Former Air Force mechanic joins Watco training program

By Andra Bryan Stefanoni
Contributing Writer

A new training program designed to prepare current team members to fill leadership positions is paying off for Rebekah Bolton.

For six and a half years, Bolton has been employed by Watco at the Stanley Terminal in Stanley, North Dakota, starting as an Operator and most recently a Shift Supervisor.

Bolton, now 28, came to Watco armed with plenty of mechanic chops: in high school she restored muscle cars, and after graduation she served as an Air Force mechanic in the GWOT program in which civilians temporarily replace troops when they are deployed.

"I started from scratch, but it's exciting and fun to start new things," Bolton said. "That's why I'm happy to be in the leadership program — I'm in a new learning process, which I love."

In late February, she became part of the Watco Leadership Program, with an eye toward becoming a Terminal Manager or another managerial position that suits her skill set.

In April, she spent time at Watco's Pittsburg, Kansas, support center, and in coming weeks will be "learning things from managers who have so much wisdom, expertise, and insight — because they've been doing it for so long," she said.

But as long as you show interest and dedication, a lot of people think you're just stuck in your job. "As leaders we are charged with identifying those individual team members who actively work to continuously improve him or herself," he said. "Rebekah has those leadership qualities and talent to succeed. She is representative of Watco's culture; ready and available to help with customer and teams always first. I look forward to building the Watco future with Rebekah and others like her."

Bolton said she is grateful to Watco for starting her in the program.

“They're investing a lot in me. It's humbling, but it's inspiring, and it makes me want to do as well as I can and advance more than what I'd ever thought I could do previously," she said. "I think a lot of people think you're just stuck in your job. But as long as you show interest and dedication, good things can happen to you."

“IT's such an interesting time to be part of this company because of all the growth,” said Bolton, who doesn't yet know what part of the country she'll wind up in, but is open to possibilities. "I feel like the world is at my fingertips."
Watco Companies has a partnership with TPC Group, LLC (TPC) that has been growing since March of 2002. The original agreement was made over pie at the Dot Coffee Shop between Watco Founder Dick Webb and TPC Group’s Logistic Manager Gary Henneke. Since then, the two companies have worked together on several projects in Port Neches, Baytown, and Houston. These projects have involved switching, rail car repairs, track inspection, coordination of track repairs, and clerical services. In particular, the Houston location exclusively stores rail cars in Watco’s Dick Webb Storage Yard.

Recent changes have been made to improve the relationship between Watco and TPC. Watco’s Vice President of Operations, Mike McAllister explained, “We have adjusted our approach as a service provider to TPC to one that fully encompasses and utilizes the resources available to us. This allows for consistency and dependability when servicing TPC along with the ability to quickly adapt to change so that we can exceed their expectations when the opportunity presents itself.”

He then explained that Watco’s intent is to ensure that the same quality of service and reliability across the different services that are provided to TPC (mechanical, switching, track, and clerical).

Additional changes have included a relocation of Watco’s Mechanical Services and Switching Teams over to the Webb Compound. This has allowed Watco to contribute to the build-out of two customized containers designed to be a workshop, inventory room, and crew quarters. Also, TPC and Watco have implemented the SafeRack mobile fall protection units at both the Houston and Port Neches facilities. These projects have been collaborated heavily with TPC team members.

Special thanks should be given to Gary Henneke and Susan Self who have worked with Watco on making these arrangements and supporting improvements.

Henneke stated that, “Five essential elements are required for superior business relationships: commitment, engagement, trust, accountability, and results. This is what TPC and Watco’s partnership is.”


McAllister also stated, “The great thing about this venture is how Watco team members across the organization worked together to get the quality of service and dependability to where it needed to be for the customer. It showed what we are capable of doing if we apply the necessary resources available and work together as a fully functioning team. It is going be exciting going forward to see what we are capable of and hopefully provide new services for this great customer.”

While there are no specific plans for the future, the team will continue to grow its partnership and hopefully expand into other areas of service with TPC.

McAllister believes that, “Our approach as a multifaceted service provider across different crafts can bring value to TPC in numerous service areas.”

