

Grounds worker retires in July after 15 years of service

by Cathy Proctor-Droes

It's 6:30 a.m. on a hot, steamy day in June and Ron Grove has just completed the five minute drive from his home to the IPFW Physical Plant. By 7 a.m. he has met with the Superintendent of Grounds Janet Kelly and General Foreman Ron Pequignot to plan the day ahead for his summer crew of 16 grounds workers.

As Turf Specialist for the Grounds department Grove schedules and oversees the crew's work, troubleshoots problems, answers the radio, takes telephone calls and surveys the grounds in a small, motorized cart that, according to him, "no one else wants to use because it has a manual transmission." It's a routine that has grown dear to Grove in his 15 summers at IPFW, one that he says he will miss when he retires on July 31.

"It's been a hard decision to retire," said Grove. "I get a lot of satisfaction from this job. It's not very often that you can do work you love and get paid for it too."

Grove came to IPFW after working for Hardware Wholesalers, Inc., where he lost his job due to a prolonged strike, and then for Phelps Dodge where he worked half the year and was laid off the other half. Seeking to have "good, steady work," Grove accepted a custodial job in the Physical Plant's Building Services Department in 1983. He became a Grounds keeper in 1984 and was promoted to Turf Specialist in 1985.

Keeping the campus green and free from weeds is Grove's main

responsibility and something at which he has worked hard the last 13 years. And he is proud of the results.

"I like to feel that the turf is weed-free and attractive to our students and staff," said Grove. "Every time I do a job, I make sure it's done so that I could put my initials on it."

This work ethic is something that earned him the 10th annual IPFW Pride Plus Award at the annual recognition luncheon for clerical and service staff this past April. Grove was not aware that he had been nominated by his supervisor, Janet Kelly.

"It was pretty special and humbling," said Grove. "I know all of the people who have won the award before and they were all very deserving."

In addition to his spring and summer work on the grounds, Grove becomes one of the campus snow removal crew in the winter, a job that requires being on-call 24 hours a day. Grove remembers being called in around 3 a.m. one icy day and then surprising his supervisor by arriving on foot. He has lived on Auer Drive near the campus for 27 years and sometimes walks or bicycles to work, but not usually during a freezing rain storm.

"My vehicle was covered with ice when I went out to start it, so I walked in to work," said Grove.



Ron Grove, Turf Specialist for the Grounds Department, pauses from his work in June to reflect on his 15 years of service to IPFW.

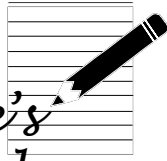
"It was a lot faster."

Grove shares his home with his wife of 38 years, Mary Ann. They have two grown children, Barbara in San Diego, Calif. and Gary in Fort Wayne. According to Grove, Mary Ann has a "honey-do" list that will keep him busy during retirement. He also plans to play some recreational basketball and become more active in the Shriners, a group in which he has been a member since 1991. Adding to his collection of Hallmark Christmas ornaments, a hobby since 1985, is something else he'd like to do.

But until that free time arrives in August, Grove continues with his daily work that produces a picturesque grounds on the campus at IPFW. When asked what he'll miss the most there is no hesitation with his answer.

"I've been blessed with good people to work for and with and I have enjoyed their smiling faces," said Grove as a broad smile lit up his own.

From Dave's Desk



As the summer of '98 comes to a close I would like to reflect upon all the things the Physical Plant has accomplished.

Summer '98 was a busy time for all of us. As always, we think we can't be any busier than the previous summer. I'd like to think things would slow down. However, we are a growing and thriving University. Slowing down is just not in our vocabulary.

The operations and maintenance mechanics will benefit from Phase I of our performance contract. The Science Building, while not without some minor construction issues that are currently being addressed, will be a marvelous facility to maintain. The pending Kettler renovation and Phase II performance contract will certainly improve our ability and utility efficiency in the operation of our building equipment.

We will also benefit from other renovations including: Child Care Center Expansion; McKay Barn repairs; Alumni Room renovation; two new computer labs in Neff; Helmke Library vending lounge renovation and Gates Gym floor refinishing.

The Buildings Services group has done a fantastic job of getting the buildings ready for the fall semester. All this while getting both the Science Building and new parking deck ready for occupancy.

