



From Pat's Desk...

'Yay' to SUMMER! Officially here on June 20th...although the unofficial start to the summer season is Memorial Day week-end, when it's grilling time, baseball games, graduations, and maybe a weekend get-away 'Up North'. This is most definitely a favorite time of year with so many activities summer has to offer!

Just a couple of reminders. There's only one more luncheon before our summer break. And again this year in lieu of the typical luncheon cost we will be accepting 3 donations to Human Concerns from the list provided (on page 7) or you can make a monetary donation of \$10.00 or more (in cash) that will be matched by the Bucyrus Foundation. Attendance is by reservation only, no walk-ins, with a limit of 100 guests.

June marks the 3rd Anniversary at the Bucyrus Club & Event Center and for the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum. We are very fortunate to have this wonderful facility not only for the fabulous luncheon fare that Skyline Catering has provided for us but also to have a permanent home for the Museum! This place holds so many happy memories and we are looking forward to many years to come!!

We will resume our monthly luncheons in September and October followed by our outing to the Fireside Theatre in November and our annual Christmas Party in December. A reservation form for the Fireside is included in this newsletter (Page 6). If interested, please hurry to send that in..there's only a few tickets left. As for the Christmas Party, information will be in the Fall Newsletter.

My wish for you this summer is always the same—enjoy life with all the special activities that you can be a part of—be safe—take care of yourself and stay healthy!

'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

JOIN US FOR OUR LUNCHEONS & EVENTS

Reservations are appreciated by calling Dolores Page at (414) 768-9437, call or text Pat Merkovich at (414) 617-2796 or email oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com, preferably by the Sunday before the luncheon.



1919 12th Avenue
South Milwaukee

This will enable us to accommodate all our members and guests.

Refreshments starting at 11:30 a.m. and Food will be served at 12:00 noon (**\$18.00/person - cash or checks only**)

All luncheons are sit-down meals.



**SAVE OUR
LUNCHEON DATES:**
June 27 (picnic)
September 26
October 31

EVENTS:

Fireside's "Miracle on 34th Street" - November 22, 2024
Christmas Party/Dinner Dance - December 5, 2024



Happy 3rd Year Anniversary

**Bucyrus Club & Event Center -
Skyline Catering and
the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum**

We always welcome anything from a short note to tell us how you are doing to a Bucyrus® story that you would like to share in a future newsletter. And the Association is still seeking the help of a member or group of members who would be willing to take on the responsibility of publishing the newsletter. Please contact us if you are interested or need more information.



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Claire & Claude Aube

I was hired by Jack Carr in September 1969 as a service Engineer for South America and was put on a 3-month training program with Matt Glaske.

Then, very early in my training program, I was sent to Detroit where a customer was experiencing repeated Fawick air clutch failures for the crowd and retract on their new 110B. They were operating the clutch at 40 psi, and after resetting the air pressure at 90 psi as recommended by the manufacturer. I told the Supervisor if they had another failure I would pay for it! God knows I could not afford it, but we never heard back from them. And that was the end of my 3-month training program for Bucyrus

Between that episode and the end of 1973, I erected multiple shovels and drills throughout the world in the Philippines, Australia, Sweden, Norway, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, and more. I also was dispatched to do troubleshooting various shovels and drills both mechanically and electrically. All had DC electrical systems as AC electrics had not arrived yet. To say the least, some of those assignments were my most difficult to correct.

Early in 1974 I was offered, and accepted, the position of Service Supervisor of Shovels and Drills at the headquarters in South Milwaukee. The Service staff Manager was Jack Carr and Luis Veltze

was Electrical Supervisor. Bill Klockow was Large Dragline Supervisor, Fred Copeland was Small Dragline Supervisor, Don Kanter was our Claims Supervisor and I was over the shovels and drills.

Jack Carr left Bucyrus in early 1979, after which the Service Department was reorganized under the Manufacturing Department. As time passed, I no longer felt comfortable with the new organization, so I made an appointment with Phil Mork who was then the President of Bucyrus-Erie. I asked Phil to transfer me to Eastern Canada as Service Representative since BE had none there at the time. He asked me to give him time to think it over, and after a couple of days he called me to his office and agreed with the transfer and told me to make plans accordingly.

