

LUFKIN Roundup

September, 1984



**BMX champions,
Kevin and Gary Davis**

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK



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**Lufkin Industries
has always taken
keen interest in
our school system.**

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September Cover

Kevin Davis (top) and his younger brother, Gary, demonstrate the style that has won them many BMX championships. Their father and coach is LUFKIN employee, James Davis. Taken alongside an Angelina county road, the photograph is by LUFKIN photographer, Chuck Stevenson. (Story, page three.)

Few of you may have ever stopped to think about it, but one of the biggest businesses in Lufkin—and surely the most important—is the Lufkin Independent School District.

With 386 teachers and a total workforce of 821, the Lufkin Independent School District is one of Angelina County's largest employers. The LISD has a tremendous outlay of buildings on 16 campuses.

One doesn't have to think very long to realize the importance of our school system to our community and to our people. It is the guardian and molder of our youth from the age of six to the time they graduate high school and leave home to face life's journey.

If you look back through the years, you will easily discover that graduates of Lufkin High School have succeeded in obtaining the highest level of attainment compared with any and all other high schools in the state.

Another most real asset to our community, of course, is Angelina College. This school of higher learning has brought a great deal of praiseworthy notoriety to Lufkin and Angelina County. Lufkin Industries played a small part in its origin here. Our company has been represented on Angelina County's board of directors since the school's inception 16 years ago. I was privileged to serve as an Angelina College trustee for 12 years, and Joe Byrd is presently a board member.

Lufkin Industries has always taken keen interest in our school system here in Lufkin and Angelina County. Our Trailer Division built many of the early school buses, working closely with Angelina County School Superintendent Howard Walker. Now age 90, Mr. Walker is the father of our present District Judge, David Walker.

During the earlier part of this century, Mr. W.C. Trout served as chairman of the school board here. He was a strong leader in our school system's growth and improvement. Other company officials—Walter Trout, Al Cudlipp, Pete Little, C.J. Schuller and Bill Trout—also served as school board members through the years.

As employees of Lufkin Industries, each of us certainly has an obligation to contribute everything we can to help support the educational program of our schools. The welfare and success of our children depend on us.

We are indeed fortunate to live in a community such as Lufkin and Angelina County where education is considered of such paramount importance.

Insurance Update

Employee/retiree premiums will increase in October to reduce deficit



Run-away health care costs linked with excessive claims by company employees and retirees will cause another nibble to be taken from paychecks and pension checks of those covered by Lufkin Industries' medical insurance beginning October 1.

"We were forced to increase employee/retiree premiums 20-25 percent on January 1 and it now appears we'll have another similar assessment in October," Johnny Long, personnel director, has advised. "We have a serious deficit of \$499,963 in our health care plan. There is no swifter way to reduce this deficit than increasing monthly premiums."

If company employees/retirees shudder at the thought of increased premiums, Lufkin Industries officials are even more concerned. The company pays 60 percent of employee and retiree health care premiums—a whopping \$1,471,418 in 1983 compared to employee/retiree payments of \$1,001,706 last year.

"We're our own insurance company with some business expenses going to outside administrators and we must find ways to contain costs. Our insurance program has been in financial trouble for the past three years," said Lufkin Industries' president Frank Stevenson. "But, we've never been this deep in the red and the deficit is growing alarmingly month by month."

"This medical insurance program is an employee-company partnership. It would cost an employee three or four times as much to obtain the same coverage we offer through Blue Cross

or some other outside insurance company," Long said. "All we've ever wanted our medical plan to do is break even with premiums paid in offsetting claims paid out."

To whittle away at the huge deficit, Long listed three other ways employees can contribute:

#1 Less claims.

#2 Contain costs within the medical profession.

#3 Have each claimant closely screen and scrutinize their physician's and hospital bills. Errors in medical bills are not uncommon.

"I'm not implying our employees go into the hospital every time they have a hangnail or runny nose, but there have been some obvious abuses by some making unnecessary claims in the past," Long stated.

"Not only have medical costs tripled during the past ten years but our employee/retiree claim totals have also increased 10-15 percent in the course of this same time span.

"Of course, I fully realize because of the tremendous advances in medical technology during the past decade, some of the increased medical charges are understandable. It is certainly our wish for all our employees/retirees to receive the full benefit of all medical breakthroughs. However, as in any field where new methods of improvement are reached, it is only natural to question astronomical costs for these steps forward.

"We must take steps, and take them now, to put our insurance program back into more workable order," said Long.

Premiums Paid In					Outgoing Payments			How We Stand
Month	Company	Employee	Retiree	Total	Claims	Expenses	Total	Balance
Jan.	164,178	101,503	12,528	278,816	246,568	14,794	261,362	+ 17,454
Feb.	168,738	99,460	14,284	282,484	142,102	8,526	150,628	+131,804
March	171,421	105,896	12,577	289,894	276,237	16,574	292,811	- 2,917
April	172,741	106,797	12,545	292,083	422,668	25,360	448,028	-155,945
May	175,615	108,692	12,577	296,884	201,729	12,104	213,832	+ 83,052
June	182,730	113,435	12,577	308,742	397,404	23,844	421,248	-112,506
July	184,410	114,565	12,561	311,536	284,474	17,068	301,542	+ 9,994
Year	1,220,439	730,348	89,650	2,060,437	971,181	118,270	2,089,451	- 29,014



RACING TOUGH

When you're used to 60 second races, how's it feel to do nine hours in blistering Texas heat?

"That's really rad" 14-year-old Kevin Davis said, pointing to a magazine picture of an airborne, contorted BMX national champ, Stu Thompson, an idol to Kevin who wishes someday to be a pro BMX (bicycle motocross) racer.

The sport of instant champions. The strong battle the stronger, hurling themselves into high speeds skyward or dead ends into dirt banks. Fractions separate them from victory . . . or humiliation.

This is the stuff of true men.

And of 8-year-old Gary Davis, his brother Kevin, and father James Davis. Davis works in the company's computer integrated department, but he's otherwise known as BMX coach to the kids in his neighborhood.

Ask James Davis . . .

The race . . . a dirt obstacle course, a pack of furious racers, little astronaut-like helmeted riders on knobby-tired bikes, jamming out of

the gate for the hole shot, swooping opponents, power sliding into hairpin curves, getting air and "really rad" in aerials and bonsai off rollovers, moonwalkers, step-ups, surviving unexpected whoop-te-does only to crash and burn . . . all in a matter of seconds.

"There's a whole bunch of tension. You want to get out first and go as hard as you can. Everybody's yelling, but you can't hear 'em. You don't have much time to think . . . 30 or 40 seconds, it's all over," Kevin said.

BMX, began ten years ago on vacant lots in California by kids who mimicked motocross racing hijinks, the dirt-sliding,

The Davis racing team, from left: Gary, James and Kevin



motorized speed-demon dare devil races of the adult world. The kid version of motorcycle racing, "BMX" quickly became popular nationwide, and because it's all kid-powered bike action, the sport demands much more athletic ability and physical strength than the adult counterpart.

Four years ago, in March 1980, the Davis' began what James calls "trophy chasing," weekend ritual exodus' to cities and towns near and far: Austin; San Antonio; Dallas; Fort Worth; Corpus Christi; Kerrville; Baton Rouge; Duncan, Okla.; Alexandria, La.; Vicksburg, Miss. . . . hundreds of BMX races, so many that not one of the Davis' knows for sure. "Just put down a million," third-grader Gary said.

"I don't know if you would describe us as fanatics. I do know BMX racing has made us a lot closer as a family," James said.

"I've made all but one of these trips," said Christine, the team's wife and mother who does the job of six: cheerleader, trip organizer, chief medic, uniform launderer, cook and moral supporter. "I sometimes get a little tired and fuss at them. We've made a lot of these races . . . you see the same people over and over again. Fanatics is a good way to put it, they're up pushing their kids. I know many ask themselves 'Why are we here?'"

The answer to that sits in the Davis' living room — a trophy collection of about 200 (they've lost count) most as big or bigger than Gary. The trophies, Christine says "make a good conversation piece. Their friends will come in — all those trophies are the first thing they see — and their eyes get as big as silver dollars," she said.

Gary, a one-time state champion in Texas and in Louisiana, says he began racing "because Kevin was."

"He'll be much better than I am now when he gets to be my age" said Kevin, who has finished as high as second in state races.

