

# CHECKER

# HEADLIGHTS

APRIL 1983



## CHECKER'S "BUNCH FOR LUNCH"



(L-R): WKMI's Bob King, Checker's Jan Knapper, Dorothy Fildes, Sally Clark, Marilyn Predum, WKMI's Lori Moore & Doc Holiday.

On Tuesday, March 8th, four of Checker's office Employees were the guests of W.K.M.I.'s early morning Disc Jockies, "Doc" Holiday and Bob King, at Brann's Steak and Seafood in Parchment. The lucky ladies were chosen as that week's "Bunch for Lunch" as the result of a letter written to them from Dorothy Fildes of the Payroll Department. The lunch date has been a weekly feature of that Radio Station for the last couple of years. Guests are selected each week as the result of letters written to the station requesting to be the guests of "Holiday and King."

Dorothy Fildes, Jan Knapper and Marilyn Predum all from Payroll were joined by Sally Clark of Purchasing to round out the foursome. A welcome but unexpected guest was Lori Moore from W.K.M.I.'s News Staff. To do the event up in style the ladies drove a Checker to lunch and our Headlights Photographer showed up to record the festivities. From all reports they enjoyed a very nice lunch and their Hosts and Hostess were just as amusing at lunch as they are on their radio program.

## CHECKER HATS & T-SHIRTS

We have ordered hats and t-shirts to be sold to employees at cost. These hats and t-shirts will bear the Checker logo and will be available in two different colors. Rod Walton is organizing this project and he estimates they will be here the week of May 2. Thanks to Mike Champion for submitting the idea. As soon as they come in, we'll let you know the details on how you may purchase these items.

## PAUL REYNARD CHECKER ARTIST



*Red Breasted Merganser*

Paul's woodcarvings seem to be getting better and better as time goes on. The latest carvings pictured here really do not do justice at all to the intricacy and beauty of these birds. Paul says the most frequently asked question is "How long did it take you to do that?" Since Paul works on 30 birds at one time, he cannot give you a direct answer to that question. Paul displays his art work twice a year at the Richland Highland Art Gallery. His next show will be in October. He says that he sells everything he makes. He even made a recent sale to Tokyo and Taiwan.



*Owl & Sharp-Shinned Hawk*

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

by *Dianne Tahtinen*

Excellent attendance, hard worker and pleasant personality all describe our employee of the month. Rod Newberry has been a Checker employee since April, 1966. Before working at Checker, Rod was an apprentice meat cutter.

Rod works in Department 28, which now has nine employees. He has worked in this department since he came to Checker. While the car line was running, Rod worked on the line where they drop the body of the cab onto the assembly line. He enjoyed working on the car line under the supervision of Erv Doublestein.

Now that the car line is down, Rod is a spot welder. This work is a lot harder than the car line. The work involves making the Suburban Platforms (Part No. 8791A and No. 8791B). The quality of his work is excellent.

Rod, his wife Carolyn and their two children (Rod and Kimberly) make their home at Fine Lake. At night, Rod takes his dogs (of which he has three) and goes out coon hunting. Besides coon hunting, Rod "works out" and enjoys spending time on mechanical projects in his garage. He is also an avid boxing fan, attending amateur fights whenever he can.

A person that drinks Mountain Dew on his coffee breaks cannot be all bad and Rod Newberry is a fine example. Thanks Rod.



Rod Newberry

## ENERGY FACTS

by *Orville Breithaupt*

### NATURAL GAS FACTS FOR PLANTS 1, 2, 3 (MCF equals Thousands of cubic feet)

In 1980 we used 217,792 MCF natural gas.  
The cost was \$641,399.00

In 1981 we used 222,196 MCF natural gas.  
The cost was \$821,195.00

In 1982 we used 185,854 MCF natural gas.  
The cost was \$768,667.00

<b>1980 MCF per day</b>	<b>1981 MCF per day</b>
597 MCF Day	609 MCF Day
Cost per Day =	Cost per Day =
\$1,757.00	\$2,250.00

**1982 MCF per day**  
509 MCF Day  
Cost per Day =  
\$2,106.00

How much gas is 600 MCF a day? If you had oil heat in your home, and your tank held 275 gallons, you would have to fill it 16 times a day. If you had coal heat, you would have to shovel 25 tons per day.

## SIX SENSES OF SAFETY

Safety is a matter of constant awareness — of being fully alert all the time to potentially dangerous situations. It means the sharpened use of all of our five physical senses, plus that hard-to-define "sixth sense" that can trigger a warning without our quite knowing exactly what's wrong.

### SIGHT

The safety sense most of us rely on most of the time. When driving, keep glancing at the rear- and side-view mirrors — particularly when you're about to pass. Watch traffic signs, other cars. Are there any small toys on the steps? A slippery spot on the kitchen floor? A sharp knife sticking up in the dishwasher? Dangerous drugs in the medicine cabinet where youngsters can reach them? Look!

### SMELL

Is that smell of smoke from a cigarette? Or is it something else? And that odor of gas: if you suspect a leak, don't try to locate it yourself. Call your local gas company — immediately! Does that defrosted food smell funny? Toss it out! Your nose knows.

### HEARING

Stop, look, and listen at railroad crossings. Keep your car radio low so you can hear a warning honk or a policeman's siren. Was that a fire alarm you just heard? Was that a cry for help? Does the car's engine sound strange? Listen to safety tips! Let's hear it for safety!

### TASTE

That pork looks like it's well done, but what does it taste like? Chew on this one for a bit. And that other food; does it taste rancid? Skip it. Do those wild berries cause you to pucker up? They're for the birds.