Of course, this success would not be possible without the following team members. These men and women have made the team and partnership what it is today and shape it into what it will be tomorrow: Guatam Agrawala, HSE; Joe Babinexa, TPC Team; David Bader, Houston Rail Ops; Danny Barrington, Rail Operations; Jeff Baum, HSE; Toya Bradley, People Services; Ryan Burke, IT; Allen Bushnell, Houston Liquids; Mark Cendejas, Houston Rail Ops; Brandon Christopher, TPC Team; Andy Cordisch, IT; Evaristo Corona, TPC Team; Bernie Cuevas, Houston Rail Ops; Josh Danna, TPC Team; Jason Dunnahoe, Houston Liquids; Frank Edwards, Houston Liquids; Ernie Farrand, Houston Division; Kyle Gage, TPC Team; Paul Gage, HSE; Melissa Gardner, IT; David Gibson, Houston Rail Ops; James Gibson, Houston Material Handling; Don Goff, IT; David Gonzales, TPC Team; Nelson Guardado, Houston Liquids; Yelbi Gutierrez, Houston Rail Ops; Gary Hackemack, TPC Team; David Hambrick, HSE; Zachery Hammons, Houston Liquids; Josh Hawkins, Houston Liquids; Kris Hemby, Service Assurance; Nate Henderson, Houston Division; Travis Herod, HSE; Kevin Hoffman, TPC Team; Pat Holden, Houston Rail Ops; Nathan Holmes, Houston Liquids; Ron Jackson, TPC Team; Terrence Jefferson, Houston Liquids; Aaron Jensen, IT; Keith Lacaze, Rail Operations; Jeff Liggett, Service Assurance; Matt Louviere, TPC Team; Steven Mancillas, Houston Rail Ops; Brian McCracken, Performance Assurance; Clint Meadows, TPC Team; Alishia Mitchell, Houston Division; John Moriconi, IT; David Muro, TPC Team; Joe Navarro, TPC Team; Marcus Olvera, TPC Team; Richard Phebus, Houston Liquids; Phillip Raymond, Houston Liquids; Robert Rios, Houston Rail Ops; Anthony Rodriguez, Houston Liquids; Matthew Roth, Houston Rail Ops; Larry Slaton, HSE; Chris Smith, IT; Delores Sneed, TPC Team; Ron Spencer, Service Assurance; Duane Stephenson, HSE; April Summit, Service Assurance; Karrie Torina, Houston Liquids; Fred Toups, TPC Team; Jennifer Vasquez, TPC Team; Jordan Vasquez, HSE; Michael Watson, Houston Liquids; Cyle Windsor, IT; Kevin Woods, TPC Team; and Leah Woods, Service Assurance.

Henneke stated that, “Five essential elements are required for superior business relationships: commitment, engagement, trust, accountability, and results. This is what TPC and Watco’s partnership is.”

Eastern Idaho Railroad hosts STB Chairman

Continued from page 1 - factory in the United States. The plant provides approximately 5 percent of the nation’s sugar and relies heavily on rail. Additionally, Chairman Elliott visited the Kelley Bean warehouse in Rupert, Idaho, which ships beans on the EIRR. He also toured the Pacific Ethanol facility in Burley, Idaho. The plant is a major ethanol plant in Burley, Idaho. The plant is a major ethanol plant for the western U.S. and utilizes unit trains unit of corn from the Midwest to supply its production.

Chairman Elliott also visited Agrisource, Inc., a wheat and barley warehouse served by the EIRR.

Agrisource specializes in identity preserved wheat to various domestic and international customers. Finally, Chairman Elliott visited a local dairy farm near Burley, where he had the opportunity to view milk production. The EIRR plays a substantial role in the feeding of dairy cattle in southern Idaho.

Also during his trip, Chairman Elliott visited the Golden Spike National Monument, where the transcontinental railroads joined in 1869, and met with a number of community, business and transportation specialists in southern Idaho.

Wayne Hurst, a farmer from Burley, who serves on the STB’s Railroad Shipper Transportation Advisory Council, served as Chairman Elliott’s host and guide during his trip to Idaho. The tour was the Chairman’s first visit to Idaho and he expressed his fondness for the short line railroad industry as a whole, as well as for Watco Companies during the event.

The STB was created in 1996 by the ICC Termination Act of 1995. The STB is the successor of the former Interstate Commerce Commission.
Watco celebrates four years of serving Australia's CBH Group

By Andra Bryan Stefanoni
Contributing Writer

This spring marks four years since the first Watco Western Australia train departed CBH Kwinana Terminal, prompting those involved with the project to reflect on what it took to get to that point and what it meant for rail operations Down Under.

Early in the morning of March 30, 2012, in front of a small crowd of CBH and Watco project team members, two leased VL locomotives and 50 newly-constructed CBHS class aluminum grain wagons left for CBH Merredin some 322 kilometers away.

Later that day, recalls Owen Davies, commercial manager of the freight fund for Watco WA, it returned with 3,800 tons of APW2-grade wheat for export.

And the service was off and running.

It was the formal beginning of a 10-year agreement between CBH and Watco in which Watco agreed to provide comprehensive rail logistics planning — from train planning and scheduling to maintenance, inventory control and crew management — for the 22 locomotives and 574 wagons acquired by CBH.

“It was quite an achievement,” Davies said of that milestone.

But the work began long before 2012. Davies credits Colin Tutt, the then-general manager of CBH Operations, with making “a brave decision” in 2009 to conduct a worldwide tender for the ‘above rail’ component of the rail export supply chain — the first time in its more than 75 year history as a cooperative.

In 2010, Watco was successful in winning the CBH agreement.

CBH’s rail project team (Andrew Mencshelyi, Mike Poore, Matthew Mews, Davies, and Steve Martin) worked very closely initially with Rick Webb, Terry Towner, John Brown, Ed McKechnie and Jerry Johnson before Watco WA was formed, Davies said.