We have just completed a minor reorganization of the Building Services group. Effective 8/3/98 the 1st and 2nd shift

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Teamwork is key to a safe campus

by Lauren Denhartog, Chief of Police

Mission Statement of the IPFW University Police and Safety Department

**"To protect and serve
the campus community
by providing
a safe environment
through enforcement,
service and education."**

Campus safety is a concern for every student and employee on this campus. We all have different roles within the campus structure, but remain members of the same community. In order to achieve the goal of our stated mission, the team effort must go beyond just the members of the University Police and Safety department. We need your help.

A prime example of what teamwork can do for a community is the combined effort put forth to address the many bomb threats that have plagued the campus in the last few semesters. Through the collaboration of the

administration, the Police and Safety department and many members of the campus community, two arrests have been made.

Let's keep up the continued work toward our mission of providing a safe environment. Keep your eyes and ears open. Cast aside your fears of getting involved. If you witness a crime or the possibility of one, let us know by calling 481-6827. Through a team effort we can keep this campus safe!

Environmental Health . . .

Once useful product now a health hazard

by Renee Eshcoff, Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator



Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral which is distinguished from other minerals by the fact that its crystals form

into long, thin fibers. Because of its unique properties — it does not burn or easily conduct heat and electricity, it is flexible and strong and is not affected by most chemicals— asbestos proved well-suited for many uses in the construction trades.

One of the most common uses for asbestos is as a fireproofing material. Additionally, it is widely found in cement, as an insulator on piping and for acoustical benefits.

In spite of its useful qualities, asbestos can be dangerous and cause

serious health problems. Information on the respiratory health effects of exposure to asbestos have been derived from studies of asbestos installers. Most were exposed to asbestos in the course of their occupation, specifically inhaling the friable, or powdery, asbestos fibers .

There are three diseases which have been associated with asbestos exposure: asbestosis or a scarring of the lungs, lung cancer and mesothelioma which is a cancer of the lining of the chest or abdominal wall.

Because of these known health hazards the manufacture of asbestos-containing materials has been banned in the United States since 1978. Worker and general public protection from asbestos, as well as removal and disposal, continue to be federally regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the EPA.

. . . and Safety Issues

Summer provides challenges for Physical Plant's Building Services

by Ed Schmitt, Superintendent of Building Services

Summertime and the Living is Busy. . .

Perhaps you have heard the old jazz standard which sings "summertime, and the living is easy." That song was not written with the Physical Plant Building Services staff in mind. Summertime brings a tidal wave of activity as all personnel get involved in non-regular routine duties and concentrate on sprucing things up and preparing facilities for returning students and faculty.

The Building Services staff sets goals and begins projects immediately following the Commencement in May. All three shifts, which make up a staff of 52, get involved and play a major role in the summertime activities.

For nine months of the year the 43 staff members who have designated, assigned areas are kept busy in their own way and are confined to daily routine functions. Because student enrollment is lower during the summer months, these staff members are afforded the opportunity to get involved with non-routine activities and work with their fellow coworkers on special summer assignments. This break from their regular schedule is usually accepted by most as a pleasant change.

Everybody Gets Involved...

The 1st Shift personnel devote extra time performing special cleaning in restrooms; washing down walls, special dusting assignments in offices and cleaning inside and outside entranceways. This group plays a major role in assisting with setups used for a number of functions that take place on campus which directly impact the Physical Plant. They also help faculty and

staff members in moving from one office area to another. The move of the science department staff members from Kettler Hall to the Science Building is a good example of where their efforts were needed.

The two 2nd Shift personnel have also been busy in their assigned areas with extra cleaning and refinishing of floors plus helping to pick up the slack caused by all the summer activities.

Sand, which provided better footing on the icy sidewalks of January and February, wreaked havoc when tracked into buildings and stripped away the protective floor coatings. Therefore, the main summer goal of the 3rd Shift personnel is to concentrate on resurfacing these floors and rebuilding their protective layers.

During the summer months approximately 80% of the 1.2 million square feet of floor surfaces maintained by Building Services in all buildings are stripped/scrubbed, refinished or carpet shampooed.

