocking horse, refrigerator, spring coat, size 8 and fur collar.

• We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand.

—*Anguished English*, by Richard Lederer

ISO 9002 CERTIFICATION

by Alan Rutherford

Gary Farrell of Det Norske Veritas (DNV) conducted the fifth periodical surveillance audit of the Anniston Plant Quality System on February 19-20, 1996, with outstanding results. **There were no non-conformances identified during the audit.** Periodical audits are conducted every six months to validate continued certification of the quality system to ISO 9002.

The elements examined during the audit included Management Responsibility, Quality System, Document and Data Control, Corrective and Preventive Action, Internal Audit, Use of Certification Marks, Training, and Product Identification and Traceability.

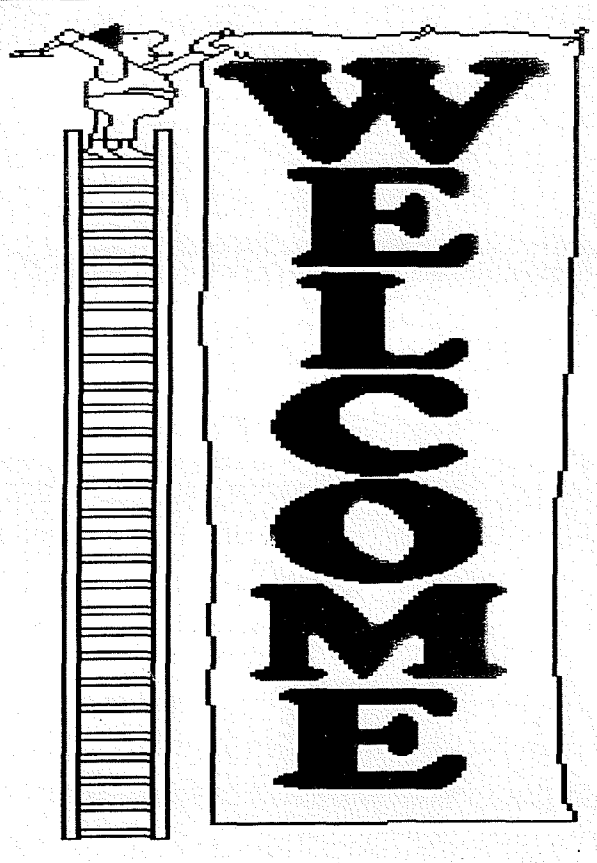
The ISO 9000 series of standards specify the minimum requirements of a quality system that must be met for the manufacture and delivery of a product. The standards originated within the European Community but have been adopted virtually worldwide as a requirement for doing business.

The Anniston Plant was initially certified to comply with ISO 9002 during a registration audit in August, 1993. The certificate was reissued in February, 1996, following the third periodical audit when the quality system was found to comply with the upgraded requirements found in the 1994 revision to the standard.

Congratulations to everyone for the successful audit and continued improvement of the Anniston Plant Quality System.

DSW 134008

STLCOPCB4033966



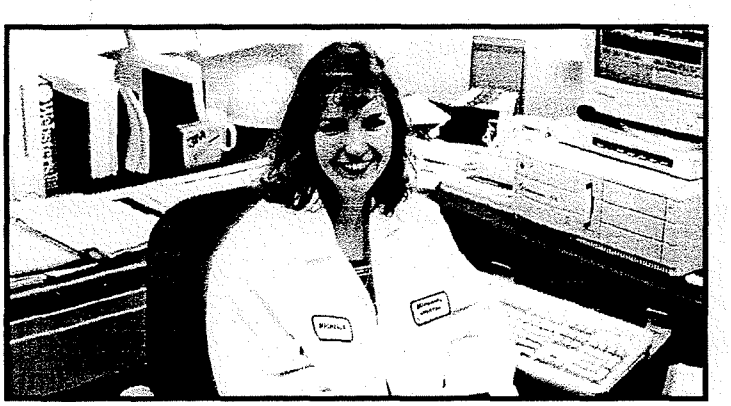
The most recent addition to our Engineering group at the Anniston Plant is Lisa M. Donnellan. Lisa officially began working here on January 15, 1996, as a process engineer supporting the Polyphenyls and Therminols units. She is a 1992 graduate of the University of South Alabama, and has a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering. Since graduation Lisa has spent the past three years working for Occidental Chemicals in Mobile, Alabama as a process engineer and lab supervisor. We look forward to benefiting from the skills Lisa brings with her to our site. Welcome aboard, Lisa!



