

UPDATE

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GALAXY OF STARS HELPS GE CELEBRATE 100th

GE people will want to spread the word about the way the company will be icing its centennial celebration cake in September by sponsoring one of the most exciting television spectaculars of the year.

Twenty-four of entertainment's brightest stars will help celebrate the "GE ALL STAR ANNIVERSARY," a two-hour television extravaganza hosted by John Wayne on September 29 from 9-11 p.m. EDT on ABC-TV.

Described as an "entertaining walk through the past century," the all-star anniversary show blends music, dance, and comedy to capture the essence of America's changing mood and tone in the 100 years that have elapsed since the founding of the Edison Electric Light Company, which became the General Electric Company.

The roster of stars includes Host John Wayne and, in alphabetical order, Lucille Ball, Albert Brooks, Henry Fonda, Alex Haley, Pat Hingle, Bob Hope, Cheryl Ladd, Michael Landon, Penny Marshall, Donny & Marie Osmond, Charley Pride, John Ritter, Sha Na Na, Red Skelton, Suzanne Somers, James Stewart, Elizabeth Taylor, Leslie Uggams, Jimmie Walker, James Whitmore, Cindy Williams, and Henry Winkler.

More than one hour of the mammoth birthday party will be devoted to extravagantly mounted song and dance full-stage production numbers. These

musical segments are an integral part of the continuing retrospective look at the past led by host Wayne, via lively encounters with key figures of the last ten decades.

Pat Hingle, as Thomas Edison—without whom there probably would have been no electric light—and no television—appropriately appears to switch off the lights at the conclusion of the GE special.

DECLARE YOUR OWN THREE DAY WEEKEND!

Or, for that matter, declare your own *four* day weekend. Consider making your service anniversary a paid holiday. As a matter of fact, in 1979 you'll be able to declare any two days you like as paid holidays.

In a major departure from tradition, ISBD is designating only eight formal holidays in 1979. All employees, however, will still be entitled to ten paid holidays.

What's the catch?

None. It's very simple. You declare your own two extra holidays—any time you want, any days you want. Inform your manager at least a week in advance (or more if your section requires more notice), and then take your holidays.

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SEPTEMBER SERVICE AWARDS

Thirty Years	Location
James H. Wylie, Jr.	Rockville
Twenty-Five Years	
Joseph M. McDermott	Philadelphia
Twenty Years	
Aksel Olesen	Rockville
Ten Years	
John D. Wilder	Dallas
John L. Laskey	Erie
Kenneth J. Barnes	Rockville
Gabriel R. Yateem	Brook Park
Harry Haraseyko	Rockville
Cletus A. Spehr	Rockville
Frank G. Cornell	Rockville
Winifred R. DuVall	Rockville
David F. Foster	Rockville
Five Years	
Arthur P. Lee	Pittsfield
Morris D. Patterson	Rockville
Launa C. Hudak	Brook Park
Loren B. Harrell, Jr.	Charlotte
Mannie Roberts, Jr.	Rockville
Mary E. Clark	Rockville
Barbara R. Garner	Chicago
Sherley A. Lee	Brook Park
James S. Nelson	Rockville
Beverly Ann Stamper	Cleveland



With visions of Puerto Rico dancing in their heads, Sally Hansen, Frank Beale, Larry Kristiansen, and Elaine Tobin discuss methods of providing superior field support.

Division-wide recognition. We think that nominating them to become Markmakers will motivate them to even greater heights of support, and provide deserved recognition."

HQ PEOPLE AIM FOR PUERTO RICO

For the first time in the history of the Markmakers program, headquarters people who support field personnel and/or customers will be eligible to become Markmakers.

Regional Managers may nominate any headquarters employee who, in the manager's opinion, has made a significant contribution to the field during 1978. Ten winners and their spouses or guests will

attend the Markmakers awards meeting next February in sunny Puerto Rico.

According to Paul Inserra, Headquarters Sales Manager, headquarters employees make significant contributions to field sales efforts and customer support.

