

nuts & bolts

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Spring 2009

Tennsco is tops with Grainger

It's the big one - in terms of awards, that is. Grainger has presented Tennsco with its prestigious Partners in Performance Award for 2008.

"It's for being among the very best suppliers," said Hal McCalla, Tennsco's vice president for sales. "It's the stamp of approval on everyone's hard work. It's a high honor."

The presentation was made at Grainger's annual supplier conference March 2-3 in Schaumburg, Ill. Grainger, a leading broad line supplier of facilities maintenance products serving businesses and institutions throughout North America, presents the award annually to a select group of suppliers for outstanding performance throughout the year.

McCalla said no other manufacturer of similar products to Tennsco received an award. This is Tennsco's fourth time to capture the prestigious award. Tennsco previously won in 1998,

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Shipper Greg Curtis (seated) and material handler Aaron Adams enjoy a few minutes relaxing in the new Plant 2 breakroom

Employees construct new office, breakroom

Sometimes there's nothing like doing it yourself. That's what Tennsco's Plant 2 employees did earlier this year as they planned, designed and built a new structure inside the plant to accommodate additional office space and a spiffy new breakroom.

After several years of constant use, the old employee breakroom was in need of upgrading. Accompanied by the need for additional office space, Tennsco crews took advantage of Plant 2's high roof.

The former ground floor breakroom was renovated into bright, fresh office space. Atop the new office, a second floor was added and made accessible by a steel

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Billy Gordon

Staff mourns supervisor

Tennsco staff members were saddened by the news that long-time supervisor Billy Gordon passed away April 25 after a battle with cancer.

Gordon joined Tennsco in 1976 as a tool and die maker. He rose through the ranks to become tool and die supervisor in 1993.

In 2006, Gordon received his 30-year service pin - a proud milestone for him and his family. His wife Wanda told Tennsco representatives Gordon "loved his job."



On a recent plant visit, Grainger representatives made presentations to several Tennsco managers. Pictured (L to R) are Van Malone, Dave Wings (Grainger), Roy Stinson, Mark Renas (Grainger), Hal McCalla, Steve Fuller (Grainger), Jerry Estes, Johnnie Morris and Hensley Perkins.

Grainger

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2001 and 2002.

Grainger's Partners in Performance Award recognizes suppliers who achieve excellence in several categories, including responsiveness, information integrity, cost control, on-time shipping, active collaboration and order fulfillment. Grainger suppliers receive ratings throughout the year for their performance in each of these categories. Approximately two percent of Grainger's 1,200 suppliers receive this award each year.

McCalla said the criteria "are pretty strict. It's for on-time delivery, low warranty defect rates, and prompt and accurate information among other things."

What does it mean for Tennsco?

"Hopefully, it means Grainger will consider our excellent performance when making future decisions about product placement," McCalla said.

"Grainger is proud to present Tennsco with the 2008 Partners in Performance Award," said D.G. Macpherson, Grainger's Senior Vice President, Global Supply Chain. "Now more than ever, Grainger is keenly focused on improving cycle times to help ensure customers have access to the broad array of products they need to efficiently maintain their facilities. We can achieve these goals only with supplier partners who share this same commitment. We are proud to honor Tennsco's commitment to the highest standards of performance. We look forward to working together to enhance the service we provide customers and drive profitable growth for both companies."

W.W. Grainger, Inc., with 2008 sales of \$6.9 billion, serves businesses in Canada, China, Mexico and the U.S. Grainger's network includes more than 600 branches, 18 distribution centers and multiple web sites.



Tennsco crews went up with the Plant 2 addition. The former ground floor breakroom was renovated into another office (below, Supervisor Jerry Hooper does some second shift computer work) and a new breakroom added atop it (at left).

Blood drive successful

An urgent call from the American Red Cross got results.

When blood supplies got low late in 2008, Tennsco employees responded within days. About 30 employees volunteered to give blood. The company allowed the employees to donate while they were on the clock.

Construction

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staircase. Inside the new breakroom employees can make use of a microwave, a refrigerator, vending machines, outside windows, and faux wood flooring linoleum.

As a nod to the growing conservation movement, the lights are motion activated and turn off when the room is vacant.

Industrial Engineer Troy Beasley took the lead on the initial construction. After taking bids, Plant Manager Roy Stinson determined the bids were a bit high so he turned to Beasley and employees already on the payroll. "We saved quite a bit of money - about \$35,000," Beasley said when the overall job, the heating and air-conditioning and the new office are considered. Plus, the project kept employees working during a slow production period.