Through a Bucyrus-Erie intermediary, my house was sold and all our furniture sent to our new home in Montreal, which ruffled a lot of feathers within the Service Department to say the least. Later at one of our yearly sales meeting Phil Mork approached me and whispered in my ear that my transfer to Canada was the best darn decision he ever made. Although the new job was very demanding I felt free and like I was on vacation.

In 1982 I was transferred to the Sales Department replacing the Salesman who had resigned. Our parts sales were at a longtime low, and many of the customers were buying their parts from will-fitters left and right. Our annual parts sales hovered around \$1 million. It took me a while but I grew our annual sales to \$3 million!

Having previously worked for the Iron Ore Company of Canada (IOC), I knew the people involved in the Labrador mining Industry, and they knew me, which resulted in mutual respect and confi-

dence. I had arrived for Bucyrus-Erie in 1985 and served until 1990, when both IOC and Quebec Cartier Mining needed new rope shovels and blasthole drills. We were successful in selling QCM one 295B DC shovel, three 395B Acutrol shovels, and one 45R drill. IOC also purchased three 395B Acutrol shovels and two 45R drills. To add to the mix, New Brunswick Coal purchased a 1270W Dragline and QIT purchased two 45R drills from me! I retired in December 1996 and was kept on as consultant until late 1997, when because of disagreements I terminated my consulting work.

Then in early 2000, when Tim Sullivan was being brought back as President of Bucyrus International, I started again. Somehow Tim got in touch with me in Florida and asked if I would meet him at his home in Falls Church Maryland, where he was finishing his employment with a company in Baltimore. Over dinner Tim asked if I would return working for him at Bucyrus in South Milwaukee, I agreed under certain conditions which were met. I returned as General Manager of Bucyrus Canada.

Also at my request, Narayan Swamy was brought back to Western Canada where he had numerous contacts in the Canadian Oil Sands. That soon paid off as we sold several 395B shovels in Alberta, some with service contracts. I continued working in Canada until 2002 when I retired at the age of 68.

We have now sold our house and moved into a residence offering all medical care. We are both in relatively good health, I turned 90 in April and Claire is 84. We enjoy our family of two daughters and one son, four grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Best wishes to all!

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MAILING ADDRESS... OR YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?



If you have moved to a new address or changed your email address and still want to continue receiving the quarterly Alumni Newsletter, please let us know by contacting Ken at bigmuskie@beoldtimers.org or Pat at oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com. No computer? No problem...you can write us at Bucyrus Oldtimers Association, P.O. Box 563, Oak Creek, WI 53154-0564. We would hate for you to miss a single issue!



MARCH LUNCHEON

Our March 28, 2024 luncheon was extra special as our very own Bob Jelinek gave an extremely informative presentation about Bucyrus' involvement building arms and machinery for the United States in WWII. He presented his research into male company employees leaving for the military and the efforts to back fill those vacated positions with women, other factory workers on a part time basis, and bringing in foreign workers to help maintain need-

ed production levels. Thank You Bob for the fascinating historical information on Bucyrus in WWII. Read more on the details of BE's war efforts and involvement in this month's Bucyrus Museum SCOOP section of this newsletter (on page 8).

Our very enjoyable menu for this month consisted of Baked Cod with baby red potatoes, a vegetable medley (zucchini, yellow squash, red & green peppers, and onions), Salad, Bread Basket, Chicken

Dumpling Soup and Loaded Baked Potato Soup. And special thanks to those who donated our delicious desserts—Karen Bonchek—a Raspberry Cool Whip Torte, Lois Champagne—Mini Malibu Cupcakes, Dave Kieck—2 Apple Pies, Pat Merkovich—an Orange/Pineapple Cake and Cindy Nettles—Easter Themed Sugar Cookies. Lucky door prize winners for the 'free' luncheon gift certificates were Terri Truettner and Carol Roth.



