



bradley News

Merry Christmas and Friday, December 19, 1975 *a Happy New Year*
REPEAT

Four years ago we ran the following article in the Roper Bradley News, on December 10, 1971. At the time we felt it was an interesting item, one that would be of interest to all our people. Now, four years later, it is of even more interest due to present economic conditions here at Bradley. As a result we are reprinting it at this time.

PRODUCTIVITY TURNABOUT

Two years ago, Alcan Aluminum Corp. issued a terse announcement: The 50-year-old rolling facility at Fairmont, W. Va., would be closed.

The nearly 300 employees became alarmed. They faced the loss of their jobs. Prospects for other jobs in the West Virginia area were dim. Many of the workers were mature. Some were approaching the threshold of retirement. They wanted to realize their pensions.

They faced up to reality.

"We'll turn out so much metal, and we'll increase our productivity so much you won't be able to shut us down," they told the company in effect.

Nine months later, Alcan issued another announcement: The plant would not close.

The reason: Productivity (output per manhour) had increased by 25 percent. The plant had passed from losing money to breaking even to making a modest profit.

What happened in Fairmont is more than the scaring of a workforce into working harder. The plant manager says he had no complaints on the efforts of workers before the decision to close the plant. "They were putting out a fair day's work then. Now, they are working above and beyond the call of duty. But there is something else."

Actually, the threatened closing brought management and labor into a closer cooperation. They talked with each other. They became a team, working to preserve the plant and the jobs it supplied in the community. The union adopted a positive attitude in the face of adversity and expressed a determination to save the operation.

Scrappage was cut sharply. Formerly, 3,200 pounds from a 10,000-pound coil wound up as scrap. The figure was cut to 2,400 pounds.

Management and labor combined to evolve a better product mix, and to utilize equipment better. Restrictions on crew size were forgotten.

Everyone was working toward a single goal - save our plant.

The people of Fairmont are prouder today as a result of their success.

Perhaps, they may offer an example for the rest of America.

The foregoing is not printed to try to scare anyone, but it is true, and competition being what it is these days, none of us know exactly what the future might hold for us at Roper Bradley.

NOTICE

PAUL MONTAGUE, President of Local 1212 has asked us to run the following important notice aimed at Machinists on layoff.

1. In the event employees are out of work because of illness, layoff, etc., it is their responsibility to keep up the payment of dues in order to remain in good standing. Failure to remit dues after two months will automatically cancel their memberships.

2. Secretary VERN SCHNELL should be contacted for the payment of unemployment stamps. He is the on-

ly person responsible for accepting payment. The fee is 50 cents per month. He must be contacted either at home or at the monthly meeting, not at the plant.

3. Regular meetings of the lodge are held on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Labor Temple, 220 W. Court St. for the purpose of accepting dues and answering questions.

4. The fee for honorary withdrawal cards is \$1.00. Initiation fee is \$40.00. Reinstatement fee is \$50.00.



OLD TIMER OF THE WEEK

Five years ago when ED KEROUAC was featured in these columns he was the second of the three KEROUAC brothers at Bradley. Now, due to the retirement and subsequent death of GABE, he is the elder of the two remaining brothers. But he is younger in point of service than brother TOM. ED came to work at Bradley on September 30, 1942 after a career as a grocery store owner in Manteno. He has spent his entire career here in Stores and Receiving being promoted to Foreman of the Department in 1947 and General Foreman in 1966. His present title is General Foreman of Stores, Receiving and Central Trucking.

During World War II ED spent two and a half years in the army as a combat infantryman attaining the rank of corporal. His overseas service was spent entirely in Italy, but he traveled the country from one end to the other.

ED and his wife Emma Lou have been married 34 years and have three children and four grandchildren. Daughter Marilyn is married to ex-Roper employee Jerry Cavitt who is now Terminal Mgr. for C & F Trucking in Kankakee. Son James is Material Procurement Mgr. for Roper Repair Parts on North Schuyler in Kankakee. Son Joseph teaches 4th grade at Shabbona School in Bourbonnais.

This fine Old Timer, in spite of everything, is still a vocal Cub Fan and loves all sports. He has twice been elected to office in the Keymens Club, spent four years on the Manteno Village Board and is a past commander of his American Legion Post. He has been a member of the Plant Safety Committee.

WEDDING

Congratulations to JESSIE DIXON, Accounting, who became the bride of Robert Manns on December 14.

We extend sincere sympathy to CLAUDE KOSTER D/10 on the death of his father.

And to MAXINE WAGNER D/35 on the death of her brother.

"NOBODY MISSES THE "5" PIN?"

By Stan Butler

We only have one more bowling night in the first half and the winners are the Assembly team because no one can catch them. They have 41 points now and the 2nd place team now has 36.

We had only one bowler Monday night who bowled a 200 game and he was BOB BESS 224-567. However, we had quite a few good series, BOB CRAWFORD 563, JERRY FORBES 549, TERRY DUPUIS 534, RAY FORBES 529, BOB CONNOVER 526, BOB HARRIS 523, TIM LINSKY 511, MIKE LEVEQUE 510, LARRY FORBES 507 and WILLARD ESSINGTON 500.

There were only a few splits picked up, TONY STANISEZESKI 5-7, DANNY LAFOND 5-10, RALPH DOEHRING 4-7-9 and GALE ALBERS 2-4-10.

I don't know about the rest of the teams who did not win the first half but the Maintenance team says they are going to do better the next half.

OOPS!!!

We apologize to ASHTON MINOR for inadvertently omitting his name last week from the list of those celebrating service anniversaries. ASHTON started his Bradley career on December 11, 1935 and therefore completed 40 years of service this month.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Because of the Christmas and New Years Holidays, this will be the last issue of the Roper Bradley News for two weeks. The next issue will be dated Friday, January 9, 1976. The staff of your newspaper, Publisher DON JENKINS, Editor PETE LAFFEY and coordinators GERI JOHNSON and DIANE HILDEBRAND wish to extend season's greetings to all employees and their families. See ya next year!

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