### TOUCH

Is that bare wire "hot"? Don't touch it to find out. You can get a charge from other things. Do you have to pet that stray dog? He may put the bite on you (not to mention the doctor after he's given you a rabies shot). Is that bath or shower water too hot? Test it with a touch before you plunge in. Is that electric range burner on or off? Touch it and you'll find out!

### THE SIXTH SENSE

This is, in a sense, common sense. It's also a combination of intuition, a hunch, an uneasiness, a sense that something's wrong. It's a gathering together of all the other senses pushed down into our subconscious — a kind of vague memory. Maybe you can't really define it; but learn to rely on it as a kind of safety warning. It tells you to be careful. And that's what safety is all about.

*\*Courtesy — Ronald Findlay, Editor, The Dutch Girl, J. M. Schneider, Inc., Kitchener, Ontario.*

## Anniversaries For April

by *Joanna Hart*

35 YEARS  
Harlow Steffey

15 YEARS  
Larry Friel

10 YEARS

Amie Boyd  
Debbie Gibbs

Ron Higginbotham  
Don Lockwood

Bob Roach  
Gene Slater

## Adam's Alley

### EXCUSES, EXCUSES, EXCUSES

by Ed Adams

With spring here, along with it comes warm weather, sunny days, opening of fishing season and ABSENTEEISM. Although this is a serious problem and can hamper production, the excuses used in calling in for the day off are quite humorous. Whether you work in the office or the factory, nearly all of us have played hookie a time or two.

There are some serious call-ins such as doctor and dentist appointments or an occasional I don't feel well. We also hear some originals that aren't so original anymore. How about the car wouldn't start; I had a hangerover; I had a flat tire or I got a ticket on the way in.

I always liked the one where "My alarm didn't work." You know that same alarm always seems to work when there is fishing, hunting or a date to go on. Come on people, let's find something different to use. If your dog should ever run away, that is just about a guarantee for a day off. Another good excuse is: "I won't be in tomorrow because I have to pick up my unemployment check." I realize that \$80 for \$200 is not an even trade but I'm sure your check will be waiting for you after work.

I'll give you a couple of good ones to go by and then I want all of you to follow suit.

One person had to take Saint Patrick's Day off so they could party down and drink a little green beer. Further investigation into their roots revealed no Irish descendants.

There was a guy that called in during deer season saying he broke the springs on his Blazer and now he was stranded up north. I don't think he fooled many with that one.

Now here is one for the books. This hasn't happened yet, but I know for a fact that it is coming. I am going to be asked by one of my employees for the day off so he can go home and work on his remote controlled helicopter. Now that is original.

So, let us really think hard and call in with something off the wall. I'm sure we can all use a good laugh, including the operator.

## LAST OF THE CHECKERS LEAVE KALAMAZOO

by Rod Walton



Time to say our final goodbyes to an old friend. The last load of Checkers rolled out of here on Wednesday, March 23, 1983 bound for Chicago. For all the laborious hours that so many endured to make the "old iron horse" what she was, it was a sad moment that touched us all to see the final chapter close on an era that touched so many hearts.

## RETIREMENTS

by Joanna Hart



Jim Yoder

For years Jim came in early to get the washers going in readiness for production.

Jim has a trailer and plans to spend the winters in Florida. Our very best wishes go with him for a long and happy retirement.

Pearl Simmons has retired after 17 years at Checker. For the first 14 years, Pearl worked as an Assembler II in Dept. 29. Pearl enjoyed the work and was an excellent worker. If she was busy here, she was also busy at home raising 3 grandchildren.

Pearl spent the last 4 years as a Sweeper. Her cheerful attitude and smile will be missed by all. We wish her a happy retirement.



Pearl Simmons

"Charlie" Smith retired in March after 22 years. In all those years, Charlie worked in but one department and that was the Press Room. He started as a Baler Operator and then went to Automatic Press Operator. As one Foreman put it, "Charlie was here every day and did a great job. He was a quiet man and well-liked by everyone."

Charlie, we hope your retirement is a very happy one.



Charlie Smith

Harol Schrupp spent seven years working for Checker in the skilled trades — Machine Repairman, Millwright and Auto Mechanic. In March he decided to retire. "Jim" as he was known in his department, was an excellent employee and an asset to the department.

"Jim" has a trailer and will spend his winters in the South. We wish him the very best.



Jim Schrupp

# - RECIPES -

by Doreen Soule

## Travelin' Around

This month's selection is a recipe brought back to us by Bettie Gromek from a restaurant she visited while on vacation. Bettie enjoyed the cornbread so much she asked for the recipe, which the Riverhouse restaurant in Tarpon Springs gladly shares with all their customers who would like it. This gives me an opportunity to again ask all of you to share your favorite recipes with us — or a new or long standing favorite restaurant in the vicinity that we might like to try. This is your column and I really would like your input — so let me hear from you.

## RIVERHOUSE CORN BREAD (Onion Hoe Cake)

- 1 Cup of self-rising flour
- 2 Cups of self-rising white corn meal
- 1½ Cups of chopped green onions, white and green, lightly packed
- 2 Tsp. of sugar
- 2¼ Cups of cold milk

Mix dry ingredients thoroughly, add cold milk to make a medium batter. Drop one tablespoon of batter at a time into *hot oil* ¼" deep. Turn *only once* as a pancake, drain on a paper towel. Finished breads should be about ½" thick, golden brown, with a curled edge. Perfect with Seafood or Vegetables.

According to southern legend, these corn cakes were first made by slaves in the field, cooked on the heads of their weeding hoes. Thus the name, "HOE CAKE."

\*Courtesy — Ralph Clyburn, Editor, Cincinnati Bell Bulletin, Cincinnati Bell, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio.