“Recruitment, training, and rail fleet procurement and manufacturing was a huge part of the start-up preparation to be in place before the expected start date of May 1, 2012.

As it turned out, Watco’s first train service was more than a month ahead of schedule.

CBH personnel reported an unprecedented number of photos being taken that day, March 30, 2012, at various points along the route, as the milestone attracted a sizable crowd of growers and other spectators.

The total trip time: 21 hours from start to finish, beating the initial projected targets by a comfortable margin.

Locomotives leading the train were leased from the Chicago Freight Car Leasing Company in Australia as part of the initial six-month operating fleet while new MP33C locomotives were manufactured by Motive Power in Boise, Idaho, and made the journey across the ocean.

The 50 wagons were increased by 20 each week as new wagons were released into service by Bradken, the wagon producer. Within 10 days, they were operating six days a week; a month later a second train — powered by additional leased motive power — joined the operation.

Tutt, CBH general manager operations described it as “a moment of history.”

McKechnie, Watco executive vice president and chief commercial officer, said the grain haulage task in WA was similar to that in the U.S., with the goals being to create more value for the network and to keep more tons on rail.

“Every dollar you can shave off transportation makes Australian wheat more competitive and makes WA stronger,” he said.

Then-Transport Minister Simon O’Brien told several media outlets at the time that the arrangement was significant for the grain transport network, was a major boost to the state’s rural economy, and would make communities and roads safer by reducing the need for more road hauling.

Davies reports that since that day in 2012, Watco WA has moved more than 28 million tons to Port (plus 700,000 into Merredin), 19.3 million into Kwinana, 3.4 million into Geraldton, 4.7 million into Albany, 93,000 into Esperance and 900,000 into MGC.

SAILING AWAY with Kinder Morgan

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Ocean going vessels will be sailing away from Watco’s Greens Port Industrial Park in Houston, Texas, loaded with commodities being shipped by partner Kinder Morgan. As the Houston Division expands dock capabilities and diversifies commodity mix, the first liquid tanker vessel arrived at Ship Dock #1.

This is the commencement of a six month long project to convert the 56 year old dock from a breakbulk dock to a liquids dock with Kinder Morgan. Kinder Morgan began leasing the dock in last fall for construction in order to export refined petroleum products.

The dock is supplied by three, 20’ pipelines that go under the Houston Ship Channel and connects to the Kinder Morgan Pasadena Terminal which is the largest refined storage tank facility in the world.

This is phase one of the dock expansion project at Greens Port that will create a total 2,283’ of deep water docks capable of handling panamax sized vessels. Ship Dock #3 (800’ berth) should be completed May 2016, Ship Dock #4 should complete July 2016, and Ship Dock #5 (685’ length) should be completed in 2017/2018.

Houston Division Vice President of Operations Ernie Farrand said, “Our team is excited about the opportunity to provide our Customers with modern docks and facilities to provide better solutions for their needs.”

Western Australia offers a scenic backdrop for the Watco rail operations.
ABS adds bridge to Roll Tide collection

By Andra Bryan Stefanoni
Contributing Writer

The pride Alabama fans feel for the University of Alabama's Crimson Tide is now evident to anyone who drives under the train trestle and bridge on Fifth Street near downtown Northport. And that makes Anwar Aiken and his crew at the Alabama Southern Railroad proud to be a part of Watco.

Since 2005, Watco has leased the railroad from the Kansas City Southern Railway, and because the bridge falls under that agreement, has invested in it structurally, said Aiken, general manager of Alabama Southern. "We put over $1 million into it last year," he said. It remained aesthetically displeasing. Aiken said, until his team began brainstorming a way to further connect with the local community. "We wanted to know who we're part of the community," he said. When a train member suggested painting the bridge in Crimson Tide colors, it seemed like the perfect opportunity.

"Alabama fans are some of the most dedicated, headstrong, proud college football fans I've ever met in my life," Aiken said. "Of my 43 team members, probably 37 of them are die-hard fans." Aiken doesn't fall into that category. "I usually root for the Miami Hurricanes and whoever is playing Alabama," he laughed. "But I still thought it was a great thing, because it celebrates this community. There are great people here, they're nice, friendly, they treated me well, my family well. Doing something like this that they could enjoy and be proud of — it was a no-brainer."

They decided on a red and white design for the bridge, with one side painted with "Roll Tide" and the other with "Title Town." Their team got an estimate and then worked with the City of Northport to arrange for a street closure for several hours each day and on a few weekends to complete the project. "They were very accommodating to let us get out there and make this happen," he said. "It was awesome." So was the reveal, he said. "The second we pulled back the barriers and people saw it, they came out and were taking pictures, posting it on Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter," Aiken said. The bridge has been seen by a wider audience on ESPN, CBS and other networks.

"We heard people talking about it whenever we'd be out to eat, at church, in the grocery store," Aiken said. "They were proud. And so were all of us. We said, 'I work for the railroad that did that, that the community is enjoying.'"

