Switching location off to a chilly start

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Usually getting off to a cold start is construed as a negative but when you’re in Wyoming in December anything else would be out of the ordinary. Watco’s 24th switching operation got its start on December 1 at a chilly 22 degrees and, with few trees to block the wind, that 22 seemed a lot colder.

The Sweetwater Yard, named after Sweetwater County, Wyo., where it is located, is in Green River, and will provide switching for OCI, a major soda ash supplier. Soda ash is used in the manufacturing of a variety of everyday products such as glass, tooth paste, pharmaceuticals, detergents and paper products.

The yard consists of four interchange tracks totaling 42,000 feet of track space. The yard will be interchanging with the Union Pacific Railroad.

Although service began on the first, cars will not actually move until January 9, 2012. The yard will be served by six team members Ray Howard, manager; Chad Thomas, Malcolm Young, Bryan Barney and Thomas McMullen, operations and track, and a locomotive mechanic, yet to be named. The crew has spent the last month getting to know our new Customer and training and preparing the yard for service.

During this time they bar coded and sealed cars, did some minor track work along with safety and MSHA training.

“We’re extremely excited about this opportunity to establish a relationship with our newest Customer,” said Jerry Carter, director of operations, West Region. “OCI has been fantastic to work with and we look forward to great things in the future.”

Sweetwater County is known for the Green River Formation which contains the world’s largest deposits of trona ore, which soda ash is derived from. Soda ash mining from trona deposits up to 1,600 feet deep is a major industrial activity in the area, employing over 2,000 people at four mines, two of which are now served by Watco.

The formation also contains a large amount of oil shale as well. Soda ash is very acidic and will eat through the boots of the team members in approximately four months. Because of this caustic quality, the ties at the yard and plant are cement ver-

Watco couple rides off into the sunset

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Most people look forward to the day when they can call themselves retirees but for Jerry and Linda Kildies the day has a built-in bonus - both of them will begin retirement on the same day. After working for Watco a combined 24 years, their last day at the Jacksonville, Fla., mechanical shop will be January 6, 2012.

Jerry began working for Watco in February of 1997 as the national mobile repair services manager. He now serves as the manager of the Gainesville Regional Utilities operation and the Sparrow’s Point, Md., location.

Linda started her career with Watco in November of 2002 as the mobile services administrator. When the mobile services division was reorganized she moved over to the car shop side as administrative assistant to the plant manager.

Charlie Sigley, Jacksonville plant manager, said, “Linda always did a great job and was very professional. I’ll miss having her here at the shop looking over things.”

Dan Linden, vice president of mobile/mechanical, added, “I would like to thank Jerry and Linda for their dedication and hard work through the many years. It has always been a pleasure to work with them and they will be missed greatly. Their dedication to our Customers has earned them my respect and the respect of many others. I wish them the best on their retirement.” (Continued on page 5)
Watco is proud of all of our team members and considers them all champions but there’s an elite group of eight men who have earned the title of National Champions. Each summer brings an additional need for extra team members and eight men who filled this need also filled positions on the Pittsburg State University’s NCAA Division II National Championship team.

At the end of July the men traded in their Watco “uniforms” for the crimson and gold Pittsburg State Gorilla uniforms. John Brown, #5; Justin Woods, #14; Levi Kuntzsch, #17, Solomon Watkins, #23; Jason Spradling, #26; Jeffrey Seybold, #27; Kell Smalley, #78 and Gage McKinnis were all members of the Pittsburg State football team.

 Ranked number 5 in their conference at the start of the season, the Gorillas surprised many critics and finished out the season with a 13-1 record, losing only to Topeka’s Washburn University which they avenged in the playoffs with a 31-22 victory. The Pitt State Gorillas went up against Wayne State University out of Detroit, Michigan, in the championship game on December 17, 2011, and ended up on top with a 35-21 victory.

Two of the Watco crew earned 2011 Don Hansen All-Super Region Four honors as well. Return specialist sophomore John Brown was named to the first-team All-Region defensive squad and senior guard Kell Smalley was named to the second-team All-Region offense, along with Brown at wide receiver.

Coach Tim Beck took over the job as Pitt’s head coach in December of 2009. The following season the Gorillas went 5-6 in the regular season and ended up 6-6 after defeating Concordia - St. Paul in the Mineral Water Bowl. The amazing turn around has won Coach Beck the MIAA Coach of the Year Award, voted on by his peers and at this time he is leading the pack in the fan-based 2011 Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year for Division II.

