

FLEET FOCUS

A newsletter from Lee County Fleet Management

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FLEET WINS FLEET MASTERS' AWARD

Each year, the Association of Equipment Management Professionals (AEMP), *Construction Equipment Magazine*, and the AEMP Partners for Growth recognize equipment professionals who excel in meeting unique challenges inherent to delivering cost effective, efficient and effective management of mixed fleets of on-road and off-road equipment. Fleet Masters are recognized for their practices in the areas of human relations, vendor relations, asset management, maintenance management and technology. The competition is nationwide and open to the entire industry. Lee County Fleet Management was selected as this year's winner of the Fleet Master's Award.

Formed in 1982, AEMP advances heavy duty on- and off-road equipment management as a profession. AEMP represents fleet management professionals who work in private and public sector construction, utilities, energy, mining and more. We build and maintain relationships among manufacturers, users, government agencies, educational institutions and others involved in the design and operation of equipment. AEMP is committed to being the provider of best practices education through conferences, on-line learning and constant networking access to peers throughout the industry. AEMP is the only organization dedicated solely to those who manage and maintain heavy equipment.

The Fleet Masters awards reception and dinner is the premier industry event of its kind and will take place at 6:30 pm March 15, 2010 at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas Texas, where Lee County will be presented with the coveted Fleet Masters trophy.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world.

*George Washington Carver
Scientist, Inventor*

It's kind of fun to do the impossible.

*Walter Elias Disney
Entrepreneur*

Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.

*Robert F. "Bobby" Kennedy
U.S. Attorney General*

So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and...soon they become inevitable.

*Christopher Reeve
American Actor*

When you've exhausted all possibilities, remember this – you haven't.

*- Robert Harold Schuller
American Clergy*

Some people are born on third base and go through life thinking they hit a triple.

*Barry Switzer (1937 -)
Football Coach*

DO I REALLY NEED TO KNOW THIS?

** Waitomo Cave in New Zealand has glowworms on its ceiling that look like thousands of stars in the night sky.

** In A.D. 610, while baking bread, an Italian monk created a treat to motivate his students. He rolled out ropes of dough, twisted and baked them. He named his snacks pretiola, Latin for "little reward." When pretiola arrived in Germany, they were called bretzels.

** Hard pretzels were "invented" in the late 1600s, when a snoozing apprentice in a Pennsylvania bakery accidentally overbaked his pretzels, creating crunchy, seemingly inedible, knots. The master baker took a bite of one and loved it!

** Until the 1930s, pretzels were handmade, and the average worker could twist 40 a minute. In 1935, the Reading Pretzel Machinery Company introduced the first automated pretzel machine, which enabled bakeries to make 245 pretzels per minute.

** More than \$550 million worth of pretzels are sold in the U.S. annually; 80% are made in Pennsylvania.

** Julius Sturgis opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in Pennsylvania in 1861. He received his original pretzel recipe as a thank you from an unemployed man after Sturgis gave him dinner.

** Ian Fleming, creator of the James Bond novels, also wrote "Chitty-Chitty Bang Bang."

** The 4.2 million square foot Mall of America near Minneapolis, MN, the largest mall in the U.S., does not have a heating system. Even in January and February the mall is adequately heated by the interior lighting and the body heat of more than 45 million visitors every year!

** Bananas contain a natural chemical (also found in Prozac) which can make a person happy.

** The first president to appear on television was Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was seen by viewers at the opening of the NY World's Fair on April 30, 1939.

** Benjamin Franklin had 7 sisters and 9 brothers. He was the 15th child and youngest son.

** Facetious, abstemious, abstentious, arsenious, and arteriosus are the only five words in the English language that contain the vowels a, e, i, o, and u in their proper order.

** 62°F is the minimum temperature for a grasshopper to be able to hop.

** The sun burns 9 million tons of gas a second. At this rate, it is estimated the sun will burn out in another 10 billion years.

** The name "Yahoo!" is an acronym for "Yet Another Hierarchical Officious Oracle."

** Secure, relatively high-yielding stocks are called blue chips, a term taken from the game of poker, where blue chips are more valuable than white or red chips.

** Over 180 million Cadbury's Creme Eggs are sold between January and Easter each year (more than 3 Creme Eggs for every man, woman, and child in the U.S.).

** When England was a province of Rome, the city of Cheshire was noted for its fine cheese. The Romans built a wall around the town to protect it. Cheshire cheese was made in a mold shaped like a cat, later made famous as the smiling feline in Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland."



TEXTING BANNED

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood applauded Wyoming for becoming the 20th state to enact a statewide ban prohibiting drivers from texting while behind-the-wheel. The new ban will allow law enforcement officials to ticket anyone caught texting while driving in Wyoming. "Wyoming has taken an important step to eliminate distracted driving," said Secretary LaHood. "Texting while driving, like talking on cell phones while driving, is dangerous to the driver doing it and all of those around them."

