



From Pat's Desk...

It's been a long winter, so I thoroughly 'welcome' summer with open arms along with all the activities the season brings! I'm sure you feel the same. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who sent me 'well wishes & a speedy recovery'—it brought a smile to my face. And there aren't enough words to express my gratitude to the Oldtimers Board Members for stepping in and performing my duties while I was recovering from a fractured hip. Thank You everyone!!

I'd also like to mention another person to Thank. Ken Tangen—our very own webmaster who generously donates the cost of the Oldtimers website (I bet you didn't know that). He also is instrumental in emailing the quarterly eNewsletter and he maintains the legacy list for the Museum and the Oldtimers. Thank you so much Ken! We appreciate all that you do for our group.

Just a couple of reminders. There's only one more luncheon before our summer break. This year we will again have our annual picnic style luncheon on June 26th along with Deb DeBoer from the South Milwaukee Human Concerns as our speaker. The luncheon is free, however we strongly suggest a monetary donation of \$10.00 or more to the South Milwaukee Human Concerns (no items this year). You were very generous last year, so I hope this year will have the same results. The Bucyrus Foundation will match all donations. Attendance is by reservation only, no walk-ins, with a limit of 100 guests.

We will resume our monthly luncheons on September 25th and October 30th. At the present time all tickets for the Fireside outing on November 14th are sold out. However, we have a 'wait list' for the Fireside on page 6. As for the December 11th Christmas Party, information and the reservation form will be in the Fall Newsletter.

Lastly, have a great summer...enjoy the warm weather...see you in September!!

Pat Merkovich

Contact info:

Bucyrus® Oldtimers Association UA
Attention: Pat

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JOIN US FOR OUR LUNCHEONS & EVENTS

Reservations are greatly appreciated. Call or text Pat Merkovich at (414) 617-2796, Cindy Zastrow (414) 640-4813 or email oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com preferably by the Sunday before the luncheon.

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 (**\$15.00/person - cash or checks only**)

All luncheons are sit-down meals.



SAVE OUR LUNCHEON DATES:

June 26 (Picnic),
September 25,
October 30

EVENTS:

BOGIE - June 5, 2025

Fireside's "A Wonderful Life" - November 14, 2025

Christmas Party/Dinner Dance - December 11, 2025



Happy 4th 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.

FEBRUARY 27, 2025 LUNCHEON

February's lunch speakers were Ernie Wunch, owner of Skyline Catering and the Bucyrus Club, and Bob Jelinek of the Bucyrus Museum. They gave an interesting talk about the 133-year history of the Club building beginning as a furniture factory in 1892 to today. Bob Jelinek mentioned it was also a horse drawn fire wagon factory, wire and cable distributor, and the Bucyrus' steam engine assembly shop and main machine shop before being converted into the original Bucyrus Club in 1920. In 1994 it became the Community Center and then a private restaurant before being renovated back to the Bucyrus Club

in 2020. Ernie gave an overview of his growing catering and event business after the complete renovation. There have been over 100,000 event visitors, deli patrons, and cruise ship guest tours since opening in June of 2021. Skyline Catering also delivers between 250-500 offsite meals for their corporate customers in the greater Milwaukee area every day. The Bucyrus Museum and Bucyrus Club co-book events making it the most unique event venue in Southeastern Wisconsin.

February's luncheon attendees also had a chance to win a "free lunch" certificate to a future Oldtimers luncheon.

Those winners were Peggy Ramm and Carol Roth. Our deliciously prepared menu consisted of two choices of soup—either Chicken Dumpling or Pork Pot Roast Soup, Skyline's famous meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy and corn. Desserts were donated by Debbie Polzin (an Almond Cake and a Crescent Roll Cheesecake), Ann Hoffa (a Chocolate Cake), Jim Shelenske (a Pineapple Upside Down Cake), Lois Champagne (a Pistachio Cake), and a Carrot Cake and Brownies purchased with donations from the dessert fund. Thank you all for your generosity.