When the men weren’t busy working at Watco they were busy working on their own on conditioning to prepare for the upcoming season, and it paid off. If the team were following Watco’s Customer First Foundation Principles, they certainly fulfilled the first goal of Improving Customer Satisfaction, the fans were definitely satisfied with this year’s outcome.

Congratulations to the entire Pittsburg State University football team, the coaches and staff for an outstanding job.

Susan C. Murray scholarship deadline set for February 24, 2012

Susan C. Murray was well known in the rail industry for the trade shows she ran and the publications she was involved in. As a manager, Susan Murray led by example. Susan understood the importance of hard work, and also play.

Upon her death, Commonwealth Business Media, Inc. created the Susan C. Murray Memorial Women’s Scholarship Program, to celebrate her life and success. It’s available to daughters and granddaughters of rail industry professionals. In this way, as in so many others, Susan’s mentoring touch will live on for many years to come.

All daughters and granddaughters of Watco Team members are eligible to apply for the scholarship and the deadline is February 24, 2012. The scholarship provides $1,000 per semester for up to four consecutive years.

Applications can be downloaded using the following link: http://www.joc.com/joc_inc/jocsailings/Susan_Murray_2012_Letter_pg-1-5.pdf
Oklahoma Joe’s the site of a memorable meal

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Beware when asking Kaw River general manager Mark McClellan and marketing manager Shellee Currier for restaurant recommendations, you never know what they’ll get you into.

When Watco’s HR Manager David Doiron was traveling through Kansas City he questioned the two on a good spot to visit for dinner. One recommendation was Oklahoma Joe’s, a famous and fabulous BBQ spot. When Doiron got to the counter to order he was confronted with video cameras from behind the counter and to his left. Doiron questioned the manager on who the celebrity was and the manager pointed to the man right behind him and said “Anthony Bourdain.”

Bourdain is the host of Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations, an ongoing American travel and food show on the Travel Channel; it also airs on the Discovery Travel & Living channel. Bourdain visits countries and cities worldwide, as well as places within the U.S., where hosts treat him to local culture and cuisine.

Doiron enjoyed his meal while sitting ten feet behind him were crews filming Bourdain’s visit to the Kansas City hot spot. Bourdain has deemed the restaurant one of 13 places to eat at before you die.

“People may disagree on who has the best barbecue,” he writes. “Here, the brisket (particularly the burnt ends), pulled pork, and ribs are all of a quality that meet the high standards even of Kansas City natives. It’s the best barbecue in Kansas City, which makes it the best barbecue in the world.”

Doiron gave a shout out to Currier and McClellan, “Thanks for the restaurant recommendation, my visit to Oklahoma Joe's BBQ was a memorable experience.”

Anthony Bourdain, an American travel and food host visited Oklahoma Joe’s in Kansas City, surprising HR Manager David Doiron who visited the restaurant recommended by Kaw River Railroad team members.

January Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following team members celebrating their anniversary this month.

1 Year: John Anderson, Colten Angel, Miranda Anselti, Raymond Bachtal, Jason Black, Raymond Bowen, Matthew Bridge, Andrea Burrow, Nathan Champion, Lucas Cummings, Diargo Edwards, Stacey Faison, Joseph Freitas, Isad Garza, Bill Goldsberry, Daniel Harkness, John Hitt, Juan Jimenez, David Justiss, Joe Keys, Alex Lopez, Brennan Lyons, Rob McDaniel, William Melton, Benjamin Murphy, Thearan Page, Charles Riley, Robert Ryley, Matthew Sargent, Steven Schrum, Jeff Smith, Curtis Terry, Todd Vaughan

2 Years: James Callhoun, William Casselman, Ricky Hollis, Henry Lewis, Seth Morris, Keith Owens, Clinton Schipper

3 Years: Michael Kertz, James McCoy, Perry Pego, Brent Shepherd, Abram Silva, Steve Sardafo, Chad Taylor, Raymond Warrington

4 Years: Ricky Carter, Russell Fahy, David Garcia, Jeffrey Hall, Jody Hyndshaw, Don Lake, Michelle Musgrave, Keun Perry, Regnald Portvent, Darci Spear, Gina Williams

5 Years: Jason Ankeny, Ron Close, Tomas Deleon, Jean Guerrier, Leland Lott, Amy Miore, Frank Nichols, Jared Ramsey, Ronald Rathgeb, Jonathan Shuster

