

RCI Regional — Mountains of knowledge and fun

Mountains surround the valley of Grand Junction, Colorado, the site for the Retail Confectioners International (RCI) fall regional institute held in late September. Members and associate members from approximately 50 companies who participated in the event brought home mountains of ideas and memories.

Friday's schedule for the conference included a thorough and informative tour of host company Enstrom Candies, followed by sight-seeing in the Colorado National Monument park.

One of the Saturday seminars was focused on ergonomics in the workplace. Kathy Langford, occupational therapist, shared examples from various workplaces ranging from candy companies to computer firms.

Business liability issues for small companies followed this presentation. Attorney Betty Bechtel, a specialist in these matters, spoke plainly and forthrightly to reinforce the

The Callie's Candy Kitchen family (Carol and Harry Callie, Gretchen and Mark Reisenwitz) poses for the camera.



necessity of knowing the current laws affecting one's business. Even though seemingly frivolous and without cause, lawsuits stemming from employee practices and behaviors are worrisome and can be very costly. Case studies made her point clear: be very careful in hiring and firing employees.

A review of the business potential awaiting confectionery companies on the Internet was illustrated in the next session with the Web site of the host confectionery company, Enstrom

Candies. Not only do they sell their toffee by Internet orders, they intend to eventually allow clients to update their own guest recipient list online as well. Tom Sherlock and John de La Hoz have assisted Enstrom's and other companies in increasing their Web presence and setting up appropriate tracking procedures.

This event's Kettle Talk panel consisted of three veteran candy-makers: Harry Callie (Callie's Candy Kitchen), Clint Miller (Enstrom Candies) and Wesley Nis-