

Prized employes

Monsanto to award 2 scientists \$75,000 for technical gains

By John Leo Koshar

Many companies in various industries honor their engineers, scientists and inventors in different ways: with cash awards, plaques, certificates, or all three.

The idea is to keep them from going into management, where they could make more money but stop coming up with technical achievements for their firm, or to keep them from joining another company.

For example, Monsanto Co., with headquarters in St. Louis, has been rewarding its outstanding scientists for many years with fellowships. This paves the way for the scientists to step up to a higher pay scale in the company and still remain in research.

In 1982, Monsanto established two major cash awards, totaling \$75,000, to add further luster to its scientists' achievements.

These awards will be presented in St. Louis tonight to Jacob F. Schaefer, 45, a Ph.D. originally from Lakewood, and Aubert Y. Coran, 51, employed at Monsanto's rubber chemicals research laboratory in Akron.

Schaefer, with a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Minnesota, will be awarded a \$25,000 cash prize for his creativity and technical leadership in stable isotope labeling and detection.

This has opened a way to study solids such as coal and oil shale, as well as wood and bacteria, providing important information for researchers in fields ranging from agriculture to plastics.

Coran, a St. Louis native with more than 80 patents and publications to his credit, will receive a \$50,000 cash prize for his work in the field of rubber chemistry and technology. He is a Monsanto distinguished fellow.

The \$25,000 cash prize is named for Charles A. Thomas and Carroll A. Hockwalt, two former Monsanto scientists and executives. It is presented for outstanding contributions in a field of science or engineering of interest to Monsanto.

The \$50,000 cash award is named for Edgar M. Queeny, a former company chairman, and recognizes the invention or

development of significant, unique proprietary technology that can or has resulted in commercial success for Monsanto.

Schaefer, who joined Monsanto in 1964, is a senior fellow and leader of the company's new Analytical Techniques Group at Monsanto's headquarters research center in St. Louis.

General Electric Co. is another firm that for many years has been awarding prizes to its massive patent holders, as well as to scientists distinguishing themselves in electronics.

Since 1973, GE has been presenting its Charles P. Steinmetz award every two years to about 10 outstanding scientists companywide for their rare technical contributions. The award carries a \$5,000 prize to the recipient's college of choice.

Three Nela Park Ph.D.s here, Ed Zubler, Emmet Wiley and Jake Rabatin, are among GE scientists who have won the awards.

Nordson Corp. of Amherst recently honored 14 patent holders with cash awards, plaques and letters of recognition at a dinner ceremony, the second year for such a company event.

All the Nordson recipients are inventors or co-inventors who were issued patents last year for products or processes representing technological advances relating to Nordson's major businesses.

Standard Oil Co. (Ohio) here does not have a regular awards program. But Sohio honored six of its research scientists in 1975 with cash bonuses and certificates of appreciation for completing a monumental research effort.

The outcome of the Sohio scientists' research efforts was to discover a new process for making acrylonitrile, a basic plastic ingredient used widely in household and industrial products.

Bendix Corp., as part of a regular company program, honored six engineers last month at its industrial group here for their technical achievements. Several of the scientists were recognized for their work at the research division in Solon and at the turning machine division at 5701 Carnegie Ave.



Jacob F. Schaefer, a Monsanto Co. scientist from Lakewood, will receive a \$25,000 award today for his work.



Aubert Y. Coran receives \$50,000 today from Monsanto Co.

Productivity increased 0.2% during 1982

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a year of plant closings and cutbacks, productivity in the non-farm American business sector rose at an annual rate of 0.2% in 1982, the government reported yesterday.

This barometer of economic activity registered the slight gain because declining output wrought by the recession was outstripped by a plunge in the number of hours worked. Productivity is a measure of the goods and services the economy produces in an hour of paid working time.

Productivity growth in recent years has been slight, although the fractional gain in 1982 non-farm productivity followed a 1.4% annual rate of increase in the previous year.

In both 1979 and 1980, productivity actually had fallen at annual rates of 1.3% and 0.9% respectively. A presidential commission headed by William E. Simon, secretary of the treasury under former President Richard M. Nixon, is studying ways to improve productivity.

The 0.2% productivity rise last year occurred despite unemployment at an annual rate of 9.7%, numerous business failures and plant closings, and the lowest factory use since the government

began keeping such records in 1948. Factories were used at only 69.8% of capacity last year, compared to 78.5% in 1981.

The 1982 gain in productivity resulted from a 2.5% drop in output and a 2.6% decline in hours.

In the fourth quarter alone, non-farm business productivity rose 2.7% as output declined by 3.8% and hours worked plunged by 6.3%.

The overall business sector registered a 4.1% annual rate of improvement in the fourth quarter, the best showing since a 5.6% gain in the first quarter of 1981.

