

WOODY'S WORLD

Land OF THE Free
BECAUSE OF THE Brave

POWR-GRIP STANDS TALL UNDER THE BIG SKY

DAN PAGE, STAFF WRITER

Exporter of the Year knows value of Montana's business resources

Wood's Powr-Grip (WPG), a company with a list of accolades and accomplishments that reaches back decades, lifted its latest honor with home-state pride.

The vacuum lifting equipment manufacturer was named 2021 Exporter of the Year by the Montana District Export Council (DEC). Montana Governor Greg

Gianforte presented the award to Barry Wood, the company's VP of Marketing and Commercial Development, on May 4 in Missoula, MT.

"Very few Montana companies have made more of an impact in our state than Wood's Powr-Grip," DEC Chair Dianna Kegel said in an April 29 press release. "Born in 1964 in a tiny space in Wolf Point (Montana), this family-owned company's products have been used in virtually every major metropolitan city in the world."

The award presentation was part of the Montana World Trade Center's International Trade & Investment Day. Featured speakers at the daylong event on the University of Montana campus included Consuls General from Canada, Korea and France, executives from BNSF and the Washington Companies, and others.

"It recognizes the hard work of

"Very few Montana companies have made more of an impact in our state than Wood's Powr-Grip,"

- Dianna Kegel, DEC Chair

our sales staff and our shipping department and their success in overcoming hurdles involved with getting our product from our dock and into the hand of individuals on the other side of the world," Barry Wood said in an interview prior to the May 4 event. "This is a tricky process that requires patience and perseverance to do successfully."

A past winner of the award, Wood's Powr-Grip is no newcomer to the challenges of expanding into international markets. "WPG has been exporting since the early 1970s, at least," said Barry Wood,



**QUALITY &
CONSISTENCY
ARE A TEAM
EFFORT**

WPG OFFERS EVENING OF BASEBALL, BBQ

KATIE WHITMOYER, HR/SAFETY MANAGER

We're back at the ballpark this year! WPG's Mustang Game/BBQ is a company-sponsored family summer event that includes tickets to the game and a pregame "all-u-can-eat" buffet (along with Pepsi products and water) for each participating employee and their guests.

As in the past few years, this is meant to be a family outing. Family is loosely defined: Bring a spouse, a significant other, or a not-so-significant other. Bring a kid or a grandkid—or, if you don't have a kid or a grandkid, invite your sister and her kids (kids should have a chance to see pro baseball up close).

Just don't invite the whole neighborhood, please. Everyone has been very good about this in the past – thank you for that.

- **LOCATION:** Dehler Park, Pavilion Area (northwest side of the park, near the batting cages)
- **DATE:** Saturday, June 11, 2022
- **TIME:** Gates open at 5:30 p.m. (this is when the BBQ starts). Game time is 6:35 p.m.

**SIGN UP BY
FRIDAY, JUNE 3!**

Gates open at
5:30 p.m. (this is when
the BBQ starts). Game
time is 6:35 p.m.



HAND-CUP ASSEMBLY

JOSH MCDOWELL, PRODUCTION CELL SUPERVISOR

**"Those who
revel when
times are good
will wither in
adversity."**

—Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Well, what can I say? It's been another interesting year in hand cup assembly. The remnants of the virus that shall not be named continues to create supply chain issues, but on the positive side, they are beginning to stabilize. As long as the fluctuations work themselves out, we will continue to work on decreasing our lead times. We have also gone through many changes in employees with retirements and others moving on.

Due to material shortages, and the assistance of employees and the process improvement

engineers, we were able to conduct process improvement activities in many of our cells. At the vertical handle brazing cell, we set up the cell in a U-shape to improve flow and added gravity racks, a hydraulic lift to the brazing table for better ergonomics, and a rolling cart for tubing.

In the other cells, such as the poly handle cell, we added hydraulic lifts to the tables,

giving employees the option to sit or stand. At the handle brazing and powder coating cells, we purchased spring-loaded tables using safety bucks to eliminate the need to lift any tubs, reducing the likelihood of injury.

We look forward to the next year as our supply chain issues begin to subside and we get closer to our on time delivery goals, it's been a long three years.



