

overhead signs explaining every step of the production. Large picture windows allow natural light, while a dozen employees are busy at the production and packing stations.

A typical tour begins in the back of the room, at the nine vats of melting milk, dark and white chocolate. Each vat holds between 125 pounds and 200 pounds of what many consider to be the finest chocolate in the world. Tom, the master of the production, is stationed at one marble table cutting slabs of caramel and marshmallow that will be combined into a layered candy and then hand dipped in dark chocolate. This, his favorite concoction, is dubbed Miss American Pie.

Sally explains that there are basically three methods of making Tom and Sally's Handmade Chocolates. They begin with shell molds, trays of high-grade plastic with decorative depressions. The molds are filled with liquid chocolate. Each chocolate piece is hand filled and hand painted, then cooled before another step in the process. It is an exceedingly skilled and time-consuming process. "The molds are imported from Europe," says Sally. "And they cost \$22 apiece. We have hundreds of them." The molds, as are all of their equipment and inventory items, clearly labeled and neatly stacked according to the design motif. The high-end confections that result from this molding process sell for \$34 per pound, about a dollar each.

A more mechanized method is done on what Sally loves to call the "I LOVE LUCY" machine. It is otherwise known as an enrober, a conveyor belt with a series of "waterfalls" allowing a cascade of chocolate during which each piece of fruit, cr me or chocolate filling is given a chocolate coating. "Remember the 'I Love Lucy' segment?" says Sally with a wide smile. "Where Lucy and Ethel reverse roles with Ricky and Fred? They take a job at a chocolate factory," she explains in vivid detail. Unfortunately, the conveyor belt starts running too fast and they have to determine what to do with all the chocolate. "There is little choice but to fill their mouths, stuff their pockets and hide chocolate in their shirts in a vain attempt to keep up with the output of the enrobing machine," says Sally. This skit encapsulates Sally's fondness for the machine—a comedy routine that reflects her own fun with chocolate.

Finally there is the funneling method, and this is where the cow pies fit into the story. Using a large metal funnel filled with warm, tempered chocolate and equipped with a wooden stopper, two-ounce globs of chocolate are "plopped" onto a marble table. It is cooled and hardened into a solid mound of chocolate, and then packaged in a clear plastic bag with a catchy novelty tag that describes the contents in a whimsical way. The cow pies began outselling the truffles.

Each year Tom and Sally do something new to make chocolate lovers laugh. In fact they are so good at the marketing that they've had to trademark everything to prevent other companies from using their ideas. "We just spent many thousands of dollars protecting our trademark on Chocolate Body Paint," says Tom, of a product that originated as a gag present for the president of the local Rotary Club. Packaged with a paint brush, the label on the treat reads "heat to 98.6 and apply liberally." It is essentially a delicious chocolate fudge sauce for ice cream, but the name was catchy and it sells the product.

While making the best chocolate in the world is still their goal, Sally admits that their typical customer is more interested in the funny packaging. Most of their novelty chocolates are sold wholesale to over 8,000 stores across the United States. "Our niche in the world of chocolate is that we are creative," says Sally. "The best thing about

having our own business is that we have the freedom to be creative," she adds. "Can you imagine trying to get approval to make something like chocolate cow pies in a corporate world?"

MONTANA'S YOUTH OF THE YEAR

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to bring to your attention today a story about a young man that I am proud to say is from Montana.

His name is Jerimiah Tretain and he is Montana's Youth of the Year.

Jerimiah has come from what I consider the "school of hard knocks." At a young age he was abused by his father, then moved with his mother and older sister to Montana. Life has been difficult for him and The Boys and Girls Club of Billings & Yellowstone County have helped him get through some times through anger management and counseling. They are a truly wonderful organization.

It humbles me to see such a brave man conquer so many obstacles and being steered in the right direction in order to achieve his goals and dreams to enter Montana State University in Bozeman, MT, in 2003 and eventually become an architect.

I wish Jerimiah all the success in the national Boys and Girls Club competition. You make Montana proud!

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and commend those who make up our Nation's workforce and who now, more than ever, make a vital contribution to the success of our Nation.

This week, from May 6th to the 12th, is Public Service Recognition Week, organized by the Public Employees Roundtable. The Public Employees Roundtable was formed in 1982 as a non-partisan coalition of management and professional associations representing approximately 1 million public employees and retirees. The mission of the Roundtable is to educate the American people about the numerous ways public employees enrich the quality of life throughout our Nation and advance the country's national interests around the world.

I am indeed proud to join the Public Employees Roundtable in their ongoing efforts to bring special attention to the dedicated individuals who have chosen public service as a career. This past year has demonstrated the crucial role of our Nation's public employees, and has highlighted the brave men and women who make up the public service workforce. On September 11th, it was the public employees of New York, Washington and Pennsylvania who responded to the tragic events of that day. And since September 11th, we have seen public employees playing a vital role in the fight against terrorism and in protecting our national secu-

rity. The response of our Nation to the attacks of September 11th demonstrates the true value of our public servants.

President Kennedy once stated:

Let the public service be a proud and lively career. And let every man and woman who works in any area of our Nation's government, in any branch, at any level, be able to say with pride and honor in future years: "I served the United States Government in that hour of our Nation's need."

September 11th was an hour of our Nation's need and our public servants rose to challenge. The first responders on the scene in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania didn't hesitate to put their own lives in jeopardy in the hopes of saving others. Many firemen died in the World Trade Center rushing in to help. Postal employees, too, continued to deliver the mail despite the loss of several of their number to the anthrax attacks last fall. And as our hour of need continues, public servants are everyday making our skies safer, investigating the acts of September 11th, and working to prevent further terrorist attacks. The remarkable bravery of these public servants is a testament to the character of our Nation's public workforce, of whom we can be infinitely proud.

The total impact of the work of public employees is impossible to measure. However, I believe very much that the United States will only continue to be a first-rate country if we have first-class public servants. On September 11th our public servants demonstrated that they were more than first-rate, they were heroic. It gives me great pleasure to extend my appreciation to such a worthy and committed group of men and women and encourage them to continue in their efforts on behalf of all Americans.

RETIREMENT OF CARROLL BEACH

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, it is my honor today to acknowledge the retirement of Carroll Beach, president of the Colorado and Wyoming Credit Union Leagues.

Mr. Beach began his tenure with the Colorado league in 1973, and since that time has brought about significant progress with that organization. The total number of credit union members in Colorado has grown from 350,000 to almost 1.4 million. These are members who, like others nationwide, own and control their credit unions. During this same period, assets in Colorado credit unions have also increased from \$355 million to more than \$7 billion.

With great innovation, Mr. Beach has developed a variety of high quality, fairly priced programs, products and services over the years to meet the needs of credit unions and their members. In 1997 the Wyoming Credit Union League contracted with the Colorado League for management services. Since then, all staff and resources available to Colorado credit unions are also available to Wyoming credit unions.