6 Years: Thomas Addison, Lewis Bartson, Carol Cook, Carlos Diaz, Johnny Fields, Michael Gray, Josh Jacobs, Anthony Kirkland, Eddie Lapine, Steven O’Neal, Alexander Valles, George Yellott

7 Years: Roy Apperson, David Fontaine, Alan Light, William Melton, Jonnie Miller, David Noonan, Eric Strait, Shasta Stump

8 Years: Clint Allen, Richard George, Gary Grissold, Josh Gwillim, Terry Olin, Brian Pfluhofet

9 Years: Fallyne Deao, Karl Eggleston, David Fowler, Mitch Smith

10 Years: Edward Davis, Jonathan Evans, Jim Fearmonti, Michael McGee, Leon Odom, Kenneth Schulze, Samuel Wingardner

11 Years: Kenneth Parkin, Mindy VanBuren

12 Years: Leon Abercrombie, Aaron Guerrero

13 Years: Darrel Clabourn, Clarence Collins

14 Years: Mark Walker

15 Years: Roger Kelley, Artis Smith

16 Years: Charlene Slaye

17 Years: Shannon Kinsley, Brady Rogers, Rob Thrall

18 Years: Bonnie Baldwin

19 Years: Sherlyn Graham, Randy Heberly, Santiago Montoya, Charles Shope, Milburn Stewart

21 Years: Kirk Hawley

22 Years: Robert McKinnon

23 Years: James Young

25 Years: Tony Harper, Michael Roknich

27 Years: Dewayne Dockens

32 Years: L. C. Perkins

33 Years: Darrel Dyce, Charles Watkins

34 Years: Jefery You

35 Years: Rex Inman

36 Years: Steve Rhodes

47 Years: Earl Bowser

Rail Safety and Incident Investigation Seminar

Scholarships available

Progressive Railroading magazine has announced that they will award scholarships to deserving industry professionals for RSII 2012 – the Rail Safety and Incident Investigation Seminar.

This groundbreaking railroading event, presented by Progressive Railroading, will be held April 30 – May 2, 2012 at the Marriott Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.

WHAT WILL BE COVERED?

The seminar will focus on the critical area of Rail Safety and Incident Investigation and will cover a broad range of related topics including:

- Safety and Risk Assessment
- Derailment Prevention and Analysis
- Train Control Systems and Methods
- Detection and Warning Systems
- Vehicle and Track Interaction
- New Technologies and More!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The program is designed for professionals working with:

- Transit, Trams, Underground, and Light Rail
- Commuter Rail and Suburban Rail
- Passenger Rail, High Speed, Medium Speed
- Shortline and Regional Freight
- Class 1 Railroads
- Industrial and Mining Railroads
- Tourist and Scenic Railroads
- State DOT, Federal & Regulatory Agencies

Enter the Scholarship Competition at:
http://rsii2012.com/contact_scholarship.html
Resolutions for the New Year

How many times have you had a New Year’s resolution you didn’t keep? Often when we create New Year’s resolutions we aren’t always realistic, tending to be more ambitious than trying to make smaller, more achievable, goals. Although many use January 1 as a start date for their resolutions, experts say using the month of January to slowly begin working on your resolutions is the best idea.

With that in mind, here are some suggestions for resolutions you are more likely to be able to keep based on advice from specialists in psychology, weight control, nutrition and physical therapy.

The common theme is that it’s time to think differently about diet, exercise, family life, health care – and resolutions themselves.

1. Don’t Diet: Unless you want to doom yourself to feeling frustrated and deprived, that is. Diets backfire when people put a lot of energy into unsustainable ways of eating – cutting way back on a food group, for example. It’s better instead to resolve to eat natural foods, instead of processed foods. Try to stay away from food that is made in a factory, comes in a package or has ingredients you cannot pronounce. Instead, choose food with 3 or less ingredients, or natural foods like fruits and vegetables.

2. Be Aware of Stress and How You Respond To It: We all have stress; some is unavoidable, but we may be able to do something about the way we respond. Resolve to recognize the impact stress has on you. When you are feeling stressed, talk with friends or get some exercise, believe it or not exercise chemically helps reduce stress. Dealing with stress in a positive way instead of using aggression or reaching for junk food.