Happy Birthday

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Brian Gahagan	1
Dylan Speidel	5
Joshua Schreiner	6
Gabe Bush	8
Chris Rosenberg	13
Shawn Nardella	15
Joe Jones	21
Andrew Hayes	25
Mackezie Serfazo	26
Joshua Seiffert	30

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Bryan Strobel	1
Kelcie Lohof	1
Eddie Borninkhof	10
Kelly Koontz	11
Austin Linnell	12
Derrick Lefler	14
Johana Lopez-Smith	14
Trever Pankratz	19
Holly Schwarm	23
Hagen Land	25
Bob Moran	31
Sandy Robinson	31

POWR-GRIP STANDS TALL (CONTINUED)

who cited a conversation between his father Keith Wood and Glastechnik founder Holger Kramp as a key moment in WPG's decision to first ship products overseas. "Getting to where we are now has been a slow, steady climb."

And Barry Wood's advice to would-be exporters? "Don't be afraid. If selling internationally is something you want to do, there are resources out there to help" he said, citing Montana's Office of Trade and International Relations as a particularly proactive resource.

GROUP EFFORTS

The office is just one of the state-based resource groups benefitting WPG and other Montana businesses. While a group like the Montana Chamber of Commerce may be more focused on advocacy, the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC) helps businesses meet more specific or immediate goals.

"Our longtime vendor for circuit boards was forced out of business by a fire. We wanted to buy circuit boards from a domestic source. MMEC helped put us in touch with Wave Length out of Bozeman, which has proven to be a quality, cost-competitive source," said Bryan Wood, WPG's President and CEO.

WPG recognizes the value of these groups and, in turn, steps up for them. In past years Bryan Wood has served on the MMEC's advisory board, while Barry Wood is a past chairman of the Montana District Export Council.

"We have advocated for continued funding for MMEC on several occasions, so that they have the resources they need to help Montana manufacturers become more efficient and stay competitive," Bryan Wood said.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

A crew from the extension center, which is based out of Montana State University in Bozeman, arrived at WPG's facilities in Laurel, MT, last autumn to shoot video for its showcase series "Celebrating 25 Years of Manufacturing Excellence in Montana."

During the shoot the crew took particular note of WPG's implementation of

5S methodology, said Kazz Siewing, Lean Process Engineer.

"MMEC recognized our 5S program as very robust and for the extra steps we took with electronic forms and data analysis," said Siewing, who was one of several WPG employees interviewed on camera.

Siewing added that MMEC had helped WPG process engineers adopt fresh ways of thinking: "Value stream mapping and Lean concepts drove our decision process in how to eliminate waste and continually improve."

By MMEC's design, all of the commentary in the video is by WPG employees. Not surprisingly, they express pride throughout: Pride in the quality of the products they make, pride in the working culture that comes with being part of a family-run business, pride in setting an example of what manufacturing in small-town America should be.

"There are good people everywhere," said Bryan Wood. "But small-town people may be unique in they feel like they are all part of the same community and because of that they have a sense of neighborly compassion for those they work with."



★ SUMMER EMPLOYEES



TREY EWALT
Shipping Clerk



HAGEN LAND
Hand Cup Assembly



NATHAN JETER
Frame Assembly





NEW EMPLOYEE

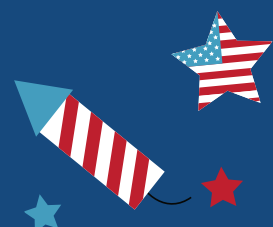


CRYSTAL RONAN
Night Shift



job postings

- 2 Full-Time Night Molders
- 2 Full Time Production Technicians Night Shift
- 4 Full Time Production Technicians Frame Assembly
- 1 Full Time Production Technician Machining
- 1 Full Time Software Engineer
- 1 Full-Time Molder/ Production Tech



OVERVIEW OF SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS:

RACHAEL McCANDLESS, SAFETY & PROCESS ENGINEER

Thank you to everyone who filled out surveys. We really do care and as many of you expressed a desire for greater communication, this is a summary of what you told me and things that will be or are in the works.