"These people work long and hard to support the sales force" Inserra told UPDATE, "and while many in the field recognize the extra effort, up to now there has been no opportunity for

BROOK PARKERS REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Old timers never die at Brook Park . . . at least that's the consensus of the 13 ISBD employees who recently attended a luncheon in Cleveland with Systems Operations Department General Manager, Ray Marshall.

Eleven of the 13 attendees had 20 or more years of service with GE, and they were gathered together at the request of Ohio Supercenter Manager, Al Jones, to celebrate the service anniversaries of three of their co-workers: Ray Bullock, Cluster Processing Operations Manager (30 years); Marty Drabek, Customer Media Specialist (30 years); and Joe Adams, Manager—Customer Support (25 years).

Unlike many newcomers to ISBD, Ray, Marty, and Joe have grown professionally with the computing services industry. Their combined career histories tell the story of ISBD's beginnings and, specifically, what role Brook Park played in that development.

The Supercenter at Brook Park grew out of what was the Cleveland Information Processing Center in downtown Cleveland—one of the seven original IPC's established in the early 1960s.



Al Jones, Brook Park Supercenter Manager, congratulates (L to R) Marty Drabek, Joe Adams, and Ray Bullock on their service anniversaries, while a pleased Ray Marshall looks on.

IPC's (for those of you who cannot remember back that far) were equipped with GE 225 computers of relatively limited capacity. Small staffs at each site performed batch data processing for local customers who delivered input and picked up output at the door. Some activity was on a purely walk-in basis.

In 1969, the Cleveland operation was moved to its current site in Brook Park—where the first networking computer was installed and common files made available to customers throughout the United States. Brook Parkers were

also the first to "talk to London" on the new network.

By 1969, GE's computer centers had increased in number from seven to 15. When MARK II Service was introduced, the original small timesharing computers were replaced with GE 600's, and the 15 separate locations were condensed into three large networking centers at Brook Park, Los Angeles, and Teaneck, New Jersey.

In 1971, Los Angeles and Teaneck were further consolidated into the one Supercenter at Brook Park, and GCOS Background Service was added to GE's product offerings. MARK II Service became MARK III[®] Service.

Today, Brook Park is just one of GE's three Supercenters and central processing is done on HISI 6000 computers.

But Brook Park still commands intense loyalty from its small, but dedicated, staff—and particularly from men like **Marty Drabek**, who nursed it from infancy.

Marty started with GE fresh out of high school in 1948. In the early 1960s, he was doing machine accounting for FASO (Finance and Service Operation) in Cleveland, when Wayne Rice, the one-man staff of the Cleveland IPC, asked him if he would like to learn how to run a computer on his own time in the evenings. Marty accepted the invitation, and was later hired as an operator at the downtown Cleveland IPC.

While he was working as an Administrative Specialist in 1968, he assumed responsibility for opening the Brook Park facility; he was, essentially, the first man in the door.

The original building had been designed as a small manufacturing plant, but was never used as such. Under Marty's supervision, the old fixtures were ripped out, the windows sealed up, and a computer center built inside the one-story brick shell.

There have been two additions since that time—one larger than the original plant, and the other a two-story office facility attached to the front of the building.

Marty now works in the Customer Service Organization in an expediting capacity. He is a native of Cleveland and has remained there by choice since he first joined GE. On the occasion of his 30th anniversary with the company, Marty says he has only one objection: "I'm only 29 years old and they're giving me a thirty-year pin. Someone's made a mistake!"

Ray Bullock came to Cleveland via a different route—by way of the GE Finance structure. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Ray completed GE's Business Training Course and held various financial positions before being assigned to the aircraft engine plant in Evendale, Ohio. In the early 1960s, he became Manager of Computer Operations at Evendale.

"It was an easy transition," says Ray, "because the first computer applications were all finance-related: Payroll, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, and so on."

In 1971, he assumed responsibility for computer operations at the Philadelphia Switchgear Plant, where he established the first remote-batch processing center, "proving that it could be done."

Succeeding years were spent in a series of conversion assignments, converting remote computer operations in Erie, Pennsylvania and elsewhere to MARK III GCOS Background Service, and (incidentally) commuting back and forth to his home in Philadelphia on weekends.

