What do all these things have in common?

Orange Santa!

Last year, Jerry Wilhelm of the Carpenter Shop came up with the idea of using scrap lumber left over from projects to make toys that could be donated to the children of Orange Santa. With the support of management and with the skills of the men and women of the Carpenter Shop, over 60 toys were created for Orange Santa. Most of these toys were one-of-a-kind made by all the carpenters in the shop during their free time and on breaks from regular work.

This year’s approach was slightly different and involved more helpers. Scrap lumber was collected throughout the year from both the Carpenter and Cabinet Shops. After consulting with management and Orange Santa personnel, a decision was made to make a few specific types of toys to simplify the creation process. Fortunately, excess paint was donated from the Paint Shop so as to keep the uniqueness of the toys. Since everyone in the Carpenter Shop was busy building these toys, requests went out to Facilities and PMCS employees that could paint the toys during lunch hours and after hours voluntarily. Nearly 30 people from across the Facilities Complex worked and volunteered on the toys. As a result, 125 toys were created, cut, sanded, painted, and donated to the 2009 Orange Santa Holiday Store.

The Carpenter Shop’s Wooden Toys for Orange Santa was just an idea that began last year and that we eagerly hope to continue as a tradition in the years to come. So just as the slogan for UT is “What Starts Here Changes the World”, this can also be applied to our experience with Orange Santa: “What’s Built Here Changes the Community”.