In a sport where 16 is considered "peak" and 23 "over-the-hill," Gary and Kevin are part of an elite group—the American Bicycle Association's top 50 ranked racers from a field of thousands within a given area. Each year the racers are rank-ordered, 'one' being the best, according to how they finished in the ABA's point-collecting system. The numbers, affixed like medals of valor beneath a racer's handlebars, let others know how the racer finished in these point-standings. Each year, Kevin's and Gary's numerals have inched toward the coveted number one slot. Gary has been as low as No. 29.

"If it hadn't have been for my dad, I wouldn't have done anything in racing," Kevin said. Initially, Kevin became interested in stunt-bike style racing through older neighborhood friends when the sport was nearing its peak in popularity here. But, even after that died and BMX racing eventually ran its popularity course

locally, James Davis and his boys forsook all other sports for full-time BMX racing.

"We can't play anything else; racing's a full-time job. I finally had to ask, 'what are we going to give up?'" said James.

"He's said 1,000 times he'd have given anything to have had it when he was little," Christine said.

"I'm a very technical person; I love the technical end of the sport. I'll watch the best there is and see how they do it and the lines they take. We sit down and watch these guys and try to give a mirror image of what they're doing," James said.

An NCAA football official, last year he worked 41 games in a ten-week season, Davis grew up playing all the conventional team sports. For his children, however, he likes to see them in individual competition, "it's the quickest reward for kiddoes . . . if they do well they get rewarded that night with a trophy."

"There's about \$100 invested in each one of these," James said from a clearing in a forest of chrome miniature bikers straddling marble, chrome and wood-mounted trophies. While his youngest son took inventory of the living room's display, James said what most other parents say about the time and money sport.

"BMX races are very expensive . . . if it hadn't been for our sponsors, we wouldn't have raced." Most serious BMXers could not race without sponsors who pay gas, hotel, and racing clothes expenses.

"We chase major races, U.S. Gold Cup races. Last year, six weekends in a row we were gone," James said.

Longhorn Leathers and Tinsley's Fried Chicken agreed to sponsor the Davis boys. Three other neighborhood boys joined the Tinsley Team, and The Boss Birds were born with James as their coach and



"This touring race was a first for us," the Davis' say. Christina has been a patient bystander during her family's years of BMX racing and more recently, the long training sessions for the 100-mile race.

Gary, "Chicken Little," the team star.

One most important thing sponsors do not pay for are the lightweight pared-down racing bikes, a major expense. Gary and Kevin's two bikes cost the Davis' a total of \$1,400. One bike cost \$600, the other \$800.

To an outsider, BMX racers look and race tough. Ironically, the Davis' say, very few injuries occur on the track. Neither boy has suffered anything other than minor scrapes and bruises while competing ... at the most, wounded egos.

Kevin remembers one race in which he repeatedly failed to hold the lead. Recounting this, he pounds a fist into the floor, repeating "it was terrible ... each time, the same spot!

"...at a national tour race, in the first moto (heat), I pulled out in first place — each time — and wrecked — each time — in the same spot, an area where dirt covered the cement. I wrecked there *each time*. I was sore and angry," he said.

"There's a great deal of emotion. I've seen 16-year-old boys come



When Gary (left) captured first and Kevin second in the state motocross competition, Congressman Charles Wilson handed out their certificates.

in crying, knowing they're better than that. We've shed many a tear, and it's because we're mad at ourselves," Christine said. "Gary came back (after one crash into a berm) crying, "Daddy, I'm better than that."

"And when something like that happens, all you want to do is go out there, pick up your boy and dust him off. But you can't — he'd be disqualified," James said.

Gary said, simply, "When you fall down and everybody runs over you, it hurts."

Today, Longhorn Leathers continues sponsorship of the Davis team which took a brief sabbatical from BMX racing in August to train for an even more grueling, body racking bike race.

Imagine straddling a seat the size of a trimline telephone — and about as comfortable — for nine hours in temperatures of 95 degrees and more. Then add handlebars twisted in the shape of mountain goat horns and spiked metal foot pedals, and you have what's known as a touring bike. Take several thousand riders, find terrain as lovely as the Siberian Desert, put



BMX verbiage

... the vocabulary of champions ...

Getting rad

'Rad' is short for radical. "Getting rad" is what BMXers say about someone who can do all—except the last—of the following, preferably all at once.

Jammin'

Peddling as fast as you can. And then some.

Rollover

A big mound of dirt.

Hole shot

What you get when you're the first out of the starting gate. (Takes a lot of jammin'.)

Bonsai

A short jump

Aerials

In the air, an angled jump.

Swoop

Passing your opponent from the track's inside lane, also called "going underneath."

Whoop-te-does

Like jumping speed bumps in the K Mart parking lot.

Moonwalkers

Little humps in the ground or track, no consistency, resembles lunar surface.

Donkey Kick

Like hockey stops in ice skating, only on wheels and on dirt.

Step up

Stair step set-up jumps, there's also such an animal as a reverse step up.

Getting air

Preferably under the bike, 'air' is what you get in a good jump, and what you don't get when you fall and everybody else runs over you.

Power slide

When going into a hairpin curve, speed up and slide around the curve. (Slowing down is for sissies.)

Crash and burn

To 'wipe out.'

them all together and you get what's called "The Hotter'n Hell 100; It May Not Take You to the End of the World, But You Can See it from There."

For those who missed seeing it on ABC's Wide World of Sports the last weekend in August, The Hotter'n Hell 100 is a 100-mile international touring bike race held annually in Wichita Falls, Texas. It's now the largest race of its kind in the United States. When the summer heat peaked last month, an estimated 2,300 long-distance cyclists rode distances roughly equal to that from Lufkin to Houston's Intercontinental Airport.

Not an easy thing when you're used to races lasting less than 60 seconds. From Lufkin, Kevin and James Davis (Gary completed the 10-mile short run allowed for his age category, Mom Christine participated from the sidelines) finished the 100 kilometer (63 miles) course, a first for both riders.

"We were just competing against ourselves," James said.

"I just wanted to prove to myself that I could do it," Kevin said. Earlier, both had expressed doubts about finishing the run, even after a rigorous training schedule of trips to Crockett and back plus daily weight-lifting sessions.

Next year, the Davis' plan to try the 100-mile race again, even more determined to go the full distance.

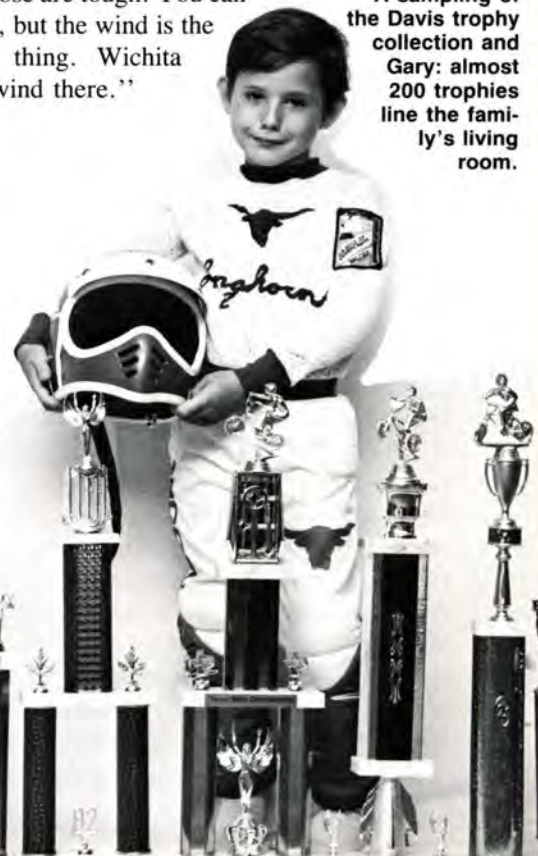
Similar to BMX racing in only one respect, the touring race is never as easy as it seems on TV. "It's a tad more than just hopping on a bike," said James, who called it quits after suffering 20 miles of serious leg cramps.

"There's more to it than just cruising around the block, you can't look from side to side. It takes a great deal of concentrating on what you're doing.

"We ride to Crockett — have you ever seen those hills between here and there? Those are tough. You can overcome the hills, but the wind is the most unforgiving thing. Wichita Falls ... it's all wind there."

A sampling of the Davis trophy collection and Gary: almost 200 trophies line the family's living room.

Story by Lee Ann Benson
Photos By Chuck Stevenson



INNOVATIONS



A new assembly line

How 'war room' teamwork brought efficiency to gear reducer assembly area

by David Willmon

It is called "the war room." Here in Room 33 of the old main office building, employees of Lufkin Industries' industrial and manufacturing engineering department come to brainstorm, maybe even argue, over how best to achieve manufacturing objectives. Through the years, the manufacturing area in question changes, but the basic objectives remain the same: quality, service and price.