The bridge will look even better when the two locomotives painted in the Roll Tide theme roll across it in order to serve its 17 customers, including the major industrial players in the City of Tuscaloosa. The railroad ships about 3,200 carloads per month. "Our job to provide customers with a service so they can put their teams to work every day," Aiken said. "It's like a play: we're not on stage, we're running things behind the scenes to let the actors do that. We pull the curtains, run the lights. We make it possible."

PANTHER PRIDE ROLLS INTO ASHDOWN

By Maddy VanBecelaere
Contributing Writer

Big things are happening down south in "The Natural State." A bright purple locomotive is bound for a new switching location at Domtar in Ashdown, Arkansas.

The locomotive, known as the WAMX 1590, started its life out as the SM 505 (Saint Mary’s Railroad) a MP15-DC built in May of 1976. It was later sold to Birmingham Southern Railroad and renumbered to BS 373. When Watco purchased the Birmingham Southern, it was renumbered as the WAMX 1590 under the Birmingham Terminal Railway (BHRR).

The BHRR had a slowdown and placed the unit in storage. Shortly after, Watco obtained a switching contract with Domtar located in Ashdown, Arkansas, and the WAMX 1590 was determined to be a good asset for the location and gives Watco the opportunity to utilize a stored asset.

The Ashdown Location Manager Roidino Trevino (Dino) checked to see if Watco could do something for the community and paint the WAMX 1590 in the local high school colors. Once approved, Director of Locomotive Support Don Rudd worked with Trevino and Ronda Pounds, the Ashdown school district public relations coordinator, to approve the colors and decal design.

"The school, the community, and our local teams are really excited about having a locomotive painted in our school’s theme," said Pounds. "The day that the locomotive rolled in Facebook just blew up with comments and pictures."

The locomotive has already been the star of one community event, and fittingly, it was the Whistlestop Festival. The tracks run right up to where the festival was held and there were several people taking advantage of the locomotive for photo ops.

“We've already got some photo shoots set up and we're trying to take advantage as much as we can before it goes into service at Domtar,” said Pounds. “Our rivals are just down the road from us and we’re excited to have a very, very large moving object representing our school colors and mascot.”

CALENDAR CONTEST

Photographers get ready, Watco is taking submissions for the 2017 Calendar Contest.

Submissions must be received no later than September 1, 2016. The four-color high quality printing requires at least 300dpi images at 100%. Send submissions or any questions to tyvan@watcompanies.com with Calendar 2017 in the subject line.

Entries can be submitted by anyone, team members or not, but the photos must contain Watco properties as the subject matter.
McKechnie receives Meritorious Achievement Award

By Andrea Bryan Stefanoni
Contributing Writer

Watco Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer Ed McKechnie was one of three graduates recognized by Pittsburg State University with the prestigious 2016 Meritorious Achievement Award last month.

McKechnie joined the Watco team in May 2000 after serving in the Kansas House of Representatives for 10 years, working on gubernatorial and congressional staffs, publishing a Southeast Kansas newspaper, and serving as chair of the Kansas Board of Regents. He downplayed the award after receiving it from PSU President Dr. Steve Scott in a public reception.

"It's an honor for me and my family," McKechnie said, "but it's really an opportunity for me to say thanks to all those folks along the way that helped me."

He counts among those individuals former teachers, colleagues and personal and professional mentors.

McKechnie's role at Watco is to lead the strategic development and marketing teams, focusing on growing the business and finding new opportunities in the transportation industry. McKechnie earned a bachelor's degree in communication from PSU in 1986.

He said the communications skills he learned and put into practice while a student in the PSU Department of Communications and as staff member of the Collegio student newspaper were helpful not just to his professional success, but in his personal achievements, as well.

He and his wife, Kristy, live in rural Crawford County, Kansas, where they and their sons, Austin and Jackson, raise horses. He is active with youth baseball and basketball teams, and serves as one of nine members of the Kansas BioScience Authority, which is directing more than $500 million in research and development grants.

"The biggest thing is be prepared, because you don't know where life can take you," McKechnie said. "A big part of course is choosing the right path, making the right decisions, getting out of bed in the morning and going to work, saying 'sorry' when you're wrong, saying 'thank you' when something good happens to you."

McKechnie completes term as ASLRRA Chairman

By Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Not many Watco team members get to enjoy an evening watching one of their co-workers being roasted but there were several in attendance when Ed McKechnie was raked over the coals at the American Short Line and Regional Railroad (ASLRRA) Annual Conference. As Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer McKechnie has had the opportunity to play a key role on a variety of rail industry committees. As outgoing Chairman of the ASLRRA it was only fitting that he be given a memorable send-off as he completed his three year tenure.

As Watco CEO Rick Webb wrapped up a skit where he poked fun at Ed's social media use, love for donuts, and attention span at meetings, he thanked Ed's family: Kristy, Austin, and Jackson for sharing him.