According to research by the National Highway Traffic

Administration (NHTSA), nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver, and more than half a million were injured.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY TRIVIA

** St. Patrick was a fifth-century English or perhaps Scottish missionary to Ireland. The feast day of St. Patrick has been observed in Ireland on March 17 for hundreds of years. The date falls during the fasting season of Lent, but on St. Patrick's Day the prohibitions against eating meat were lifted, and the Irish would celebrate their patron saint with dancing, drinking, and feasting on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

** One of the most widespread of today's St. Patrick's Day celebrations, the St. Patrick's Day parade, began not in Ireland but in America. It consisted of Irish soldiers serving in the English army and took place in New York City on March 17, 1762. The parade helped the soldiers connect with their Irish roots and their fellow Irishmen.

** The tradition of dying the Chicago River green every year on St. Patrick's Day began in 1962, when Chicago pollution-control workers used green dye to trace illegal sewage discharges in the river. The workers thought it might be a fun way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, so they released 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river - enough to keep it green for a week.

** In ancient Ireland, the Celtic people revered the shamrock as a sacred plant because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. By the 17th century, when the English began to seize Irish land and suppress Irish language and religion, the shamrock became a symbol of Irish nationalism.

** Leprechauns were known as "lobaircin," meaning "small-bodied fellow." Belief in leprechauns probably stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny creatures who could use their magical powers for good or evil. In Celtic folklore, the lobaircin were cranky fairies who mended the shoes of the other fairies.

** Cabbage has long been a staple of the Irish diet, but it was traditionally served with Irish bacon, not corned beef. The corned beef was substituted for bacon by Irish immigrants to the Americas around the turn

of the century who could not afford the real thing.



FAREWELL

Fleet Management staff must say good-bye to Randy Layman who is leaving county government after almost 16 years of service with Lee County Fleet. We will miss him!



Washington

LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA

Who was the first president of the United States?

- George Washington
- James Adams
- John Hanson
- Thomas Jefferson

The correct answer is "C" - John Hanson, not George Washington. When the Congress met in 1781, the U.S. was governed by the Articles of Confederation, which were adopted in 1777 and ratified by the states in 1781. At that meeting, Congress elected John Hanson its "President of the U.S. in Congress assembled." George Washington became the first president of the U.S. under the U.S. Constitution in 1789. This month's trivia prize winner is **James Simpson**, a tradesworker from Maintenance and Repair.

Thanks to everyone who played the trivia game.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO U

Randy Layman	3/05
Dean Stockwell	3/05
Kirby Puckett	3/14
Danny Schultz	3/23
Joan Crawford	3/23
Celine Dion	3/30



UNUSUAL PAGEANTS

** Star Trek fans will be pleased to know that there's a Miss Klingon Empire beauty pageant held every year in September at the Star Trek Convention at Dragon*Con in Atlanta. Contestants dress as a female Klingon character from any Star Trek TV series or movie, and they are judged on beauty, personality, and talent. Winners receive a trophy, a tiara, and a satin sash outlined in the official colors of the Klingon Empire, blue and green.

** Men with skinny legs have the chance to be crowned Mr. Mosquito Legs in Clute, Texas. The pageant is part of the Great Texas Mosquito Festival, which is held in July.

** Humorist Gene Weingarten of The Washington Post once dubbed Battle Mountain, Nevada "the armpit of America" for its "lack of character and charm." Ever since, the residents of the town turned the joke into a celebration of "all things smelly" every August. Winners of the Armpit Beauty Pageant are determined by sweaty shirt contests, deodorant throws, and a "quick-draw" antiperspirant contest.

MARCH MADNESS

** The first men's college basketball game was played on January 18, 1896 between the University of Iowa and the University of Chicago. The final score? 15-12!

** The first women's college basketball game was played on April 4, 1896 between Stanford and California. Stanford won 2-1. There were 9 players on each side and they could only play in certain areas of the court. The women weren't allowed to steal the ball from each other because it was considered unladylike. They had to wear clothes that covered every part of their body except their hands and face!

** The first NCAA college basketball tournament, known as March Madness, was played in 1939.

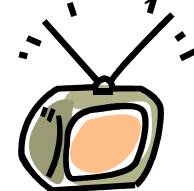
** In 1913, the bottom of the basketball net was left open for the first

time making it unnecessary to retrieve the ball once a basket was scored.

** In 1920, the backboards were moved 2 feet from the wall of the court. Before this rule change, players would "climb" the padded wall to sink baskets.

** In 1967, the slam dunk was made illegal, but the much-loved dunk was made legal again in 1976. In 1986, the three-point field goal was introduced with the three-point line set at 19 ft, 9 inches from the center of the basket.

(Facts courtesy of the NCAA)



THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA

For what brand was the first commercial jingle heard on television in the U.S.?

- Pepsodent
- Ajax
- Ford
- Bon Ami

Send your guess to Marilyn Rawlings at Fleet to be eligible to win this month's prize.



CUSTOMER SURVEYS TALLIED

Thanks to everyone who

completed a Fleet customer survey. We had hundreds of responses and lots of good information. We really appreciated the people who gave us some great suggestions or who asked the "tough" questions of us. If you were one of those people, Marilyn Rawlings, the Fleet Director would love to talk directly with you to see how we could do better. Since there were no names on the survey, we don't know who to contact.

So, simply e-mail Marilyn (MRawlings@leegov.com) or call Marilyn at 533-5338.