Custodial

We noted (briefly) in Assignment 2 that Housekeeping could be considered a function of plant maintenance. If production personnel are responsible for the clean-up of their own areas, what happens from there? How does the waste material get to its final disposal? And who maintains the cleanliness of the common areas, not to mention the bosses’ offices?

The custodial responsibilities, whether it is direct employees or contracted services, may fall within the domain of a facility manager. If a contractor is used, there may be a contract manager who has direct responsibility for the execution of the contract, but the required work will be managed by the FM.

In a non-manufacturing environment such as a higher education facility, the percentage of custodial employees is much higher than manufacturing environment. For example, Southeast Missouri State University has around 1,000 faculty and staff. The Facilities Management Department, the largest department in the university, has over 150 employees, well over half of whom are custodians. This may seem like a lot of people, but with over 2.2 million square feet of space to clean, if you ask the custodians, I’m sure they would tell you it isn’t nearly enough. While proportionally smaller, you would probably also see a high percentage of employees in a custodial capacity at schools like SLCC FIo Valley. Obviously, keeping the facilities looking nice for the students (not to mention the pampered faculty) is a high priority, and aids in recruiting and retaining students. But contrast that with a public school where there may only be a few custodians for a large campus. Do they care less about the looks of their facilities? Probably not, but the budget allocations may not be there. Plus they are not dealing with college students. :)

This is not the same need as at a manufacturing facility like TG Missouri or Boeing. While cleanliness is definitely required, especially around electronic components, what is critical is keeping areas free of debris in order keep the free flow of materials and personnel. When I was working in a Kellogg’s Cereal plant in Battle Creek, they were very particular about the housekeeping. They had a POP program (yeah, you guessed it, from Snap, Crackle and…) that stood for Protect Our Product. We had to wear protective clothing and hair nets (over our hardhats – now that was a sight, we looked like beekeepers). But what I couldn’t understand was that the Fruit Loops® came out of the ovens and dumped into big open-top containers, like dumpsters, and just sat there for hours. Seemed to me like that would have been a good target for dust and other gak (don’t get me started on the Oscar Meyer hot dog plant I visited -- Jimmy Dean wasn’t kidding
when he talked about "whole hog sausage".)