

Amherstburg News

July 7, 1988

"AMHERSTBURG PLANT STORY" (continued)

The ruins of the distillery buildings were left standing for some time while numerous inquests were conducted by the Ontario Fire Marshall's office. Despite a thorough investigation of every conceivable cause, they never succeeded in attributing a single definite cause to the explosion, although two popular theories emerged.

Mr. Traeff believed the concentration of dust in the air combined with the stifling humidity common to this region created ideal conditions for spontaneous combustion that lead to an immediate chain reaction in the rectifiers.

An official of the Fire Marshall's office, on the other hand, believed that fumes in the doubler kettle, which had been pumped dry that day of high proof alcohol, had mixed with air when the seal had broken, the explosion occurring when the mixture was touched off by a minute spark or static electricity.

The remnants of the doubler kettle were split from top to bottom and the wall near the kettle was bowed out.

After the debris had been cleared from the grounds, forty-two men were laid off indefinitely. By November, 200 tons of steel and 40 tons of copper had been salvaged, and McQueen Marine had been given the task of levelling the shell of the building. The immediate question on everyone's lips was, of course, whether or not the company would rebuild, but that decision was not to come for some time.

With only warehousing, limited bottling and some distribution in operation, all Mr. Traeff could assure the employees was that if the plant were rebuilt, it would be bigger than ever.

Mr. Traeff's words proved to be prophetic. Resting upon a personal unofficial visit and inspection by Mr. Samuel Bronfman, the decision to rebuild the distillery, when it came in 1953, marked the beginning of unprecedented expansion and modernization for the Amherstburg Plant.

The demand, particularly of the U.S. market, as it always had made Amherstburg a logical site from which to expand the corporation's export trade, and this expansion was made feasible through the wide interests of the House of Seagram and Distillers Corporation as a whole. It was only within the network of the Seagram Family that the Amherstburg Plant began to acquire a level of production that was not even dreamed of in its early days.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

On Friday night, June 3rd, the Company presented the long service awards to the employees who completed 20-year service in 1986, 87, 88 and 89.

The function was held in the Dieppe Room of the Cleary Auditorium. After the reception and dinner the recipients were formally introduced to the employees who joined the 20 Year Club at the last occasion and their guests.

Attending this special occasion from Head Office were: Mr. Doug Pashleigh and his wife Shirley and Bob Brinkman and his wife Georgette.

After the presentations everyone took the opportunity to mix and meet with each other and enjoy dancing to some entertaining music.

Several group pictures and photos of the individual presentation of the watches were made. We hope to have these pictures available in the near future.

The 20-year award recipients at the Amherstburg Plant were:

1986

Henriette Bezaire
Joan Browning
Richard Deneau

Lloyd Dube
Dale Iler
Lloyd C. Jones
Paul Levack

Glen Murray
Richard McCaffrey
Brian W. Sprague

1987

William Bailey
William Baker
Isabelle Bastien
Madelyn Bondy
Susan Boxall
Grace Delmore
Jacqueline Deslippe
Angela Dinunzio
Sylvia Drouillard

E. Marie Duckworth
Jean Duffy
Diane Foreman
Lorna Fox
E. Doreen Goodwin
Tormey Hamilton
Danny Lacey
Earl Maisenville
Joanne Maitre

Eric McLam
Shirley Paquette
Michael Purdie
Thomas Robidoux
Patricia Robinson
Leslie Sprague
Doris Trudell
James Vance

1988

Larry Amlin
Dorothy Bondy
Pamela Bondy
Margaret Cote
Helen Dupuis

Merry Garrod
Laura Gignac
Elizabeth Goodchild
Louise Gosselin
James Hutchins

Aldo Iannucci
Rose Mary Jones
Doreen Spearing
Judy Trombley

1989

Mervyn de Pendleton

Gary Goulin
Howard Skidmore

Greg Vermette

In addition to the 20-year service awards, we have been recognizing employees in the last few years who have completed 30 or 40 years of service.

