

Employee Recognition Day

Flash back to the 1970s



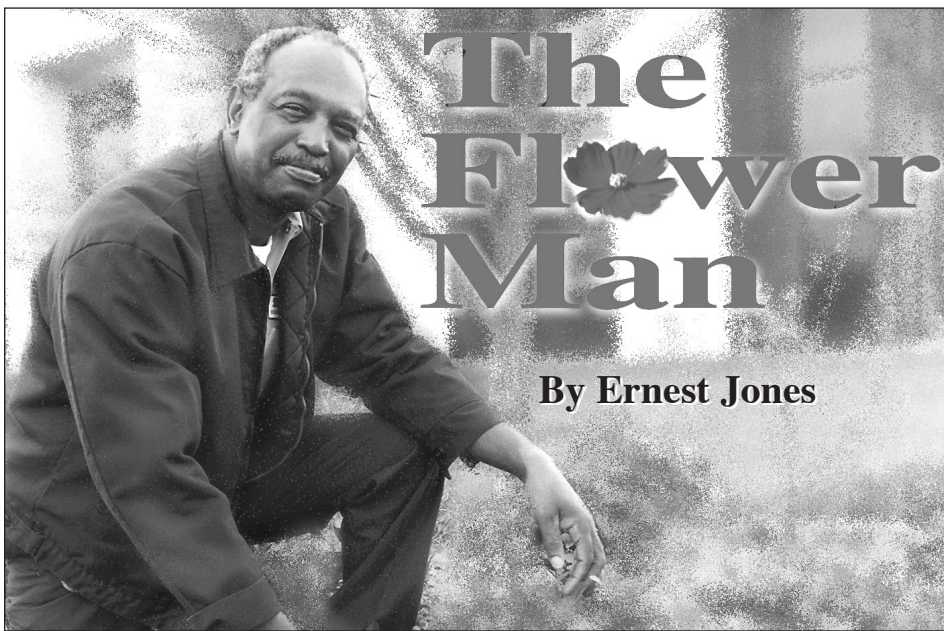
Hot Dog Lunch

On Wednesday, May 4, SCDOT Headquarters employees dusted off their platform shoes, found their old tie dyed T-shirts, leisure suits and enjoyed a free hot dog lunch served by the senior staff. A lot of employees who wore "retro-wear" had a good time with fellow employees during their lunch hour.

Employees competed in a 1970s trivia contest to see what they could remember about the decade of disco. A chili contest was held and Diane Coleman of Human Resources was judged to have prepared the best chili.



70s Trivia Contest



Repotting: Clay vs. Plastic

By Ernest Jones

If your indoor plants are healthy and growing well, they will need repotting every one to three years. The best time for replanting and repotting is usually the spring when the plants are just waking up from their winter rest and are ready for a new

year. Repotting is not just limited to the spring, though many plants outgrow their new home very quickly and may need a new pot long before the season is over, maybe as early as mid-summer. **FOOD SUPPLY:** It is a good idea to give plants the once-over in February-March and see if they need new pots. A

lot of them will need repotting because the minerals and elements that were in the soil can have been used up the previous year.

Even when feeding plants regularly, many of the microscopic elements that were in the soil and necessary to your plant's well-being, will be gone. Even the best of plant foods can't give every plant all that it needs.

LARGER POTS? Most plants will need larger pots in the spring. You can check this by seeing if the plant is pot-bound (i.e., the roots have begun to creep out through the drainage hole.) Don't assume that all the plants will need new, larger pots. There are some that bloom better in cramped conditions.

CLAY OR PLASTIC POTS? People often discuss which type of pot is best, although both types can be used. Here are the main advantages and disadvantages to consider before deciding on the best.

CLAY POTS: Clay pots have been used for thousands of years and do have some definite advantages. One of these is that excess moisture soon evaporates. The plant is not so likely to drown.

This evaporation also means that the contents of the pot are kept cool, which can be a distinct advantage if the plants are out in the baking sun. The water-bound up in the pot will also help to keep the temperature down and can be

taken up in the soil if it gets too dry.

Many gardeners tap the pot to see if the plant needs water. A hollow ring means that there is very little water in the soil, and a dull "thunk" indicates that there is still plenty of moisture there for the plant.

The greatest disadvantage of the clay pot is probably the attraction it has for algae and other forms of unwanted plant life which grow on the outside and base. Always scour a clay pot before using it.

If setting the plant out in the garden, removing a clay pot isn't always necessary. It can be sunk into the earth with the plant. In fact, many plants grow and flower better while still in a pot, and they get all the moisture they need through the sides of the pot and from the soil above.

PLASTIC POTS: One of the reasons for the growing popularity of plastic pots is that they are much cheaper than clay pots and don't crack or shatter during transport. What is more, plastic pots retain more moisture than clay pots, because there is no evaporation through the sides.

Plants don't have to be watered as often, and algae won't grow on the sides. On the other hand, the plant must be knocked out of its pot if placing the plant in a window box or flower bed.