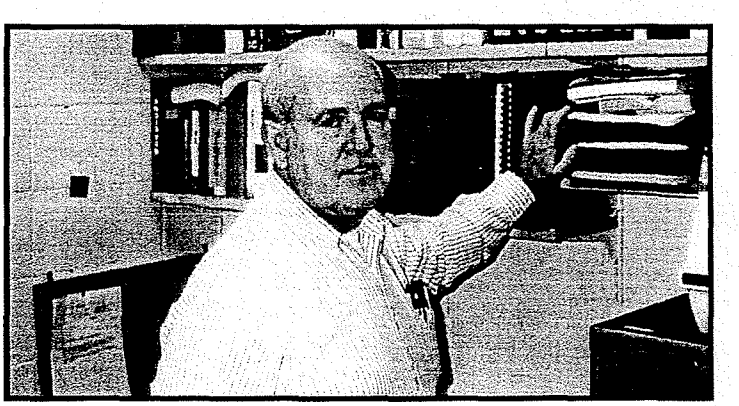
Lisa Donnellan

Michelle Spurlin joined the Monsanto family in October as Therminol Fluids Chemist. Michelle received her B.S. degree in Chemistry from Jacksonville State University (1993) and worked for American Westmin and Ace Products prior to joining Monsanto. Michelle fills the very important position of analyzing customer heat transfer systems and making recommendations for optimizing operation of their heat transfer systems. This importantfunction requires routine communications with Marketing Technical Service and various customers. Welcome to Anniston, Michelle!

Wayne Lambert officially joined the Monsanto team as a Planner/Scheduler in the Maintenance Department on March 18, 1996. Wayne was already familiar with the Anniston Plant since he has been working in the plant since 1975 with different contractors and in the Engineering Department since 1989 as a contract E/I Specialist consultant. Wayne holds an associate degree in Industrial Electricity from Ayers State Technical College. Married to Zilpha Junior and the father of 2 daughters and 3 grandsons, Wayne's hobbies include fishing, bowling, and watching Alabama beat Auburn.



Michelle Spurlin



Wayne Lambert

DSW 134009

STLCOPCB4033967



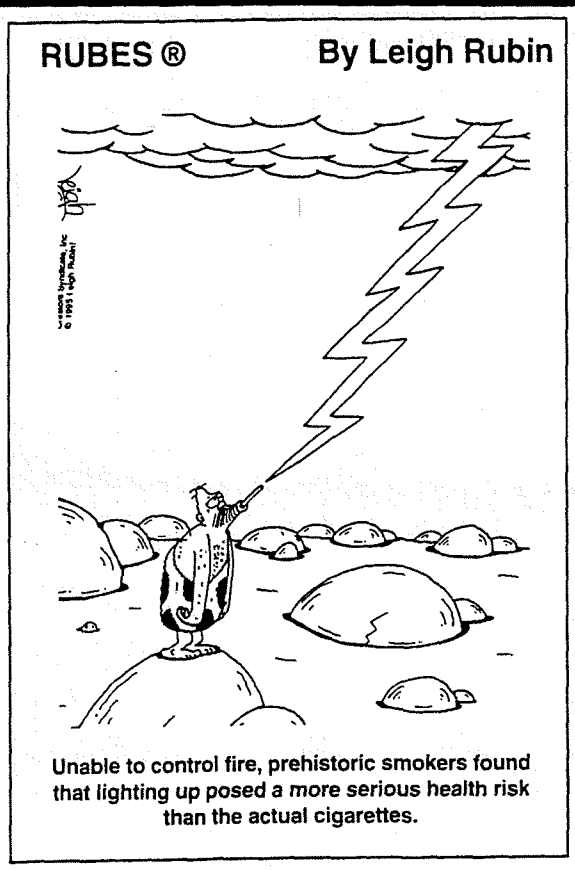
COMPUTER TIPS



- ***Use the Search feature to eliminate repetitive pet words.*** When you notice - or someone tells you - that every other sentence of your writing contains the word "apparently", do a search for that word and replace it with a suitable synonym. But be careful not to replace it with the same word every time, or you'll simply have a new "pet".