But productivity rose at an annual rate of only 0.4% during the fourth quarter in the manufacturing sector, hardest hit by the business slump, where output fell 10.1% and hours declined 10.5%.

In the overall business sector, the hourly compensation of workers increased 7.3% in 1982, compared with a 9.6% gain the year before. The bureau said it was the smallest gain in hourly compensation in 10 years. When inflation was taken into account, the report added, "real hourly compensation" increased only 1.1% last year after declining in the three previous years.

3 oil giants report profit dip in quarter

NEW YORK (AP) — Mobil Corp. said yesterday its profits fell 52% in the final three months of 1982, while Texaco Inc. reported a 40% slide in earnings and Shell Oil Co. said its profits were off 4%.

They were the latest in a growing number of major oil companies to report lower earnings as a result of the recession and a world oil glut.

Analysts said the oil glut was pronounced in the final quarter of last year, leading to greater competition and price cutting. Supplies had been increased amid expectations that demand for petroleum products would be spurred by a cold winter and the resumption of economic growth.

Mobil said profits in the fourth quarter fell to \$282 million, or 69 cents a share, from \$587 million, or \$1.38 a share, a year earlier. Revenues slid 10% to

\$16.2 billion from \$18.1 billion.

For all of last year, profits dropped 43% to \$1.38 billion, or \$3.31 a share, from \$2.43 billion, or \$5.72 a share, in 1981. Revenues of \$63.8 billion were down from \$68.6 billion in the previous year.

Texaco said profits slid to \$306 million, or \$1.18 a share, in the fourth quarter from \$507 million, or \$1.96 a share, in the same 1981 period. Revenues fell 20% to \$11.7 billion from \$14.6 billion.

For all of 1982, profits dropped 45% to \$1.28 billion, or \$4.92 a share, from \$2.31 billion, or \$8.75 a share, a year earlier. Revenues fell 19% to \$48 billion from \$59.3 billion.

Texaco's profits were reduced by \$140 million last year as a result of the closing of refineries and the disposal of tanker ships that were scrapped in an economy move.

Regan sees 9.9% jobless '84

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan said yesterday that unemployment would average 10.7% this year and remain in double digits for several months into 1984, but he still insisted the nation had turned the corner toward economic recovery.

Regan also told Congress' Joint Economic Committee that interest rates must come down further for a lasting recovery to take place.

The Reagan administration's economic forecast, scheduled to be released next week, forecasts a relatively weak recovery beginning later this year, but with high unemployment hanging on.

Inflation is forecast to inch up from last year's 3.9% rise in consumer prices, and interest rates are forecast to decline slowly.

Regan said the official forecast is for joblessness averaging 10.7% this year and 9.9% next year, meaning it would be above 10% for at least several months in 1984. He said the forecast did not predict 11% joblessness for any three-month period.

The forecast also seems certain to rekindle demands from congressional Democrats for passage of a public works job program. The House approved such a measure last year, but Reagan threatened to veto it and sidetracked the plan.

Instead, Reagan is expected to propose several other measures later this year to deal with unemployment. They include providing tax credits to companies hiring the long-term unemployed, and increasing spending on training programs for workers who have been laid off.

The president also has said he wanted a reduced minimum wage to stimulate youth employment.

But Regan said that even if Congress adopted those and other presidential proposals to cut spending and raise taxes, joblessness would remain at 6.5% in 1988. That is only slightly below the 7.4% level when the president took office two years ago.

He said the initial improvement in joblessness would not come in depressed industries such as steel.

The administration's forecast calls for interest rates to decline

slowly over this year and next. Rates on 91-day Treasury bills, now 8.05%, are forecast to average 8% this year and 7.9% in 1984.

Inflation, which was 3.9% last year, is predicted to average 4.9% this year and 4.6% in 1984.

Regan defended the economic proposals the president laid out Tuesday night in his State of the Union address and remained adamant against any changes in the 10% cut in income tax rates scheduled for July 1 or a provision that will adjust tax rates for inflation beginning in 1985.

Gold price mixed, finishes at \$489

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of gold was mixed yesterday, finishing at \$489 a troy ounce in after-hours trading in New York, a gain of 50 cents from the late bid Tuesday.

Gold rose \$12.07 in Hong Kong to close at \$490.73. Later, gold fell in London to \$486.50 from \$489.25 on Tuesday. But in Zurich, it climbed to \$486.50 from \$485.50.

Gold for current delivery rose

\$1.50 in contracts for current delivery on the New York Commodity Exchange to close at \$491.30. In later New York trading, it was bid at \$489 at Republic National Bank, up from \$488.50 Tuesday.

Silver edged up in London to close at \$12.955 a troy ounce, compared with \$12.935 on Tuesday. Silver for current delivery rose 6 cents on New York's Comex to close at \$13.135.

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