Ernie Wunch & Bob Jelinek - Guest Speakers



Carol Roth - Door Prize Winner



Peggy Ramm - Door Prize Winner

MARCH 27, 2025 LUNCHEON

The attendees at the March luncheon were treated to a presentation on staying as fit as possible as we age by Kaitlin Kelly. She has an MBA in exercise science with minors in sports medicine and gerontology. Katlin gave the group several tips and exercises to keep us flexible with an expanded range of motion. All of this helps with our balance and mobility. She also provided us with

on-line resources for exercise and aging. The group had good questions which were answered. Everyone was encouraged to pick at least one thing to start down the path of self improvement.

This month's Door Prize Winners of a "free lunch" were George Reyes and Chuck Revie. Congratulations! Our menu consisted of a choice of Cream of Chicken Soup or Seafood Chowder.

We also enjoyed Baked Cod (with a side of melted butter for dipping), Baby Red Potatoes and Carrots. Dessert Donations were made by Cindy Zastrow (2 Kringles), Debbie Polzin (a Pineapple Cheesecake), Ken Tangen (a 1/4 Sheet Cake from O&H Bakery) and Cindy Nettles (Assorted Cookies). Many "Thanks" to everyone...desserts were delicious!



Kaitlin Kelly - Guest Speaker



Chuck Revie - Door Prize Winner



George Reyes - Door Prize Winner

APRIL 24, 2025 LUNCHEON

What a fun luncheon this was with our guest speaker Beth Stone, the Community Outreach and Event Co-ordinator for the Oak Creek Community Center who incorporated a 50's style Sock Hop Bingo. She also provided many prizes for the Bingo winners including a large gift basket filled with goodies won by Terri Truettner. Beth also was dressed in '50's attire, including a 'poodle skirt'!

Even though we had "Bingo" winners,

that didn't stop us from having our usual "Free Lunch" door prize. April Winners were Ken Tangen and Pat Merkovich. We also enjoyed a deliciously prepared meal consisting of Chicken Dumpling Soup or Cream of Artichoke & Spinach Soup, a Bread Basket, Chicken Marsala, Roasted Baby Red Potatoes and Green Beans. We always welcome dessert donations and this month was no exception. Donators were made by

Annie Hoffa who made Banana Bars, Debbie Polzin who made her mom Dolores Page's recipe for a Texas Chocolate Sheet Cake and a Pineapple Cake, Cindy Zastrow brought to the luncheon a Carrot Cake & Assorted Cookies, Rhonda Westmoreland made Cherry Cheesecake Bars and Pat Merkovich brought Assorted Cheesecake slices. Thank you ladies! it was much appreciated!



Beth Stone - Guest Speaker



2 of Many Bingo Winners
Terri Truettner & Cindy Simatic



Ken Tangen - Door Prize Winner



Pat Merkovich - Door Prize Winner



USW Local 1343

Union Picnic

There will be no picnic this year due to lack of attendance in previous years. Annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 13th. More information will be in the Bucyrus Oldtimers Fall Newsletter.



LETTERS TO 'BIG MUSKIE' FROM FELLOW OLDTIMERS

March 11, 2025

Please accept this donation to the Oldtimer's Association for another job well done! We really like the color up-grade to the Newsletter! The 4th Quarter, "My Life at Bucyrus Erie", article from Jon Olsen, that included the Drafting Apprenticeship programs back in 1966 and 1968, sure brought back a lot of Bucyrus memories! Great Job!

Charlie Lazarski

March 11, 2025

I know it is time to mail a check, the time goes so fast and before I know it another year has passed. I do enjoy reading the newsletter and remembering people Wayne has talked about. It does not seem like it has been lost three years since he has passed.

Marcie Fick

April 5, 2025

Thank you so much for the fabulous newsletter, and for all you do to keep the BE Spirit Alive!!

Julia Dekker

May 14, 2025

Greetings from Arizona. I'm still enjoying the Arizona weather—100° plus days. I've been here 35 years now. I really appreciate your sending me the Newsletter cause I enjoy reading it. Thanks for all your good work.