Hanging on the walls in Room 33 are large, detailed drawings of different manufacturing areas and process flowcharts of the complex operations in the manufacture of oilfield pumping units. One large drawing, labeled "Pumping Unit Reducer Assembly Line, Building 12," has been the topic of discussion in the war room in recent months.

Just a block away in Building 12, gear reducer housings for LUFKIN pumping units roll along a new assembly line. In less than a hundred yards, they become finished gear reducers. Just a few yards away, what is left of the old assembly line, will for a time be a reminder of the way things used to be. On it, the gear reducers traveled in the opposite direction. This, in itself, is symbolic of the differences between the old process and this completely different approach to manufacturing and assembling pumping unit gear reducers developed by hours of brainstorming and plan-



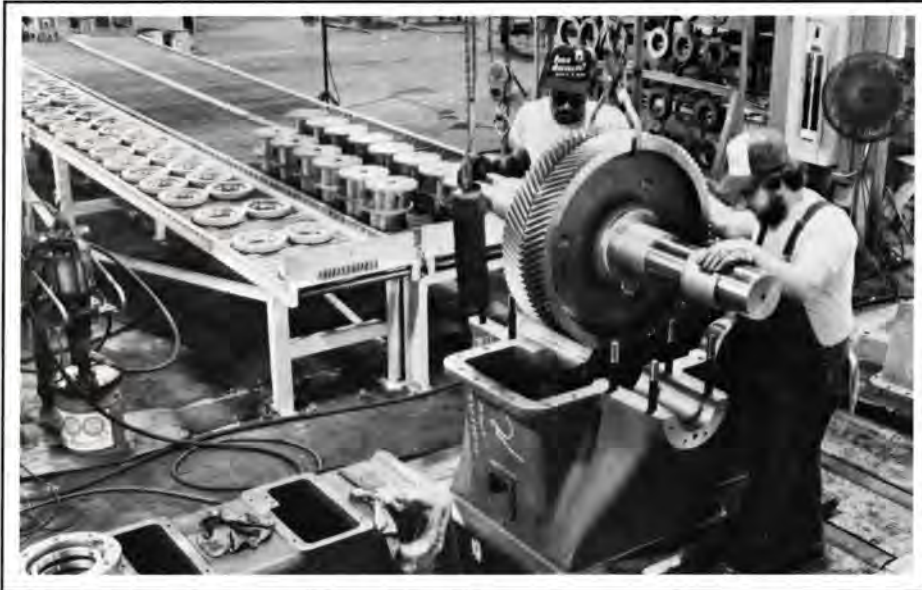
Much of the time and labor involved in testing gear reducers has been eliminated by the use of an air-motor, driven by compressed air, shown being attached directly to the high speed input shaft of the gear reducer by employee, Thomas Reynolds.

ning in "the war room."

"This is a continuation of the type thing we did in the shaft shop a couple of years ago," says Bill Cantrell, manager of industrial and manufacturing engineering. "We've simply re-arranged machines and used conveyor

systems to take the non-value adding steps out of the reducer manufacturing and assembling process."

According to Cantrell, non-value-adding steps such as handling, counting and storing components do nothing to turn a rough casting into a finished pro-



CHUCK STEVENSON

Assemblers Oscar Arant, left, and Manuel Basham lower into place the slow speed gear for a 228 LUFKIN reducer. On the conveyor behind them are bearing carriers and oil seals produced by two Warner-Swasey 25C numerically-controlled chucking lathes and a K&T 180 NC horizontal machining center.

duct, but add to the cost of the product. Conveyors now link NC machining centers, which produce the components, to sub-assembly stations and eventually the assembly line.

One of the biggest time-saving features of the new assembly line is “run-in” test stations on the assembly line. On the old assembly line, completed gear reducers were removed from the line and placed at a separate “run-in” test station where the gear reducer was actually run for several minutes.

“The new assembly line provides for the gear reducers to be tested right on the assembly line. This eliminates handling the gear reducer at least three times, three non-value adding steps,” says Cantrell.

Furthermore, the old “run-in” test was previously a cumbersome process accomplished with an electric motor requiring installation of a sheave on the gear reducer input shaft and belts. The new “run-in” tests are powered by an air-motor, attached directly to the high speed shaft. With no belts, or sheaves to handle, the process is faster and easier for employees.

As the project in the gear reducer assembly area nears completion, it brings into reality many of the ideas

6

**It’s improvements
like this that keep us
competitive.
If we can stay ahead,
then we can
continue putting people
back to work.**

suggested by Joe Simmons, manufacturing engineering, as far back as 1978.

While talking with Mike Penn, vice president of manufacturing, Simmons sketched on a brown paper sack the concept of grouping manufacturing processes near the assembly line. Perfected by hours of discussion in the “war room,” the concept is simply a common sense approach, says Simmons.

“There’s nothing sophisticated about all this,” he says. “The old way of thinking was to locate a new turret

lathe with the other turret lathes whenever we bought one. It’s just common sense to locate the manufacturing of sub-assemblies and components near the point of use.”

Sub-assemblies for the gear reducer are now manufactured and assembled just a few feet away from the main conveyor by machining cells, a grouping of machines dedicated to the production of a component. Assemblies such as bearing carriers, oil seals, inspection covers and brake assemblies—once machined and assembled in other parts of the plant and delivered to the assembly area—are now produced in conveyor-linked, flow-through systems feeding the main assembly line.

By comparison to other expansion projects, the changes in the new assembly area were relatively inexpensive. NC machines for the machining cells which produce the components were simply moved from other areas in the plant. But, the project did require close cooperation between several different areas of the company.

“Without tremendous team work between the foundry, material control, manufacturing engineering, our production people, and the maintenance crews that did all the work, this couldn’t have been done,” says Mike Penn.

“We’ve shortened our response time from a matter of weeks to a matter of days,” says Penn, “and we expect to keep improving it. This is going to pay off for us in the years to come by keeping our costs down without sacrificing quality, and making us more responsive to the customer’s needs.

“Sometimes, I think our employees see us putting in new machines or moving machines, and they can’t understand how that’s helping them. But it’s improvements like this that keep us competitive. If we can stay ahead of our competitors and improve our share of the market, then we can continue putting people back to work and providing better opportunities for our people.”



The man responsible for spreading the name LUFKIN Down Under

Ken Wilson is something of a pleasant paradox.

He's age 66 and from Australia. He's lived Down Under in the land of kangaroos and koala bears for 22 years now.

Contrary to expectations, he doesn't appear (or act) as if in his mid-60s, nor speak with much of a British accent. He's Union Jack through and through, however, having been born in London, England and having grown up in Canada.

It must have been those college years at Indiana Institute of Technology or the nine years he spent in San Francisco, studying engineering and oil refinery design.

For the past 19 years, Wilson has worked as an independent sales rep for Lufkin Industries. When he showed up in company vice president and sales manager Ben Queen's office recently, he had a crumpled order for five C-114 pumping units in his back pocket.

"This was Ken's fourth visit to Lufkin since he joined us in 1965 and it's always good to have him come visit. It's equally nice when he brings along an order for over \$100,000" said



Australia's Ken Wilson

by Rick Pezdirtz

Queen, sounding very much like any typical sales manager.

"Ken is a jewel of a salesman for us. He's very thorough and dedicated. I realized this first-hand in his country in 1981 when I made a tour of sugar mills with him," said Queen.

"I call these visits to East Texas 'product orientation' field trips," Wilson said. "Terry Orr and Jim Partridge were kind enough to show me around and point out some of the new innovations here."

Wilson traveled over 10,000 miles from his home in Brisbane, capital of Queensland, one of Australia's six states. He visited in Houston and was brought to Lufkin by Don Stanley, Far East manager of sales.

It's winter Down Under now, Wilson reports. "Why, they're snow skiing in New South Wales. We'll have our summer when you have your winter."

Jet lag has never been a throbbing headache, or backache, for Wilson. "The remoteness from your source of supply is something you grow accustomed to in Australia," said Ken who knows the insides of a commercial jetliner nearly as well as his own parlor.

“
 Virtually all . . .
 of the pumping units in
 Australia are LUFKINs.
 I’m proud
 to have played a part
 in putting so many
 in our fields . . .
 ”

Ken Wilson, left, an independent sales rep for Lufkin Industries, glances over the latest Lufkin LINE publication with Don Stanley, Far East sales manager of the International Division.



Australia is approximately the same size as the continental United States, 2.9 million square miles, but with a population of only 15 million. Wilson resides on the eastern coast, often works on the western coast.