- ***Even spell-checkers have limitations.*** So you've got a program to check your spelling. Does that mean you're troubles are over? Hardly. Spell-checkers wouldn't catch the "you're" in the second sentence, even though it should be "your". A style- or grammer- checker may be what you're looking for!

- ***Accidentally erasing a file that you want to keep*** may pose a problem for you, but fear not! A utility program may be able to prevent this and other computer disasters. Utility programs aren't new - they've been around since 1982 - but most recent releases are more powerful and easier to use.





SERVICE AWARDS

January - March

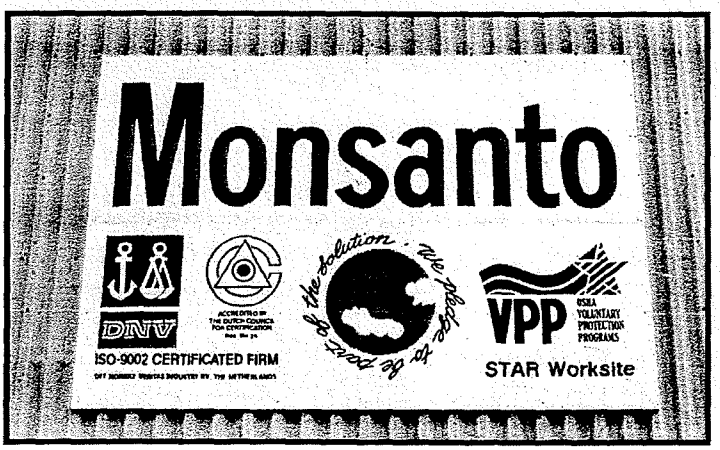


03/28/96	Larry Willingham	30 Years

OFF WITH THE OLD, ON WITH THE NEW

by Jack Mayausky

Hopefully everyone has noticed our new sign. It incorporates not only who we are, but many important aspects of how we manage our businesses. Namely, the DNV logo recognizing our ISO 9002 certified quality system, our OSHA VPP Star Worksite recognition of our safety systems, and our community/environmental logo which manifests our pledge to be part of the solution.



The meaning of life

The mother of a small girl was concerned about her child's selfish behavior and gave her something of a lecture, stressing that we are put in this world to help others.

Her daughter seemed very impressed and sat silently, thinking and scratching her head. At last she looked up and said, "Mommy?"

"Yes, dear?" replied her mother.

"What I want to know is, what are the others for?"

—*A Treasury of Humor*

DSW 134010

STLCOPCB4033968

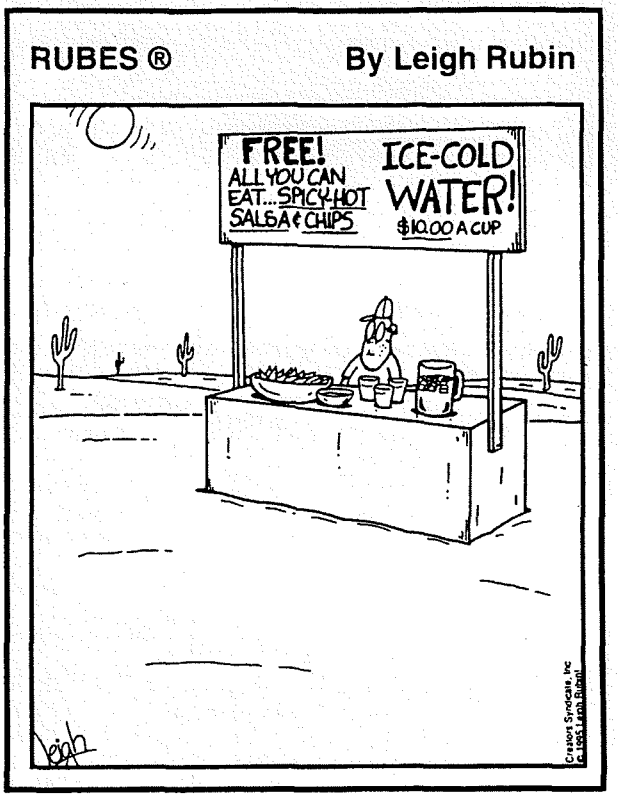
SAFETY PERFORMANCE YEAR-TO-DATE 1996

299 Days Since Last Recordable

Date of Last Recordable - 06/13/95

0.0 Total Injury Rate (TIR)

0 Contractor Recordable Injuries



VPP OSHA VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAMS

STAR RE-CERTIFICATION EVALUATION

JUNE 3-6, 1996

"I can usually judge a fellow by what he laughs at."