3. Pick a Goal and Try to Get Closer To It: If you know you need to lose 20 pounds, start out by keeping a food journal for a week, then review your calorie intake and set a goal to reduce your calorie intake by 5% for the next month. You are making smaller goals and once you reach the goal you build up to the next goal. Before you know it you will have lost those 20 pounds. Remember that consistency and moderation are tickets to a healthy lifestyle!

4. Get Going: Any activity is good activity. Get up while you are on the phone at work or at home and walk around. Park farther from your office or take the stairs. Make a conscious effort to walk more. If you’re already a walker, get in the fast lane and walk a little faster than usual to get your heart rate up.

5. Pick Something Small to Adjust: Small changes last longer than temporary diets. If you put cream in your coffee, change it to milk. Put lighter cream cheese on your bagel. Eat one cookie instead of three. You don’t always have to go straight to eating only the healthiest foods. Instead make a small change and move to something a little healthier, it’s a good start.

We get bogged down in routines, whether ferrying kids to activities, or coming home and turning on the TV automatically as if it were “electronic wallpaper”. Make resolutions that will help you become more conscious of what you’re doing.

Resolutions for the New Year

Everyone has seen it. You’re driving along in your car and there in the next lane you spot another driver with a cell phone propped on the steering wheel, eyes locked on the screen, and thumbs working a keyboard, tapping out a text message. You watch the other driver weaving back and forth, hoping that you can pass safely and that the texting driver will not cause an accident.

Texting while driving – the latest, most dangerous form of distracted driving – is a fast-growing hazard that endangers everyone. The human toll is tragic. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) reports that in 2009 more than 5,400 people died in crashes linked to distraction and hundreds of thousands more were injured. With the explosive growth of cell phones and texting technology, the numbers will only get worse – unless we do something about it. There’s no question that new communications technologies are helping businesses work smarter and faster. But getting work done faster does not justify the dramatically increased risk of injury and death that comes with texting while driving.

Most people know that it’s dangerous to text and drive, but there’s another fact that most people probably don’t know: vehicle crashes are the leading cause, year after year, of worker fatalities. Because millions of workers’ jobs require them to spend part or all of their work day driving - the Departments of Labor (DOL) and Transportation (DOT) and other organizations and allies have joined forces in a campaign to stop distracted driving and save lives. You can do your part by learning more about distracted driving at http://www.osha.gov/distracted-driving/index.html and at www.distraction.gov and by making your vehicle a text-free zone both on the job and during your non-work hours.

Texting while driving is a big and growing hazard and it will take a strong, concerted effort to bring this problem under control. We urge our team members, associates and allies to join us in this effort. Together we can help reduce the great danger posed to us all by drivers who send, receive and read text messages while at the wheel of their vehicles.

Tips for effective New Year’s resolutions

The top three resolutions made by Americans are losing weight (20%), quitting smoking (16%) and spending less (12%). Many people make and break the same resolution year after year. If you want to make a positive change in your life, you need to figure out what to resolve and how to keep that resolution. Here are some tips for making your resolutions as effective as possible.

• Ask: What would make me happier? It might be having more of something positive – more fun with friends, more time for a hobby or exercise. It might be less of something negative – less yelling at the kids, less nagging of your spouse, less sugar in your diet.

• Ask: What is a concrete action that would bring about change? Abstract resolutions like “Be more optimistic” are hard to measure and therefore difficult to keep. Instead, look for a specific, measurable action. “Distract myself with fun music when I feel gloomy”, “do sit-ups during TV commercials” are resolutions that will carry you towards those larger, more abstract goals.

• Ask: Am I starting small enough? Many people make super-ambitious resolutions and then drop them, feeling defeated before January is even over. If you’re going to resolve to start exercising (one of the most popular resolutions), don’t resolve to go to the gym for an hour every day before work. Instead start by going for a 10 minute walk at lunch or marching in place during commercial breaks in your favorite TV show. Little accomplishments provide energy for bigger challenges.

• Ask: How am I going to hold myself accountable? Accountability is the secret to sticking to resolutions. That’s why groups like AA and Weight Watchers are effective, and there are many ways to hold yourself accountable. You could make a Resolutions Chart and track how you’re doing; or form a goals group; or use online tracking tools. If your resolution is too vague, it’s hard to measure whether you’ve been keeping it. A resolution to “eat healthier” is harder to track than “eat a salad for lunch three times a week.”

• Ask: Am I ‘yes’ resolver or a ‘no’ resolver? Some people resent negative resolutions. They dislike hearing “don’t” or “stop” or adding to their list of chores. If this describes you, try to find positive resolutions: “Take the dance class I always wanted to take”, or “Have lunch with a friend once a week”. There’s no right way to make a resolution, but it’s important to know what works for you.
Tony and Mary McGee of Joplin, Mo.