Bob Jelinek



Terri Truettner



Carol Roth

APRIL LUNCHEON

If you were at the April 25th luncheon, you were fortunate to have an exceptionally fun time! Not only did Captain Dan Fournier and Officer Matt Edwards give a fantastic presentation on the progress of the K-9 Unit with the South Milwaukee's Police Department, but everyone was able to meet Officer Edward's partner "Rocket". It seemed that Rocket loved all the attention with everyone's pets and scratches. And we absolutely loved him too! The K-9 Unit is fully funded by donations, not taxpayer money. As Bucyrus employees have always generously done, we helped the SMPD's K-9 Unit program by raising a grand total of \$1,900.00 in member and friend donations including the Bucyrus Foundation matching gifts for the employee amounts donated. A big 'Thank You' goes to Captain Fournier, Officer Matt Edwards and his K-9 partner Rocket for the informative update on SM's K-9 Unit and to all those who generously donated to this important cause and resource for the South Milwaukee Police Department.

As always, we had a deliciously prepared meal from the Chef at Skyline Catering. It consisted of Bourbon Glazed Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy and Corn, a Bread Basket, Salad, Chicken Dumpling Soup and Cream of Asparagus Soup. Many 'Thanks' for the delicious dessert donations goes to the

generosity of the following six ladies: Ann Hoffa—an Apple Cake, Marge Miller—a Marble Cake with Raspberry Filling, Dolores Page—Assorted Cookies (Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal Raisin, Macadamia Nut & M&M's), Judie Parworth—a New

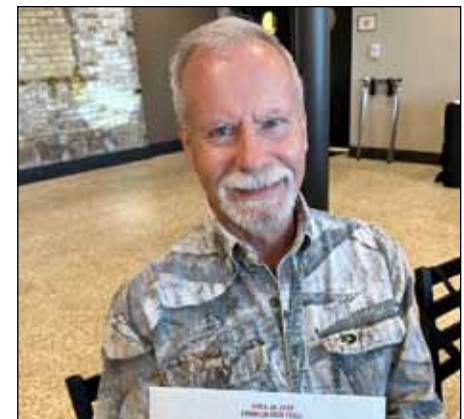
York Fudge Cake, Debbie Polzin—Sugar Cookies, and Cindy Zastrow—an Apple Slab Cake. And of course, we can't forget to mention the two lucky door prize winners of the 'free' luncheon gift certificates—Tom Blawat and Tim Schneider.



Captain Dan Fournier, Officer Matt Edwards & Rocket



Tom Blawat



Tim Schneider



LETTERS TO 'BIG MUSKIE' FROM FELLOW OLDTIMERS

March 12, 2024

Enjoyed this most recent mailing especially Eduardo's story and some of the people mentioned. Sorry to learn about Keith Crandall's passing as he escorted me on my initial sales training in the field. Of course who can't remember Dolores in the Parts Depart. wherein spent time managing the Bucket and Dipper product line.

Keep up the good work all!
Mark Hardwick (1978-1988)

March 12, 2024

Great Newsletter. I sure miss the good old days back in 1966 thru 1984 right after they closed down the foundry. My wife Karen Timian worked up in Accounting and we asked to go to Western Gear in California in 1986 and so I followed her to smoggy California and worked for McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach.

Rich Timian

March 12, 2024

Oldtimers Association:

A little contribution to keep the electronic newsletter coming. Because I have never, in 29 years with B. E...worked directly in the Milwaukee plant I do not know many folks mentioned. But it does not change the fact that the newsletter is interesting and informative. Thank you for it.

Anonymous

March 14, 2024

Enclosed is a donation to help with the publication of the newsletter. Keep up the good work! Great to see everybody at the luncheons and enjoy the newsletter.

Regards,
Dick Janswig

March 22, 2024

Hello,

We enjoyed the newsletter, especially the Bucyrus Alumni file. We looked ourselves up and noticed some missing information.

Karen Timian did not retire in 1980 but was transferred to Corporate Accounting (BECOR) until 1986, then was transferred to Western Gear in California after BE bought them. As for Richard Timian, my index number is listed wrong. It was 16761. Then after the foundry was closed down in 1986 I went to McDonnell Douglas as a manufacturing R&D Engineer in Long Beach, California. In 2001 after Boeing bought McDonnell Douglas. I was transferred to Boeing's Mesa military structural repair facility and later to the Helicopter manufacturing facility in north Mesa, finally retiring in 2015.

We still miss all you BE guys and hope you keep the newsletter. It was nice looking up my old friends and reminiscing about everyone we knew.

We're enclosing a check to help support your efforts. Keep up the good work!

