



Luncheon Winners and Upcoming Speaker

On June 25, 2020, after three long months of quarantine, social distancing and the shut down of non-essential businesses, members finally were able to socialize and enjoy our end of month luncheon at Joe's K Ranch. Normally the June luncheon is a picnic, so we would've had a buffet luncheon with a typical picnic menu of hamburgers, brats, etc. but because of the current circumstances of our times, we had a sit down dinner and it was absolutely delicious! We had the choice of BBQ Ribs or Fried Chicken along with a salad, bread and steak fries. For dessert we enjoyed cupcakes and ice cream.



Francis Gross



Dolores Page

June's raffle winners were Dolores Page and Francis Gross. All in all everyone had a good time!

Please consider joining us at the September 24th and/or the October 29th luncheons—the last two for 2020!

Also, we're excited to announce that our guest speaker for the September 24, 2020 luncheon will be **Tim Sullivan, Chairman of the Bucyrus® Foundation**. Make your reservations early by calling Shirley Borgie 414.301.9876 (temporary number until 9/4/20) or 414.768.9750 (after 9/4/20) or Dolores Page (414) 768-9437. Limited space is available as the restaurant's restrictions still continue.

Chet Grobschmidt's 100th Birthday *Written by his daughter, Karen Southerlin*

On June 8th the City of South Milwaukee along with Family members and Friends celebrated Chet Grobschmidt's 100th Birthday. We had over 150 cars, City Vehicles, Fire Trucks, Ambulances, Police Cars from SM and Oak Creek, Dump Trucks, old time cars and of course all of his Friends/Family. He was presented with a citation from the City stating it was Chet Grobschmidt Day and also from the City of Oak Creek.

He received citations from Gov. Evers, many cards from State Officials and a Birthday card from President Donald Trump and his Wife. He was also presented a signed autograph football from the Green Bay Packers. Meadowmere in Oak Creek did a wonderful job, all of the residents were able to sit outside and enjoy the parade with my Dad. Even though the original plans were dashed, Chet enjoyed his day so much and was so thrilled.



LUNCHEON DATES

Joe's K Ranch • 4840 S. Whitnall Ave., Cudahy

It would be much appreciated if you call Shirley Borgie at 414.301.9876 (temporary number until 9/4/20) or 414.768.9750 (after 9/4/20) or Dolores Page at 414.768.9437 with your reservation by the Monday before the luncheon.

This will enable us to accommodate all our members and guests. Refreshments starting at 11:30 a.m. and luncheon will be served at noon. (\$14.00/person)

SAVE OUR LUNCHEON DATES: Thursdays: September 24th, October 29th



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Remembering Bucyrus Erie's Construction Machine Division

By Fred Shew



I joined the Bucyrus-Erie Co. in April of 1954 in the sales department. At that time the company had Regional Sales Offices, New York City, Chicago, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, San Francisco, and Seattle. These offices were headed up by Regional Managers which had sales reps who were either assigned to sell the “large machines” – mining shovels and draglines, or “small machines” – commercial cranes and excavators.

Mining machines were sold directly to the mining companies, while the commercial cranes and excavators were sold through distributors. The distributors were the sales and service outlets for a variety of construction types of machinery that road contractors, building contractors or utility contractors would use in their work.

After a six-week training program, I was assigned to the Chicago Regional Office. Prior to joining B-E I had sales experience in selling machinery to steel mills and contractors, so being assigned to the Chicago office was nice because steel mills and contractors that worked around the mills were also prospects for Bucyrus-Erie shovels and cranes.

My time in the Chicago office was exciting because construction work had just gotten underway for the major expressways - The Kennedy, The Skyway, The Dan Ryan, and the Illinois Tollway. Almost all of the Contractors doing work on the roadways were purchasing and using Bucyrus-Erie machines, 22-B's, 38-B's, 51-B's and Hydro-cranes. I became very acquainted with some of the contractors who were doing the major construction work. April of 1959, I received a promotion to be become Sales Manager of Commercial Cranes and Excavators, moving to the B-E office in South Milwaukee. In addition to working on sales, my new responsibilities included working with the engineering staff on new product development.

At that time the model 30-B was coming of age in the market. It was a very versatile product. While the initial concept was a 1 cubic yard shovel, it had much better market acceptance as a dragline or backhoe. Over the years we expanded it into a 50-Ton “Super Crane” and eventually mounted it on

a mobile carrier to become a 50 Ton truck crane.