Lila Brekke

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!



NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED



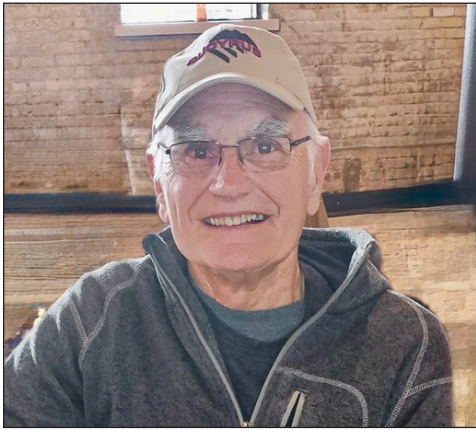
This year, members had the choice of voting for a new president by email, by mail or in person at the March 27th luncheon. After all the votes were counted, it was determined that Cindy Page Zastrow was the winner. Cindy is one of her numerous family members that worked at Bucyrus including our former beloved President Dolores Page, who passed away in December 2024.

Cindy worked at Bucyrus/Caterpillar for approximately 12 years and retired in 2021.

Cindy is very passionate about continuing her mom's legacy of service to the Oldtimers. She's a welcomed member of the Bucyrus Oldtimers Board of Directors and we're looking forward to working with her! Congratulations Cindy!

MY LIFE AND TIMES WITH BUCYRUS-ERIE

by Chuck Revie



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." These opening words from a novel by a different Charles (Dickens) are a great description of the time I served with Bucyrus-Erie, 1970 – 1988. Those years featured a glorious period where we became a Fortune 500 company, followed by a steep downturn, ending with an employee group led by Bill Winter as a private employer.

I came to Bucyrus-Erie from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, where I taught business, which included risk management. Norris Ekstrom hired me as Manager of Property & Casualty Insurance, and Employee Benefits. This was a time of big, new federal programs, including OSHA, the Occupational and Safety Health Act, established in 1970. ERISA, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, was another milestone event. My responsibilities expanded to include those federal programs, medical malpractice liability, product liability, and overall risk management.

Meanwhile, the Arab oil embargo of

1973-74 sent oil prices doubling, tripling and more. This triggered a recession, marked by a shrinking economy, and by skyrocketing unemployment and inflation. President Nixon pivoted by launching Project Independence, which aimed to make America energy self-sufficient.

This program created a perfect opportunity for BE. We were one of the few companies in the world specializing in making draglines, drills and shovels for excavating coal. BE machines were in worldwide high demand, which called for expanded manufacturing capacity. BE repurposed an old naval facility in Pocatello, Idaho into a 1.4 million square foot operation. This and other expansion moves allowed us to ease a staggering backlog of some machines from about twelve years down to four.

A big challenge was how to grow and retain a younger workforce. Higher pay always helped, but we also became among the first private companies in the United States to make available a brand-new creation: the 401(k). A provision of the Revenue Act of 1978, the 401(k) allowed us to offer our employees a tax-advantaged savings account with an employer match. This was a significant win-win for the company, and our employees. Other companies contacted us to learn about the 401(k) and how it worked.

As my career progressed at B-E, I became V.P. of Administration and one of my added responsibilities was to oversee the B-E Club. That was fun! In its heyday, the Club sponsored many sport-

ing events for our employees like golf, softball, basketball, bowling and handball. I'm sure that if pickleball had been around then, we would have sponsored that, too!

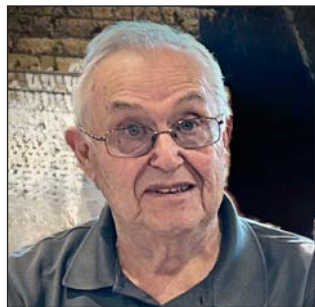
We renamed the Executive Dining Room the Guest Dining Room, making it accessible to all employees and their guests. And we made the holiday season extra special for our BE family, holding a Christmas party for employees and their spouses, and Breakfast with Santa for employees, retirees, their children and grandchildren.

