



# Warren s. Johnson Society of Retirees, Inc.

An independent organization of retired employees of Johnson Controls, Inc.

[www.jci.com/retirees](http://www.jci.com/retirees)

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 12, NO. 3 / Fall 2005

### NEXT QUARTERLY LUNCHEON THURSDAY, October 20, 2005

Alioto's  
3041 N. Mayfair Road  
(Highway 100 & Burleigh)

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Cash Bar – Lunch – Meeting  
Cost: \$11.00

#### Menu Selection

- Braised tenderloin tips with noodles
- Grilled chicken breast salad

Program: Ronald MacDonald House  
Speakers: Jeanne Gruber

The Ronald McDonald House of Milwaukee was a vision in the making by a handful of extremely dedicated and generous people.

It is dedicated to providing a "home away from home" for families of children receiving treatment at Milwaukee area hospitals and by awarding grants to non-profit organizations that service needs of children and their families.

Jeanne Gruber will be presenting a slide presentation so come prepared with an open mind and questions.

Mark your calendars and join us on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Send reservations with menu selection and payment by Wednesday October 12, 2005 to:

Sharlene Wardinski  
3656 So. 82<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Milwaukee WI 53220  
Phone: 414-543-6414

See the special luncheon promotion described on page 6

### Last quarter "Identity Theft"

Report by Sharlene Wardinski



Officer Marcus Switzer

On July 21 the attendees at the quarterly luncheon meeting enjoyed a very informative presentation by Police Officer Marcus Switzer regarding identity theft.

No matter how cautious you are, you cannot guarantee that a criminal will not obtain information regarding your name, address, date of birth, social security number, etc. Often there are no warning signs that identity theft has occurred.

If you have become a victim some of the resources you have available for help are:

U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Secret Service, Social Security Administration, Police Department or Call for action, an International non profit network of consumer hotlines affiliated with local Broadcast partners. Help is available to individuals and small businesses.

Remember: Be Alert -- Be Observant.



## The President's Page

*Messages from Tom Parris*

Like my new photo? I'm wearing George Sperl's old bowling shirt. The one with the old square logo. That shirt reminds me of the copies of "The Johnson Factory" from 1939 thru 1944 that I have been reading. There were many bowling team pictures in them. Many included Factory Superintendent A.J. Otto (177 average). Also included were: President J.A. Cutler (130 average), Pricing Ed Brock (154), Personnel Herb Koepke (178), and Model Shop Foreman Roman Dickert (182). No. I didn't see Sharlene in any of them. Retiree Dick Stevens (Battery) received them from the estate of his uncle Cyril Voit, who worked in the Johnson Service Shipping Room during that period. They were fun to read. There was a really cute photo of Barbara Ann Piel Pozorski entered into the Cutest Baby contest. There was a photo of a young Ralph Kubal holding a suitcase marked with a "New York →" sign as he thumbed a ride to join the Army. There was a cartoon of blunt, gravel voiced, ceegar smoking Stock Room Foreman Wally Grages wearing an Army Sergeant's uniform and barking out orders.

I have sent those copies of The Johnson Factory to retiree John Meyer. John has been a long-term history buff of JCI. I have asked him to write a regular historical column. I'm sure that John will keep us entertained. In a related matter, JCI has assigned corporate historian duties to Kenneth Wirth.

**Our Web Site: [www.JCI.com/retirees](http://www.JCI.com/retirees)**

By now, the 2006 Calendar of Events should have been added to our website. As of the end of July, we have had 137 visitors to this site. I recommend that each of you visit this site.

We have had far less traffic to our Email address. [wsjsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:wsjsociety@yahoo.com)  
It is handy for you to notify us of a change in address, ask questions, etc.

## 2006 Biennial Reunion

Mark your calendars. We have tentatively selected Friday and Saturday September 15 and 16 for the dates of the 2006 Biennial Reunion contingent upon getting restaurant dates, etc.

# "Tell Me MORE"

my funniest JCI memory.....

## **From Wanda Cline – Columbus, OH**

Our offices were in the front of the building and we had a large shop in the back. We also had a small space for kitchen table and chairs, frig, stove and a large deep sink.

One day I decided to fix spaghetti for lunch. The table was all set, the sauce was prepared and all I had to do was drain the spaghetti. I took the pan to the sink and – you guessed it – the lid slid off and my spaghetti went in the sink!

One of the guys was in the back and he came to my rescue. He said we will put it back in the pan and rinse it off and everything would be fine. We did just that and no one ever knew about the spaghetti!

I can laugh at it now but back then it was a disaster!

## **From Jim Bailey – R&D Milwaukee**

In days of yore (1950's-1970's), harmless practical jokes were played in R&D, (a very creative crew that I have much admiration for). I bore the brunt of some of the best! Here's a sampling of gags played on various staff.