The construction took about six weeks and employed the talents of block layers, carpenters, trim men and flooring folks.

Following is the list of Tennsco employees who worked on the project:

Norman Gentry
J.P. Bridges

Tim Durham
Steve Burgess
Gerald "Rat" Curtis
Dale Sensing
Thomas Russell
Darrel Davis

Jerry Hooper
Aaron Adams
John Chichy
Robert Martin
Steve McClurkan
Ralph Martin

Joshua Strasshoffer
Daryl Freshour
Roy Stinson
Eugene Harness





Families growing

Nine Tenssco families have celebrated the arrival of babies over the last few months. Newborn babies of Tenssco employees receive a \$50 savings bond from Tenssco.

Landon Gage Spivey, son of Chris and Bridgett Spivey, born 11/16/08, 8 lbs. 6 oz.

Koda Braxton Zimmerman, son of Brian and Whitney Zimmerman, born 11/19/08, 9 lbs. 4 oz.

Joshua Wyatt Boren, son of Josh and Coral Boren, born 12/8/08, 5 lbs. 2 oz.

Tylon Kade Carter, son of Trent and Kayla Carter, born 1/4/09, 6 lbs. 1 oz.

Madison Chyler Rose Russell, daughter of Michael and Stacy Russell, born 1/11/09, 7 lbs.

Cooper Layton Greene, son of Joe and Maranda Greene, born 2/2/09, 8 lbs.

Brayden Joseph Willard Tomlinson, son of Rickey and Allison Tomlinson, born 2/9/09, 5 lbs. 14 oz.

Abigail Madeleine Rose Baggett, daughter of Jeramie and Rebecca Baggett, born 3/4/09, 9 lbs. 1 oz.

Bentley Sue Proctor, daughter of Jarrett Proctor and Crystal Shelton, born 4/4/09, 7 lbs. 8 oz.



Pictured with a few boxes representing the Tenssco contributions are (L to R) Reba Hamrick, Tina McCollom, Kim Sesler, Lisa Wright and Angie Baker

Food drive prevents hunger

The headlines are depressing. Economic times are challenging locally and all around the world. Rather than focus on the negative, Tenssco employees are reaching out and helping area families in need.

Many individuals have had enough to eat this past winter thanks to the food drive Tenssco held late in 2008. The drive benefited the food pantry at the Dickson County Help Center. Employees at each Tenssco plant participated.

“We appreciate the folks at Tenssco doing that. It’s wonderful when a business comes together to help in that way,” said Dale Spicer, Help Center director.

The several pickup truck loads Tenssco delivered helped stock the pantry through the winter months “when so many are needing food,” Spicer said. “These are tough times for elderly and disabled folks and grandparents keeping kids.”

The food donations mean the Help Center doesn’t have to use its cash donations to buy food; that money can be used to pay winter heating bills, Spicer said.

Dickson County Help Center
Street: 107 Myatt Street
Dickson, TN 37055-1852
Phone: 615.441.0076

The Help Center accepts donations of cash, food, clothing, furniture and other items all through the year. Call ahead and find out what food staples are running low so your donation can be targeted to fill critical needs. Looking for a bargain? Shop in the center's thrift store and help even more families.



Progress "presses" on

PREPARING FOR FUTURE ■ Maintenance employee Jimmy Glenn works to install a new Verson 300-ton press at Tennsco's Plant 2. The Verson press was purchased at auction and completely rebuilt at the factory. It is much faster and has a larger bed size than the hydraulic press it replaced. New controls have been retrofitted and the coil feeding equipment is being refurbished. When the project is complete, it will be a state-of-the-art stamping line.



WORKING EFFICIENTLY ■ Plant 2 Shift Manager Steve McClurkan checks the work of fabrication operator Dan Crants on Tennsco's relatively new Stamtec press and the 330-ton Seyi press (shown at right) adjacent to it. The new presses use sophisticated computer controls to make complex stamped parts in a single operation and to minimize the setup time between parts. Prior to the new presses coming on line, items like locker doors had to go through two to three different presses. The new presses are larger, faster and more versatile.



White Bluff employee Dixie Kerr arranges the first books on shelving donated by Tennsco



Bluff bursting with books

Tennsco donates shelving for volunteer-driven library

A donation of Tennsco shelving is making a dream come true for bibliophiles in White Bluff.