Some of the Most Common Requests

- Lifting equipment
- Air Quality Testing
- Safety for the blue building
- More Frequent Fire Drills
- Emergency Action
- Wage Requests
- Bring up shutdowns in morning huddle
- Better understanding of risks during the training process
- More awareness of posture
- Training – monthly safety topics
- COMMUNICATION

Categories:

Gadget Requests

The lifting aid for shipping and other requests are in the process of being implemented but this may take time due to several factors including: the nature of how busy some departments are, the lack of downtime to implement the desired changes, and budget constraints. If you need help coming up with safe practices in the meantime before your dream improvement can be made, please ask and fill out a CAR; or feel free to come discuss your safety concerns in person with myself, process engineering, or HR.

Testing for safe exposure

Quite a bit of testing has already been done, like a recent test was conducted for the crating foam in frame assembly, which

came back with safe exposure limits. Additionally, a test of the 3M solvent # 2 was conducted and is now only permissible to be out in the open when needed for a particular task and is to be kept in the flammable cabinets when not in use. Also, any extended use of this chemical requires frequent glove changes or a special chemical glove that is available upon

You have a right to know the hazards you work with and we do our best to inform you and make you safe.

every day. We also had a recent request for air quality testing of powder coat in frame assembly. Those in powder coating recently changed their sanding process, which should take care of this. But if this continues to be an issue, let me know and we can run some tests. If there are any other concerns we need to know about or if you want to know about previous testing please let me know.

Policy for Emergency Procedures

We do realize the importance of conducting routine fire drills. We are currently updating the Emergency Action Plan. Once that is finalized, we will be conducting a fire drill.

Communication

This one is tough. Everyone has different expectations and such different experiences and needs. However, don't hesitate to talk with your safety committee members, their job is to represent you and help make sure you get what you need safety-wise. Also, you can come see me if you have something that is a problem, it is possible we may already be working on it. Several people have already talked to me, CARs have been filled out and things have been changed. Additionally we plan to have someone from safety come to a huddle once a month so you can ask for updates and ask any other questions. These will be planned so you can think ahead and maybe write down

continued on page 5

your questions. In response to your concerns, I am working on creating an assessment that can be found on the tablets where you can report concerns. This will be related to the upcoming switch to digital CARs and shutdowns. You will be able to use this for several things: To request information or general safety changes not better served by a CAR, to report a dangerous process or situation, or to report a concern even if it is not very urgent - from things like cords that need to be secured to issues like too much brass in the air. Additionally, they will be used to report consistent behavior that is a safety risk. This is not to get people in trouble and if it is used as such, there could be ramifications. But if someone's behavior is dangerous and only you know, you have a responsibility to report it so it can be addressed. This is to be done without discussing with anyone who does not need to know. The goal is so you can share your concerns without them getting lost due to someone forgetting. These forms will not, however, be a replacement for imminently unsafe situations, which should be reported verbally as soon as they are discovered.

Awareness

I am not a naturally chatty or verbose person so if you know of some type of awareness that is lacking, please tell me. However, in case you don't know there is a safety article in "Woody's World" which usually has some of the changes taking place. Some people requested posture and repetitive stress awareness. That was part of April's safety topic and we now have an exercise room with different equipment to help relieve some of that stress. Please let me know if you want

me to show it to you, but the purpose is that you can take 5 minutes out of your day, in addition to breaks, to relieve some stress off your body to help you move and work better. There are foam rollers and chirp wheels, a few things to help massage out knots and mobilize joints, and yoga mats. The room is always open just be courteous of others.

In case you still don't know, the SDS's are now organized by number and there is an inventory above then that is alphabetical first by category and then by the product identifier (which is the official title of the product as named on the SDS by the manufacturer). However, you need to know the emergency measures of what you work with at all times, because it is likely that if you have a chemical in your eye, you won't have time to read the SDS. We will

Real change takes time and participation from everyone.

refresh this training, but in the meantime, come see me if you need help understanding the basic hazards for a chemical by reading the SDS. Additionally, hazard assessments and PPE assessments are under review and I will let you know about the changes when they have been finalized.

Appreciation

There are several possibilities related to a desire for increased recognition or the showing of appreciation like departmental recognition or employee of the month. We would love to hear of specific tangible objects or events that would be appreciated. Also, please remember that since we are all part of the WPG team, don't hesitate to give your teammates



a pat on the back every once in a while. A few people brought up the topic of wages which I know is particularly of interest the way the economy has been. And it is because of all of the recent challenges that everyone's hard work is so greatly appreciated!