Rich Timian

March 28, 2024

Hi Oldtimers,

Here is a donation for any purpose. It's great to hear what's going on with people I used to know and events there. I also enjoy the historical articles about B-E's amazing past, much of which I didn't know.

We live in Sequim, Washington, about 2 hours NW of Seattle, and I would love to hear from anyone I used to know.

Paul Crone
1 (314) 503-7242
pcrone13@gmail.com

April 2, 2024

I really look forward to the "Bucyrus Oldtimers" quarterly newsletter. Although it was VERY SAD to read about the passing of Matt Glaske in February. He was my mentor when I started working at B.E. in 1989. A great guy to work with.

The money I sent could be used for anything the association sees fit.

Sincerely,
Tony Chicantek

April 3, 2024

Here is a donation to keep the newsletter going. I enjoy it. Thanks to all of you.

Gordon D. Hams

April 8, 2024

Hi Oldtimers,

So enjoyed the Spring newsletter and will enclose a check to help keep them coming. Eddie Barrera's memories of his Bucyrus years was wonderful and reminded me of what a gem "fast Eddie" was to MMD service and sales departments. I wrote a chapter in my Volume V, "That's My Story..." of our escapade to Southern Peru Copper he mentioned. What a time, but he forgot to mention how 9 months later an official of Southern Peru came up to me at a Las Vegas Mining Show bearing an invoice from their medical department for \$2,500 asking who he could give this to at B-E for the sewing up of Ed. Told him I'd see that it got paid (besides we were still trying to sell them a new Aucutrol shovel) and it was Ah what memories.

I also enjoyed seeing the note from my CMD boss, Fred Shew. I happened to know Fred's age as being ten more than mine when he let it slip once when the two of us were traveling together. Good to hear from you again Fred, even via the newsletter. Trust you and Jan are doing well.

Always the best to all my B-E Friends of those many years. Blessings to you all.

Tom and Dottie Nelson

May 4, 2024

Greetings from warm and sunny Arizona. Hope this contribution will help continue the Newsletter because I sure enjoy reading it. Thank you for sending it to me and keep up the good work.

Lila Brekke

May 9, 2024

Dear Bucyrus Oldtimers Association,

Please accept this donation on behalf of the Raymond Guttman Family for supplies and postage to keep the retiree newsletter going. Since his passing in 2020 I have truly enjoyed reading it. I appreciate all you do to keep the memories alive and enjoy thinking of my father when I see it come in the mail.

Sincerely,

Tedd Guttman

Tom's Travels

by Tom Nelson

From Book V, "That's My Story...", Chapter Four

Some of these stories in this chapter are about my long ago personal business travels. I traveled widely during my business life, especially during the Bucyrus Erie days. Traveling with Engineering and Service people always gave me stories to tell and now to write about. One favorite is this one about an expedition to a copper mine at the top of a

South American mountain in Peru. We were there to sell B-E mining shovel after traveling from sea level to 13,000 feet. One of our group, from the home office in Milwaukee, had a serious medical problem—thankfully recovering. This favorite story is about how good friend Eddie Ferrara, grinned and bore the agony to help make the sale.



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Debbie Polzin, Ken Tangen

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Alumni Newsletter & Correspondence

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

We are always appreciative of our Oldtimers members and Museum friend's generosity for any and all donations. The Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA and the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum LLC are both separate non-profit organizations, and therefore have individual accounts. Since we both rely solely on free-will donations, we have partnered in this newsletter to reduce costs for both of us, and provide everyone with the latest information on events, activities, and news updates in both groups. We hope you continue to find the combined quarterly publication enjoyable and enlightening. Thanks for your continued

support of our organizations and welcome any feedback you may have.

For future reference, please keep the following addresses handy for all your correspondence and donations:



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



South Milwaukee Industrial
Museum LLC
P.O. Box 84
South Milwaukee, WI 53172-0084

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FIRESIDE THEATER'S "MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET" **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024**

Based on the beloved Christmas movie, "MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET" is a big brassy Broadway musical with heart. Macy's Thanksgiving Parade needs a new Santa. Enter Kris Kringle—a sweet and jolly old man who claims that he is the real Santa Claus. Thus begins this funny, warm, tuneful and inspirational musical as Kris has to prove his claim in court and teach his cynical neighbor and her daughter to believe in the goodness and love that is Christmas. Written by Meredith Wilson, this is an unforgettable musical version of a classic Christmas tale.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION EARLY! There are only a limited number of seats available for members and friends of The Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA.