It wasn't all fun and games, though. Our equipment sales crested, then fell, over a few short years, prompting layoffs, plant closings and division selloffs. Outplacement became a substantial part of my job. We hired outside outplacement firms and created our own programs. While this phase was less fulfilling than the growth years, it was deeply satisfying to help downsized employees transition into the next chapter of their life.

I cherish my 18 years at Bucyrus-Erie and the great relationships I made with fellow employees. During this time, my wife Bonnie and I built our home and a life with our two children, Dan and Susan, in Greendale, where we still reside. Now we're blessed with grandchildren – and granddogs. I do have some health issues – but who doesn't at this age? I still ride my bike in good weather, walk the granddogs in all weather, and thank the good Lord that Bonnie still puts up with me after all these years. See you at a future Oldtimers gathering!

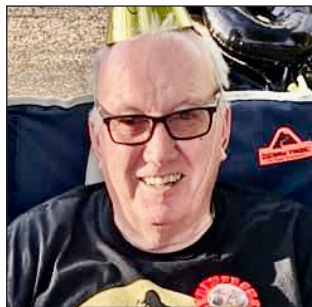
Happy Birthday!

April



Tim Parworth - 87

July



Mike Bollis - 84



Bill Sagan - 87



Pat Merkovich - 77

August



Ken Tangen - 83



Colleen Wenzel - 61

Contact Pat by email, phone
or text to add your birthday
to a future newsletter.

(414) 617-2796 or
oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com



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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
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South Milwaukee, WI 53172-0084

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JOIN US FOR SCHEDULED SPEAKER AT JUNE’S DONATION LUNCHEON

June 28th will be our Annual Picnic Luncheon and we will again have Deb DeBoer, Director of the South Milwaukee Human Concerns as our guest speaker. This luncheon will be sponsored by the Bucyrus Foundation which means that it will be “free”, but we strongly suggest a ‘monetary donation’ of \$10.00 or more per person (no items this year). SMHC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization receiving no taxpayer funds that delivers critical help to need-based area residents by providing emergency food, clothing and other essential services. Bucyrus employees have always been generous to support those in need and we would hope to continue that tradition again this year. Amount collected will be matched



by the Bucyrus Foundation. There will be a limit of 100 guests so we are requesting that you pre-register. At this luncheon, we will not be able to accommodate ‘walk-ins’, so reserve your place soon by calling or texting Pat Merkovich (414) 617-2796 or Cindy Zastrow (414) 640-4813. You can also email oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com or private message Pat on Facebook. Reservations will run through Monday, June 23rd. 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.

FIRESIDE’S “A WONDERFUL LIFE—November 14, 2025—WAIT LIST ONLY



Tickets are currently sold out. However, do to certain circumstances of some, we usually have cancellations, so consider joining our “Wait List”. \$75.00 per person (money will be collected after you’ve received a confirmed reservation).

Please send your wait list reservation to:
Bucyrus Oldtimers Association
“A Wonderful Life” Wait List Reservation
P.O. Box 563
Oak Creek, WI 53154

Questions? Call or text Pat at (414) 617-2796 or email oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com

WAIT LIST FOR FIRESIDE’S “A Wonderful Life” - Friday, November 14, 2025			
NAME: (Print)	ADDRESS:	PHONE:	EMAIL:



I've enjoyed the previous stories of other BE Oldtimers careers and thought I would summarize my own timeline of 46 years with the company to share. In 1955 I graduated from Greendale High School after spending my first 18 years on our 80-acre family farm in Franklin, Wisconsin.

In 1956, I started my career at Bucyrus Erie as a west shop turret lathe machinist. Soon after, I was laid off due to a downturn and shift in the water well business as BE began to focus on the bigger blasthole drill line. I thought I'd volunteer for the service, and joined the Air Force Reserves. After completing my time there, I returned to BE only to find out they were not hiring in the shop yet,

but I was offered a job in Material Control ordering structural steel, so I took it.