A grass roots effort began a year ago to locate a library in the east Dickson County town. When the new town hall opened in January 2008, volunteers got permission to turn the old town hall building on Taylor Town Road into a library.

Now, the five-room house has been transformed into a bright, inviting home for thousands of books being donated by folks near and far. The library will feature a small meeting room, a children's area, several computer stations and handicap access. The library will be staffed by volunteers with limited operating hours initially. Dixie Kerr, an administrative assistant for the town of White Bluff, expects the library to be open for after school hours and into the early evening for use by individuals getting off work.

Kerr said city employees moved walls

and refinished floors. Other than that labor, the library is coming together due to volunteer effort and without city or county tax dollars.

"People have donated tons of really nice, new books of recent print," Kerr said, "and some really old stuff. Everything is in such good condition."

She said it's been a "monumental job" to categorize the books. It's all being done with volunteers. While staffers at the Dickson County Public Library and Lifelong Learning Center have been helpful with advice, the White Bluff library will be a separate entity.

A call to Tennsco to inquire about a donation resulted in the company supplying all the shelving for the library. Kerr said the organizing group was thankful for the donation because it lessened the need for fundraising.

Fundraising is still ongoing though to cover other expenses. Organizers have held a yard sale and sold barbecued chickens. The board overseeing the library development plans to have about one fundraiser a month.

"Everybody will have a little bit of ownership in everything," Kerr said.

The library is named the Jennie Woodworth Library in honor of the woman who established the town's first library many decades ago. Her descendants, who now live in Ann Arbor, Michigan, have been so moved by the honor for their ancestor, they are sending books by the boxes – about 4,000 thus far, Kerr said. Family members have already made arrangements to be present at the May 9 dedication.



IRWIN RETIRES ■ Pictured (center) is Plant 3 Fabrication Supervisor James Irwin upon his retirement April 9. He's pictured with Tennsco's Vice President for Human Resources Phil Corbin (at left) and Plant 3 Manager Hensley Perkins. Irwin spent 28 years with Tennsco, starting as a machine operator and moving up to supervisor. He said his most enjoyable memories were getting to work with Chairman Les Speyer in the early days of the company. How's he spending his retirement? "Waiting for a Social Security check and a retirement check," he said with a chuckle.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES ■ This listing of employee anniversaries includes those celebrating a five-year interval.

October 08 - March 09

PLANT	NAME	MONTH	YRS	NO. OF
Office	Blair, David William Jr.	12/98	10	2
Office	Jones, Phyllis A.	11/68	40	2
Off	Proctor, Jarrett	3/04	5	2
Office	Webster, Michael A.	10/93	15	2
1	Adcock, Gerald R.	11/83	25	2
1	Agy, Charles A.	1/84	25	2
1	Baker, Mark D.	11/88	20	2
1	Church, Stephen R.	10/93	15	3
1	Dunnagan, Larry W.	12/78	30	3
1	Estes, Jerry B.	12/68	40	3
1	Estes, Joe W.	2/84	25	4
1	Graybill, Jerry R.	10/88	20	4
1	Holloway, Robert H.	2/84	25	5
1	Roberts, Tony D.	3/79	30	5
1	Weatherford, Noah R.	11/83	25	5
2	Brazzell, Don W.	10/88	20	6
	Breeden, John M.	2/84	25	
	Chandler, Jeffrey S.	11/88	20	
	Crants, Thomas D.	10/98	10	
	Curtis, Gerald L.	11/88	20	
	Day, Charles J. Jr.	11/98	10	
	Hanner, Glenn A.	2/99	10	
	Heathco, Daniel S.	11/93	15	
	Hooper Sr., Jerry L.	1/94	15	
	Horner, Richard	12/78	30	
	Jones, Dowell K.	11/83	25	
	Lane, William R.	2/84	25	
	Malugin, Henry R.	1/89	20	
	Mota, Rosa Manuela	10/98	10	
	Primm, Albert W.	11/88	20	
	Proctor, Walter D.	10/98	10	
	Ross, Danny G.	12/93	15	
	Salley, Gregory S.	11/93	15	
	Sayle, Timothy G.	10/98	10	
	Stinson, Roy L.	10/68	40	
	Underhill, Phillip W.	10/93	15	
	Durham, William J.	10/88	20	
	Parish, Willard M.	1/79	30	
	Rollins, Michael D.	2/84	25	
	Miller, William Ray	11/83	25	
	Powers, Mark D.	11/93	15	
	Brandon, Kevin L.	10/98	10	
	Stone, Kenneth E.	11/88	20	
	Swaw, J.W.	10/98	10	
	Fambrough, Shannon L.	11/98	10	



They got bonuses

The following employees received a \$50 cash bonus for perfect attendance as of 12/31/08.