Final Thoughts

Those of us in charge of safety cannot see everything no matter how hard we try. Our promise to you is to be as aware as we can and to address the concerns that are brought to our attention to the best of our ability. In order for this to be effective, if you see something you have to let someone know. This can be through a CAR, your supervisor, or to safety directly but if we don't know, we can't address it. And it never hurts to ask, we may already be working on something that is bothering you and it is just taking time. It makes me sad when people hold in their frustrations

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HOURS OF OPERATION

*SEE CHANGE OF HOURS FOR FRIDAYS BEGINNING JUNE 17

MONDAY

11:00AM - 2:00PM

TUESDAY

CLOSED

WEDNESDAY

3:00PM - 6:00PM

THURSDAY

7:00AM - 10:00AM

FRIDAY

7:00AM - 10:00AM*



We  our customers

Hey Guys
I hope I packed this correctly, what an amazing machine!! It truly helped very cool stuff
Dave, Systematic

HAPPY Independence Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

MUSTANGS BBQ & BASEBALL GAME

Saturday, June 11

4TH OF JULY

WPG Holiday

Monday, July 4

PHOTO CONTEST

Photo Entry Deadline

Wednesday, July 6

BLOOD DRIVE

WPG Event

Thursday, July 14

LABOR DAY

WPG Holiday

Monday, September 5

WOODY OPEN

Employee Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 10

THANKSGIVING

WPG Holiday

Thur -Fri, Nov 24-25

SHUTDOWN

WPG Holiday

Fri - Sun., Dec 23-Jan 1

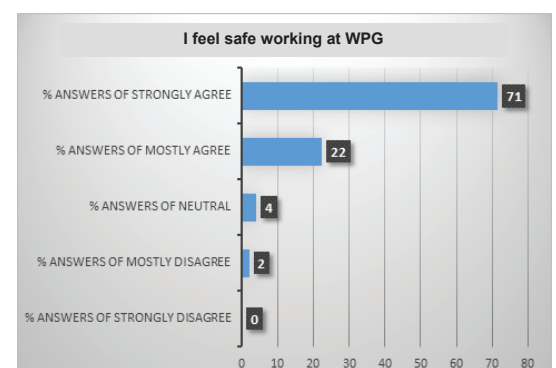
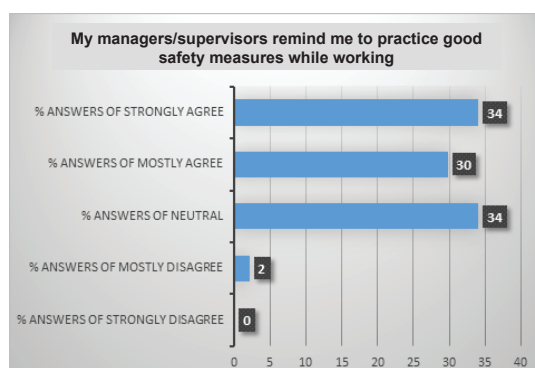
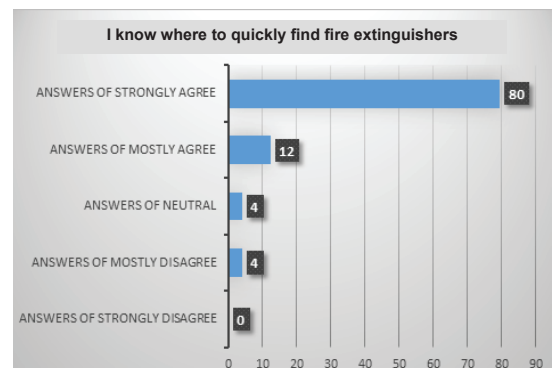
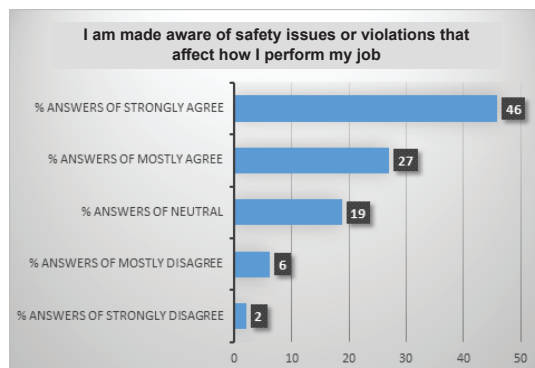
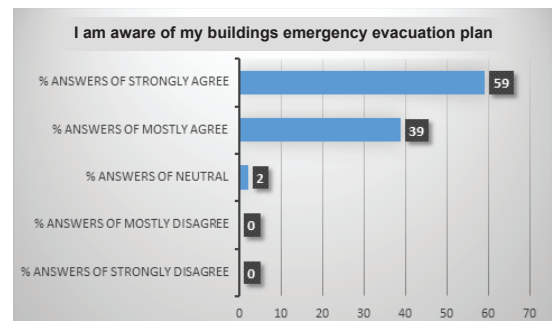
SAFETY (CONTINUED)