"In all seriousness, I think everybody in this room has benefitted from the leadership, dedication, hard work, and effort of my good friend Ed McKechnie," said Webb.

Part of the efforts on McKechnie's end which have made a big difference in the short line rail industry is the passing of the short line tax credit. When he was elected chair of the ASLRRA's Legislative Policy Committee in 2003, he led the effort that now provides $3,500 in annual tax credits for each mile of track that short lines maintain.

As Chairman of the ASLRRA one of the key initiatives McKechnie was involved in was the creation of the Short Line Safety Institute. The goal is to enhance and improve safety practices and to increase the short line and regional railroad industry's culture of commitment to safety. This initiative will benefit the short line industry and its employees tremendously.

Linda Bauer Darr, president of the ASLRRA, said, "It has been a real pleasure to work with and learn from Ed. His energy and vision bring a sense of optimism to the work of representing this industry that benefits all of us. He is tire less in his pursuit of a strong future for this industry so the industry is better for his service."

Watco Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer Ed McKechnie.

WATCO TEAM takes their kids to work

By Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

On April 28th, more than 37 million workers across the U.S. took their kids to work, Watco team members in the Kansas City, Kansas, office participated in this nation-wide event to teach kids what their parents really do each day.

There were nine kids who attended the KC event and they participated in a number of activities, starting with, naturally, a safety briefing. They discussed different types of jobs in the company and how they all work off of Watco’s Customer First Foundation Principles.

All of the kids chose an adult from around the office to interview. The questions were geared towards the kids hearing what adults wanted to be when they were their same age.

Watco team member's answers ranged from baseball player, to super hero, to teacher. Not one thought they would be working for Watco.

When asked what she learned that day Madison Butler, 13, daughter of Donovan Butler, manager pricing administration, said, "Each company really has their own code to how they do things and if you are good at what you do it's not hard to start a business."

The final activity of the day was making a business plan or creating a product that they would like to sell.

Zoe Jensen, 10, daughter of Aaron Jensen, vice president of business development, said, "When you pet a cat they release a chemical called oxytocin which makes them feel safe and happy. I designed a blanket that has oxytocin on it that will make the cats feel really great."

Butler said, "Everyone at the office enjoyed having the kids in. Seeing their perspective on how they view us and what our company does was interesting. Even more interesting were the different ideas they came up with when we asked what their business ideas were. We had some very creative and great ideas."

Watco Team Member Donovan Butler visits with the kids who attended Watco's Take Your Kid to Work Day.

Ed McKechnie was joined by his family, (l-r) Austin, Jackson, and Kristy, as he thanked them for their support while serving as Chairman of the ASLRRA.
A big congratulations to the Baton Rouge Team who recently celebrated their 10 year safety anniversary with a Cajun-style crayfish boil.

Baton Rouge’s manager, Geron Crotwell, attributes the team’s success to the fact that the team treats and cares for each other as family. The family atmosphere is due in part to the fact that several members have remained at the facility for several years. In fact, both Crotwell and team member, Kimberly Bourgeois, have been there since it first opened in 1980.

The team looks forward to having many more safety anniversaries, they believe that their friendly, familial environment and following the Watco way will help them achieve future safety milestones.

2016 Graduates

Congratulations to the following graduates!

Rachael Angermeier: Daughter of Phyllis Angermeier, Rail Fleet Specialist with Millennium Rail Inc. with Watco Supply Chain Services; graduating from Hol- lidaysburg Area Senior High School.

Jordan Ashford: Son of James Andrews, Director Lo- comotive Support Services; graduating from Indepen- dence High School, Independence, KS.

Hailey Ashton: Step-daughter of Steven Kincaid, Operation Supervisor in Ghent, KY; graduating from Carroll County High School.

Lauren Barrington: Daughter of Danny Barrington, Admin. Operations Asst. in Deridder, LA; graduating from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA. with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

Lucas Bellamy: Pricing Administrator in Overland Park, KS; graduating from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS., with a Master of Business Administration.

Mackenzie Ann Boatman: Daughter of Christopher Boatman, Director Automotive Operations for the Ann Arbor Railroad in Toledo, Ohio; graduating from Monroe High School in Monroe, Michigan.

Matthew J. Bohland: Son of Larry Bohland, Dispatcher at Ann Arbor Railroad in Toledo, OH; graduated from Clay High School, Oregon, OH.

Jesse Bolyard: Son of Garrett Bolyard; graduating from college of the Ozarks “Hard Work U”; Branson, Missouri with a double major in Agricultural Business and Agronomy.

Trenton Brock: Son of David Brock, Operations Su- pervisor, Ghent, KY; graduating from Gallatin County High School in Warsaw KY.

Austin Brown: Son of Joe Brown, VP of Operations Div. D, Memphis, TN; graduating from the University of Memphis with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science.

Hayden Brown: Son of Joe Brown, VP of Operations Div. D, Memphis, TN; graduating from Collierville High School, Collierville, TN.

Kacie Cheyenne Brucato: Daughter of Shannon DeVries, operator in Tampa, Colorado; graduating from Fort Lupton High School in Fort Lupton, CO.