Prior to our arrival at the Fireside Theatre, we will visit the Jones Dairy Farm Store in Ft. Atkinson where hams, sausages, bacon etc. can be purchased and held in cold storage while we enjoy "Miracle on 34th Street".

DATE: **FRIDAY, November 22, 2024**

COST: \$90.00 per person. Gratuities are included (for the meal and the bus driver).
Payment in full or a minimum deposit of \$45.00 per person is due upon receipt.
Balance is due by Friday, September 27, 2024

DEPARTURE TIME: **8:30 a.m.** at the Bucyrus Club & Event Center Parking Lot, 1919 12th Ave., So. Milw. (Please Park at the south end of lot closest to Milwaukee Ave.)

RETURN TIME: Approximately **6:00 p.m.**

Choose your main entrée and indicate below: **Chicken and Ribs** (Lean Pork Back Ribs glazed with Fire-side's special barbecue sauce, slowly roasted until the tender meat falls from the bone. Accompanied by a Buttermilk Marinated Southern Fried Baked Chicken Breast), **Steak Diane** (Medallions of Roast Beef Tenderloin in the Classic Sauce), **Seared Duck Breast** (Tender Duck Breast seared until crisp and blushing, sliced and served with a reduction of Port Wine and Tart Red Cherries—the perfect blend of sweet and savory), or **Global Vegetarian Medley** (Farm Fresh Vegetables, Mushrooms, Grains and Pasta).

Please send your reservations and payment to:

Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA
"Miracle on 34th Street" Reservations
P.O. Box 563
Oak Creek, WI 53154-0564

Any questions? Call Pat at (414) 617-2796 or email: oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com

RESERVATION FORM FOR "MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET" - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024 **(Please make checks payable to Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA)**

Total Number of Tickets: _____

NAME (Print & list contact person's name 1st): _____

ADDRESS: _____

MENU CHOICE: _____

Contact person's Phone Number (home) _____ (cell) _____

Contact person's email address (used for update information only) _____

Special Dietary Needs (if yes, explain): No Yes

JOIN US FOR SCHEDULED SPEAKER AT JUNE'S DONATION LUNCHEON

Our annual picnic luncheon will be held on **June 27, 2024** and will again be sponsored by the Bucyrus Foundation, which means it will be a 'free' lunch to all members who make a donation to the South Milwaukee Human Concerns. There will be a limit of 100 guests so we are requesting that you pre-register. We will not be able to accommodate 'walk-ins' at this luncheon, so reserve your place soon and call Dolores Page 414.768.9437, call or text Pat Merkovich at 414.617.2796 or email oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com. Reservations will run through Monday June 24th. Our luncheon will be served 'buffet style' and our menu will consist of the typical picnic fare. Because it's served buffet style, please note that the take-out boxes will not be given.

Bucyrus employees have always been generous to support those in need and we want to continue that tradition by



asking for a donation to Human Concerns in lieu of the regular luncheon cost. Each attendee may choose to donate three (or more) of the following items at the door as 'admission' to the party or \$10.00 (or more) in cash for the SM Human Concerns. The items they have the greatest need for are: Shampoo, Conditioner, Bar Soap, Shower Gel, Razors, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Soup, Ravioli, Beef Stew and Spaghetti-O's.

Deb DeBoer, SM Human Concerns Director will be our guest speaker. SM Human Concerns is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization receiving no taxpayer funds that delivers critical help and hope to need-based area residents by providing emergency food, clothing and other essential services. The Bucyrus Foundation has agreed to matching 100% of the money donated that day as part of the Employee Matching Gift Program. We look forward to seeing you there!

Happy Birthday

April Birthday



Tim Parworth - 86 yrs old

June Birthday



Chet Grobschmidt - 104 yrs old

Contact Pat by email, phone or text to add your birthday to a future newsletter.
(414) 617-2796 or
oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com



USW Local 1343

Union Picnic

WHEN: Saturday, July 13, 2024

WHERE: American Legion Post 434
9327 S. Shepard Ave., Oak Creek

TIME: 12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m.