-Wilson Mizner

THE VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAMS CONCEPT

by Lamar Freeman

- OSHA is not just enforcement. Encourages improvements in Occupational Health & Safety by recognizing and encouraging positive models.

- Compliance alone cannot ensure worker safety. Encourages voluntary improvements and expansion to worker protection systems.

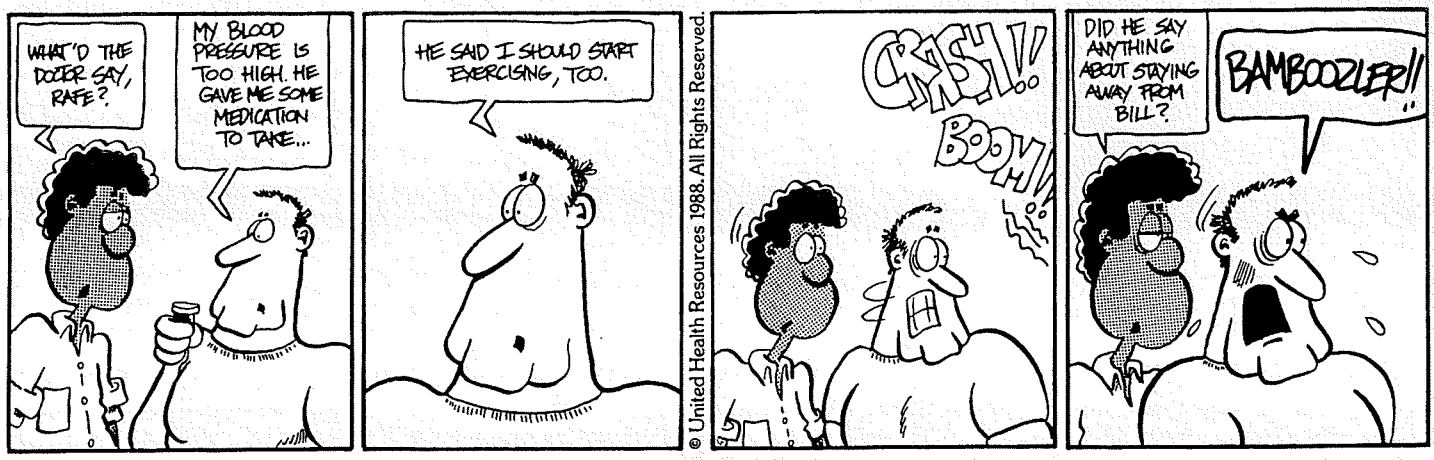
- OSHA will verify qualifications, and exempt participates from regular inspections, however will continue to investigate complaints and accidents, and re-evaluate the program.

- Demonstrates to employees and community leadership in Safety & Health.

DSW 134011

STLCOPCB4033969

Bill Bamboozler™



HEALTH & SAFETY THOUGHT

Many factors may contribute to high blood pressure. So, if you, a friend, a co worker, or a member of your family has high blood pressure — learn the facts, reduce the risk factors and follow your doctor's advise. Remember, your health goes hand and hand with your safety.

BAMA BRIEFS NEWS

The Bama Briefs is a Periodic Publication for Employees, Retirees and Families of the Anniston Plant to Present News, Information and Features about Monsanto People, Plants, Products and Policies in a Manner that will Promote a Feeling of Goodwill, Pride and Understanding.

Monsanto Company
300 Birmingham Highway
Anniston, Alabama 36201

EDITOR
SUSAN GARDNER

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
MIKE BORK
LAMAR FREEMAN

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANNISTON, AL
PERMIT NO. 836

Diane Herndon
A2SP

DSW 134012

STLCOPCB4033970