An increase in service work order requests is seen during the summer months due to the switching and moving of offices, moving of equipment and transporting salvage items to the Warehouse. The department's 3rd shift painter has been kept very busy, as he is all year long, with numerous painting requests.



Superintendent of Building Services Ed Schmitt says that "summertime brings a tidal wave of activity" to his department.

Science Building and Parking Garage II

Since moving into the Science Building on March 1, science building crew and special projects members began with the cleaning of the building and the stripping and waxing of the floors. When this was completed by mid-April, phase II began consisting of the moving of the science departments lab equipment, office items and materials into the new facility.

In mid-July we were able to get into Parking Garage II and began cleaning the stairways and landings and sealing the concrete surfaces.

Fall semester and beyond. . .

It won't be long and the fall semester will begin. The Building Services staff can be proud of the efforts and quality of workmanship put forth this past spring and summer season. Working together as a team helped us meet and in some cases exceed our goals. Surprisingly, we look forward to next summer and the challenges it will bring.

BEHIND News for and about the Physical Plant Employees the Scenes



AUGUST

2 Darrell Kees
5 Roy Schmitt
7 Don Lehner
9 Jason Cole
22 Warren Cartmel

SEPTEMBER

2 Richard Court
2 Dave Dial
9 Todd Travis
12 Ron Pequignot
17 Inez Esterline
18 Sandra Kersey
28 Gary Kuecker
30 Ed High

OCTOBER

2 Jim Bassett
8 Bob Krach
8 Valerie Null
13 Larry Jenks
13 Gary Temple
17 Jake Gaff
25 Sam Kmetz
26 Bill Daugherty
28 Doug Stetler
28 Aaron Farrell

NOVEMBER

3 Mary McEvoy
5 Joan Mattoon
5 Ed Schmitt
7 Janet Kelly
9 Velma Surry
14 Steve Burton
14 Geoff Farrell
16 Suzan Kersey
16 John Kinzer
21 Steve Miller
23 Ron Volz
27 Larry Smith
27 Mary McMahon

DECEMBER

1 Erlene Smeltzer
5 Mark Haney
13 Don Katter
17 Kevin Wilson
23 Dawn Tulley
25 Noel Jackson
27 Zachary Itt
27 Ron Grove
29 Joan Fratean

Welcome New Employees!



Three new employees joined the Building Services staff in June. Pictured above are (l to r) **Dawn Tulley, Aaron Farrell and Kevin Wilson.**

Greg Dent takes a break from his new position with the Grounds department. Greg joined the staff on 4/24/98.



4th Quarter 1998

Congratulations and thanks to the following employees for their loyal and dedicated service to IPFW.

Dale Winter 25 years 10/04/73
Don Lehner 15 years 10/24/83

Transfers, Reassignments and Promotions

Greg Clements

*Maintenance Supervisor to
Temp. Ctrl. Mechanic Crew Chief*

Sam Queen

Operations & Mtce., Science Bldg.

Suzan Kersey

Lead Custodian, Building Services

Brian Itt

Building Services

Joan Mattoon

Building Services

Ron Volz

Building Services

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Cathy Proctor-Droes, student - Jour J492

From Dave's Desk, continued from page 2

Building Services staff will be united with the remaining 3rd shift group. I look forward to this change as a building block for consistency and future teamwork.

The Grounds crew has also been very busy with the lack of early summer rain, the Japanese beetles, the new softball field, the landscaping of our new facilities, the tree relocations, the McKay farm soccer fields... the list goes on and on. Ron Grove will surely be missed.

Police and Safety has also been involved in many items. The campus hosts its share of community events from camps and conferences, to the 4th of July fireworks, to the Children's festival. All of these events went off without issue.

Congratulations are to be given to all for their efforts in attaining another safe and wonderful summer calendar.

I hope this past summer each of you had the opportunity to share and enjoy some time with your family. The weather and insects certainly cooperated. My first summer in Fort Wayne and at IPFW was certainly very interesting and a learning experience.

I personally like a busy summer and am looking forward to the summer of '99. What's on the horizon for all of us? Appropriate planning and foresight are the keys. If we have all of our plans and projects in order, maybe the summer of '99 won't seem to be so busy.

Dave