COST: \$5.00 - Per Single
\$10.00 - Per Family

Questions? Call the Union Office at
(414) 762-3738



Bucyrus Erie Factory Changes For War Production

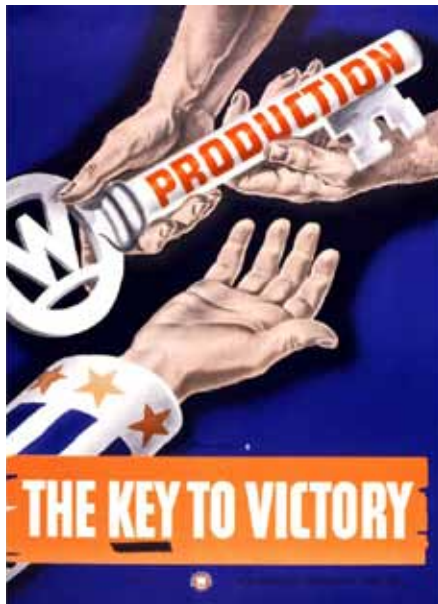
Bucyrus Erie was already a company with deep roots in the American industrial landscape when the United States entered the war after the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941. Our company went on to play a significant role of providing equipment to both the European and Pacific theaters during World War II. Bucyrus Erie had established itself as a leading provider of excavating machinery, including draglines, shovels, and cranes to our allied countries who had been engaged in war for several years prior to our entry.

The number of male workers who were drafted or enlisted between December of 1941 and the end of February in 1942 amounted to 21% of the entire workforce. The percentage was about the same at all three plants. To keep production at the required levels, the company started to hire and train women. They initially considered them to be

‘temporary’ employees and expected them to return to being housewives after the war was over. We also hired skilled position workers from other factories to work four-hour increments in a nationwide program known as “Victory Shifts”. These were flexible workers who would complete their 8-hour shifts at their regular employer, then come to B-E to work another 4 hours whenever possible.

Bucyrus also participated in a USDA program that initially brought an allotted number of workers from Jamaica and the Bahamas to mainly backfill agricultural positions vacated by young members from farming families who entered into service. When the program expanded to include factory positions, Bucyrus Erie was allocated 60 workers from Jamaica. They were met in Miami by company representatives and transported to South Mil-

waukee by bus in 1944. They were typically employed in low skill or unskilled positions. The factory program was largely unsuccessful due to unfamiliarity with long hours, factory disciplines, and the drastic cultural, social, and environment changes of Wisconsin. These workers did not stay long, and all had returned to Jamaica before the end of the war.



WWII Victory Shift Poster



A 240mm Howitzer Gun Assembled In South Milwaukee

One of the most notable contributions of the South Milwaukee plant during this period was the production of components that produced 179 of the 240-millimeter Howitzer and 8” Navy large long-range artillery guns and their caissons. These artillery pieces were among the largest mobile artillery used by the US Army during the war. Our re-engineering to improve the caissons used to move and set up the guns reduced the field assembly time by two-thirds, giving our troops a considerable advantage when moving toward fronts against the enemy lines.

Our foundry cast over 11,000 240mm artillery shells. The forge shop then flattened the nose and tail, and the casings were shipped to Evansville for machining to accept the detonator and charge. Ironically the detonators used in the nose of the shells were also manufactured in Milwaukee by Briggs & Stratton.

Starting in 1942, Bucyrus-Erie offered all employees plowed individual garden plots on the company’s property north of Rawson Avenue. The site used to make the garden plots was the old B-E baseball field. After



Bucyrus-Erie Victory Gardens in SM

the war, the gardens were abandoned and the ball field never returned. With the post war expansion of Bucyrus-Erie's business, the land was used to build a new casting cleaning room, a metal heat treatment plant, and a casting storage yard. This is the same area that was razed and rebuilt in 2005 as a manufacturing center, and which is currently home to Caterpillar Global Mining.

Since the mid 30's, Bucyrus Erie and International Harvester had been teaming up to make earth moving machinery. B-E made attachments for International's popular line of TD Tractors. In fact, B-E was the first company to use the words 'Bulldozer' and 'Bullgrader' to advertise the blade apparatus. After Pearl Harbor, the increased needs of the Pacific Fleet were very different than those of the European Forces. Clearing beaches and making bunker installments in the Pacific islands became a priority in gaining control in the war with Japan.