Clayton Carpio: Son of Frankie Carpio, Car Repair Pittsburg, KS, Nephew of Tina Swallow-, Service As- surance, Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Pittsburg High School, Pittsburg, KS.

Ryan Cedeno: Son of Pat Cedeno, SVP Marketing and Sales WTS; graduating from St. Mary’s Colgan High School in Pittsburg, KS.

Ashley Cordisch: Daughter of Andrew Cordisch, CIO in Springdale AR; graduating from Rogers High School, Rogers, AR.

Drew J. Davied: Son of Cindy Davied, Administrative Assistant - Legal Department in Pittsburg, KS; graduat- ing from Girard High School, Girard, KS.

Keyshawn M. Davis: Grandson of David A. Young, Conductor in Silsbee TX, at Timber Rock Railroad; graduating from Silsbee High School in Silsbee, TX.

Kaitlyn DeGr aft: Daughter of Tony Cox, VP of Engineering, and Lori Cox, Quality Control Analyst in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Pittsburg State Universi- ty in Pittsburg, KS, with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education.

Katherine N. Findley: Daughter of Jeremy Findley, Switshman/Engineer in Pensacola, FL; graduating from Robertsdale High School with four years Navy IROTC.

Nicole Frey: Daughter of Thomas Frey, Supervisor in Ferndale, WA; graduated in December of 2015 from Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts Major in Accounting and Minor in Business.

Kristin Hope Garcia: Daughter of Edward, Engineer/ Switchman and Annetta Garcia, Clerk at the Derid- der, Louisiana; graduating from Evans High School in Evans, LA.

Susan Gogniat: Daughter of John Gogniat, Vice President Marketing and Sales in Monroe, LA; graduating from University of Pittsburgh School of Law in Pittsburgh, PA, with a Juris Doctor degree.

Michael Gustafson: Son of Patti Audet, WTAPS Ana- list; graduating from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN, with a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

Jack Harrigan: Son of John and Patty Harrigan SAP Director, Pittsburg KS; graduating from the University of Kansas, Lawrence with a KS Bachelor of Science in Business, Information Systems.

Jennifer Holcomb: Daughter of Joseph Holcomb, Engineer in Cry, OK; graduating from Lawton Senior High School in Lawton, OK.

Micah Howard: Son of Sofronia Howard, People Ser- vice Director in Pittsburg KS; graduating from North- east High School, Arma, KS.

Troy Howard: Son of Michele Howard Safety Adminis- trative Assistant in Pittsburg KS; graduating from Northeast High School in Arma KS.

Ryan Hoyt: Son of Michele Hoyt, Watco Supply Chain Services in Springdale AR; graduating from Haas Hall Academy in Fayetteville, AR.

Bridget Hybentine: Daughter of Carl Hybentine, En- gineer at Watco Supply Chain Services, Chicago, IL. is graduating from Tulane University; New Orleans, LA., with a Bachelor of Science double majors in Finance and Economics, with a minor in Latin American Stud- ies.

Michaela Kinyon: Dispatch Contributing Writer in Pittsburg KS and Daughter of Teri Kinyon, Engineer- ing Administrative Assistant in Pittsburg KS; graduat- ing from Benedictine College in Atchison, KS with a Bachelor in English and Secondary Education.

Devin Boyd Lankin: Son of Herb and Dawn Lankin, Herb is the Roadmaster, K&E Railroad Wichi,KS; graduating from Hillsboro High School in Hillsboro, KS.

Benton David Lewis: Son of Matt Lewis and grandson of Susan Lewis; graduating from Kimberly High School in Kimberly, ID.

Kaitlin Ann Lewis: Daughter of Matt Lewis and granddaughters of Susan Lewis; graduating from the University of Colorado, Boulder with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and English.

Paige Summer Moody: Daughter of Kyle Moody, Lead Locomotive Mechanic in Mansfield, LA; graduating from Southwood High School in Shreveport, LA.

Ashley Moore: Daughter of Donna Moore; CSR in Vicksburg, MS; graduating from Vicksburg High School; Vicksburg, MS.

Courtney Norris: Daughter of Lynda Patterson, VP Growth Strategies- Watco Supply Chain Services; graduating from Basehor-Linwood High School, Base- hor, KS.

Triston Parham: Son of Brock Parham, Track Fore- man at Blue Ridge Southern Railroad; graduated from Clyde A Erwin High School, Asheville NC.

Michael Penner: Son of Phil Penner, SVP Business Development, brother of Derek Penner, SVP Marketing & Customer Development and Trevor Penner, Opera- tions Supervisor of Tampa, CO; Terminal; graduating from Colorado University of Boulder, with a Bachelor Degree of Civil Engineering.

Hallie Roach: Daughter of Allan Roach, Senior VP of Business Development; graduating from the University of Missouri Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences. 

Jason Schroeder: Son of Jeffrey Schroeder, Assistant Road Master in Janesville, WI; graduating from Beloit Memorial High School in Beloit, WI.