Plant 1

Phillip N. Manley
Jeffrey T. Stallings
Danny R. Schrock
Mike R. Hutton
Steve M. Acuff

Plant 2

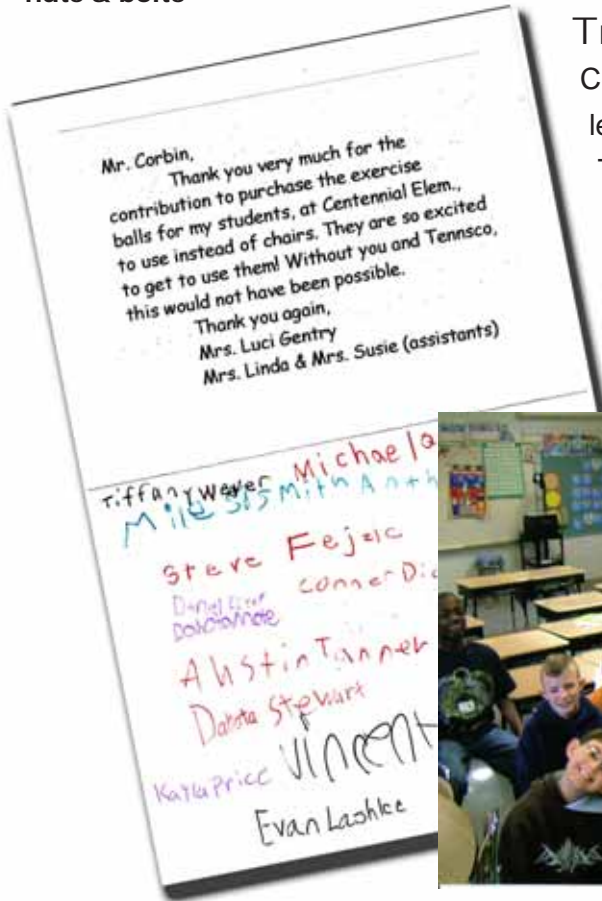
Leonard Modena
Henry E. Malugin
Sandra M. Sanker
Bobby B. Stone
Chris N. Denney
Gregory J. Tummins
William H. Deloach
Tristan J. Logan
Daniel J. Comuzie
James A. Bruce
Jerry L. Carver

Plant 3

Bennie J. Davidson
David S. Brazzell
Corey Dean Madden
Modesto Carrera

Plant 5

Kenneth M Greene
Gary D. Bailey
Nancy D. Capps
J.W. Swaw
Rafael Cruz



THANKFUL CLASS ■ Thanks to a donation from Tennsco, Centennial Elementary School class members are improving their learning. Pictured are Luci Gentry's students posing with the Tennsco-donated exercise balls many of them sit on rather than struggle to stay seated in chairs. Gentry said the balls allow students to move while doing their lessons, rather than spend much of their concentration on keeping still. "It frees up energy to devote to learning," Gentry said. While it doesn't work for



every child, it is working for the majority of students in Gentry's class. "It's made a world of difference in what they've been able to accomplish. We appreciate Tennsco getting them for us. They have been a God-send."

263 check health at Wellness Fair

Tennsco employees gathered for bi-annual wellness checks in March. A total of 263 employees streamed in over two days. Healthcare employees from Dickson Medical Associates were on hand to check blood pressure and draw blood to check cholesterol and glucose levels. Two additional screenings were also made available - a Complete Blood Count (CBC) for all employees and a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test for all males over age 50. The CBC is used to detect anemia, infections or various other

health problems. PSA is a substance produced by the prostate gland. Elevated PSA levels may indicate prostate cancer or a noncancerous condition such as prostatitis or enlarged prostate.

Representatives from Aetna, Cowan Benefit Services, Delta Dental, Principal Financial Group and TriStar Bank were on hand to share their various services with Tennsco employees.

Wellness fair attendees were also treated to refreshments, door prizes and a new Wellness Fair t-shirt. For participating, employees receive a \$4 per covered adult discount on their weekly health insurance premium.



A wellness fair participant prepares to get her blood drawn at Tennsco's bi-annual Wellness Fair in March



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