I did that until 1965 when I applied for a posted and was hired for the position of Correspondent in the Service Department. That was the start of my Service career, and was eventually promoted to Manager of Warranty Claims. I had contact with just about every department in that position including manufacturing, purchasing, sales, treasury, and the executives who made business decisions to honor some claims that did not meet the regular criteria for credits.

The boom in business in the early 70's created a shortage for field erectors. VP Howard Freyensee said he needed them more than salesmen and turned a few newly hired sales people into field erectors, including Tim Sullivan. Some of the senior erectors would travel between jobs to coach the 'rookies' on a regular basis.

One of my job duties was to host customer executives and maintenance personnel along with our sales and engineering department folks while they visited the plant to discuss machine issues and warranty claims. I was also responsible to 'entertain them' and got to see quite a few baseball games and

sample a few of the top restaurants in Milwaukee as a result. I also made a lot of field visits to customers, both domestic and foreign, to sit and settle warranty issues.

I fondly remember the BE Club. There was no limit to the activities we could participate in for our 50¢ per month dues. Bowling, pool tables, handball, basketball, and workout room were included. Lunch was \$1.25 in the cafeteria and there was a bar for after work relaxing with friends. I attended many management meetings there, along with dances, Christmas parties, and hosting customers in the Executive Dining Room. My daughter's wedding reception was even held at the Club in 1989. And every year we looked forward to the Memorial Day Company Picnic at Muskego Beach.

During lunch hour you could always find a group gathered to play Sheepshead with. I retired in 2000 and look back at what the company meant for me and my family. It paid the rent and grocery bills for 40+ years, and I still receive a pension from the first-class benefits plan they offered. I hope to see everyone at an upcoming Oldtimers luncheon.

The Bucyrus-Erie Company *From The City of South Milwaukee's Centennial History Book - 1835-1935*

South Milwaukee's largest industry came to this town in 1892 from the little town of Bucyrus, Ohio. This Company, the present Bucyrus-Erie Company, was organized in 1880 for the purpose of building mining equipment. It built its first power shovel in 1882.

During the year 1892 and 1893 the Company built the first unit of its present South Milwaukee plant and moved its personnel to South Milwaukee—establishing its headquarters there.

In the 42 years which have passed, the Company has greatly expanded its business, the number of products manufactured by it, the breadth of its market and the size of its manufacturing facilities. In that time the expansion has



been such that in addition to the plant at South Milwaukee it operates two others, one in Erie, Pennsylvania and one at Evansville, Indiana. In addition, its English associates, Ruston-Bucyrus-LTD., operate a plant at Lincoln, Eng-

land and Bucyrus-Monighan Company, controlled by Bucyrus-Erie Company operate a manufacturing plant at Chicago, Illinois.

The product of the Company now includes shovels, draglines, cranes, clamshell machines, drag shovels, tower excavators, railway cranes, car transporters, walking draglines, placer dredges, dipper dredges, elevator dredges, blast-hole, water-well and oil-well drilling machinery, mobile Load-master cranes, dragline buckets, rock grabs and so forth.

Its business has grown from a strictly local business to a point where the company's machines are today working in more than 70 foreign countries.



Operated by the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum LLC

Bucyrus Erie's 50-R Blasthole Drill to the Rescue!



Bucyrus Erie 50R Blasthole Drill

The underground mine collapse disaster and rescue in Shepton, Pennsylvania was the first rescue of trapped miners accomplished by lifting them from a hole bored through solid rock. It was an event that gripped the world's attention during August 1963, and it was Bucyrus-Erie's drill equipment that led the way in pioneering a new technique for underground rescues.

When the roof of Fellin Coal Company's anthracite coal mine collapsed on August 13, 1963, three miners, Henry Thone, 28, David Fellin, 58, and Louis Bova, 42, were suddenly trapped 320 feet below ground. Rescue crews were unable to penetrate the main shaft – the only entrance or exit to the mine – because of the threat of additional cave-ins as well as the presence of poisonous carbon dioxide gas.

