

Behind-the-scenes specialists helped put out the *Reach*

The small editorial staff of the *Hanford Reach* could not possibly have delivered timely Hanford news to your workplace each week without the help of many other people in numerous organizations.

First, we had a stable of regular writers who contributed to the *Reach* and helped plan the content of each issue in our weekly editorial meetings. Most are professional communicators who work in the communications departments of the Department of Energy offices and the various Hanford contractors. Disseminating information about Hanford is part of their jobs, but we appreciate the fact that the employee audience was often considered their most important audience. And they appreciated the fact that the *Reach* reported the facts without sensationalizing them, as some other media were prone to do.

In addition, there were all the Hanford employees who don't write for a living but contributed information about computer software, human-resources issues, benefits, procurement, training, health, safety and a host of other subjects to keep you informed. We were glad to be able to publicize various events, charity drives, happenings in professional societies, the vanpool openings and recreational activities. We thank all those contributors for their efforts.

To illustrate our stories, the Photography group at Lockheed Martin Information Technology has taken thousands of photos for the *Reach*. In recent years — as the world of photography was going digital — our photo budget virtually disappeared and we depended on what we received from project offices and amateur photojournalists. But, considering the entire body of work over 13 years, by far the most and the best pictures on our pages have been taken by LMIT Photography specifically for the *Reach*.



Zack Carter, Dan Ostergaard and Bonnie Compau of LMIT Photography



From left, Clay Hendon, Wally Thaanum, Shawn Lafferty, Kim Robuck and Ricardo Aquino of Triad Web Press

Then there was the job of printing some 12,000 copies of the *Reach*, week in and week out, and delivering them to Hanford's Central Mail. Except for a short period in the early 1990s, Triad Web Press, a subsidiary of the Tri-City Herald, has printed the *Reach* for its entire 13-year run, and has never missed a deadline. In fact, even when last-minute editorial delays have played havoc with Triad's printing schedule, the press crew has gone out of its way to meet our delivery deadlines. Because of the efficiency of printing the paper on a giant web press, on newsprint, it has cost just pennies per copy.

After it was printed, someone had to make sure the

Continued on page 9.

Behind-the-scenes specialists helped put out the *Reach*, cont.

paper was distributed to all Hanford employees, spread out over hundreds of square miles, on the same day each week. Every Friday, the team at the Jantec Central Mail facility received the *Reach* in about 240 bundles to be broken down and sorted by mailstop. It was because of Jantec employees' efforts that you could always count on receiving the paper at your workplace on Monday.

Linda Perkins of Fluor Hanford Technical Support has managed the contracts for printing and distributing the *Reach*. In fact, she was involved from the very beginning of the publication in 1990, working with the editors to write a printing contract that would accommodate a tight weekly schedule within the rules of the Government Printing Office. In later years, she was instrumental in getting authorization for the use of color in progress reports and other special issues of the *Reach*, including this one.

And you, the readers, contributed to our knowledge of Hanford by writing letters and commentaries on various issues. Your letters were directly responsible for changing Hanford's gender-specific job titles and other sexist terminology; improving job controls; focusing attention on traffic safety; prompting debate on benefits issues; and giving deserved credit to outstanding fellow employees.



John Sheets (foreground), Joyce McDonald and John Epps of Jantec



Linda Perkins
of Fluor Hanford Technical Support

In its early years, the openness of the opinion page was one reason Ragan Communications of Chicago included the *Hanford Reach* in its book, *Sixty Outstanding Employee Publications*. Author Hugh Iglarsh commented on the former secrecy at Hanford and the radical change of the site's mission to environmental cleanup. "With the new mission came the need for a new communications vehicle," Iglarsh wrote. "A spirited letters column...opens up once-clogged channels, and allows stressed-out employees to vent their emotions. Yes, there's lots of sniping and griping — but it's healthier than resentful silence."

To all our former staff members, contributors and vendors, thanks for doing what you have done so well. ■