“Barrow Island, 30 miles off the west coast and 1,000 miles from Perth, has the major oilfield. There’s more than 300 LUFKIN pumping units working on that island right now,” said Wilson who sold each and every pumpjack.

Until 1962, Australia imported all its oil; it now imports 35-40 percent. “The first commercial oilfield was discovered in Moonie, Queensland, “but it wasn’t a very large find. There’s only six LUFKIN pumping units in that field now,” says Wilson. “Due to an excess of small oil companies, the exploration now underway is rather fragmented. There is an indetermined future for the oil business in Australia.

“Because of so many small oil companies, there is limited risk capital available in Australia. Any major field found will most likely be discovered by a big oil company.

“Drilling depths have run about

2,000 feet on Barrow Island, 6,000 at Moonie,” said Wilson.

Without question, Wilson has seen much of the world, He once lived and worked in Trinidad, West Indies. “That’s where I saw my first LUFKIN pumping unit. It never dawned on me that one day I’d be selling them.”

Sell them, Wilson has. And, without much competition until earlier this year when U.S. Steel-Oil Well hired an Aussie salesman and began getting some of the business.

“Virtually all, or certainly well over 90 percent of the pumping units in Australia are LUFKIN’s,” says Wilson. “I’m proud to have played a part in putting so many LUFKINs in our fields, but remember I sell the entire LUFKIN line—oilfield parts, industrial and marine gears—except for the truck trailers.”

As an independent rep, Wilson also draws commission for selling sub-surface pumps for Harbison-Fischer of Fort Worth, valves for Shafer of Mansfield, Ohio, and workboots for Red Wing International of Minnesota.

He insists the cost of living in

Australia is about the same as in the United States although gasoline Down Under sells for the equivalent of about \$1.80 per American gallon.

Culturally, the country varies. “We see many American-made movies in our theaters and American television programs in our homes. We don’t get as excited about our national sport—cricket—as you might about your American football.

“But, just as your American bald eagle is protected by your government, so is the koala bear highly protected by our government,” said Wilson.

Within the sparsely populated interior of Australia, Wilson says there are two large problems—dryness and dogs. “Almost all of our population is along the coastlines. In the outback, there is a serious lack of rainfall and too many of our dingoes (wild dogs).”

But, if geologists indicate there’s oil to be found in those vast and isolated areas, Wilson will pack an over-sized canteen and maybe carry along some fireplugs, if necessary, to continue selling those LUFKIN pumpjacks. **L**

Holy cow, another strike! It's the King Pins getting down to the serious business of . . .

B

L by Rick Pezdirtz

ee Burnett has traveled farther — and faster — this year than the man who used to paint those Burma Shave highway signs.

Lee isn't a sign painter, though.

The only thing he knows about a brush is the big broom or mop they use to clean and dress the hard maplewoods of bowling lanes. He's sort of bowling's answer to basketball's Globetrotters.

For the past eight months, or since he retired from a 32-year stint with Lufkin Industries last December, Burnett has been busy rolling bowling balls with his right arm and carrying a suitcase with his left hand.

Through the years, because of bowling, Lee has seen about as much of the country as a Mayflower Van Lines driver.

"I've traveled about 6,000 miles this year and God only knows how many more than that during the 28 years I've been an active bowler," says Lee who is currently only a quarter way through his term as Texas State Bowling Association president. When the TSBA meets for the first time at Lufkin's Rodeway Inn (Sept. 7-9), Burnett will be "the man" with the gavel.

The Texas State Bowling Association governs 1.5

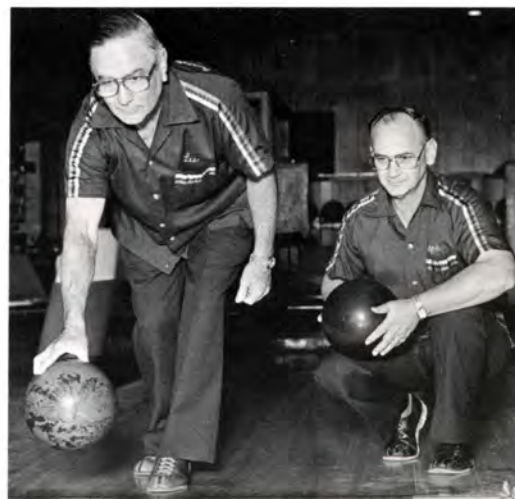
million Texas league bowlers. According to National Bowling Council figures, almost 69 million Americans went bowling last year.

For Burnett, what was once recreation is now a part-time occupation.

He hopes to attend American Bowling Congress classes in Houston next year, learning to become an official lanes inspector and instructor. For 26 years, he's served as secretary of the Lufkin Men's Bowling Association and has held a similar secretarial position two years in Nacogdoches.

"He's really Mr. Bowling of Angelina County," says Bill Otteson, owner/manager of Lufkin Lanes. "He's such a vital member of our men's association with a genuine love for bowling and helping others in this most popular of all indoor participant sports."

Bowling, it would seem, has been in Burnett's blood since his World War II days with the 347th Fighter Group of the U.S.



An afternoon's practice for two LUFKIN King Pins . . . Lee Burnett, left, current president of the Texas State Bowling Association, shows his delivery to teammate Joe Behannon.

BOWLING

Army Air Corp.

"We used to kill a few afternoons knocking down pins in a San Antonio bowling alley but I never found any lanes, or time, for bowling when I was stationed in New Caladonia or Palwan in the South Pacific," he says.

How much has Burnett criss-crossed the southwest already this year? His comings and goings would make a travel agent dizzy.

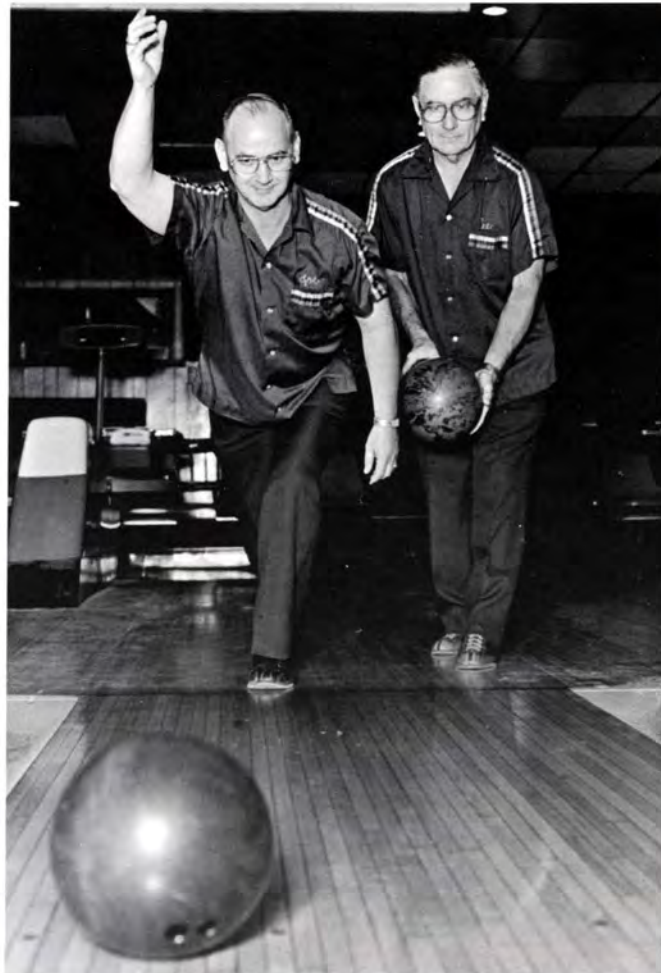
Since bowling in the ABC national tournament in Reno, Nevada, in March, he's been to Dallas several times on TSBA business, to Tulsa, twice to Waco, to Corpus Christi to select the two bowling houses that will host the 1985 TSBA Tournament, to Austin for a junior tournament, and to Fort Worth for a women's meet. He's due in San Antonio for a TSBA Jamboree soon.

"He's really something," says Otteson. "From where he derives all his energy I don't know. He's a volunteer with our junior and

senior bowling programs besides being secretary over three-fourths of the 25 leagues we have here in Lufkin."

Burnett, of course, isn't just involved with the administration end of bowling. Although nearing his 62nd birthday, he's one of East Texas' better performers on the maples.

His solid 185 average is tops among the Lufkin Industries King Pins team which is composed of other company employees — Joe Behannon (175 average), Ron Smith (173), Bobby



CHUCK STEVENSON

Behannon, a 175-average bowler, concentrates on the strike zone . . . and follows through under the watchful eyes of Burnett, right, who holds the team's highest bowling average of 185.