The 30 year recipients are receiving a gold Seagram pin while the 40 year recipient is presented with a mantle clock with the Seagram name engraved on it.

These additional long service awards will be presented this week and we are congratulating all this year's recipients for their many years of service to the company.

Joining a group of five employees in the plant with more than 40 year service this year is Georgia Nemeth and the employees honoured for their 30 year service with the company are: Margaret Pettypiece, Jean Renaud, Margaret Beetham, George Greenham, Mark Fox and Martin Breshamer.

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We are about to begin the SUMMER VACATION with the July plant shutdown. The hot and dry summer weather is already here and many employees will undoubtedly have plans for travel and other vacation activities.

To remind you of safety at home and while on vacation, we are providing a small safety kit to all employees which will certainly be handy for family use in the car or boat. Enjoy your vacation and take the time to relax and get a well earned rest from your normal daily activities.

Just recently, we have issued to every employee in the plant a box with personalized business cards. We are grateful to Ray Doin, our Executive Vice-President of Marketing, for providing these cards to us. They give us a unique opportunity to promote our products to friends and family. The vacation time may give you a special chance to meet new people and friends; why not try your skills in promoting the good products we make and be an ambassador for the Company.

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"MELCUP AWARD"

In a recent issue of the company newsletter "Seagram Canada Update", an article was written about a new corporate program to promote excellence and outstanding effort by individual employees or group of employees. This program, announced as the "Melvin Griffin Craftsmanship Award Competition", was initiated upon Mr. Griffin's retirement in 1987 in recognition for the contribution made by our former president during his many years of service.

All plants and offices in Canada were invited to submit an entry in the first competition earlier this spring.

A few weeks ago, we received feedback that our submission on the installation of 1.75 L PET production on line #4 and the early introduction of Seagram 5 Star and Wolfschmidt Vodka last year in PET bottles to the Canadian market was selected as a winner jointly with the Head Office Bottling Services Group. We had been working closely with Bob Brinkman's staff on the conversion to P.E.T. but unknown to one another, we had both used this project as the entry for the competition.

On Monday, June 20th, Mr. Griffin and Mr. Abbott paid a visit to the Amherstburg Plant to present the trophy known as the MELCUP to the Bottling employees recognized as the winners in the 1987 competition. The recipients of the award for excellence at Amherstburg were: bottling mechanics Don Menard, Larry Renaud, Claire Fox, Ed McCaffrey, Bill Finlay & Paul Harrison, electrician Merv DePendleton and management employees Bill Baker, Ray Renaud and Brian Quimby. They will receive, as a group, a cheque for \$2,500, which can be used for education or a trip to visit other sites related to work responsibilities and interests.

The Melcup will be kept at the Amherstburg Plant for six months and will then be transferred to the Bottling Services Group at Head Office.

We are very pleased that the winners, who did an excellent job with the speedy conversion to PET production, were recognized for their individual effort. The incentive created by this annual competition will certainly promote excellence and craftsmanship throughout the company in the future.

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CONGRATULATIONS are in order for DAVE WIGLE, who retired on June 1, 1988 after 33 years of service with Seagrams.

Dave started with the company shortly after the rebuilding of the distillery and he worked there until 1969. He transferred to the Case Bond in 1969 and worked in that department as a lift truck driver, assistant foreman, and at the time of his retirement, as a Case Bond foreman.

Dave plans to spend two weeks in Elk Lake, which is located approximately 100 miles north of North Bay.

On behalf of the Seagram employees, we extend to him our best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

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SAFETY

On behalf of the Safety Committee and all Seagram's employees, we extend our thanks to Wayne Brush, Gord Marshall and Casey Overgaauw for their quick thinking and decisive action in extinguishing the fire on line #4 dump tank on June 3rd, during the afternoon shift clean-up in the Bottling.

Due to their immediate action in curtailing the fire, there was minimal property damage and no lost production or wages.