A dinner and dance reception was held following the ceremony at the Tour of Life Ministries Wedding Island. The couple honeymooned at the Whitehouse Sandals Resort in Jamaica, and are residing in Oronogo, Mo.

Deaths

Dock Ulyssess Reese, Jr.

Dock Ulyssess Richard Augustas Lawson Reese, Jr., 61, of Somerville, Texas, passed away on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at his home after succumbing to pancreatic cancer. Reese had been an engineer with the Austin Western Railroad since April of 2003.

Reese was laid to rest on Saturday, December 17, 2011. Services were held at St. James Christian Church where he had been the pastor. Rev. Basil Lister was officiating and burial was at the County Line Cemetery.

Dock U. Reese, Jr. was born on April 28, 1950 in Mineral Wells, Texas to Dock Ulyssess Richard Augustas Lawson Reese, Sr. and Willie Mae Reese-Miller. He graduated from Temple High School in Temple, Texas. Reese served as Pastor of St. James Christian Church where he enjoyed preaching, playing guitar and teaching Sunday School.

Reese was preceded in death by his father. Survivors included his wife: Josephine Reese, sons and daughters- in-law: Dock U. Reese, III and Michell; Michael Moore and Shimeka; Joseph Reese; daughters: Talisha Reese, Lanita Reese, Nancy Reese, his mother: Willie Mae Reese-Miller, brothers: Richard Reese, Donald Reese; sisters and brothers-in-law: Nancy Durham and Carl, Eileen Perly and Samuel and Carol Summers; grandchildren: Taliyah Reese, Michael Moore, Jr., Mekhi Moore, Mercedez Reese, Zavia Reese, Nicholas Reese.

Lily Elizabeth Riley

Jack and Stacey Riley of Cordova, Tenn., are the proud parents of a daughter, Lily Elizabeth born on November 8, 2011. Lily weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Lily was welcomed home by siblings Hunter, 17, Alaina, 13, and Rider, 2.

Lily Elizabeth Riley

Proud grandpa Larry Van Houten is a member of Watco’s information technology team and is based out of Cheyenne, Wyo.

Lily Elizabeth Riley

Proud grandpa Larry Van Houten is a member of Watco’s information technology team and is based out of Cheyenne, Wyo.

Kennon Lawrence Landry

Kennon Lawrence Landry, 44 Neodesha, Kan., passed away on December 2, 2011. Landry was a welder at the Neodesha, Kan., mechanical shop.

Landry had been missing since December 2 when an oilfield worker had found his truck rolled near a river. On December 17, a team using sonar scanning equipment located his body more than 100 yards from where the truck was found. He was located under brush in about six feet of water.

Funeral services were held on December 22, 2011 at Christ Church with Reverend Dave Cheshier officiating and he was buried at the Neodesha Cemetery.

Landry was born February 7, 1967 in New Iberia, La., to Gene and Brenda (Teriot) Landry. He is survived by his parents and two sons Dyllan and wife Sheri Landry, Neodesha, Kan.; Keaton Landry, Fredonia, Kan.; two daughters Alexandra Swartz, and Phoebe Swartz, both of Neodesha, Kan.; fiancée Andrea Porter, Neodesha, Kan.; two sisters Amber Landry, St. Martinsville, La.; Laci and husband Chuck Freeman, St. Martinsville, La; two brothers Scott and wife Staci Landry, St. Martinsville, La; Kody and wife Tammy, St. Martinsville, La; and two grandchildren Anthony and Max Landry.

Kennon loved hunting and fishing. He was true to his home state and was a big fan of the New Orleans Saints and LSU Tigers. He never met a stranger and had a contagious smile. His love for his grandchildren had no limit. Anthony and Max loved going for rides with their Papa Kennon.

Watco couple

(Continued from page 1) Jerry and Linda both enjoy fishing and as far as their future plans go, Jerry says that they plan not only do a lot of fishing but traveling and enjoying life as well.

When asked what he did for Watco Jerry said, “I take of Customers. My prime responsibility was to see that our Customers had everything they needed. That means that we had to have the right equipment for the job and the training and supervision necessary to take care of them.”