because we really do care and want to help. But with that said, none of us are perfect, so please be patient and try to be kind; real change takes time and participation from everyone.

A few of you expressed a desire to be left alone. That safety slows down production and makes things more confusing. That being said, if there is a safety procedure that is not truly helping make you safe, and is not required by regulations, it probably should change and I would be more than happy to help streamline things. But whether you are someone who likes to be cautious or not, I have a duty to inform you of the hazards you face. This includes listening to what you have to say, because you do know more about the details of the processes that you operate. I am also working to help us as a company follow the law, which includes several OSHA regulations that may seem cumbersome at times. But as long as people are safe and we follow the law, I don't want safety precautions to slow people down and cause problems either.

Current planned actions:

- Come to huddles monthly to be available
- Safety Reporting Form
- Fire Drills
- Work out room and possible stretching



2022 WOODY OPEN

KATIE WHITMOYER, HR/SAFETY MANAGER

LOCATION: Stillwater Golf Course, Columbus, MT

DATE: September 10, 2022

Estimated Tee Time: 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Everyone tees off from an assigned starting hole. Please arrive by 8:30 a.m. at the latest to get assigned tee, etc.

FORMAT: Scramble- everyone drives, pick the best shot from there on in

FOUR MAIN RULES TO THE TOURNAMENT:

1. HAVE FUN!
2. Actual employees will have first preference when it comes to filling available spots
3. Family and Friends of WPG employees must have at least one WPG employee on their team (foursome). Preferably we are looking for teams where the majority of the players are WPG employees, however teams of one WPG employee and three non-employees MAY be okay, depending on how many employees wish to play.
4. Once everyone who is interested has signed up, preference will be given to employees in filling available spots. Groups who do not have an employee with them will be assigned an employee or two who have signed up as individuals or as pairs

Although WPG picks up the majority of the cost for the tournament, costs to participants will be the same this year as they were last year (YAHOO!):

\$17.00 per employee

\$27.00 per non-employee

You will be asked to pay these entry fees in advance of the tournament to HR. Checks will be accepted, but cash is preferred so that it is easier to pay off group winners and flag prizes immediately at the tournament.

The amount of prize money is designed to give people a chance in one way or another to win back their entry fee (most of it)- so they end up with a free round of golf, some friendly competition, a couple of free drinks, some free food, and most of all some good FUN!!

MAY SALES UPDATE

BRYAN WOOD, PRESIDENT & CEO

We are coming off another couple months of relatively good demand, maybe just slightly below what we averaged for the first three months. However still above pre-pandemic levels.

Unfortunately material shortages hit us hard in April and the first half of May. As a result the amount of product we were able to get out the door was far less than what we took orders for. However around mid-May we were able to

get a few key components, that we had been waiting for, which helped our production trend up the last two weeks of May.

We are anticipating June will be our best month yet for getting product out the door. We are going to get a huge jump-start of the month by having a large export order for GGR completed, and hopefully shipping, sometime in that first half of June.

Watch for the sign-up sheet in the downstairs breakroom very soon.



Right now we are sitting on about 5 million dollars in orders that are schedule to ship out over the next couple of months. Assuming we can avoid any material shortages, we should see some big numbers for sold product out the door over the next several months.

WPG BLOOD DRIVE

THURSDAY,
JULY 14



GIVE BLOOD SAVE LIFE

15 MINUTES CAN SAVE 3 LIVES!

ALL EMPLOYEES WHO
DONATE EARN 2 FREE
MOVIE TICKETS!



