

# FLEET FOCUS

A newsletter from Lee County Fleet Management

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## FAREWELL TO A GOOD FRIEND

On Tuesday, November 10, 2009, Bob Hillman, a long time Fleet employee, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Those who knew Bob remember his smile and his incredible (and very dry) sense of humor. He loved to tease his coworkers and friends. Bob arrived in Fleet's parts room on September 30, 2004 which coincidentally is the parts room's busiest day of the year, the annual inventory. Prior to his arrival at Fleet, Bob worked as a mechanic and in the parts room for Powers Radiator on Fowler. Bob quickly became an integral part of the Lee County Fleet team and was soon promoted to Senior Supply Specialist.

Bob's first loves in his life were his family members including brothers Rusty and Richard, sisters Denise and Donna, children B.J., Kari, Mandie, and Jaimie and adopted family member, Janet Sherman, who was also his boss. Second to his love for his family was his love for racing. Bob was an avid NASCAR fan who teased every other race fan when their favorite driver lost to his. Food was not a high priority to Bob. His favorite meal was some sort of frozen dinner (yes, he usually at least micro-waved them first!) and hamburgers from the local vending machine. But eat as he might, he never gained an ounce. As a result, his family called him "Bones" all his life.

Janet Sherman remembers the day she was unloading parts at the back of the parts room. The over head delivery door was open. As she moved some parts, a small, black snake slithered from behind the boxes. She let out a scream that brought Bob running from the front of the parts room. "Are you OK?" yelled Bob. "Yes," replied Janet. "It's a snake. Help me get it." Bob kept on running to the parking lot and his car. Janet assumed he was getting something to help capture the snake. But Bob didn't come back. He was more afraid of snakes than she was. Of course as good friends do, Janet never let him live it down. To retaliate, Bob planted a stuffed (and very realistic) rat in Janet's office. We will all miss you Bob! We are glad you were loaned to us for a season. The season was just too short.

### QUOTABLE QUOTE:

*"I have learned that if you must leave a place that you have lived in and loved, where all your yesterdays are buried deep – leave it any way except a slow way, leave it the*

*fastest way you can. Never turn back and never believe that an hour you remember is a better hour because it is dead. Passed years seem safe ones, vanquished ones, while*

*the future lives in a cloud, formidable from a distance. The cloud clears as you enter it. I have learned this, but like everyone, I learned it too late."*

*- Author Unknown*



### DO I REALLY NEED TO KNOW THIS?

\*\* On December 13, one of the longest and darkest nights of the winter, Swedes celebrate the festival of St. Lucia, the patron saint of light. In many homes, a girl gets up early in the morning and puts on a long white dress, with a red sash at the waist, and a laurel crown decorated with four candles. She serves her family warm lussekatt buns for breakfast. The buns, shaped like the number eight, are usually flavored

with saffron and topped with raisins or nuts. Boys, called star boys, wear long white shirts and pointed hats. They help serve the buns. Children often go to school dressed in the costumes and serve the buns to their teachers.

\*\* According to the National Christmas Tree Association, Americans buy 37.1 million real Christmas trees each year; 25% are from the nation's 5,000 choose-and-cut farms.

\*\* Candy canes began as straight white sticks of sugar candy used to decorated the Christmas trees. A choirmaster at Cologne Cathedral decided to have the ends bent to depict a shepherd's crook and he would pass them out to the children to

keep them quiet during the services. It wasn't until about the 20th century that candy canes acquired their red stripes.

\*\* Child singer Jimmy Boyd was 12 years and 11 months old when he sang the Christmas favorite, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus." The song hit the top of the pop charts.

\*\* Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in 1895. The idea for using electric Christmas lights came from an American, Ralph E. Morris. The new lights proved safer than the traditional candles.

\*\* The real St. Nicholas lived in Turkey, where he was bishop of the town of Myra, in the early 4th century. It was the Dutch who first made him into a Christmas gift-giver, and Dutch settlers brought him to America where his name eventually became the familiar Santa Claus.

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<http://fleetplis.leegov.com/> and fill out the form with your name, email address and other required information. You will then be

notified when the new newsletter is available for viewing on the web.



### LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA

What was the name of the more expensive but less successful computer introduced by Apple in 1983 - before it came out with its popular Macintosh?

- A. Granny
- B. Lisa
- C. Fred
- D. Red

The correct answer is "B" Lisa, named for the daughter of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs. Lisa also served as an acronym for Local Integrated Software Architecture. It was the first personal computer with a graphical user interface. George Garcia from Utilities was this month's trivia winner.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO U

Raul Cortes	12/9
Donny Osmond	12/9
Pat Lynch	12/14
Charlie Rich	12/14
Ray Nicchia	12/31
Anthony Hopkins	12/31

### THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA

What state has cities named: Burnt Corn, Slap Out, Slicklizzard and Zip City?

- A. Tennessee

- B. Oregon
- C. Texas
- D. Alabama

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



### LEGO TRIVIA

\*\* LEGO creator Ole Kirk Christiansen's company originally sold and made wooden stepladders and ironing boards. In 1932, he started making wooden toys that were so popular he decided to sell them exclusively.

\*\* The name LEGO means "play well" in Danish.

