



FOCUS: Salute to the Editor

I always have a good feeling when a plant employee receives recognition for a job well done. Bob Hale was recently honored by the Carolinas Association of Business Communicators for his editorial published in the Spring 1984 edition of FOTOFAX. Bob is too modest to tell you about it, so I will.

The editorial, titled "Trouble Down the Road", was selected as the Best Editorial published by any member of the association during 1984. This is a real honor. Bob writes interesting editorials that are both entertaining and appropriate. He has a talent for expressing himself clearly and relating his subject to every day situations. Since it may be difficult for you to find your Spring edition of FOTOFAX, I have asked Bob to make a reprint of his award-winning editorial and include it in this issue.

Congratulations, Bob!

We appreciate your fine work and the quality of our plant newspaper.

John Golden

Trouble Down The Road

I didn't know I was going that fast, and I don't know where the cop came from, but there he was, about a mile and a half back, blue light flashing, coming up on me like I was public enemy number one.

We were driving the interstate to Asheboro to visit the North Carolina zoo. The car was fairly new, very quiet, and we were having a good time talking about what we hoped to see.

I wasn't hoping to see the Highway Patrol.

I took my foot off the gas and looked at the speedometer. Almost 65 miles an hour! I felt sick.

Grasping for hope, I decided not to hit the brakes. Maybe he really hadn't clocked me; maybe . . . something. I knew he had me. What a dumb way to ruin a vacation.

I couldn't believe how quickly he

was closing the gap. I was barely down to 55, and he was practically on top of me. The black and silver shark was hungry for a little maroon snack today!

He was on us before my passengers noticed—someone was about to ask why we were pulling over when he caught up to us. We were jolted by a blast of air; engine noise exploded around us.

In a few seconds, he was out of sight.

"What in the WORLD was that!?" said the co-pilot.

"Gosh," said a faint voice from the back seat.

We never knew what the problem was, but there was big trouble down the road somewhere. I could only be glad he had no time for small fish.

But it's different if I think I'm being overlooked on the job. When I recog-

nize a problem, find a solution, and get "blown off the road" by being put off or ignored. I tend to get cranky in a rush.

Does that sound familiar? "Change is essential", we hear. So why doesn't someone change the obvious things we see every day?

I think it's because you're getting the job done pretty well, despite the problems.

The person who may rush by you today isn't necessarily being rude. Chances are that something "down the road" is demanding all the attention at the moment. "Setting Priorities" is a matter of putting out the fire before fixing the roof.

Hang in there! Handle the challenge of the day; keep working on a better way. The trip is worth the trouble, and though we see through different windows, we're all in this together.

YOU and OSHA Standard #29CFR 1910.1200:

The "Right-To-Know" Law

by: Ed Hallowell, Brevard Plant
Industrial Hygienist

You have a legal right to know the hazards of chemicals you're exposed to on the job, says a new Standard published under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). Although 24 states have had a variety of "right-to-know laws" concerning chemical hazards, this assures consistent standards throughout the country.

The OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, which applies to all chemical manufacturers, importers and distributors, was issued after several years of study and 4,253 pages of testimony during 19 days of hearings (preceded by 221 written comments).

Compliance is required by mid-1986, but here at Brevard we've been doing all the key elements since the mid-1970's.

The Right-To-Know law requires that chemical industry employers establish a hazard communication program to label chemicals, obtain and record all information about them on Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and make this information readily available to employees.

Storage containers are to be labeled with appropriate hazard warnings, although labels are not required on pipes, kettles, and containers for immediate use.

DuPont has always been active in communicating hazards to its em-

ployees, and we've been doing that with chemicals for quite some time. At Brevard, we evaluate all known information about chemicals, fill out an MSDS, assign hazard ratings and require labelling of all materials. (Our labels meet the new OSHA standard). Each area has a notebook with MSDS's for all chemicals used in the area.

Area training programs are structured to assure that people are notified of hazards, trained in proper procedures for handling chemicals, and instructed in the use of appropriate protective equipment. We also have an annual training program to pass on new information and repeat special warnings, such as cancer or reproductive hazards. We use special logs (sign-off sheets) to insure that everyone is contacted in these annual communications. Our group sends letters to all areas when new data is received.

The Industrial Hygiene group has recently installed a computer link, along with Purchasing to assure that hazards and label information are known before materials are ordered. This is also helping with our current work to update all our safety data sheets.

It's the law: You have a right to know chemical hazards. It's nothing new that we want to tell you all about them.

Nothing Succeeds Like **QUALITY!**

Have you entered the Quality Slogan contest yet? A \$100 prize is waiting for the judges top choice, and another dozen people will win \$25 runner-up prizes. But hurry! The contest closes January 1!



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