B-E and International again teamed up to produce 'Dozer-Shovels' for the Government. These small utility tractors were easily converted between blades and buckets. They were lightweight and easily transported on LST and LSA vessels. Besides moving ground, they were also used to carry cargo and artillery in buckets. The front and driver position on some units were armored and used as the 'first wave' off the LSA's when entering an inhabited island.



Bucyrus Erie 'Dozer_Shovel' in the Pacific

Evansville and International produced several thousand of these small hydraulic front Dozer-Shovels, which were the forerunners of today's 'Bobcat' style skid steer units.

The Erie, PA plant produced 342 backhoes, shovels, cranes, draglines, and drills for the Government between 1942 and 1945. The war production needs consumed nearly 100% of Erie's manufacturing capacity. These units were used by the military stateside and abroad, loading/unloading cargo, making roads, bridges, runways, and base camps, and clearing areas that suffered bomb damage.

Even though B-E was part of the Production Requirement Plan (PRP) which provided blanket priorities for materials, steel was still in short supply. Some of the B-E machines for the Government were supplied with 1920's style wooden machinery houses to help save the valuable steel resources.



15-B Shovel with a Wood Machinery House in France

The war effort required rapid production and delivery of equipment, and Bucyrus Erie rose to the challenge. The company's factories operated around the clock, with workers putting in long hours to ensure that deadlines were met and quality machinery was produced. The dedication and hard work of the employees during this time were a testament to the American spirit of determination and resilience.

The Army-Navy "E" Award was an honor presented to companies during WWII whose production facilities achieved "Excellence in Production" of war equipment. The award was created to encourage industrial mobilization and production of war time materials. By war's end, the award had been earned by less than 5% of the more than 85,000 companies involved in producing materials for the U.S. military's war effort.

Continued on next page



Army-Navy 'E-Award' Employee Lapel Pin

All factories engaged in war production were eligible to receive the award. Government as well as privately owned plants were eligible, as were contractors. Factors considered in selecting recipients were, quality and quantity of production, overcoming of production obstacles, avoidance of work stoppages, maintaining of fair labor standards, training of additional labor forces and good record keeping in relation to health and safety.

Bucyrus Erie's contribution to the war effort also went beyond manufacturing. The company also took part in war bond drives and other patriotic activities, encouraging their employees and the community to support the war effort financially. This sense of unity and shared purpose was a common thread among American companies and citizens during the war.

Between 1940 and 1945, net shipments reached the highest levels ever recorded by B-E. The 1944 shipments of \$36.6 million were more than double previous years. Corporate income taxes increased during the war, including a surtax imposed on excess profits of 60%. That increased to 90% directly after Pearl Harbor, and increased again to 95% in 1943. Company profits gained were quickly paid back as taxes to help fund the war. But as a whole, with the decreased costs of engineering and selling during the war years, Bucyrus-Erie was still left with a moderate profit and was in a very good financial position when the war finally ended.

With assets of \$11.0 million in cash and Government securities, and only \$8.1 million in liabilities, Bucyrus-Erie was able to economically finance the gradual expansion of the plants to meet the postwar rise in demand for its products. All the war-time additions to the plants and equipment were directly applicable to the regular lines B-E was producing, and the company encountered no reconversion problems, losses, or additional costs to return to normal production.

Bucyrus Erie's role during World War II exemplifies the critical importance of industrial strength in times of conflict. Our company's ability to adapt and produce vital machinery for the war effort contributed significantly to the Allied victory. The dedication of B-E workers and the quality of our products are enduring symbols of American ingenuity and resilience.

Bucyrus Steam Boilers

Bucyrus had a long run of building steam powered railroad shovels, pile drivers, cranes, and barges. They designed and built everything except for the actual steam boiler itself. The vast majority of these were purchased from the Johnson Bros. Company of Ferrysburg, Michigan. The company started building boilers in 1864, and are still in business today as Johnson Boiler Company, a subsidiary of Hines Corporation.

We have two original boiler tags in our museum collection. This nameplate photo is from Mike Ferguson's restored steam powered 41B dragline. You can see the 41B dig in person at the Rock River Threshere that runs from August 30th to September 2nd in Edgerton, WI this fall.





