



---

December 20, 2002

### Working through the Golden Years

Jack in the Box® restaurants opens door to post-retirement employees

SAN DIEGO - Once the domain of fresh-faced teenagers and college students, quick-serve restaurants are also attracting older employees, some well beyond retirement age, to grill burgers and fill orders. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 4.3 million Americans over the age of 65 choose work over retirement. While some retirees are too strapped financially to forgo working altogether in their golden years, many work, not because they have to, but because they enjoy it.

Mary Wells, 83, has been working at a St. Louis-area Jack in the Box® restaurant for more than two years. Wells, who keeps busy assisting with food prep and maintaining the dining area, is there as much for the camaraderie as she is for the paycheck.

"I like being with people and talking to the customers in the dining room," said Wells. "I really enjoy my job and I'll work here as long as they'll have me and as long as I'm able."

While retirees enjoy the social interaction and the extra money in their bank accounts, business owners and managers benefit from the strong work ethic many seniors have as well as their enthusiasm in coming to work.

"Our customers and employees enjoy having Mary around," said Kelli Christian, restaurant manager for Jack in the Box. "The customers like to chat with her and welcome her assistance in the dining area. She's also very good at keeping our younger crew members on their toes and they really respect her for it."

Ben Connley, 78, has been a crew member at a Jack in the Box in Everett, Wash., for 13 years. As a maintenance worker, Connley is responsible for cleaning windows and restrooms, as well as hanging promotional decals and posters. It's physical work, but Connley prefers it over a sedentary lifestyle. And the paycheck is a welcome addition to his fixed income.

"Social security doesn't go quite far enough," he said. "But Jack in the Box is an enjoyable place to work, and I'd rather get some fresh air and move around than sit in a chair all day."

Founded in 1951, Jack in the Box Inc. (NYSE: JBX) is the nation's first major drive-thru hamburger chain. The San Diego-based company operates or franchises 1,870 quick-service restaurants in 17 states and has 43,000 employees.