

LAGNIAPPE

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS

CELEBRATING OF SERVICE

1979 2019

Halloween Safety Tips By: Steve Ham, Lofton Safety Services

It's the scariest night of the year! But with a little attention to safety, you can keep it fun and not frightful. Here are a few tips for you to follow to make the night less scary. Boo!

1. Don't Frankensteins Your Lights

When purchasing electrical decorations, make sure to shop at a reputable retailer and look for the UL Mark. Be sure to check the rating on your extension cords, and do not plug in more than the recommended amperage. Use special, heavy duty extension cords for high amperage decorations, such as fog machines and electrically-powered inflatable decorations.

2. Inspect Decorations with Fiendish Care

Inspect all of your electric lights and decorations for damage or wear. Cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, and loose connections may pose a fire or shock hazard. Replace damaged light strings with energy-efficient LED lights.

3. Beware of Candles!

Candles, especially in a jack-o-lantern, should be off the

ground and out of children's reach. Try battery-operated LED candles for an even safer option.

4. Don't Trip Up Your Goblins

Halloween costumes should allow full movement for your kids. Costumes that drag, constrict, or drape pose a dangerous hazard. It could restrict your children's vision. Also, instruct your kids to watch out for tripping hazards, such as cords.

5. Say Boo! to Unsafe Costumes

Be sure to purchase or make costumes out of flame-resistant materials, such as nylon or polyester, as these specially marked fabrics will resist burning and extinguish quickly. Choose costumes that are lighter in color, and attach reflective materials to costumes.

6. Keep Hungry Monsters from Feeding

Never let your kids eat Halloween candy before you inspect it in the light at home. Even if you know your neighbors, you should always check to be safe and throw away open candy or anything that looks at all suspicious.

Lofton 40th Anniversary Little Rock, AR

Lofton continued our year-long 40th Anniversary celebration with the Little Rock team on September 18th. Food, fun and lots of fellowship from our many clients and the Little Rock Chamber. Thank you to everyone who took the time to come out and celebrate with us. Check out more photos on Facebook.



Little Rock crew toasts to 40 years of Employment Service. L to R: April Eaton, Robert Collins, Tom Maupin, Bart Lofton, Michelle Lofton, and Carl Carver.



Bart Lofton and Chamber member Eddie Mrasz present Tom Maupin, Area Manager with Lofton's 40 Years of Service award.



Tom helps Officer Michael Elcan pose for pictures. Smile!

OCTOBER 2019

OCTOBER 14

Columbus Day

OCTOBER 16

Boss's Day

OCTOBER 31

HALLOWEEN





Putting People to Work

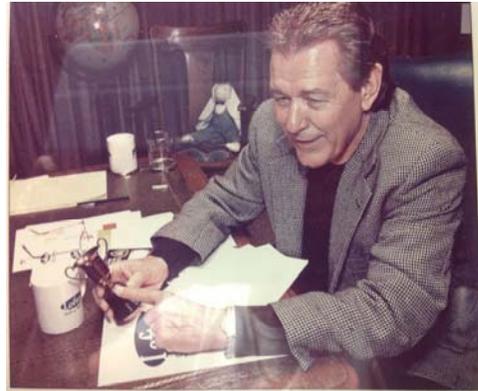
By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

As mentioned in earlier articles and our advertising brochures, Tommy Lofton, the founder of Lofton Staffing Services, believed in “putting people to work” including our sons, Bret and Bart and...me. When I retired from Southeastern he thought I retired too young, and he immediately asked me to start writing articles for the company newsletter! Nineteen years later I’m still writing, and Lofton Staffing is still excelling in putting people to work. In the August newsletter, it was announced that Lofton was again awarded Best of Staffing Diamond Award for 2019 and Forbes America’s Best Professional Recruiting Firms, which made Tommy and me proud!

Tommy, you may remember, was born January 6, known as the Epiphany, the day that Christians celebrate the three wise men’s visit to baby Jesus and remember His baptism. It may be just a coincidence but in January 2001 the Baton Rouge Business Report interviewed him for the feature column, “Sixty Seconds with a CEO,” and in January 2002, Tommy was featured on the front page of the Sunday Advocate Business Section in a lengthy article, “Helping Staff LA”. The article was written by his former Istrouma High School classmate and friend, Smiley Anders. As many of you know, Smiley still writes a daily column for The Advocate in Baton Rouge. Below are some of the highlights from that article:

In 1950, 13-year old paper boy Tommy Lofton discovered that he had a head for business. He won a contest for signing up the most new subscribers to Rolfe H. McCollister’s North Baton

Rouge Journal. The prize was a tiny loving cup—which today occupies a prominent spot in his office. He’s president of Lofton Staffing Services, Baton Rouge’s largest supplemental staffing agency with offices across south Louisiana to Houston. Lofton believes the cup symbolizes his entrance into the adult world and marks his first success in sales. It was not to be his last.