When all hope seemed lost, Joe Fellin, David's brother, pleaded with officials of the local district of the United Mine Workers Union based in Hazleton, PA, that the buried miners might be located through a borehole. The UMW convinced state mining officials to give it a try, and they reluctantly agreed. The state engaged with Fellin Mine's neighbor, Louis Pagnotti Sr., owner of the Sullivan Trail Coal Company to help. Pagnotti agreed

to provide the services of his employees for whatever time it took, along with the use of his newly purchased Bucyrus-Erie 50R drill to try and help free the miners.

In addition to being nearby, the 50-R was the perfect machine to try the Shepton rescue with. Pagnotti's employees had nicknamed it "The Beast," as the 50-R was the largest production blast hole drill available in 1963. It had a 55-foot-high mast and a massive drilling capacity for its time. Weighing in at a staggering 65 tons, its gigantic derrick ascended over the rescue site proudly flying an American flag atop the mast structure.

The 50-R drill was a major purchase for Pagnotti who paid \$160,000, or \$1.672 million in today's dollars, for the machine. "The Beast" was one of the most commanding drilling machines in the world in 1963, capable of exerting up to 75,000 pounds of precise pulldown bit force on the rock substrate. Bucyrus-Erie built 149 of these 50R drills between 1952 and 1972, which were powered by 4,100 volts of electric current. "The Beast" was accompanied by Sullivan Coal Company's tire-mounted diesel-powered mobile generator unit that brought it to life.

The plan was to drill a small borehole from the surface to the work chamber where they thought the miners might be in an attempt to contact them. After drilling for 40 hours on August 17th and 18th, the 6" borehole successfully reached the active mine area. Rescuers lowered a speaker and microphone into the hole which revealed that two of the miners, Henry Throne and David Fellin, had survived in the pitch dark, small, damp, narrow chamber. Rescuers then dropped provisions to the miners and a new plan was needed quickly to drill a larger borehole to try to pull the men out. Attempts to contact the third miner, Louis Bova, were unsuccessful.

Television news was just starting to be able to broadcast remotely, so TV crews along with newspaper and radio reporters from around the globe, rushed to Shepton, to cover this rescue story. Reporters, columnists, and photographers from far and wide – England, Japan and Germany, among many other countries – were dispatched to the mine site to cover the event. Virtually all of the motel rooms in Schuylkill County, PA were suddenly occupied by news staff for what would become a two-week ordeal.



The 50-R was designed with a maximum of drilling capacity of a 12" diameter hole, so once the men were found to be alive, it was necessary to quickly think through a way make a larger hole to remove the trapped miners. Houston billionaire Howard Hughes, owner of the Hughes Tool Company, ordered his engineering and manufacturing teams to work around the clock to design and produce a specialized large diameter tungsten carbide cutter. When finished, the tool was flown to the rescue site aboard U.S. Marine helicopters and fitted to the 50-R. The new 17.5" diameter Hughes Tool cutter employed an innovative 'sideboard' design that prevented the rock cuttings from falling down the smaller hole.



U.S. Marine helicopters deliver the larger drill tools to the B-E 50R at the Sheppton rescue site

People worldwide waited and prayed for a happy ending – and it finally came in the wee hours of Tuesday morning, Aug. 27, 1963 when the two men were extracted wearing a parachute harness and football helmet from 320 feet deep through the narrow hole.

Both were immediately transported to the hospital and eventually fully recovered. The rescue team even received a congratulatory telegram from President John Kennedy. Bova was never rescued nor were his remains recovered.

The Sheppton borehole rescue technique was later used at the Quecreek mine rescue in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where 9 miners were trapped underground from July 24 to 28, 2002, and again during the 2010 Chile copper mine disaster that rescued 33 Chilean miners. That rescue was revisited in the 2015 motion picture "The 33." All these survivors can be thankful that a Bucyrus Erie 50-R drill happened to be nearby to pioneer an innovative rescue technology that resulted in it being an accepted standard practice. Today a plaque still commemorates the Sheppton, Pennsylvania rescue site.