The 30-B Truck Crane became a standard of the DuPont Co's construction department. DuPont's construction division, was a very large operation – employing 7,000 people at that time. The B-E 50/60 Truck cranes were the only cranes that met DuPont's strict safety specifications. Several of these cranes were used on the platform construction of the launch pad for the moon shot at Cape Canaveral. It was exciting to be in on that.

Our sales guys were successful in capturing and order for ten 30-B draglines with the Nile River Delta Drainage Commission in Egypt. This important order was won against international competition. In the early 1960's our CC&E group worked with a U.S. contractor consortium that had received a contract to build the Mangal Dam – a large hydro-electric irrigation dam on the Indus River in Pakistan. B-E supplied 38-B's, 54-B's and 71-B's for this project along with a large quantity of spare parts. This project was miles from the Port of Karachi, through which everything had to be shipped. In those days we very happy to win this big sale. A few years later, another dam on the Indus River – the Tarbella – was to be built, and B-E was fortunate to sell a group of cranes and shovels. This purchase also included the first new 100-ton truck crane model.



During the 1950's and 1960's, “Big Inch” (30” and 36” diameter) pipelines were being built from the oil and gas fields in the Southwest to cities in the Midwest and East Coast. It was exciting times for the Commercial Cranes and Excavators Group. Pipeline contractors were a “blow and go” bunch. They would try to lay a mile of 30” / 36” pipe a day. They needed backhoes, the 22-B's were preferred. They would purchase these in “bunches”- 10 to 20 at a time. Dealing with them was exciting. They liked to do business with a handshake which was not the B-E way, but we got it done.

In 1962 it was decided to set up a Construction Machinery Division which would be made up of Commercial Cranes & Excavators Sales, Water Well Drill Sales and establish its home base in the Evansville, Indiana, plant. The 51-B, 61-B, 71-

B, 88-B, H-3, H-5 Hydro-Cranes and Water Well Drills would all be manufactured there. The Erie Plant would continue to build the 22-B, 30-B's and 38-B's.

With that our sales group from the South Milwaukee offices all moved to Evansville, Indiana, where the Construction Machinery Division, CMD, was established. Sales, Field Service, Repair Parts Sales, and Sales and Service Promotion and Training were all together for the first time.



I became the General Sales Manager, supported by Product Sales Managers, Parts Sales Manager, Service Manager and Sales Promotion Manager. It was convenient to have our entire CMD group at the manufacturing plant, where we could bring our Distributors and their customers in for sales presentations, show the products in the process of manufacturing and have product demonstrations. It generated some good sales.

In the early 1960's the Construction Machinery Engineering group undertook the development of line of hydraulic excavators. The Model 20-H – a ¾ cubic yard machine was first, followed by the 15-H, 30-H and 40-H – 5/8 cu. Yd through 2-1/2 capacity.

Hydraulic power transmission was brand new to the rigors of digging ditches on construction projects. New problems abounded – oil leaks, contamination, and others were all present. We set up special service training for our distributors and took it to them so they had knowledge to fix customer problems quickly and keep our new products running.

While all of this was happening, it did not eliminate the basic CMD products, the “cable” machines. We sold a group of machines to a large Italian Construction Co. who built a large hydro-electric dam project in Brazil and another on the river between Argentina and Uruguay. Our CMD machines had an international reputation for rugged service backed by good service.

Some projects I remember were four 88-B shovels to an iron mine in Brazil, four 88-B shovels to the Black Sea Copper Co., four 88-B shovels to Le Nickle, a French company mining nickel on the

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island of New Caledonia. The 88-B was our biggest machine in the CMD line up and it was exciting to work on selling it.

In the early 1960's the advantages of the telescoping boom truck crane was gaining fast acceptance. Our B-E H-3 and H-5 Hydro-Cranes were pioneers in this type of a crane. CMD undertook the development of a line of modern up to date hydraulic truck cranes. This included developing a family of hydraulic hoists: rather than purchasing commercial hoists that were limited for accurate crane lifting and placing items which required smooth delicate precision for which the H-3 and H-5 had gained an industry reputation.

B-E expanded the horizon by producing a product line of cranes: 45-C (25-ton cap.), 55-C (50-ton cap.) and the 65-C (65-ton cap.) The 45-C was the first one to go into production at the Evansville Plant. We shocked the industry with our opening announcement ad – "The End of The Plain Crane."