Kailey Sheldon: Daughter of Steve Sheldon, Marketing Manager, West Region; graduating from the University of Montana in Missoula, MT, with a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Hannah Solis: Daughter of Juan Solis, Lead Main- tenance/Journeyman Electrician in Refugio, Texas; graduating from Rockport-Fulton High School in Rockport, TX.

Madison VanBecelaere: Daughter of Cindy VanBec- laere, Payroll Specialist in Pittsburg KS; graduating from St. Mary’s Colgan High School in Pittsburg, KS.

Alexis Lynn Wagener: Daughter of Tana Wagener, Admin. Clerk at Ann Arbor Railroad; graduating from Bedford Senior High School in Temperance, MI.

Baton Rouge Team celebrates ten year safety anniversary

By Molly Henneke
Contributing Writer

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...and the facility has remained the same in their commit-...
Stockton East celebrates safety

by Tracie VanBeeckenaere
Managing Editor

The Stockton East Terminal Team celebrated going three years without a Reportable Personal Injury with a barbecue lunch cooked by Terminal Manager Robb Johnson. Site Supervisor Mitch Wilkinson, Operator Dave Flores, and CSR James Ramirez all teamed up to achieve this record.

Terminal Manager Robb Johnson commended the team for their focus on safety. “We have some great team members who have been here for a long time and we look forward to celebrating many more safety anniversaries.”

Top photo: Site Supervisor Mitch Wilkinson checks the barbecuing skills of Terminal Manager Robb Johnson. Bottom photo: Stockton East Team Members Wilkinson, Operator Dave Flores, and CSR James Ramirez enjoy their celebratory lunch cooked by Terminal Manager Robb Johnson.

Births

Maxemiliano Rojas

Jose and Nia Rojas welcomed their first baby, Maxemiliano Rojas, on March 15, 2016. Maxemiliano weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz., and was 20.5 inches long.

Jose serves as a crew leader for Watco Texas Terminals in Houston, Texas.

Maxemiliano Rojas

May Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following team members celebrating their anniversaries!

1 Year:
- Jason Abbott, Ansil Antoine, Joshua Armel, Brandon Austin, Lucas Bellamy, John Bickle, Melissa Brown, Catherine Brugman, Miguel Cantu, Miguel Cantu, Gardner Cole, Bryan Connolly, Shanna Damesworth, Shaw Dickerson, Daniel Dreyer, Adam Johnson, Dennis Johnson, Taylor Johnston, Jason King, Teco Rees King, Johnni Lawrence, Dusty Lee, Pedro Luna, Cameron Macneil, Paul Martin, Joshua Mason, Kyle McCloud, Kevin Melvin, Michael Miley, Daniel Mourlam, Joseph Nervis, Robert Nies, James Ramirez, Jesus Ramirez, Omar Reyes, Corey Rittenhouse, Michael Robert, Kelly Schumann, Adrian Serrano, Matthew Sprayberry, Hunter West

2 Years:
- Jacob Abrahams, Ryan Albracht, David Alvarado, Marques Anderson, Pamela Cannon, Travis Chamberlain, Lloyd Christen, Marcus Connolly, Aaron Davis, Derrick Davis, Caleb DellaSeega, Christine Flanagan, Gabriel Gonzales, Martha Gurley, Sharon Hansen, Kevin Hedrick, Gerald Hoffman, Michael Holland, Gregory Jackson, Christopher Kleman, Scott Korth, Dave Kunes, Chad Lanfair, Robert Lepier, Brandon Lockley, Matthew Lumm, Christopher Maxwell, John McRae, Michael Moore, Marcos Nunez, Adam Oveson, Sherman Owens, Gary Plotts, Jerry Quintana, John Ray, Pamela Riedel, Kirk Ross, Joseph Ryder, Ryan Shockley, Jacob Short, Dwayne Smith, TraQuiesha Swan, Karrie Torina, Jerry Waun, Jason Wehr

3 Years:
- Jay Anderson, Jerry Bivings, Jordan Brown, Dino Candilas, Todd Coleman, Gary Doxtator, Frank Edwards, Thomas Fabis, Tyrone Fielder, Melissa Gardner, Rene Garza, Joshua Goeld, Tabitha Hansen, Kris Hemby, Jeff Huser, Willis Jones, Roy Lanthorn, Kris Moland, Floyd Russell, Henry Sanchez, Roger Schueler, Cole Schulz, Lawrence Shinavar, Laura Smith, Michael Smith, Jessica Swafford, Erich Walls, Zachary Wooldridge

4 Years:
- Drew Beasley, Timothy Boyd, Trinity Campbell, Colton Carr, John Davis, Lupe DeLeon, Tim Enayati, Daniel Farr, Mickey Goodman, Denon Green, Robert Groth, Matthew Grove, Jacob Hauser, Tashata Jackson, Jerome Lawson, Raul Lazo, Johnathon Lindsey, Jerry Lowe, Marcus McCalman, William Patterson, Daniel Perez, Tyler Pruitt, Zachary Starling, Matthew Tarwater, Christopher Thomas, Christopher Thyer, Luis Tovar, Mem Webb, Brice Willis