Tommy Lofton, president of Lofton Staffing Services, shows off a trophy he received as a youngster for signing up the most new subscribers to North Baton Rouge Journal. He credits the contest for his introduction to success in sales. Advocate staff photo by Bill Fain

Since 1978 Lofton Staffing has been providing employers with specialized personnel, for 20 years as an Olsten Staffing Services franchise and since 1999 solely under the Lofton name. Lofton avoids designating employees as “temporary” or “permanent”. “Life’s a temporary assignment,” he said. “And what’s a permanent job these days?” . . . He said the fluctuations in the business world over the over the last 15 years have made staffing desirable, due to the flexible nature of both jobs and employees . . . He recalls the days when companies called in “temps” only to fill in for sick or vacationing employees. “There was a stigma then,” he said. “But a good worker is a good worker regardless of how long the job lasts.” Our strong suit was finding ‘diamonds in the rough’ . . .

Tommy Lofton’s success story started in the home of other ‘diamonds in the rough’ — Dixie, a tough blue-collar area near the gates of the Esso (now ExxonMobil) refinery. Like many youngsters growing up in north Baton Rouge in the 50’s, he delivered newspapers to make some extra money. But he went at it with a tenacity shown by few others. The North Baton Rouge Journal at that time offered a free bicycle to any delivery boy who stayed on his route for a full year. After Lofton got his new bike he moved up to a bigger paper, delivering the afternoon State Times after his classes at Istrouma Junior High and later, Istrouma High. Still later he got up at 3 a.m. to drive a truck for the Morning Advocate, dropping off bundles of papers to carriers for home delivery. He’d go home for a shower and if lucky, a nap before school started.

North Baton Rouge Journal Publisher was so impressed by the hard-driving young man that even though Lofton had left his paper, he provided him with a modest scholarship to help him get through LSU. He needed the help—his father, who was in the construction business and had moved the family to Baton Rouge from Arkansas, died the year he finished high school. He attended LSU . . . so he could be close by and help out his mother and sister.

The article concludes with many of the principles on which Lofton Staffing was founded, and I will conclude with this quote from Tommy: “I feel that teaching and developing others is a most important aspect of management, and one I enjoy . . . We try to make our applicants feel better about themselves.” Later Tommy would modify that statement for inclusion in Lofton’s System of Beliefs: “People should feel better when they leave than when they came; in turn, we feel better.”



Halloween Trivia

- Orange and black are the colors of Halloween, because orange is associated with the fall harvest, and black is the color of darkness.
- Jack-o-lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed-out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.
- Black cats were once thought to protect witches’ powers.
- The ancient Celts thought that spirits roamed the countryside on Halloween night. They began wearing masks and costumes to avoid being recognized as human.
- Halloween is on October 31st, the last day of the Celtic calendar.

- Halloween was originally a pagan holiday, honoring the dead. It was referred to as All Hallows Eve and dates back over 2000 years.
- Bobbing for apples is thought to have originated from the Roman harvest festival that honors Pomona, the goddess of fruit trees.
- If you see a spider on Halloween night, it is thought to be the spirit of a loved one watching over you.
- Tootsie Rolls were the 1st wrapped candy in the US.
- Halloween is the 2nd most commercially successful holiday, with Christmas being the first.
- Do you suffer from samhainophobia? If you have the fear of Halloween...you do.

- According to superstition, on Halloween night, owls would swoop down and feast on the souls of the dying.
- Chocolate candy bars top the list as the most popular candy for trick-or-treaters with Snickers #1.
- There are 25 colors of M&M’s, the most popular candy sold in the U.S.
- Nearly 90% of parents sneak candy from their child’s treat bag.
- About 50% of adults dress up for Halloween.
- It takes an average of 252 licks to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop. *Thanks, Mr. Owl.*
- Americans spent over \$300 million on pet costumes in 2012.