Allen (163) and Rayford Wright (156).

The highpoint of Burnett's bowling career came during a 1980 tournament in Longview. He spared the first frame, then struck out the rest of the way for a 290 game. He opened the next game with four more strikes for a sizzling string of 15 in a row.

Burnett has headed the King Pins team since its inception. In 1964 the quintet finished third in the state tournament at Corpus Christi. Besides this year's national ABC tournament at Reno, Burnett has also competed at the big one in Oklahoma City and Niagara Falls, N.Y. He plans to compete at Tulsa in 1985 and Las Vegas in '86.

Bowling is supposed to be a non-contact sport, but Burnett and King Pins teammate Behannon think otherwise.

"I can recall one horrible night during my 26 years of bowling," says Behannon, a District 14 Director of the Texas State Bowling Association. "I was sitting on a ball rack. It collapsed and bowling balls went bouncing like ping pong balls in a hurricane. One of those 16-pounders caught me on the little toe of my left foot, breaking some tiny bones.

"Despite the pain, I continued bowling, and later that same evening, I dropped an oily ball on the large toe of my right foot, breaking more bones."

Behannon once rolled a high game of 248 and while an enviable score, he knows this was no record. But, he figures he may be the only bowler in captivity to ever break two toes while bowling on the same night.

Burnett learned the hard way not to "coach" his wife, Garthie. "We were bowling in a couples league in Nacogdoches and she heard me say 'down the middle, Garthie, down the middle' one time too often. She playfully kicked me on the shins. The back of my knee hit a ball return, and it must have taken me a week or more to get over that bruise," says Lee.


Perhaps Lufkin Industries' leading husband-wife bowling combo is Ron and Barbara Smith. He's had a high game of 251, she's rolled a 234. Ron is a district delegate to TSBA and Rayford Wright is an alternate. Wright has rolled a 226 high game and has competed in the past two state tournaments at Lubbock and Dallas.

Smith, too, knows about the perils of long-distance tournament bowling. "I was never injured inside a bowling lane, but I'll never forget a return trip from San Angelo in 1983 where I'd gone to watch my wife in the state ladies' meet," he says. "I was hit with kidney stone trouble during the drive back and had to spend some time in a Ballinger hospital."

Walter Estes (177 average) and retiree Robert McNeely (166) are two other top Lufkin Industries bowlers.

"There's 13 other guys who work for LUFKIN that are good league bowlers — Charles Shattuck, Lankford Ballard, Gary Penick, Rod Blanton, Gary DeWayne Telford, Jess Barnes, Andy Stevens, Don Kuehl, Darrell Luce, Colbert Rittgers, Jerry Sandlin, Darcey Faircloth and Charlie Hamilton," says Burnett.

Even though bowling fees have increased to \$1.65 a line (they're up to \$1.95 per line in Dallas and Houston), Burnett still feels the sport is one of the least expensive anyone can enjoy.

"It's a wholesome participant sport that can be enjoyed from pre-teen years through your senior citizen years," says Angelina County's Mr. Bowling. 



LUFKIN King Pins teammates Rayford Wright, top, and Bobby Allen. Wright has competed in the past two state tournaments at Lubbock and Dallas.



"The family that plays together . . ." "Ron and Barbara Smith have both been Lufkin Lanes Bowlers for the Month in the past. Ron won money for bowling at the Texas State Bowling Association Tournament in Dallas this year.

ON THE JOB

This month, **ROUNDUP** goes on the job with the man who keeps things cool,

John Buschman

He is as sought after these 98-degree days as a TV repairman on Superbowl Sunday.

Although classified as a Class A electrician, John Buschman's job is repairman for the heating and cooling units around Lufkin Industries. He works on everything from the large central units in the corporate offices to the smallest window units at Buck Creek.

Buschman works out of a small fenced-in area behind the personnel department offices in Building 13, but you'll hardly ever find him there.

We found him on the roof of the foundry cleaning room wrestling with a 200-pound compressor for a giant industrial air conditioning unit. He was paying little attention to nearly 200-degree heat radiating up from the roof-top.

"A lot of my work is hot, but that doesn't keep me from liking my work," Buschman says. "I don't look at this as a job. I've got a lot of friends out here, and I'm doing the best I can to keep them cool."

These days, Buschman has more than "he can say grace over," as some oldtimers might say. Along with caring for large and small air conditioning units, Buschman is also responsible for maintenance of water coolers, cold drink machines, hot water heaters and heating units throughout the company. He estimates he is responsible for somewhere between 700 and 900 units.

"Sometimes, jobs have to wait. I don't like it when that happens, but when you're



John E. Buschman

in the middle of a big job you just can't leave it," he says. There are a few high priority jobs that sometimes force him to leave a job just started.

"If it's a unit for a crane in the foundry, that's a high priority call," Buschman explains. "That operator has to stay right there, and it can get up over hundred degrees in a crane's cab in a hurry."

His job is further complicated because, quite simply, "they don't make air conditioners like they used to," he says.

"The older air conditioners seem to hold up better than the newer ones," Buschman says. Unlike units in the home, air conditioners in hot, dusty industrial environments, like those for cranes in the foundry, break down frequently.

"Those small units for the cabs of cranes will last maybe three weeks before something fails because of all that dust," he says. "There are other areas in the

6
I've got friends out here, and I'm doing the best I can to keep them cool . . .

plant where condition are so rough a unit will last only two or three months. And, we may have four or five units in each of those areas."

Overlooking hot and dusty conditions, plus long, 10-hour days he works trying to keep up, Buschman finds his work challenging and rewarding.

"There's a tremendous sense of accomplishment in this job. It's a good feeling when I walk away from a unit that was broken and I've fixed it," he says.

"I think of my job as the most important job here at the plant. Of course, it's not, but I think of it that way."

THOSE GOLDEN YEARS

Buck Stringer

He's spent his retirement years helping more than 200 East Texas crippled children

Despite all those letters mailed each December to the North Pole, there may, or may not, be a genuine Santa Claus. But, a man such as P.P. (Buck) Stringer makes the age old question something of a strong possibility ... in his own way.

Without elves, or magic, or even miracles, the difficult lives of more than 200 crippled East Texas children have never been the same since shaking hands with this retiree of Lufkin Industries.

Buck looks like Santa. For one thing, he has that "belly which shakes like a bowl full of jelly." And, for another, he has a definite twinkle in his eyes when he talks about "his kids." However, Stringer doesn't claim to be Santa Claus.

He spent 35 years as a welder in LUFKIN's structural shop and during his spare time, he and his wife, Queen Esther, built a successful restaurant business with their secret recipe for barbecue. When Buck retired eight years ago, he well-afforded and well-deserved a life of leisure. Although he and Queen Esther have traveled throughout the United States and abroad, including a trip to the Holy Land, Buck's retirement has been unselfishly spent helping others.



Buck Stringer with Laura Byrum, of Corrigan. Buck played an important role in getting her to and from the hospitals where she received special surgery for reconstructing her once-damaged arm.

"There came a day in my life when I realized just being a good person and a member of a church isn't all there is to life," says Stringer. Now, during retirement, Buck feels he has found his true purpose as a Christian and as a human being in his work with crippled children.

It is not so unusual that someone feels compassion for

crippled children. Many organizations are dedicated to such purposes. The fact there exists such facilities as the Shriner's Crippled Children's Hospital in Houston, the Shriner's Burn Institute in Galveston, and the Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, is evidence many people share Buck's compassion for crippled children. But, these multi-

million dollar facilities which provide free medical care would go unused by many needy families without the money to even get there, if not for Buck Stringer and others like him.

Buck estimates that he has sponsored more than 200 crippled children during the past eight years. To receive medical care at a Shriner's

hospital a child's family usually requests a local Shriner or Mason to sponsor their child. Buck, however, seldom awaits anyone to approach him. He has placed ads in the Lufkin Daily News, searching for crippled children to help.

When he learns of a needful, crippled child, Stringer is quick to initiate action. He often confronts stiff parental opposition. Many times these parents are deep in debt, bitter and without much hope. Some are uneducated.

"Many of the individuals I deal with, most especially some of the uneducated poor, have had previous gimmicks pulled on them or have had exploiters take advantage of them. When I tell them about medical help which is absolutely free, they just don't believe me," says Stringer.

"Some parents won't bring their children forward for one reason or another. Sometimes they've spent every penny they had and been disappointed so many times they've given up hope."