For this ad our advertising people parked a red and white crane with a gold painted telescopic boom in front of a large beautiful white southern home in Evansville, and had a couple dressed in formal evening attire standing beside it - Truly the End of the Plain Crane, Competition poked fun at me, saying "what is a plain crane?" It was all ok. We had the attention of the crane users and the B-E products were the best.

The other models finished testing and obtained OSHA certification, then rolled off the Evansville Plant production line. To introduce this awesome new product line, it was decided to have a "Crane Rally." The City of Evansville had a perfect place, Roberts Stadium, a huge indoor basketball arena. Basketball is very big in Indiana.

All Bucyrus-Erie distributors were invited along with the customers they wanted to invite. Some even chartered airplanes to bring their customers. It was a big show. Industry magazine people came and featured stories of the event in their magazines.

All models were on display in the arena with engineering people explaining features and all models were outside in the parking lot and operational. The mayor of Evansville gave a welcome and recognized the contribution that Bucyrus-Erie made to the community. Our CEO Gene Berg spoke to our distributors, and Jim Martin, V.P. of Engineering spoke of B-E' s work in research and product development and new products in the pipeline. It was a great crane rally, exciting times, and wonderful kick-off of new product line.

To be continued.....More about CMD's group return to South Milwaukee in the next issue

From Pat's Desk...



It's hard to believe that we're still dealing with the pandemic of Covid-19. Hopefully you are all safe and well. The rules at Joe's K Ranch are still in effect, so if you're planning on joining us at any of our fall luncheons, please make your reservations early...seating is limited. And speaking of luncheons, we are so pleased to announce that Tim Sullivan, Chairman of the Bucyrus® Foundation will be our guest speaker at the September 24th luncheon. (For reservations, please call Shirley 414.768.9750 or Dolores 414.768.9437).

I would like to mention that we are in need of nominations for the Executive Officers (President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer). We hold elections every four years. You can submit your nominations at our September 24th luncheon. Election will be held at the October 29th luncheon by secret ballot.

The Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association has two upcoming events...The Fireside Theatre outing (Wednesday, November 11th) and our annual Christmas Dinner/Dance (Thursday, December 3rd). At this

time, we have only six remaining tickets for "Holiday Inn" at the Fireside Theatre. If you are interested, please let me know. Order form and complete information is in the Spring issue of our Newsletter (it is also on the website www.beoldtimers.org). Consider joining us...it's a nice way to start off the Holiday Season!

Our annual Christmas Dinner/Dance event will consist of a shrimp and steak dinner, refreshments and music by Roger Boll. We will be accepting reservations in the order that they are received as seating is very limited. The form is included in this newsletter. This is another Oldtimers event that will get you in a Happy Holiday spirit!

The Association is still seeking the help of someone who would be willing to take on the responsibility of publishing the newsletter. It's a lot easier than you might think because we have outsourced the help of MJ Media, LLC to format our Newsletter. If you are interested in this position, please let me know by dropping me a line by mail or email. And I might add, if anyone would like to write something newsworthy for a future newsletter, let me know.

'Til next time...

Pat Merkovich

Contact info:

Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA
Attention: Pat
P.O. Box 563, Oak Creek, WI 53154-0564
or oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com

Board of Directors Nominations and Election

At the September 24, 2020 luncheon, we will be seeking nominations for the Executive Officers of the Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA including President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer. Elections are held every four years. Only members in good standing who have attended at least five luncheons in the past year are eligible for the nomination.

Elections will take place at the October 29, 2020 Luncheon by secret ballot. Please consider nominating a member in good standing. It will be much appreciated.



LETTERS TO 'BIG MUSKIE' FROM FELLOW OLDTIMERS

June 6, 2020

Special thanks to the team that give their time and talent to keep Oldtimers going. It is very much appreciated.

Ron Mindle



June 19, 2020

As each of us takes our walk through life we cross paths with many understanding and kind people, each with special goals to share with our fellow man. For myself Mayor Chet, I have crossed that past 100 years with so many of you. Your love and friendship I cherish dearly. I am so blessed to have shared my birthday with you and my wonderful family.