During winters many engineers took off their coats and jackets at once so they could be donned in one move. A secretary took all of the coats loose from the jackets so their arms were no longer meshed. When the engineers slipped on their jackets to go home, the coats would fall to the floor. Great fun! She would also stuff shop rags in the toes of overshoes so they wouldn't slip on.

Back in the days of telephone bells that were "bells" it was quite difficult to tell which phone was ringing in a crowded and somewhat noisy

lab. I taped my bell so it would purr. The lab manager had a "ding-dong" chime installed on his office door to distinguish his phone. One noon, while he was out I took a couple of minutes with a screwdriver and switched the two tone bars. When he returned the chime now said "dong-ding".

The best of all was the classic played on me. I was the supervisor of the microwave lab with several technicians under my watch. There was one phone in the lab and it was on my desk. Every one in the lab used it. I started to notice that sometimes the phone would ring but there was no one on it. No one else had that problem. I said I'm calling the phone service to check it out. Then the guys started prodding one another to 'fess up. Then one showed me a piece of black electrical tape they would put over the ear piece so no sound would pass through. They would go into the next lab and call me. I loved their creativity!

## **From Jim Tarkowski - Milwaukee**

When you asked for a funny memory there is one incident that for some reason has always stuck with me. One of my first jobs with JCI was as a technician in the R&D Lab. My boss was George Sperl, probably the most understanding and calmest boss I have ever had. One day an employee who was a chronic complainer went into George's office and, after he had received a good salary increase, complained to George that his check was a penny short. After listening to the ranting for a few minutes George calmly reached into his pocket, pulled out a quarter and flipped it to the guy and said "come back and see me in six months." In my mind this was a classic.

Thank you for your funny submissions! Next month's deadline is November 15<sup>th</sup>



# FIELD REPORTS

## Gary W. Foster, Controls Woodstock, NY

Retired in 2004. Retirement is great! My wife also retired the 31st of March. Since then we have taken a trip to the West Coast (California, Utah, Nevada) and are working on those projects around the house that have gone half done for years. The big project is to remodel the kitchen.

## Tom Poulos, Controls Milwaukee

Took early retirement April 30, 2005. Currently employed as a Credit & Collections Mgr with Recycle America Alliance, a subsidiary of Waste Management Co. headquartered in Houston, TX.

## Ken Reasoner, Controls Victor, NY

Still active employee, 29 1/2 years in Rochester, NY, last 6 years working for Milwaukee Tech Support as Remote Agent serving North America Controls employees. May retire soon.

## Pete West - Controls, Atlanta

This picture was taken at Lonnie Duncan's retirement party in March.



Lonnie Duncan, Pete West, Pat Burgamy, Don Bevill and Ken House

## Dave Bigler, Controls Milwaukee

Last week, several ex JCI folks and spouses gathered for three nights in Branson, MO. We saw some wonderful shows and had a great time.

*Editor's Note: Bob Lindsey sent a nice photo of the group while they were in Branson, however, due to technical difficulties, I was unable to reproduce the photo here..... Sorry!*



## Grogners

The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.



If Vincent Van Gogh had a bunch of relatives, these might have been their names: His uncle the magician-Wherediddy Gogh. His nephew who drove a stagecoach-Wells Far Gogh. His dizzy sister-Verti Gogh. His obnoxious brother-in-law-Please Gogh. And his great-great-grandniece, the RV dealer? Winnie Bay Gogh.



Van Gogh

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

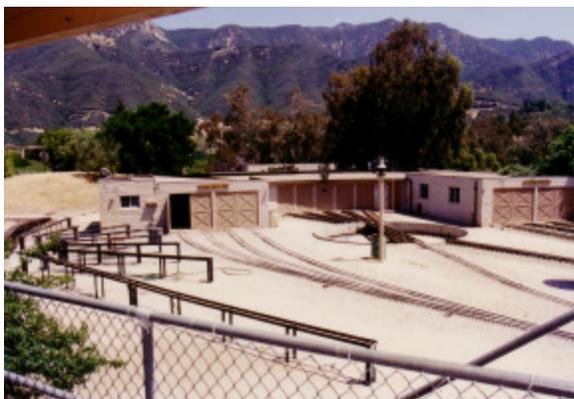


# FIELD REPORTS

## Ban Capron – Controls

I was interested in the last issue story discussing Seymour Johnson's railroad. I met Seymour at a Board Meeting in San Antonio where he invited me to visit him if near Santa Barbara. In 1987 we did just that and were amazed at what we saw. He had a fine home on the top of a mountain, but more than that he had railroad tracks running in all directions. He personally built the trains and was famous in the area. These pictured do not do his work justice.

I was sad to see Ken Kammeraad and Vern Pickel died. Ken was my first of many great bosses and got me off to a great start. Vern was my right arm in the regional office working hard to bring projects in under estimate. I hate to see all these announcements. I'm happy not to be living in Milwaukee or Denver as all my past friends in pictures seem to look so much older than me (no picture of me included).