Stringer says he's spent many sleepless nights debating how to approach some parents. Sometimes it takes many visits to win their trust.

Once the parents agree to the process, Stringer has a local physician examine the child and submits a hospital application. Then, if the family cannot afford it, Stringer provides round trip transportation for the child and parents to the hospital for further screening, preliminary examinations and, of course, surgery or treatment. He makes as many as twenty trips, sometimes more, on a single case. During an average week, he makes at least one trip to Houston or Dallas; sometimes as many as three.

When it comes to helping a crippled child, Buck's generosity has no limitations. Shriners and Masons, involved in such projects, receive no support from the organizations to cover expenses. With a charitable, but conservative shrug, Buck says he will do whatever is necessary.

"There have been cases

in the work are specialists who contribute valuable time and services to the Shriners.

"Many of the cases I've been involved with would have cost \$100,000 or more in the private sector. Some of these families had already paid thousands and thousands of dollars, not knowing about the free help Shriners have for

cans scattered everywhere in the house from an obvious party the previous night.

"I fretted over that awhile. I thought, if they had money for a beer party, I shouldn't have to chauffeur them around. God reminded me that night I was working for Him. He hadn't sent me there to count beer cans, but to help a child."

Even though Stringer says, "when God gives you a task, you don't go around looking for praise," he loves to talk of his work. Normally soft-spoken and jovial, his voice rises and his face shows the seriousness of his convictions whenever the subject of helping crippled children arises.

"This is the greatest evangelistic challenge for the church today," he says. "If we don't help people when they're down, we won't be able to reach them when they're back on their feet."

Already a 32nd Degree Mason, Stringer was honored last year with the Royal Arch Degree of Scotland, the oldest honorary degree among Masonry. He prizes a collection of newspaper clippings about children he has helped, and letters of thanks from many grateful parents.

Most likely, the greatest reward for his patience, generosity and perseverance, is seeing crippled children given a new chance. He cannot find adequate words to describe his feelings.

"It makes me feel good in my soul and it makes me want to do more," he says.

And so, he does. Without concern for his time and expense, Stringer quietly continues helping crippled children. During his "retirement," he has truly found new meaning and purpose for living.

“

**When I called
for the mother and the child
there were beer cans
everywhere . . . I thought,
if they had money for a beer
party I shouldn't have to
chauffeur them around.
God reminded me that
night I was
working for him.
He hadn't sent me there
to count beer cans,
but to help a child.**

”

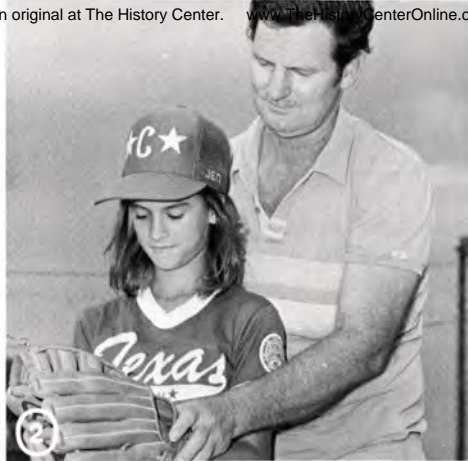
where my wife and I would pay a mother's hotel bill while her child was in the hospital. We've bought many meals because some parents were so poor they couldn't afford the price of a meal," he says.

Treatment for crippled children at the Shriners or Scottish Rite hospitals is absolutely free. According to Stringer, many of the doctors involved

crippled children."

Working with so many cases, there have been occasions when thankless, ungrateful parents caused Buck to wonder if his work was worthwhile.

"One time, I picked up a little child for transporting to the burn institute in Galveston. When I called for the mother and the child, there were beer



ALL STAR ALBUM

When it came to kid league baseball or softball this summer, Lufkin Industries was well-represented with a fine crop of All-Star team performers. Many sons and daughters of company employees circled the bases in near and distant tournaments. Here's a look . . .

PHOTO 1 (upper left) Kevin Roebuck receives batting tips from his dad, Vernice. Kevin was a member of Lufkin's Dixie Boys All-Star team which reached World Series semi-finals at Augusta, Ga.

PHOTO 2—Jennifer Redd is shown with her dad, Raymond. She played with the Central Pony Tails at the national tournament in Georgetown, S.C.

PHOTO 3—Kim and Robert Evans talk about how well the Central Dixie Belles did in tournament play at Robertsdale, Ala.

PHOTO 4—Kelli and Bob Westbrook (at left are shown with Jennifer and Cecil Hunt. The girls also played with the Central Dixie Belles.

PHOTO 5—Members of Lufkin's National and Capital Dixie Youth League All-Stars were, front row are: (l-r) Andy Few, Mike Jinkins and Johnny Johnson. Standing behind are: (l-r) dads R.L. McGuire, David Jinkins and John Johnson.

PHOTO 6—Ed Dominey gives pointers to son, Mark, prior to Lufkin's American All-Stars playing in the Dixie Youth World Series here.

PHOTO 7—Five Lufkin Industries employees took time to manage local Dixie Youth League teams this summer. Back row are: (l-r) Kendall Moseley, David Jinkins, Johnny Johnson. Front row: (l-r) R.L. McGuire and Ed Dominey.



FOCUS

Photo Contest deadline nears: September 25

\$300 is sitting around collecting dust - along with those photos you thought were worth nothing to anyone but you.

Wrong. . . Send us your best shot and it could be worth \$100, 25 rolls of color film, a new camera, half a car payment, 200 pounds of bananas, or. . . well, you get the picture.

Wrong again. We get the picture. You get the cash. But you can't win unless you send it in.

The rules:

1. Lufkin Industries employees, their family members and retirees are eligible.

2. Enter color and/or black & white prints, snapshots, slides, any subject. Include on a separate piece of paper your name and department or branch office; title of the photograph; when, where and how it was taken.

3. Bring your entries by, or send to: PHOTO GALLERY CONTEST '84, Corporate Communications Department, Box 849, Lufkin, Tx 75901.

4. The deadline: **Midnight, September 25, 1984.**

The prizes

\$100 Grand Prize

\$50 First Place, black & white
\$25 Second Place, black & white

\$15 Third Place, black & white

\$10 Honorable Mention, black & white

\$50 First Place, color

\$25 Second Place, color

\$15 Third Place, color

\$10 Honorable Mention, color

Winners will be notified before October 25, and winning entries will be featured in the November ROUNDUP.



Tim Stacy



Jane Stephens



Jimmy Little



David Havard



Belinda Pyle



Sheree Cloyd



William Edward Reneau

Company announces seven employees promoted

Promotions for seven employees have been announced by officials in manufacturing administration, material control, and industrial gear service department.

In manufacturing administration, Tim Stacy and Jane Stephens received promotions.

Tim Stacy moves from entry level operations analyst to assistant operations analyst. Stacy was employed by Lufkin Industries in 1981.

He attended Eisenhower High School, Houston, and is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University. Stacy is a member of the American Production and Inventory Control Society. He and his wife, Karen, live in Nacogdoches.

Jane Stephens was promoted to entry level operations analyst. She joined the company in 1981.

Stephens attended Corrigan High School and is a graduate of Angelina College. She currently attends Stephen F. Aus-

tin State University. She and her husband, Tony, live in Lufkin.

Employees promoted in the material control department were: Jimmy Little, David Havard, Belinda Pyle and Sheree Cloyd.

Jimmy Little moves from cycle counter to material planner. He was employed by the company in 1980.

Little is a graduate of Hemphill high School, and attended Angelina College and Stephen F. Austin State University. He and his wife, Susie, live in Lufkin.

David Havard has been promoted from scheduler to material planner. Havard was employed by Lufkin Industries in 1974.

He attended Lufkin High School and is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University. He and his wife, Janet, reside in Lufkin.

Belinda Pyle was promoted from shop floor data entry to reporting clerk. She was em-

ployed by the company in 1980.

Pyle is a graduate of Bonham High School. She and her husband, Michael, live in Apple Springs.

Sheree Cloyd has been promoted from warehouse clerk to material control clerk. She was employed by Lufkin Industries last January.

Cloyd is a graduate of Lufkin High School. She and her husband reside in Lufkin. Her husband, Larry, is also an employee of the material control department.

William Edward Reneau, Jr. has been promoted to service representative in the industrial gear service department. Reneau was a welder in the industrial gear department. He joined Lufkin Industries in 1979.

He attended West Sabine High School and Angelina College. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. Reneau and his wife, Sandra, reside in Pollok.