Two fire extinguishers were used in this incident and we have decided to provide some information in this newsletter on fire extinguishers and their proper use:

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

- 1) Fire extinguishers are pressurized devices that release chemicals or water to put out flames. They can be used to:
 - a) keep small fires from becoming big ones,
 - b) provide an escape route through a small fire,
 - c) help fight a small fire until the fire department arrives.

They are not intended for use in the fighting of large fires.

- 2) It is important that you recognize the different types of fires. There are three major classes of fires:
 - a) class A fires - these are fueled by ordinary combustible materials such as wood, paper, cloth, and many types of plastics.
 - b) class B fires - these are fueled by flammable liquids such as greases, oils, paints and gasoline.
 - c) class C fires - these are fueled by live electrical wires or equipment, such as motors and power tools.
- 3) In order to use an extinguisher safely and effectively, you must use the right kind of extinguisher for each kind of fire. Make sure that you know what extinguishers can be used for what fires. Types of extinguishers that are available are:
 - a) water (cools and soaks burning material) - use on class A fires,
 - b) carbon dioxide (smothers flames), dry chemical or liquified gas (reacts chemically to stop fire) - use on class B or C fires,
 - c) multipurpose dry chemical (reacts chemically to stop fire) - use on class A, B or C fires.

You should know what types of extinguishers are available in the workplace and the location of these extinguishers.

- 4) Let's review the procedure for using a fire extinguisher:
 - a) pull pin (some units require the releasing of a lock latch, the pressing of a puncture lever, or some other motion involving the extinguisher),
 - b) aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire,
 - c) squeeze or press the handle,
 - d) sweep from side to side at the base of the fire.Be efficient - don't waste any extinguishing agent!

Are there any questions regarding extinguisher types and their use? Do you know the locations of the extinguishers within the workplace?

WE WELCOME THE STUDENTS WHO ARE WITH US FOR THE 1988 SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM:

JACKIE DESLIPPE

Daughter of Leo Deslippe, has been assigned to the Quality Control department. She is entering her second year at St. Clair College in Windsor studying Business.

KAREN MOE

Daughter of Elsie Moe, has been assigned to the Office and Maturing departments. Karen is entering her third year at the University of Windsor, and is studying for a Bachelor of Science (Nursing) degree.

JOHN BEZAIRE

Son of Eugene Bezaire, has been assigned to the Bottling and Maturing departments. John is entering his third year at St. Clair College in Windsor, studying Business Administration/Marketing.

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LOCAL 2098 RETIREE AWARDS

On Wednesday, June 15th, our most recent retirees since 1982 were honoured at a wine and cheese party in the A.M.A. Recreational Centre. Approximately 60 attended the awards which included 29 of the 38 recipients.

Joe Beneteau, president, on behalf of the local's executive board made the presentation of a fine leather wallet to each retiree. Inside the wallets was engraved "CAW LOCAL 2098".

Thanks go to Isabelle Bastien, Eva Castellon, Norma Hamilton, Henrietta Bezaire and Forchie Vacilotto for decorating, serving and cleaning up. Dan Gibb and Paul Masson Wines provided the wine which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated.

DIANE FOREMAN

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"FROM THE SOCIAL WORKER"

In the last issue of "Amherstburg News", I told you a little about myself and my family. In this issue I want to talk a bit about families in general.

Often, we tend to take our families for granted - our spouses and children and even our own parents and siblings. We assume they will always be there for us, no matter what. We sometimes lose sight of the fact that families, like all living things, need to be nurtured, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

PARENTS ARE IMPORTANT!

What do they need?

patience
sensitivity
understanding
support
time out away from the kids
a sense of humour
flexibility
to be realistic
at least one good friend

KIDS ARE IMPORTANT!

