

Candy Co., but workers at the W. 7th Street plant watch every stage to pluck out broken or misshapen Nut Goodies, mints and Salted Nut Roll.

"If we learned anything from George Pearson, it's that our recipes are great, but the tradition of quality is what sets us apart," said company co-owner Larry Hassler.

The late George Pearson, who died in 1995, ran the company for 20 years, and is remembered as a great boss and great candymaker. The company founded by his father, P. Edward Pearson, turns 90 this year.

Pearson Candy competes in a field largely dominated by three giants—Hershey, Mars and Nestle—Hassler said.

After some rocky years in the 1980s, Pearson Candy now thrives under new management. The company recently added the Bun bar, which comes in maple, caramel and vanilla.

The company has been selling mints and Salted Nut Rolls through Wal-Mart and Target stores, and Hassler says he hopes to build on that national recognition of the Pearson brands.

But not all of the company's candy bar brands have survived over the years: Remember the Denver Sandwich?

It was something like a Twix bar, but a little ahead of its time.

Hassler takes the credit (or blame) for killing the famous Seven Up bar about 20 years ago. He said it took 10 workers to make the bar, which had seven creme and flavored fillings, and the company lost a dime on each bar it sold.

But the Seven Up bar had a special role in building the W. 7th Street plant.

"Pearson owned the name, 'Seven Up,' but so did the 7-Up soda company, so they'd come once a year to George Pearson and ask to buy the name so they could legally protect it, and then they'd lease the name back to us.

"Well, every year George would say no. I think he got a thrill out of telling this big company to just go away. But finally, in the 1950s, they came again and offered him a blank check. This time, he wrote in an amount, some very, very high figure, and they said: 'We've got a deal.'

"Those proceeds built this plant."

#### COMPANY HISTORY

P. Edward Pearson and four brothers started the company in Minneapolis. With the Nut Goodie, invented in 1913, and the Salted Nut Roll, 1921, it grew to be one of the nation's top 20 candy manufacturers.

When P. Edward died in 1933, his son George quit college and became a partner with his uncles. In 1951, George bought the Trudeau Candy Co. in St. Paul, which made mints and the Seven Up bar.

George became president of the company in 1959 but sold it in 1969 to International Telephone and Telegraph's Continental Baking Co. Ten years later, a Chicago entrepreneur bought the company, and in 1981 Hassler was brought in as a financial officer. Hassler and Judy Johnston bought the company in 1985.

#### KEEPING THE NUT GOODIE

In the production area, which makes up most of the plant's 130,000 square feet, plant manager Roger Bruce supervises two shifts of workers who mix and blend sugar, corn syrup, chocolate and peanuts. About 175 people work for the company.

The peanuts come from North Carolina in 2,000-pound bags. The plant uses four to eight bags a day.

Hassler said his longtime employees saved him from making a big mistake in the 1980s—dropping the Nut Goodie.

"We were losing a nickel a bar and every time I saw an order for 100 cases, it killed me," he said. They had changed the bar's recipe and wrapper and weren't selling enough to make a profit.

"People in the plant said we've got to make the Nut Goodie the way they used to make it and go back to the old ugly, red-and-green wrapper. We did it and they were 100 percent right." Now, the company sells enough Nut Goodies to make a tidy profit.

Hassler said he has had sweet overtures from neighboring states asking him to move. But he's not chewing on those offers.

"St. Paul has been good for us. If you take St. Paul out of the equation, I'm afraid we'd lose it all," he said.

He's not entertaining buyout offers, either. "If I sold out and made a fortune, I know I'd spend the rest of my life looking for another company just like Pearson Candy," he said.

#### TRIBUTE TO MYLES TIERNEY

##### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 1999*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the family of Myles Tierney. Myles Tierney was a journalist with the Associated Press who was tragically killed in a rebel attack while on assignment in Sierra Leone. Known as a vibrant young man who had a passion for traveling and journalism, he was a true journalist in the sense that he reported on news that would educate and inform the public. He was willing to put himself in harm's way to report on a story of significant value.

Mr. Tierney grew up in the SoHo area of New York City. His father, a mathematics professor, and his mother, a performance artist, allowed their son to nurture his creative abilities at an early age. He channeled these interests into journalism, and while attending Rutgers University for a period of time he realized he would rather pursue a career in the field he loved.

Mr. Tierney's career with the Associated Press began when he was hired in 1994 to produce news videos. In 1997, he was assigned to Nairobi. In Africa, he would travel throughout the continent covering stories in war-ravaged countries, often putting his own life in peril. His passion for journalism and love for his job allowed him to look beyond the dangers before him and bring news to the people throughout the world. For Myles Tierney, that was worth the risk.

Along with journalism, Mr. Tierney's other passion was traveling. This made working abroad in the remotest regions of Africa that much more appealing to him. Some journalists might have avoided such a challenge, but Myles Tierney jumped at the opportunity. His friends and colleagues say that he actually liked to travel to the most inhospitable of areas to cover a story. He cared deeply about his role as a journalist, and the real issues that affect the world around us.

Myles Tierney will be remembered by his family and friends as an individual of charm who had a passion for journalism. He did his best to inform others about world events—

events that other journalists were reluctant to cover because they were less glamorous or too dangerous. He lived his life-long dream: traveling the globe, informing the world. Myles Tierney was an exceptional young man who will be truly missed.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DR. FEDERICA WILSON, ROLE MODEL OF EXCELLENCE

##### HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 1999*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to one of south Florida's distinguished daughters, the Honorable Dr. Frederica Wilson, a champion of poor and minority students. After an extended period of distinguished community service in Miami, Dr. Wilson was elected recently to the Florida House of Representatives in Tallahassee.

Prior to her election to the state legislature, Dr. Wilson was a member of the Miami-Dade County School Board and was principal of Skyway Elementary School for twelve years. Dr. Wilson earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Fisk University, and her M.A. degree in Supervision and Administration from the University of Miami. Dr. Wilson received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Miami's Florida Memorial College.

Dr. Wilson is the founder of the 500 Role Models of Excellence Project, providing role models, training, and workshops for minority boys in the county's public school system. Dr. Wilson has introduced many initiatives to the Miami-Dade County School Board, including the annual "Keep Me Safe" march and vigil, when time is allocated for students and the community to honor children lost due to unsafe environments.

Dr. Wilson's inventiveness knows no bounds when fostering safety for Florida's students. One of the initiatives which she introduced has been "Drug and Alcohol Awareness Fridays." And every Friday is "Say No to Drugs" Day in the public schools of Miami-Dade County.

In 1997, the 500 Role Models Project was cited by President Clinton and General Colin Powell as a leading volunteer teaching model for the nation at the President's Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

With other Florida leaders, such as Governor Jeb Bush, Dr. Wilson also recently participated in the sixty annual 500 Role Models of Excellence Project's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Scholarship Breakfast on Miami Beach in January, 1999.

While in our nation's capital to attend a White House function with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Dr. Wilson had the opportunity also to visit the Congress on February 3. I look forward to working with Dr. Wilson towards resolving the challenges facing our home state. Miami indeed is fortunate to have such a capable and devoted public servant among the ranks of its community leaders.