Sheppton Mine Disaster and Rescue plaque, Sheppton, PA

Become a Museum Volunteer

The Bucyrus Museum is staffed by an all-volunteer group of friends interested in keeping the legacy of Bucyrus & Bucyrus Erie alive. We're always looking for more volunteers to help with a variety of tasks in maintenance, hosting, archive work, scanning documents, and more. There may even be some remote opportunities. If you're interested and can spare a little time, please stop by the museum welcome desk and talk with us. Regular hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 10am-3pm, but we often schedule special projects during closed hours. Have fun while you learn more about the impact Bucyrus has made on the world!

Your SCOOP Suggestions Welcome

Do you have an idea for an interesting article or side story related to Bucyrus and Bucyrus-Erie history? Please let us know what that is and we'll do our best to research and publish it in one of our future Scoop issues. We always like to hear about the company's involvement in different projects that were not documented in any of the 3 books about Bucyrus history. Email us at bemuseum@smimllc.org with your story or idea and we'll connect with you to discuss details!



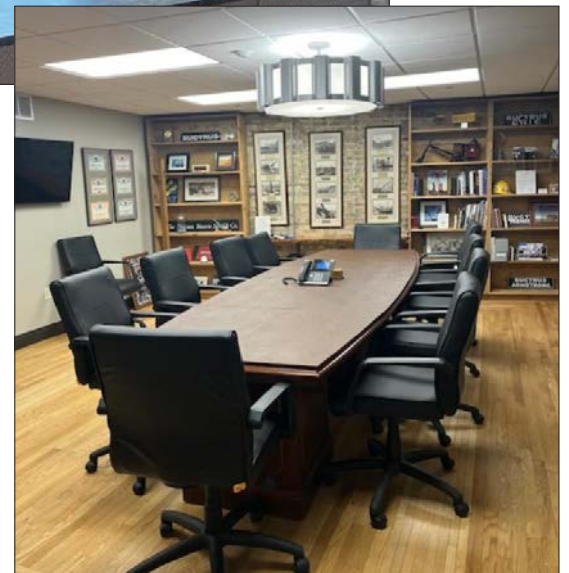
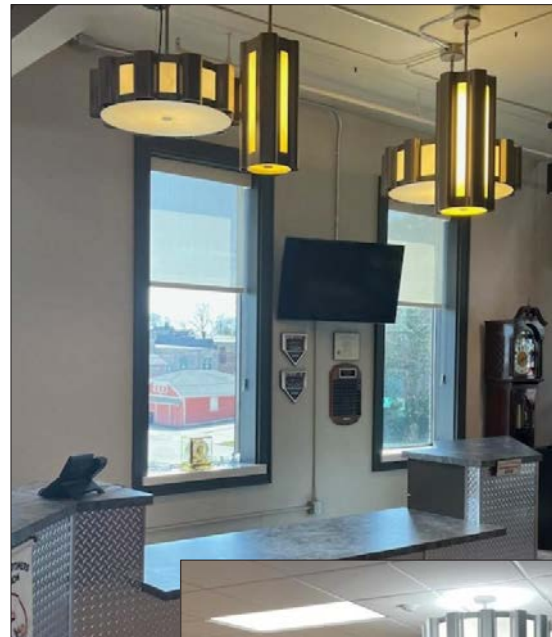
Bucyrus Heritage Museum fixtures are now in the Bucyrus Museum

When Bucyrus International had the Bucyrus Heritage Museum designed, it included special lighting fixtures designed to represent gearing. There were three sets of lights, one that was positioned over the welcome desk, one in the gift shop, and one set at the top of the second floor staircase. We were interested in the possibility to get a few of these for our museum during the design phase, but never were able to get a response from the property owners.

Fast forward 4 years to mid-2024 when the property was parceled off and the office buildings and Heritage Building were sold to developer Scott Crawford. The approved redevelopment plan included some remodeling work in all of the buildings, so we again inquired about obtaining the fixtures to Scott Crawford's founder and President, Que El Amin. Que was very receptive and planned to embrace the Bucyrus legacy and history throughout his campus redevelopment, but because of the reconfiguration, they decided they no longer needed the 'gear lights'.