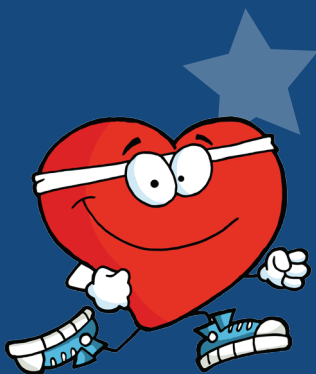
START DOWN THE ROAD
TO A NEW LEVEL OF FITNESS

HOURS OF OPERATION:

MON: 5:30AM-9PM
TUES: 5:30AM-9PM
WED: 5:30AM-9PM
THUR: 5:30AM-9PM
FRI: 5:30AM-8PM
SAT: 8:00AM-6PM
SUN: 8:00AM-6PM

WPG employees* are able to purchase passes to the Laurel Locomotion Fitness Center. The passes are \$10 for 10 sessions and can be purchased at the fitness center.

** passes purchased for family members must be purchased under the WPG employee's name*



(406) 628-8387
406locofitness@gmail.com

122 1st Ave. South
Laurel, MT

MBCEA CONFERENCE

ROSS KING, TECHNICAL SALES MANAGER

I attended the MBCEA conference in Tucson, AZ on 4/27 - 4/29. This is an organization we have joined 14 years ago after getting into IMP handling with our lifters. Their show has grown considerably since the start and they claimed this was record attendance in

2022. When we first started attending vacuum lifters were so new to them you spent a lot of time just explaining what we made and why they would need it now. Now I would estimate 90% had lifters already and many were looking for Neal from Western Glass since he had sold them the lift.



WPG'S PHOTO CONTEST

STACY LAWVER, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

The deadline for
submissions is

**WEDNESDAY,
JULY 6,**

**but you can turn
your photos in
anytime between
now and July 6!**

WPG's annual Photo Contest deadline is quickly approaching, with just 5 weeks left to submit your best images.

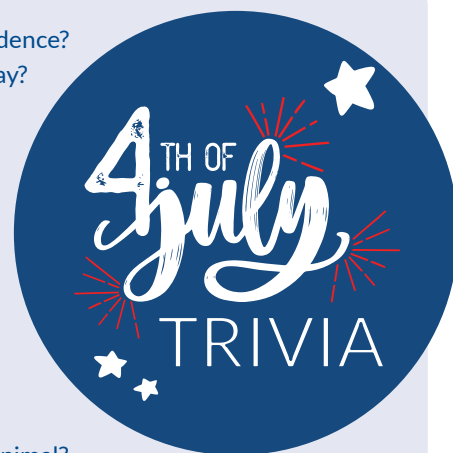
There are 3 categories: Landscapes, Animals and People. One winner will be chosen for each category and will collect a \$50 cash prize! Each employee may submit enter up to 3 photos per category, but no one can claim more than 1 category prize.

E-mail digital files of the photos to stacyl@wpg.com, or bring the

photos directly to Stacy (digital submissions are preferred but not required). **Please add where each landscape photo was taken.** Please do not submit any photos that have been altered in any way, except for cropping and minor lightening or darkening.

Photos will be posted in the downstairs breakroom during the 2-week voting period beginning on Thursday, July 8. There is a limit of one ballot per employee. Pick up your ballot at the reception desk.

1. In which city was the 4th of July first celebrated?
2. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence?
3. When did the 4th of July become a paid federal holiday?
4. Which U.S. President was born on the 4th of July?
5. Which country got independence from U.S. on July 4, 1946?
6. Who died on the 50th anniversary of Independence Day?
7. Which institution first opened its doors on July 4, 1802?
8. What are the printed copies of the Declaration of Independence called?
9. Who was the King of England on July 4, 1776?
10. What did Benjamin Franklin want to be the national animal?
11. Who was the only person to actually sign the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776?
12. Approximately how many fireworks displays take place on July 4th?
13. How many people were living in the US in 1776?
14. Where was the U.S. Capital located before moving to Washington D.C.?
15. Approximately how many hot dogs do Americans eat on the 4th of July?



(1) Philadelphia; (2) 56; (3) 1938; (4) Calvin Coolidge; (5) The Philippines; (6) Thomas Jefferson and John Adams; (7) United States Military Academy at West Point; (8) Dunlap Broadside; (9) King George III; (10) Turkey; (11) John Hancock; (12) 14,000; (13) 2.5 million; (14) Philadelphia; (15) 150 million