\*\* In 1949, LEGO acquired the design rights to a self-locking building block created by Kiddicraft in the U.K. Originally named Automatic Binding Bricks, there was a name change in 1953 to LEGO Bricks and the name LEGO is imprinted on all the bricks.

\*\* In the 1950s LEGO grew to include building sets, vehicles and assorted props to help create buildings and towns. A new patent in 1958 made the brick sturdier and flexible with a tube on the bottom of the LEGO brick. Lego pieces of all varieties are a part of a universal system. Lego bricks from 1958 still interlock with

those made in 2009, and Lego sets for young children are compatible with those made for teenagers.

\*\* The Lego Group's motto is "Only the best is good enough", a free translation of the Danish phrase "Kun det bedste er godt nok." This motto was created by Ole Kirk to encourage his employees never to skimp on quality, a value he believed in strongly. The motto is still used within the company today.

\*\* Four billion LEGO mini-figures have been made since 1978. Four hundred billion bricks have been produced since 1958.



### HANUKKAH

\*\* Hanukkah, also spelled Chanukah, is known as the Festival of Lights, an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE.

\*\* Hanukkah is observed for eight nights, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, and may occur from late November to late December on the Gregorian calendar (December 12, 2009).

\*\* The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a special candelabrum, the nine-branched *Menorah* or *Hanukiah*, one light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. An extra light called a *shamash* (Hebrew: "guard" or "servant") is also lit each night for the purpose of lighting the others, and is given a distinct location, usually above or below the rest.

\*\* Hanukkah is celebrated by a series of rituals that are performed every day throughout the 8-day holiday. Some are family-based and others are communal. There are special additions to the daily prayer service, and a section is added to the blessing after meals.

\*\* Hanukkah is not a "Sabbath-like" holiday, and there is no obligation to refrain from activities that are forbidden on the Sabbath. People go to work as usual, but may leave early in order to be home to kindle the lights at nightfall.

\*\* Many families exchange gifts each night, and eat foods fried or baked in oil (preferably [olive oil](#)), as the original miracle of the Hanukkah menorah involved the discovery of a small flask of pure olive oil used by the Jewish High Priest. This small batch of olive oil was only supposed to last one day, and instead it lasted eight.

\*\* The *dreidel*, or *sevivon* in Hebrew, is a four-sided spinning top that children play

with on Hanukkah. Each side is imprinted with a Hebrew letter. These letters are an acronym for the Hebrew words meaning "A *great miracle happened there*", referring to the miracle of the oil that took place.

#### **QUOTABLE QUOTE:**

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

*Bill Vaughn (1915 – 1977)*  
*Syndicated columnist*

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

#### **PAST & PRESENT NEW YEAR TRADITIONS**

1) The tradition of using a baby to signify the New Year was started around 600 B.C by the ancient Greeks, who, at the start of a year would carry a baby around in a basket. The purpose of it was to honor Dionysus, the God of Fertility and symbolize his annual rebirth.

2) The New Year in Scotland is called Hogmanay. Some people in Scotland set barrels of tar on fire and gradually roll them down the streets in the villages. This ritual symbolizes that the old year is burned up and New Year is going to begin.

3) In Columbia, Cuba and Puerto Rico some families stuffed a life-

size doll with things and then dressed it up in old clothes from each family member. At the stroke of midnight, this 'Mr. Old Year' would be set on fire. This was done with the simple belief that a doll thus stuffed has bad memories or sadness associated with them, and that the burning of these will help one to do away with all past grief and usher in happiness in life with the coming year.

4) Late on the evening of December 31, people of Japan would eat a bowl of buckwheat noodles called "toshikoshisoba" ("year-crossing noodles") and listen for the sound of the Buddhist temple bells, which were rung 108 times at midnight. The sound of these bells was thought to purify the listeners of the 108 sins or evil passions believed to plague human beings.

5) In Spain people would eat 12 grapes as the clock struck midnight (one each time the clock chimes) on New Year's Eve. This ritual origin-nated in the 20th century when weather conditions resulted in an unseasonable bumper harvest of grapes. Not able to decide what to do about so many grapes at Christmas time, the King of Spain and the grape growers came up with the idea

of the New Year ritual.

6) In Greece, children leave their shoes by the fireside on New Year's Day with the hope that Saint Basil, who was famous for his kindness, will come and fill their shoes with gifts.

7) In Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, and Mexico, those with hopes of traveling in the New Year carry a suitcase around the house at midnight. Some even carry it around the block to ensure traveling at greater distances.

8) Some people in China believe that there are evil spirits that roam the earth. So on New Year they burn firecrackers to scare the evil spirits. The doors and windows of homes in China can be seen sealed with paper. This is to keep the evil demons out.

9) It was thought that one could affect the luck people would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. The Dutch believed that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune. The hog, and its meat, was considered lucky because it symbol-ized prosperity. Cab-bage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also con-sidered a sign of

prosperity, representing paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day. The ancient Persians gave New Year's gifts of eggs, which symbolized productiveness.

10) Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle.

11) On New Year's Day in Japan, many people dress in their new clothes. Homes are decorated with pine branches and bamboo, both of which are considered to be the symbols of long life.