Thank you!
Chet



June 11, 2020

Thank you for including my dad Raymond Guttman in the Loving Memory section of your retiree newsletter last quarter and for the card when my dad passed. He dedicated 44 years of his life to Bucyrus and it's great to see you guys still keeping the memories alive. I gave the eulogy at my dad's funeral and Bucyrus came up quite often. When we cleaned out my parents' house, I collected a lot of stuff that he had collected over the years. I made a shadow box pictured below with his anniversary pins and a variety of things I know he used over the years between the foundry, driving forklift, and in shot blast and paint that I hung in his room at the assisted living place. It was funny because between the Parkinsons and dementia he could not tell you what he had for breakfast, but he could still tell you how to mold. Now that he has passed, I made a nice display in my workshop that I also included his picture that used to hang in the BE-Club along with some signs I found in the garage. If you could please keep him on your mailing list as the mail comes to my house and I enjoy reading them.

Thanks again,
Tedd Guttman



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Officers, Board of Directors and Staff

Shirley Borgie, President • 414.301.9876 (temporary number until 9/4/20) or 414.768.9750 (after 9/4/20)
Dolores Page, Vice-President • 414.768.9437
Pat Merkovich, Secretary/Treasurer • 414.617-2796

Board Members

Bill Haag, Betsy Hodson, Ken Tangen, Rose Zingale

Newsletter: Pat Merkovich • Email: oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com

Webmaster: Ken Tangen

Email: bigmuskie@beoldtimers.org • www.beoldtimers.org

Retiree Newsletter & Correspondence

Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA
P. O. Box 563 • Oak Creek, WI 53154-0564

Blast from the Past

Thank You Joan for submitting the photos reminiscent of some happy days in the Parts Sales Department.

April 6, 1994 brought the 40th birthdays of four of the Parts Sales family; Mike Onsager-Electrical, Tim Sullivan-Parts Sales Director, Neil Massey-Assistant Director and Darrell Wright-Supervisor. The entire department was decorated in black balloons, crepe paper, black footprints, piles of dirt to indicate "Over the Hill" status and don't forget the huge dumpster diving funeral flower arrangements. Ran Archer and John Elliott are also in this photo. (#1)

Ran Archer-drills, Mike Onsager-electrical, Tim Sullivan-Parts Sales Director and Neil Massey-Parts Sales Assistant Director are shown in this photo celebrating the 40th birthdays. (#2)

December 1993, brought the South

Milwaukee High School Pep Band to Parts Sales as part of our 12 Days of Christmas celebration. Cheri Lewitzke, Erick & Amy Lindstrom, Jon & Erin Engman (children of B-E employees) were part of this group. Each Parts Sales participant shared a treat or pun or small item indicating their day of Christmas. As you might know or recall, Neil Massey was a U of Michigan graduate who loved to tease how much better U of M was than UW. Since I was running the program of course I insured I had the 12th day "Drummers Drumming" and since I had strong connections with the high school music director, it was arranged to have the SMHS Pep Band come to visit at lunch with ON WISCONSIN as their only tune. Of course ON WISCON-

SIN was played in and outside of Neil Massey's office. Drummers drumming in the elevators and in the stairwell heading to the 2nd floor really caught everyone's attention (boy what a racket!). Fun was had by all. (#3)

Parts Sales and other departments at Bucyrus worked hard and played hard which is what made us successful.

Joan Lindstrom
Former Master Scheduler



(#1) 1994, April 6, Ran Archer, 40th bday club members, Mike Onsager, Tim Sullivan, Neil Massey, Darrell Wright-John Elliott around the corner



(#2) 1994, April 6, Ran Archer, Mike Onsager, Tim Sullivan, Neil Massey



(#3) 1993, Dec-12 Days of Christmas, On WI outside Neil Massey office (MI fan)



April 6, 1994: Mike Onsager's Parts Sales office- MGO's 40th Bday.



Portion of SMHS Pep Band outside Neil Massey's office.



April 6, 1994: Daryl Wright, Neil Massey, Tim Sullivan, Tom Phillips--dirt pile so they can jump "over the hill"



April 6, 1994: Daryl Wright, Neil Massey, Tim Sullivan in Parts Sales Department



April 6, 1994: Neil Massey's office - 40th Birthday celebration



April 6, 1994: Neil Massey-40th birthday Parts Sales Dept



April 6, 1994: 2nd floor men's decorated bathroom



April 6, 1994: Welcome to the New Parts Sales Department

Bucyrus Museum and Club Update

Written by Bob Jelinek

South Milwaukee Industrial Museum's new home the old Bucyrus Club is getting closer to reopening every day. We're still busy doing some demolition work in preparation for the new build out of both floors. The architects at Zimmerman are currently completing the final construction drawings, and work will soon begin to make the first floor a beautiful event center complete with two banquet halls, a bar/lounge, Friday fish fry dining space and a private dining room all operated by Skyline Catering. Skyline is also partnering with the Bucyrus Museum to help host our school groups and other visitors, as well as offer private opening of our museum during weddings, corporate dinners, civic functions and other events.