Bucyrus' First Machine

When the company first started in Ohio in 1880, their main focus were castings and machining items for other manufacturers. They relied on railroad castings as their bread-and-butter items, and supplemented that with pulleys, cast heating grates, and miscellaneous castings for use in other machinery. We have an early invoice displayed in the museum that shows a 67-pound pulley selling for \$2.35. That would be quite a bargain today!

In the second year of operation, they designed and manufactured mine ore cars and railroad work wagons which were small enough to be lifted onto the tracks by 4 men. These were rolling stock and not actually a mechanical machine. These heavy-duty cars and wagons served as a harbinger for the rugged style of machinery Bucyrus would eventually become famous for.



Bucyrus Handcar 3¢ Postage Stamp – Issued 1983



Bucyrus' 1883 Handcar

In 1883, the first true 'machines' were designed and manufactured by Bucyrus. They were railroad hand cars - one regular and one heavy duty. The Bucyrus machine was the subject of a 3¢ US Postage Stamp issued on March 25, 1983. It was featured as part of the Transportation Series of 3¢ stamps, and issued in coil form only.

We recently acquired a rare salesman's card with a photo of the heavy-duty hand car version, which is on display in the Museum. The back of the card boasted it had 22" diameter charcoal iron wheels and seasoned lumber throughout. It weighed between 700 and 800 pounds, and was advertised as being the "strongest, lightest, and most serviceable hand car ever manufactured".

This first 'machine' built by Bucyrus pales in size to the largest machine ever designed and built by Bucyrus-Erie, the famous "Big Muskie" 4250W dragline. "Muskie" weighed in at an incredible 27 million pounds. It would take more than 35,000 hand cars to tip the scales to match that number! We're finding that Bucyrus' amazing 131-year legacy of building machinery is truly a unique story of innovation and accomplishments from beginning to end.



"Big Muskie" – Bucyrus Erie 4250W

The South Milwaukee Industrial Museum LLC is a 501c3 educational non-profit operating the Bucyrus Museum and is dedicated to the historic preservation of documents and artifacts relating to Bucyrus International and its merged companies.

The Bucyrus Museum is located on the 2nd floor of the Bucyrus Club – 1919 12th Ave – South Milwaukee
Regular hours are every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10am – 3pm

PO Box 84 • South Milwaukee, WI 53172-0084 • 414.671.3850 • Email: bemuseum@smimlic.org

Board of Directors: Bob Jelinek-Chairman, Gerry Miller-Treasurer, Mike McKean-Secretary, Bill Zolandz, David Austin



Bucyrus Plant 1893

"A BIG THANK YOU"

TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Mike Adams • Lila Brekke • Franz Breuer
Bob Brudnicki • Tony Chicantek • Paul Crone
Julia Dekker • Tedd Guttman • Gordon Hams
Terry Honeck • Dick Janswig
Tom Nelson • Tom Phillips
Rich & Karen Timian • Larry Turbin

In Loving Memory

*With Heavy Hearts we said
"Goodbye" to:*

Gloria L. Lazarus - March 5, 2024
Richard M Veit - March 7, 2024
James Mink - March 22, 2024
Melvin D. Ostrowski - March 31, 2024
Roger E. Rabska - April 2, 2024
Melvin "Mel" L. Lewison - April 2, 2024
Paul J. Holm - April 3, 2024
Janice L. Smith - April 9, 2024
Manuel Cerda - April 10, 2024
Frank D. Rosa - April 15, 2024
Robin Betz - April 17, 2024
Jerome "Jerry" C. Kober - April 28, 2024
Edward "Eddie" Eismont - April 30, 2024
Peter Busalacchi - May 2, 2024
Sandra J. Mize - May 10, 2024
Samuel "Bucket" Chaney - May 24, 2024

2024

LUNCHEONS & EVENTS

The Bucyrus Club & Event Center
1919 12th Avenue, South Milwaukee
(For Reservations call Dolores Page at 414-768-9437,
call or text Pat Merkovich at 414-617-2796 or
email oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com)

Luncheon Cost \$18.00/person (Cash or checks only)
Opens 11:30 a.m. • Food served at 12 noon

June 27 (Picnic)
September 26 • October 31
Fireside - November 22
Christmas Party - December 5

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: bigmuskie@beoldtimers.org
or oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com