Ray finally settled down in Brook Park in 1975 as Manager of Background Operations. Currently, he is in charge of Cluster Processing at Brook Park, supervising 60-70 people who run eight foreground processors and one GCOS background system.

Co-worker **Joe Adams**, who is celebrating his 25th anniversary with GE, also came up through the financial ranks. Joe started in the Business Training Course in 1953 and, from there, moved to the GE Air Transport Operation at a small county airport in White Plains, New York. There he held a number of interesting financial and management jobs.

He also worked for International General Electric for several years before joining ISBD ten years ago. In 1968, he jumped from finance into sales and was named Manager of Sales and Finance Planning for the Central Sales Region.

Then, in 1972 he switched from the Field Sales organization to the Customer Service Operation at the Ohio Supercenter.

Joe, Ray, and Marty are members of an exclusive 100-person staff at the Supercenter. Exclusive because security is extremely tight and visitors are never permitted in the building. This may be one reason for the unusual camaraderie at Brook Park—and for the success of outside luncheons.

NEW AND REVISED DOCUMENTATION

A REMINDER THAT CKDOC\$*** HELPS YOU AND CUSTOMERS CHECK CURRENT DOCUMENTATION

How can I tell whether I have the latest documentation? How can customers tell what documentation has been issued?

A three-star library program has been available for over a year to answer those and related questions.

The program, CKDOC\$***, allows you and customers to check documentation in one of three ways:

1. By preparing a file of publication numbers and revision letters for publications of interest, and having CKDOC\$ read the file and compare it to a master list, printing out differences. CKDOC\$ will tell whether there are later revisions or supplements.

2. By entering a single publication number and having CKDOC\$ tell whether there are later revisions or supplements.

3. By requesting all publication revisions for recent months, cumulative over the last month or up to six months ago. CKDOC\$ will print out, for the period requested, all new, revised, and supplemented documents. The master list used for comparisons is updated on all systems monthly, usually during the first week of the month.

The program is an excellent tool for account representatives and customers. Numbers and revision letters of the pub-

lications that a customer needs should be entered into a file in the customer number. Monthly, the customer can run CKDOC\$ and determine what newly revised or issued documents are needed. Documents may then be requested from the AR or sales office in the usual manner.

The program is documented in a user's guide, **Keeping Your Documentation Up to Date**, publication 401.04, available at no charge.

ANSWERING SERVICE 8-273-5836

This Month's Questions: Absence in case of death in the family; Restoration of Service.

Bereavement Absence

Q. Does our policy defining absence due to death in the immediate family include father-in-law?

A. Yes. Except in unusual situations, immediate family is defined as employee's spouse, children, grandchildren, parents (including in-laws), grandparents (including in-laws), and brothers and sisters (including in-laws). When an employee discovers that such an absence is necessary, he/she should contact their manager as soon as possible to discuss this policy in more detail. Managers may approve up to five days, depending on the individual circumstances, and there is no minimum continuous service requirement.

Restoration of Service

Q. My friend worked for ISBD for three years, resigned for another job, and a year later returned to ISBD and had her prior three years of service restored. How is this possible?

A. Depending upon the given set of circumstances, credited service can be a complex issue. Although the information provided in this question is sketchy, what may have occurred is restoration of *pension qualification service* (refer to ERB 205). This would apply *only* to eligibility for pension and not to continuity of service upon which vacation and other benefits depend. If more details are provided, we can be more specific.

Answers from Paul Beaudry, Compensation and Benefits Manager.



Brooks Parkers attend an old timers luncheon in Cleveland hosted by Systems Operations Department General Manager Ray Marshall. A total of 285 years of service were represented, including those of "youngsters" Tony Bowman and Jack Werbicki of Employee Relations.

CENTENNIAL NOTES



"I never allow myself to become discouraged under any circumstances . . ."

Thomas Alva Edison

MEMORABILIA: INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Since this is the last issue of UPDATE before the General Electric Corporate Centennial date (October 15), we're foregoing our ISBD memorabilia column this month to give you some Company

memorabilia. You'll find your own copy of "There's a Future in Your Past" inserted in this month's UPDATE.

The regular memorabilia column will resume next month.