We're excited that the building's exterior will once again bring the Bucyrus name back to the main street of South Milwaukee and as shown in this final exterior rendering. The Club was once home to the steam engine assembly floor and the west machine shop from 1902-1910. That means the steam engines for all the Panama Canal machines were assembled here. There will be a mural along the old bowling alley north wall that will honor the long history of Bucyrus and its workers.

There are nine wall insert display cases on the first floor that will showcase not only Bucyrus' rich history in South Milwaukee, but other manufacturers that at one time or still call SM their home. Companies like Line Material, Lawson Aircraft, Doerman Shoe, and Continental Tile were all Bucyrus' neighbors at one time. Did you know the first mulching lawn mower was invented in SM? Orbit Manufacturing made it, and the company was eventually purchased by Bolens. We're working with the South Milwaukee Historical Society to fill some of these first-floor cases with rotating displays.

The second floor will be all Bucyrus Museum. We'll also rotate displays in several cases so there's something new to see every time you come in. We're



anxious to get "Big Muskie" back on display along with our brand-new model of the 1850B, "Big Brutus".

We still have a lot of work to do to bring back the Bucyrus Museum exhibits to the new world class home. While the City of SM and Foundation are taking care of the building costs, we still have to cover the cost of moving all the former Heritage Building displays, security system installation, insurance, rent, and utility costs to finally bring it all back to its former glory. We sincerely appreciate all of your support during the past three years while we searched for a permanent home. Along with your donations, our Museum board and advisors have personally covered

"thousands in storage, insurance, and day to day costs associated with keeping this dream alive.

We're almost there, but need to once again call upon the generosity of all of our supporters to help us meet the final financial goal to be able to open in May/ Jun of next year. Any amount of support is appreciated, so please help if you can.

Donations can be mailed to SMIM, PO Box 84, So. Milw., WI 53172-0084 or go to our website at www.smimllc.org and click on the donate button to do it through our Go-Fund-Me page. SMIM is a 501c3 non-profit educational museum, and any amount donated is 100% tax deductible.



**BUCYRUS® OLDTIMERS ASSOCIATION UA
PROUDLY PRESENTS THEIR**



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER/DANCE

THURSDAY - December 3, 2020

at

JOE'S K RANCH

4840 S. Whitnall Avenue

Cudahy, WI 53110

\$25.00 per person

Surf & Turf Tastiness ~ Filet and Deep Fried Shrimp
Baked Potato and Garden Salad with Choice of Dressing
Bread Basket, Beverage and Dessert

Music by: Roger Boll

Dancing and Refreshments: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and **Dinner will be Served:** 4:30 p.m.

Please pay at time of reservation **no later than Monday, November 23, 2020** so that we can have an accurate count of participants. Friends are welcome also!! Reservations will be accepted in the order that they are received as seating is very limited at this time. **Send form below to:**

**Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA
Dinner/Dance
P.O. Box 563
Oak Creek, WI 53154-0564**



If you have any questions call Dolores at 414.768.9437

or

Shirley at 414.301.9876 (until 9/4/20) or 414.768.9750 (after 9/4/20)



**Checks should be made payable to
Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA**

Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA 2019 Christmas Party Reservations

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Note for large groups: If you would like us to reserve your seating placement, please mention on form or contact Dolores or Shirley

Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA
P.O. Box 563
Oak Creek, WI 53154-0564

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"A BIG THANK YOU"

TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Mike Bollis • Lila Brekke

Gary Dillon • Greg & Linda Gruber

Mark Kalinowski • Craig Mackus • Carol Stolpa

In Loving Memory



With Heavy Hearts we said "Goodbye" to:

Jim Bachard - April 27, 2020

Jim Hesprich - July 19, 2020

Tom Jahnke - August 3, 2020

Richard (Dick) Lemieux - August 9, 2020

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL
WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA

P.O. Box 563

Oak Creek WI 53154-0564

or Email: oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com

2020

LUNCHEONS & EVENTS

At Joe's K Ranch

(For Reservations call Shirley or Dolores)

Luncheon Cost \$14.00/person

Opens 11:30 a.m. Food served at 12 noon

September 24

Luncheon

October 29

Luncheon

December 3

Christmas Party

OFF SITE FUNCTIONS

November 11

Fireside's "Holiday Inn"