FOCUS

Employee's son wins trip to see XXIII Olympiad

Before the final chapter closes on the 1984 Olympics—yet another story needs telling about a lucky winner. Not a story of gold medals, but to Carl Yarbrough, winning a seat on the sidelines was as thrilling as those four gold medals were to Carl Lewis.

Lufkin's Carl, son of George Yarbrough Jr. who works the first shift of the company's cleaning room, reported to his part-time clerk's job at Safeway earlier this summer to learn he had won the national chain's random drawing for an all-expenses paid trip to the Los Angeles Olympic games.

Safeway, an official sponsor of the 1984 games, sent 80 randomly-chosen employees to the games; four winners came from the Houston/East Texas region.

So Carl went. And when he returned from watching the XXIII Olympiad, he brought back some strong feelings of patriotism plus all that other standard tourist regalia . . . buttons, pins, t-shirts, caps . . . and a full-sized Olympic flag, white with those famous five multicolored rings. The flag was one of two given away to the 80 Safeway employees. Carl said he "was proud to carry the flag back to Texas."

A sports enthusiast, Carl said these games were like no other sporting event he's seen. "For example, I sat in the middle of some Pakistanis and watched a field hockey game.



Carl Yarbrough, left, shows the 1984 Olympic souvenirs he brought to his father, George Yarbrough Jr., a LUFKIN employee.

"The patriotism and kinsmanship we all felt together (as Americans) was very strong. It felt good to be a part of this, and I was proud to be American in spite of the Russian boycott, or maybe because of it. It all goes back to freedom and having it . . . freedom to make a choice. And that's what the '84 games were about; those who chose to be there were there," he said.

One of Carl's greatest impressions was the degree of security precautions taken, ironically the base of the Russian complaint in boycotting these games. "Security was extremely tight. They

searched us and our bags before we attended each event. I would look up and periodically see helicopters flying overhead."

Carl watched the finals in track, ". . . from the 77th row. But the seats had been sold so far in advance, we were lucky just to be there." He also watched wrestling, field hockey and tennis.

Before returning to East Texas, Carl and his group got to meet Philadelphia 76ers basketball star, Dr. Julius Irving, tour Hollywood where he saw the set of "Dukes of Hazzard" plus other TV and movie stages.

memorandum . . .

Names & Notes

While they were closing down the Olympics in Los Angeles, **Julie Jackson**, 16, daughter of **Ron Jackson**, purchasing inventory specialist for the trailer division, was splashing her way to third place in the decathlon event of a regional AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) meet at Longview.

A Crown Colony lifeguard and assistant coach for the

swim team, Julie compiled third best overall times during the ten-event decathlon. She's also the daughter of **Elaine Jackson**, who wrote our company history, "From Sawdust to Oil."

*

July 28, 1984, won't be a date **Ron Hopson**, assistant in the metalurgical department, will soon forget. And, not because it's 12 days after his

25th birthday. Five years to the date he met **Connie Ann Magaldi** on a blind-date, Ron walked that "last aisle" toward matrimonial bliss with Connie.

She, of course, is the talented free-lance photographer who gave us our February ROUNDUP cover shot of a LUFKIN pumping unit at sunset over between Madisonville and North Zulch.

FOCUS



Retirees honored

Company retirees (l-r) **Buster Strait, A.G. Colburn, Jr.** and **Bill Miles** were guests of honor at the unveiling of a new display commemorating the retirees of the trailer product design engineering department. "These were the first retirees of the trailer product design engineering department," says **LaVan Watts**, chief engineer. "We will continue adding photographs to the display as employees of this department retire." The display designed by trailer engineer, **Jim Masters**, incorporates framed photographs of each retiree under a beautiful wooden plaque reading "Engineering Dept. Retirees." The plaque was created by **Bob McBride**, trailer industrial engineering department.

Griffis earns certificate

Charles Griffis, a systems programmer in the data processing department, has received a Certificate in Data Processing (CDP) from the Institute for Certification of Computer Professionals.

During 1984, testing for the CDP was administered to 4,238 candidates across the United States and around the world. Griffis was one of 1,442 candidates who successfully completed the examination. The ICCP has awarded a total of 25,700 CDPs since the certification process was begun in 1962.



Charles Griffis

Griffis was employed by Lufkin Industries in 1976. He has attended Richmond Junior College, Lamar University, Angelina College, and Stephen F. Austin State University. He and his wife, **Tammie**, reside in Lufkin.

New LUFKIN Engineer hired

Danny Rogers, a cum Laude graduate of Texas A&M University, was hired by LUFKIN Trailers as a design engineer.

Rogers, a Lufkin High School graduate, attended Angelina College before completing studies at Texas A & M. As an engineering major at Texas A & M, Rogers was named a distinguished student three times, graduating with a 3.43 grade point average.

He is a member of Tau Beta Pi (National Honor Society), Omega Chi Epsilon (National Chemical Engineering Honor



Danny Rogers

Society), and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

He is a member of the Harmony Hill Baptist Church.

memorandum . . .

When sales division honchos **Ben Queen** and **Johnny Fincher** departed for London, Paris and Muscat, Oman, to see about selling some LUFKIN pumpjacks, their minds were clogged with thoughts of all the terrorist skyjackings of recent days.

Beryl Brevell didn't help matters much when she drew up a cartoon of two guys buying British Caledonia Airlines

tickets while three bearded guys with guns stood watching nearby, then taped the illustration on Queen's office window.

*

The broken arm and ankle **George Brown** received when the company truck he was driving at the Trailer Plant jackknifed and flipped over, pinning him beneath a pile of heavy metal sheets, are men-

ding well. He hopes to be back on the job soon.

*

Company pilot **Walt Bardwell** says he appreciated the overland road map he was presented by **Frank Stevenson**, **Mike Penn** and **Bill Pennington** before a flight to Granbury, Texas, so the three could tour a nuclear plant. They had large arrows pointing Bardwell in the right

direction on their road map, both ways, up and back.

*

Virgil Reynolds, Class A trailer builder, is a member of the Hudson Volunteer Fire Department and says "the hottest fire I've ever worked was a mobile home blaze. I've never been around such heat anywhere." Virgil's pastor could tell him to lead a good, clean life now.

CHANGES

Company officials have announced job changes and new assignments for employees in the foundry, machine shop, trailer plant and structural steel plant.

Changes announced for employees in the foundry were: **Darren Baker**, cleaning room to melting department; **Jon York**, molding helper to molding finisher/coresetter; **Jose Lopez**, cleaning room to molder finisher/coresetter; **Michael Hulett**, burner to cupola/electric furnace tender.

Changes in the machine shop were: **William Vanneste**, laborer to storekeeper; **Richard Childress**, trailer plant helper to machine shop timekeeper; **Bobby Penson**, machinist helper to storekeeper; **Norman Fulford**, machinist helper to Class C maintenance mechanic; **Donald May**, Class B maintenance mechanic to Class A maintenance mechanic; **William May**, Class B maintenance mechanic to Class A maintenance mechanic; **Donald Cable**, laborer to machinist helper; **Charles Dailey**, heat treater to blacksmith.

Changes in the trailer plant were: **Johnny Ebarb**, helper to Class B painter; **Jack Turner**, helper to class B trailer builder.

Changes in the structural steel plant were: **Felix Veliz**, helper to Class C welder; **Lorenzo Reyes**, Class B welder to Class A welder; **Edward Taylor**, helper to Class A structural worker; **Benjamin Pinkerton**, Class C welder to belt cover/crank guard builder; **Walter Murphy**, helper to Class C welder; **Ruben Acevedo**, belt cover/crank guard builder to Class A welder; **Robert Bickley**, helper to Class C welder; **Harlan Brown**, helper to Class C welder; **Curtis Crocker**, helper to Class C welder.