Train sheds, numerous tracks & turn around.



Jan Capron & Seymour



An engine built to exact scale nearing completion



Seymour's work area. He had thousands of nuts, bolts and stuff of every size. The open drawers held every conceivable tool.

# "Tell Me MORE"

Three of your colleagues were brave enough to submit an entry for:

**"My funniest JCI memory!"**

So we'll continue next quarter. Names can be changed to protect the innocent if necessary. Deadline for submission is November 15<sup>th</sup>. Suggestions for future themes are encouraged.

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First Time Attendees to the quarterly Luncheon held July 21, 2005



Rod Stone, Jan McDermott, Judy Kuechler, Jeannine Carmichael



Retiree Website  
[www.jci.com/retirees](http://www.jci.com/retirees)

Your feedback on the website is welcome and appreciated. Please let us know what you think....

Send a message to: [wsjsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:wsjsociety@yahoo.com)

Here's a special promotion  
For eligible members!

If you **invite an eligible non-member** to our next meeting on October 20th, **your guest gets a free lunch.** Send in your reservation with payment and that of your guest (without payment.)

The objective is to let people know what our group and our meetings are like in the hope that they will join us.

We're not short on members, but we do find it enriching to have new members join!

Eligible members are:

- 1) Individuals retired from JCI and with 20 years of service
- 2) Individuals with 20 years of service at JCI and still employed at JCI
- 3) Surviving spouses of members

Battery Division employees are not excluded, but they have their own group.

Membership forms are available at our web site: [www.jci.com/retirees](http://www.jci.com/retirees) or call John Enright at 262-377-2587 to have a form mailed out.

Be sure to introduce your guest at the October meeting.



## Another Groaner

Marathon runners with bad footwear



suffer the agony of defeat.

**Warren S. Johnson  
Society of Retirees, Inc.**

This Society is dedicated to providing meaningful services to the retirees of Johnson Controls, Inc. including current information about retirement benefits and the opportunity to meet socially with other members of the Society. This Newsletter is published quarterly to contribute to those goals. Your input is welcomed and encouraged.

**OFFICERS:**

Tom Parris, President  
John Enright, VP-Marketing  
Sharlene Wardinski, VP-Program  
Bonnie Lenz, Treasurer  
Open Position, Secretary  
Open Position, VP-Communication

**DIRECTORS:**

Bill Braak	Bob Weeks
Neil DeVries	Kasim Sinnamohideen
John Donovan	Ken Voss
Paul Froehling	Erica Wolfe, ExOfficio

***For membership information & dues payment,  
please contact:***

Bonnie Lenz, Treasurer  
8240 E. Wind Lake Rd.  
Wind Lake, WI 53185  
(262) 895-2065  
imlenz@milwpc.com

***For street address changes, email address  
changes, and items to be included in the  
newsletter, please contact:***

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414/425-8407  
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**To contact Johnson Controls, Inc:  
1-800-333-2222**

**After the recorded answer or anytime during it:**

Dial extension 2325 for  
**Benefits** information or assistance.

Dial extension 2296  
for the **Foundation Office**.

**Deadline for information to be  
submitted to editor for the  
next newsletter:**

**November 15, 2005**



**MARK YOUR 2005 CALENDAR**

**MILWAUKEE LUNCHEONS:  
Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**

***In Remembrance  
Condolences to the families of:***

**August (Gus) Buffalano**, passed away July 24<sup>th</sup> at the age of 91. Former Vice President of Johnson Controls International. He is survived by his wife Stella, children and grandchildren.

**Charles E. Scruggs** passed away April 30, 2005 at the age of 75. He retired from the Wilmington, NC branch after 30 years of service to JCI. He was the first President of the Warren S. Johnson Society of Retirees, Inc. when it was formed.

**Robert F. Tisdale** passed away on June 22, 2005 at the age of 81. He was the branch manager in New Haven, CT and had worked for JCI for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife Geraldine, children and grandchildren



## TIME?



.....YES, and time to  
renew your membership!

Keep in touch with your life long work associates via the Newsletter. **Annual Association membership dues are \$5.** You may choose to pay several years in advance or pay a **lifetime membership of \$50**, as 223 members have chosen to do. New members (only) paying after September 1st will be credited for both the current and next year. Send dues money to Bonnie Lenz. Not sure you've paid your dues? Check the **first line of this issue's mailing label.** In addition to your name, it **identifies** the division from which you retired (B=Battery; C=Controls; X=Corporate) and **the last year for which you paid dues** (2001, 2002, Life).

## STILL

## WORKING?



## MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENT COMES WITH 20 YEARS

Whether you are yet working at Johnson Controls or are working elsewhere, if you have 20 years employment with JC, you are eligible for membership in the JC Retirement Society.

Send your \$5.00 annual membership fee to:

Bonnie Lenz, Treasurer  
8240 E. Wind Lake Rd.  
Wind Lake, WI 53185