



Phyllis Lynes, Assistant General Manager, Personnel, sportily awaits to be dunked by loving employees.



Employees try their hand at the Can Smash Game.



Scott De Young, Public Safety Bureau Chief, awaits dunking.



Employees have a laugh as they watch their favorite "dunk-ees."



Jeneasha Robinson is gamekeeper at the Tic-Tac-Toe game.



Assistant General Manager Rhonda Sims-Lewis.

Personnel Says Thanks

■ Personnel Dept. hosts its first carnival for Employee Appreciation Day.

Story by Jackie David, Public Information Director, Public Safety Division, Personnel
Photos courtesy Personnel Dept.



PERSONNEL — Employee Appreciation Day was celebrated June 2 at the Personnel Dept., and those who happened by 700 E. Temple St. on that morning might have noticed something quite different. Outside was a flurry of activity as managers busily set up equipment, tables and chairs and dragged hoses and ladders around the parking lot – all preparing for what had never been done at the Personnel Department: a carnival celebration with a few rowdy activities thrown in!

Celebrations commenced in the afternoon. Music blared. The Bubble Machine spewed forth bubbles. Employees streamed out of the building. Assistant General Manager Phyllis Lynes very graciously (and quite properly) took her place at the dunk tank. Employees, somewhat sheepishly at first, lined up for a chance at dunking their favorite manager. Others, not quite as brave, formed a circle to watch. There was a collective silence as everyone waited for the first strike and for the first manager to hit the water. It took a few tries, but after about five minutes, Phyllis took a dive. Water splashed. Employees screamed, cheered, laughed and jeered. The ice was broken. The event was officially on.

Other managers lined up for the same punishment: David Noltemeyer, Scott De Young and Raul Lemus – each one falling into the cold water several times. Assistant General Manager Tom Coultas sat at a table close to the Dunk Tank. He was very prim and proper in his suit and tie as he calmly watched and enjoyed the splashing - until it was his turn. Tom went into the tank - suit, tie, shiny black shoes and all! It was a sight to behold.

At the same time, other managers worked quickly to serve employees their popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy – quite a feat considering none of them had ever operated such equipment before. The pumps for the snow cone syrup were nowhere to be found and poor Rhonda Sims-Lewis (also Assistant General Manager) had her

hands covered with red, orange and blue sticky syrup. Those who worked the cotton candy machine found they were not tall enough. They finally located a stool and, on this slightly windy day, worked furiously to get the sugar on the stick instead of on their arms or in their hair. Those working the popcorn machine seemed to have it easiest, although there was some frustration with the speed at which the machine was popping the corn.

Having dunked their favorite manager, employees tried their hand at different games in the hopes of winning prizes. Flora Biag decided to try her luck at the Leap Frog game. She gave it her all and knocked the whole table down! She also managed to dunk a chief – first try!

Tickets were drawn in a raffle. Each employee had several chances to win and pick one of many prizes donated by managers. Winners cheered. Losers booed. Co-workers picked up prizes for winners unable to attend the raffle.

Inside the building, employees received Employee Appreciation Cards from co-workers. Card recipients were grateful. "It's heart-warming to know you are appreciated," said one. "I'm so touched!" gushed another. Someone else said, "I like to collect them."

By end of day, all Dunk Tank victims were properly soaked and purple-lipped, food-servers were in dire need of a bath, and everyone was "sugared-up." The day was done. Employee Appreciation Day was a rowdy, smashing success.

The Personnel Department celebrates Employee Appreciation Day every year to let employees know that their contributions do not go unnoticed. The theme is different every time: a pirate theme, a luau, a carnival. No one knows what the theme will be for next year but whatever the case, the onus is on next year's planner to top the carnival celebration with a splash!



A gathering of much-appreciated employees from Personnel.



Employees at the raffle prize table. Managers contributed to the raffle prizes.



An employee enjoys cotton candy prepared and served by managers.



Raul Limas at the dunk tank.



An Assistant General Manager jubilantly accepts applause for her good sports-lady-ship: Dunk Tank Queen!



Jackie David, Event Coordinator, clowns around as she drops and struggles to catch her red nose.



Assistant General Manager Rhonda Sims-Lewis happily serves snow cones.



At the dunk tank: Scott De Young, Raul Limas, David Noltemeyer and Tom Coultas.



Employees enjoy watching their favorite manager being dunked.



Assistant General Manager Tom Coultas sportily goes into Dunk Tank, suit and all.



An employee at the Can Smash game.



Rachel Campa tries her hand at Leap Frog.



At the popcorn machine.



Victoria Schools patiently prepares sticky cotton candy.



An employee at the Can Smash game.



Employees try their hand at dunking their favorite manager.



David Noltemeyer hits the dunk tank bottom.



Phyllis Lynes at the dunk tank.



A participant hopes to win an extra half-hour lunch ticket.

Personnel Department Employee Appreciation Day



Scott De Young, Public Safety Bureau Chief, awaits dunking as David Noltemeyer catches his breath.



Gayle Thomas and Maryanne Keehn work the popcorn machine.



Rachawn Baker tries her hand at Leap Frog.



Jackie Heard hopes to win an extra half-hour lunch ticket.



David Noltemeyer eggs on employees to dunk him.



Tina Rodriguez, the Cotton Candy Lady.



Employees try their hand at dunking their favorite manager.



Judy Mirto enjoys festivities at Tic Tac Toe.



Mirafior Alviso.



Mirafior Alviso prepares to win at Tic Tac Toe and does it upside down.



Kathleen Johnson at Leap Frog.



Assistant General Manager Tom Coultas announces the lucky raffle winners.



Ramona McCauley hold two balls for the Dunk Tank "dunkee."



Employee tosses balls hoping to dunk manager.



Dunk tank instigator Scott De Young decides to dunk his fellow managers.



Marnie Badgett and Rachawn Baker show off their game prizes: an extra half-hour for lunch on the day of their choice.



Assistant General Manager Tom Coultas awaits dunking – suit and all!



A participant prepares to toss dunk tank balls.



Just clowning around: Event organizer Jackie David clowns around with Michael Gold and Karin Michels.



Scott De Young, Public Safety Bureau Chief, awaits dunking.



A participant tries her hand at the Leap Frog game.



An employee pounds away at Leap Frog.



Employee tosses balls hoping to dunk manager.