5 Years:

6 Years:
- Mario Bredato, Kris Colley, Alejandro Fonseca, Adam Hall, Timothy Herbert, Joshua Holt, Gerald LaBrec, Derek Penner, Latonya Smith, Jerri Titus, Terry Wall, Kyle Whitman

7 Years:
- Kevin Anselmi, Trevor Penner

8 Years:
- Randal Barrios, Nakia Jenkins

9 Years:
- Michael Hubbs, Ricardo Leija, Kenneth McGarity, Danyale Norman, Jeffrey Raker, Chris Spear, George Yanas

10 Years:
- Jason Danz, Charles Davidson, Nancy Kirbow, Matthew Koser, Hugh Peo, Dan Sanger, Keith Schlotman

11 Years:
- Aaron Coeter, Steven Conrad, Douglas Corbin, John Gaither, Teresa Gentry, Evan Groth, Timothy Groth, Kevin Keport, John McFadden, Jason Noll

12 Years:
- Amy Parady, Melissa Ross, Bradley Walker, Lance Williams

13 Years:
- Matthew Fetzer

14 Years:
- Michael Greenwalt, John Johnson, James Lilly

15 Years:
- Enrique Castillo, Richard Kelly, Duane Spurrier

16 Years:
- Ed McKechnie

17 Years:
- Robert Cronch, Vicky Crook, Karen Schmeich-Pettit, Casey Thrall

18 Years:
- Keith Liberator, Thomas Lipp, Douglas Marshall, David Muth, Jay Parsons

19 Years:
- Irineo Basurto, Scott Davis, Douglas Falkner, Calvin Jyles, Sean Nally

20 Years:
- John Snow

21 Years:
- Barbara Cody, Cesar Gutierrez

23 Years:
- Timothy Karp

24 Years:
- Birdie Thomas, Walter Tisler

26 Years:
- Terry Schiska

27 Years:
- Michael Brown, William Gray

28 Years:
- Todd Mulrooney

30 Years:
- Mark McClellan, Jay Prawucki

31 Years:
- Daniel Barrington

33 Years:
- Kathleen Kabay

37 Years:
- Michael Roberts

38 Years:
- Jose Acosta, Frank Jones

43 Years:
- Braden Seese
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Brooklyn Junction celebrates eleven years of safety

by Michaela Kinyon
Contributing Writer

This month marks yet another Watco safety anniversary, this time at the Brooklyn Junction transload facility in West Virginia. The team, made up of nine members, celebrated 11 years without any reportable injuries with a catered barbecue luncheon.

Terminal Manager Charles Stanley cites the experience and the training of the team members as the reason for the success of his location, as well as constant vigilance. “Like most Watco facilities, there are numerous risks and hazards associated with every task we perform,” he stated. “All of the teammates at this site keep a constant lookout for each other and for hazards that arise.”

Stanley also discussed the hard work and dedication of his team members as another reason for their success. “The whole team is committed to safety - from the new hire to the seasoned veteran,” stated Stanley.

Brooklyn Junction terminal unloads barges of high calcium lime from Lhoist North America and loads the lime into railcars for First Energy Harrison Power Plant. Having done this for 11 years injury-free is certainly something for the team members to be proud of!

SKOL TS&IC cleans up Coffeyville location

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

The notorious Dalton Gang rode into Coffeyville, Kansas, in 1892 to clean out a bank but they were unsuccessful in their venture. On the other hand, a new gang, the South Kansas and Oklahoma (SKOL) Team Safety and Improvement Committee (TS&IC), had much better luck in their efforts to clean up in Coffeyville. On March 31st, the group gathered together and accomplished such tasks as painting all of the derails, marking clearing points in the new Union Pacific Yard, painting ties and clearance markers in the North Yard, they tightened and renumbered all targets in the North Yard, and fixed targets on main line to correspond with correct movement for targets.

SKOL TS&IC President Mike Yoger said, “Safety was in full swing and team efforts were in full effect.”

Team members who were on hand to help with the work were Yoger, James B. Rehn Jr., Railcar shop representative, Chervalle; Joe McGruder, transportation representative for Cherryvale; Tung Nguyen, Winfield transportation representative; Robert Balzer, senior trainmaster Winfield; Gregg Ferguson, Coffeyville trainmaster; Mike Mulnix, asst. roadmaster; Chris Cain, asst. road master; and Jerry Waun, railcar supervisor.

SKOL TS&IC leaders took a minute to pose in front of a mural at the Dalton Museum in Coffeyville, Kansas (l-r): Mike Yoger, TS&IC president and Pittsburg representative; James B. Rehn Jr., Railcar shop representative, Chervalle; Joe McGruder, transportation representative for Cherryvale; and Tung Nguyen, Winfield transportation representative.