Also, **Bonnie Doyle**, Class B welder to Class A welder; **Raymundo Espinoza**, Class B welder to Class A welder; **Jerry Ferguson**, helper to Class C welder; **Gregory Harrison**, Class C welder to Class B welder; **Claudie Heaton**, Class C welder to Class B welder; **Isaac Hines**, Class C welder to Class B welder; **Curtis Hinson**, Class C welder to Class B welder; **Charlton Hough**, helper to Class C welder; **Hipolito Reyes**, Class C welder to Class B structural worker; **Darvin Dominey, Jr.**, helper to Class B burner.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

STRUCTURAL STEEL OPERATIONS

Marion Christie	29
Coy Minshew	23
William Hutson	22
Glenn Edwards	20
Jefferson Skinner	19
Ronald Doss	18
Palmo Frels	17
Arthur Starling	16
James Brennan	16
James Cater	13
Rickey Buchanan	12
Freddie Rudisill	11
Wayne Sprattley	10
Ricky Sowell	10
Douglas Steel	10
Guadalupe Sanchez	9
Truman Belrose	8
Robert Beers	8
Bobby Guthery	7
Johnny Davis	6
James Murphy	6
Antonio Santana	5
Clarence Bass	5
Jack Walker	5
Frankie Hugg	3

FINAL ASSEMBLY AND SHIPPING

Rayford Davis	22
R.D. Forney	21
Willie Hector	15
Willie Walker	14
Leonard Sharp	9
James Tudor	7

FOUNDRY OPERATIONS

Ira Christopher	38
Ellison Perry	34
Harold Hicks	34
Willie Mitchell	32
A.R. Adams	29
Edward Flemon	21
Joseph Arnold	18
Bobby Strange	18
J.C. Higgins	15
Melvin Powell	15
Kenneth Burnett	14
J.D. Rodgers	13
Lonnie McDaniel	12
Earl Mark	11
Jerry Wagstaff	10
Wyman Gregory	10
Charles Riggins	10
Marvin Dill	10
Donnie Dudley	10
Frank Lankford	9
Henry Credit	9
Gerald King	8
Bill Pennington, Jr.	7
Joe Penn	7
Mary Lewis	7
George Castillo	7
William Monmouth	7
Roger Sowell	7
Larry Hunt	5
Benito Hibarra	5
Raul Castillo	5
Jackie Rogers	4

MACHINERY OPERATIONS

Delbert Williford	39
Ertis Brock	34
Louis Davis	33
Charles Grimes	33
G.B. Landrum	29
E.L. Parks	29
A.C. Lunsford	27
Bobby Wood	23

Joe Behannon	22
Keith Strickland	22
Elmon Cross	22
Charlie Rhodes	22
William Sides	22
Donald Traylor	21
Larry Cordova	20
Samuel Barrow	18
A.A. May	18
Hollis Barnhart	18
Archie Taylor	18
Betty Wood	18
Bobby Allen	17
Thomas Stricklin	16
Noel Johnson	15
Michael Cummings	15
Terry Johnson	14
Oscar Arant	12
John O'Connor	12
William Mosely	12
Jerry Watson	11
Henry Sargent	11
Dora Hight	10
Carl Moore	10
Eldon Newton	10
Ira Dunaway	10
Harvey Rainey	10
Mitchell Oneill	9
Garvin Bridges	9
William Ford	9
Herbert Logan	9
Claude Williams	9
Lovell Lee	8
James Price	7
Lemon Hamilton	7
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David Corderman	7
Rick Neal	5
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TRAILER SALES

Marilyn Ivy	22
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Baine Adams, Jr.	8
Richard Wallace	8
Larry Grimes	4



Charles Dyer
51 Years



Fred Walker
44 Years



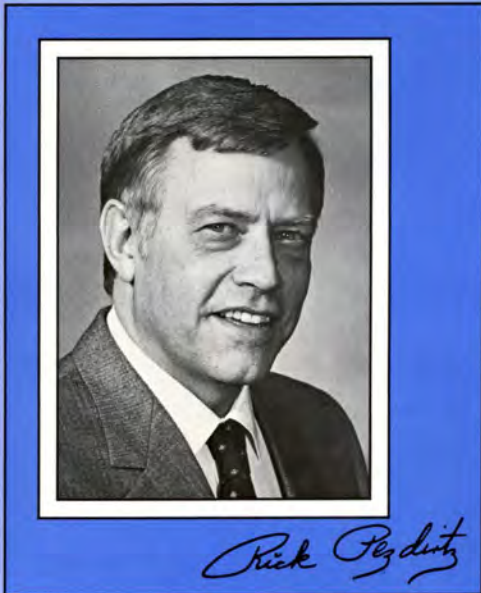
Delbert Williford
39 Years



Ertis Brock
34 Years



Ira Christopher
38 Years



of Faces & Places

With Rick Pezdirtz

6

... Lady Bird Johnson was leaning out the window. 'Oh, honey, c'mon back. That's just the way Lyndon is ...'

9

Probably nothing brings out the full bloom of a presidential nominating convention, it says here, like being on a first-name basis with one of the principal, on-scene actors. When the Democrats convened at San Francisco's Moscone Center in July and the Republicans did likewise at Dallas' Convention Center a couple weeks ago, **Bobby Conner** kept seeing a familiar face on his television screen.

Amidst all the political hoopla, balloons, flags, placards and hyperbole-filled speeches, Bobby kept tipping his tankard of White Russian elixir—for you beer guzzlers, that's scotch, Kahlua and Kreme over cracked ice—toward an old, college fraternity brother.

Bobby, now a Lufkin Industries' trailer division parts clerk, didn't spend time at Sam Houston State University with Reagan or Bush. Nor, Fritz or Geraldine.

But, he did pal around back then with a skinny kid from Houston. The guy had brown eyes, black tresses and a most serious outlook on life.

We're talking here about **Dan Rather**, who gave us gavel-to-gavel convention coverage this summer as CBS's anchorman. This was a first for Rather since another Texan, **Walter Cronkite** unlooped his mike cord and retired to the sidelines of political reporting.



Dan Rather



Bobby Conner

"Dan and I were members of the Caballeros which later became Sigma Chi fraternity at Sam Houston. I'll always remember him as a more level-headed guy than most of us in those days," Conner was saying the other evening, while cracking into a poolside lobster dinner at his home over on Allendale.

"Rather was always serious about most everything he did. And, he was one of the most popular guys on campus. I didn't have classes with Dan. He was in the school of journalism. I met him because he was from Houston and a close friend of my roommate, **Toby Pyle**," says Bobby.

Did Conner have any inkling Rather would one day soar to the heights of national television prominence?

"Are you kidding? None of us thought much about what would become of us back then. We were mostly just struggling to get outta college," says Bobby.

Aside from his job with Lufkin Industries, Conner moonlights, or dabbles, these days in the television business, too. He doesn't appear on the 21-inch screen; he rents 'em.

Conner recently opened the first of what he hopes becomes a four-store chain of Rainbow Rental & Sales outlets. He reports doing a brisk business in rent-to-buy TVs, video recorders and movie tapes.

Recalling Rather, Bobby says: "I used to hear him when he first started as a newscaster with a Houston radio station. If anything started him on his road to success, it was the national exposure he received from his eyewitness reporting of Hurricane Carla.

The Wrath of Lyndon

I never hear Rather's name mentioned that I don't think about one of his early assignments with that Houston radio station . . . an assigned press conference, at **Lyndon Johnson's** ranch on the Pedernales.

President Johnson had set an outdoors, noon press conference. Rather was there to feed it live to his Houston radio listeners. High noon came and went. Lyndon was nowhere in sight.

Figuring he was in a back room, kibitzing with some of his political cronies, Rather waited until nearly 1 p.m., then decided he'd best phone his station manager to explain the delay.

He sneaked into a small bedroom of President Johnson's ranch house, found a telephone and dialed Houston.

"I dunno *when* he's going to have his 'noon' press conference," Rather whispered into the phone. A long shadow fell across the bed on which Rather was sitting. An angry voice bellowed: "whodahell is this little #\$\$!& and what is he doing in my house?" It was Lyndon, puffs of purple smoke escaping from his flaring nostrils.

Rather grabbed up his tape recorder and beat a hasty retreat. He was halfway down a ranch road to the highway when a long, white Lincoln overtook him. A secret service man was driving. **Lady Bird Johnson** was leaning out the passenger-side window.

"Oh, honey, c'mon back. That's just the way Lyndon is. He didn't mean anything by it." cooed Lady Bird.

Rather returned to the ranch. But, when the President finally got around to his "noon" conference, Bobby Conner's buddy was well-hidden behind a leafy live oak tree.

He covered his first presidential press conference although it wasn't exactly an eyeball-to-eyeball reporting job he did that day.

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A FAMILY AFFAIR

Whether it be catfish or crappie, bass or bream, the Barner Davis family knows where to find 'em and how to catch 'em. With 105 years of accumulative employment at Lufkin Industries, the Davis men have long been spending enjoyable weekends filling freezers with fresh fish. At left, company retiree Barner Davis, welder/inspector (25 years), shows grandson Ricky Davis, welder helper (1-month) how to bait a hook. Behind the boat are: (l-r) Milton Davis, machine shop setup man (22 years); Gayland Davis, security guard (1 year); Lloyd Davis, machine shop scheduler (25 years); and Rayford Davis, shipping supervisor (22 years).

KURT MARTIN



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