Que generously donated the fixtures to the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum provided we obtained the proper permits and a licensed electrician services to harvest them and reinstall in our new home at the Bucyrus Club. Chris Lange of CR Electric was our choice to help with the move, and did a great job of upgrading the old fixtures from fluorescent to LED bulbs. Zimmerman Architecture's Elizabeth Yagel, the award-winning interior designer for the Bucyrus Club project in 2020, volunteered her services to layout the fixtures color combinations, positioning, and height in our museum.

The project was completed over the course of two and a half days, and we could not be happier with the new look they give the Bucyrus Museum entry and conference room. It's a subtle but appropriate tribute to our machines and heritage.





Big Muskie Operators Seat Gets an Upgrade

When Rick Law offered to donate the original operator's seat from Big Muskie, we jumped at the chance to get it. Rick's father was an electrician for AEP and worked on the machine. When they converted to the integrated seat design, his dad was able to get a pass to take the seat and swing pedals home. A model railroad enthusiast, he rigged the controls of his large train diorama utilizing the seat and pedals, and ran his layout from it. Rick and his brother inherited it after his passing and they decided to offer us the seat 3½ years ago.

It was a static display in the museum since early 2022, and we always dreamed of making it into an interactive display for our guests. Dave Austin spearheaded the search of photos and old videos and designed the consoles, which are similar to those in Big Brutus. Dave also had the metal fabricated from his drawings to replicate the rounded mid-century style control pedestals.

Ken Tangen sources the period correct switches and a 1965 CB Radio, and Mike Haws designed and 3D printed a working Selsyn gauge that was non-existent to get in the wild. Mike McKean used his woodworking shop to build a new movable display platform for it all to rest on. Bob Jelinek found 2 master switches, a correct diameter mid-60's air pressure gauge, and a NOS cigarette lighter to round out the panels. Kevin Kratt welded, body worked, and painted the pedestals for us. Dave and his son Jonathan wired it, and along with Mike McKean, assembled it into an interactive display.

So if you've ever wondered what it might be like to sit in Big Muskie's operator seat and pull levers, turn switches to make dials move and indicator light glow, come on down and give it a try the museum. About the only thing it won't do is light a cigarette.



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: bucyrusmuseum@gmail.com
Board of Directors: Bob Jelinek-Chairman, Gerry Miller-Treasurer, Mike McKean-Secretary, Bill Zolandz, David Austin



"A BIG THANK YOU"

TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Lila Brekke • Julia Dekker
Gary Dillon • Marcie Fick
Raymond Gresser • Mark Kalinowski
Don Kanter • Charlie Lazarski
Tim Parworth • Chuck Revie
John Rosploch • Ken Tangen

In Loving Memory

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

Carol L. South - February 16, 2025
David "Dave" S. McDonald - February 22, 2025
John "Hank" Westerman - March 1, 2025
John "Jack" V. Goodger - March 2, 2025
Phillip Buckland - March 4, 2025
LeRoy P. Brunner - March 9, 2025
Barbara F. Schweitzer - March 11, 2025
Jason A. Morgan - March 15, 2025
Theresa J. Anestos - March 22, 2025
Raymond G. Voght - March 26, 2025
Francis A. Konkel - April 5, 2025
Daniel E. Bowlby - April 5, 2025
James M. Timon - April 13, 2025
Janice A. Duford - April 22, 2025
William A. Renner - May 12, 2025
Craig Von Reynolds - May 16, 2025

2025

LUNCHEONS & EVENTS

The Bucyrus Club & Event Center
1919 12th Avenue, South Milwaukee
(For Reservations call or text Pat Merkovich at
(414) 617-2796, Cindy Zastrow (414) 640-4813 or
email oldtimers.newsletter@gmail.com)

Luncheon Cost \$15.00/person (Cash or checks only)
Opens 11:30 a.m. • Food served at 12 noon

June 26 (Picnic)
September 25 • October 30
BOGIE - June 5 • Fireside - November 14
Christmas Party - December 11

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