Karen Alford, Director of Fuels, Business & Power Operations Gainesville Regional Utilities, said in a note to Jerry, “GRU will certainly miss your superior service and oversight of our railcar maintenance facility and operations. This was one part of my responsibilities I never had to worry about because of your hard work and diligence. As a team, we have accomplished quite a lot over the years. Through teamwork we have achieved significant savings on behalf of GRU ratepayers. I know under Mr. Loper’s leadership and James’ excellent work, we’ll maintain a standard of excellence for GRU’s railcar maintenance operations. Thanks again for a great working relationship over the past 13 years. It truly has been a pleasure!”

Jerry says he has been lucky. He has good people around him, outstanding people who are determined to take care of Customers and see that Watco Mobile Services has a bright future. “I really think we have a good niche. I don’t think others realize the importance of their Customers. We realize how important our Customers are - they are our first priority.”

Jerry and Linda have been married for twenty years. “They will have the chance to spend some of their free time upon retirement visiting their three children and two grandchildren.

The Watco Team wishes the duo well as they move on to new adventures.
West Region mechanical team a Cinderella story

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

With the football bowl games and championships being played across the country viewers will get to hear of the occasional Cinderella story, the team that no one expected to be there, who has overcome obstacles and prevailed to become champions. Watco has its own Cinderella story, the Lewiston, Idaho car repair team.

This three-man car repair team working on the Great Northwest Railroad (GRWN) in Lewiston, may be small and inexperienced but the numbers they are putting up tell a different tale. The trio has been tasked with the main maintenance and inspection of the 103-car grain fleet for the Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad (PCC) and repairs and inspection of the 90-car fleet for Clearwater Paper. In addition, the team has been diligent about detecting additional FRA violations needing repair in cars that pass through their shop.

Dan Paul, car repair supervisor, and Taylor Carter, repairman, have been working together since February of 2011 and Cameron Jarvis, car repairman joined them in August of 2011. Although still wet behind the ears, the two young repairmen have been quick studies under the leadership of Paul.

“Dan attended Watco U in October and has done a fantastic job of using the information presented in the course to become a great leader and teacher,” said Brian Simpson, GRNW and PCC general manager.

Paul on the other hand credits his students with the ability to pick up and retain new information quickly.

Paul added, “Early in December we had someone from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) walk the inbound train behind Taylor. Out of the 60 cars in the train they didn’t pick up a single defect. Taylor did a great job checking for issues and both guys perform this same level of service day in and day out.”

What “walking the train” means is that the car repairman will walk the length of the train noting defects or FRA violations, the inspector will then do the same thing, noting issues that he sees. Generally, nine out of ten times, the inspector will catch something that the car repairman missed. It may not be something that warrants a written notice but there will be something. Carter has managed to go through not only one, but two, walk throughs where the inspector didn’t note any additional problems. That’s quite a feat for anyone, let alone a novice.

Not only has the Cinderella crew increased the amount of cars they are repairing and inspecting, they are following Watco’s Customer First Principles by doing it all in a safe manner.

“The GRNW has been injury-free for four years and this group is a part of that success,” said Simpson. “Each team member effects the success of our safety record and the three have done their part in keeping our record intact.”

Although both Javis and Carter are novices, Paul has a 15 year history in the rail industry. Prior to joining the Watco Team Paul was with RailAmerica and gained experience working in many different capacities. His duties included track foreman and section gang, tie gang, full-time track welder, train service, and car repair.

Paul said, “I had tried to work in all fields to gain experience and I decided to join the Watco Team when I heard that they were rebuilding their car shop and was interested in growth as I was, so here we are.”

Hard work is also a key factor in the success of the threesome.

Jarvis said, “How I came to be where I am today is by hard work and pushing myself to succeed. I have received fantastic training from my supervisor and management here at Watco. I am a very driven individual who is always pushing myself to reach and obtain new goals. My philosophy about what I do is that with hard work and staying focused, there is no challenge or obstacle I cannot overcome in keeping this railroad safe and injury free.”

Taylor said, “I came to be where I am from the training I have been provided and the leadership of the people who surround me. My philosophy is that hands on learning and hard work has brought me my knowledge and led me to my success.”

Not only do the three have their success in the repair business in common but all three are avid outdoorsmen and enjoy hunting and fishing.

Paul is originally from northern California and he and his wife Trish have two children, Blake, 6 and Cheyenne, 4. In addition to his hunting and fishing, Paul and his family enjoy working with horses.

Jarvis and Carter both hail from Roseburg, a small city in southwest Oregon.