What do they need?

attention
to be listened to
a chance to make their own decisions
time to play
love
praise
clear expectations
constructive discipline
to learn right from wrong

The vacation time is a perfect time to renew our commitments to one another, to throw away the "weeds" of disinterest and to plant new "seeds" of care and encouragement. Think about your family! Reflect on its significance to you! Remember that all families are special, important and different from each other. Take a day in the summer and celebrate with your family! You could

plan a family barbeque
visit an elderly family member
go to the park
build something together
take the grandchildren to a movie
go to church together
plant a garden
go for a walk together

You will feel rejuvenated and invigorated and will have gained a further understanding and appreciation of your family and of the importance of "you" in relationship to all other members of your family.

Thus, I say again, enjoy!! Rejoice!! Celebrate!!

FREIDA MCAVOY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

July 3 - Randy Head
7 - Jackie Deslippe
8 - Norman Renaud
9 - Gord Freeman
10 - Shirley Paquette
Betty Lou Beaudoin
11 - Stella Masse
Laurence Bridgen
14 - Ron Nedin
Bert Beneteau

July 15 - Lorna Beaudoin
Joe Schiefer
16 - Gerald Drouillard
17 - Kent Wigle
Jacqueline Deslippe
21 - Dave Beckett
28 - Rick Eagen
30 - Vic Deneau
31 - Bob Bondy

OUR CONDOLENCES TO -

JEAN RENAUD of Bottling on the loss of her brother Bob on June 20th.

TOM ROBIDOUX of Case Bond on the loss of his grandmother Rosa St. Louis on June 22nd

Retiree AMEDEE CHAPPUS on the loss of his wife Margaret on July 4th

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"FISHING DERBY"

The Seagram annual fishing derby was held on Friday, July 1st, 1988. The weigh-in was at White Sands with perfect weather making for a good turn out of employees, family and friends.

The prize for the largest fish caught went to Bill Finlay, with a weight of 4 lbs. 2 oz. making him the first two time winner in the derby's 12 years.

Most pickerel caught per boat went to Gerry Lucier and his two sons Rodney and Rick. Rodney also caught the largest bass.

These were only some of the 50 or so prizes handed out. Thanks again for another successful derby turn out.

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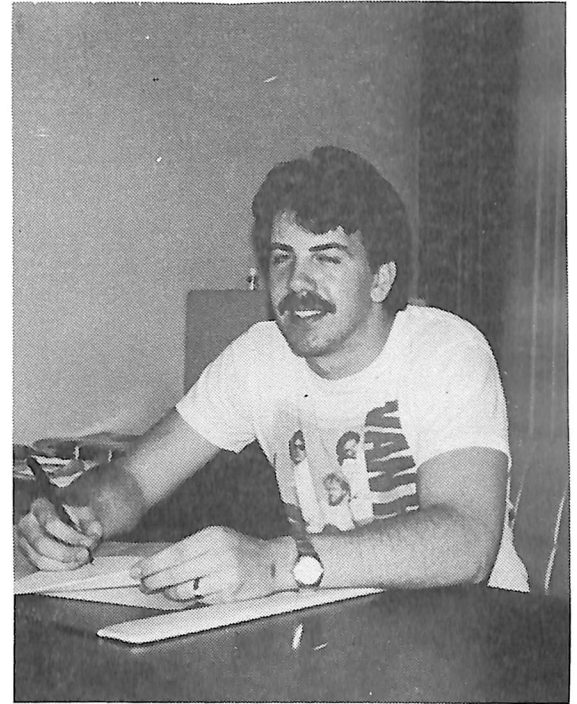
CONGRATULATIONS are extended to BRIAN SPRAGUE, who on February 1st retired from the Amherstburg Volunteer Fire Department after 35 years of service. He joined the department in April of 1952 and rose to the rank of Captain in 1966.

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20 YR. SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS



SUMMER STUDENT



JOHN BEZAIRE

"THE GOOD OLD DAYS"



OFFICE STAFF "1952"

BACK ROW: Art Pattenden, Alex Traeff,
Dunc Watson, Emil Boris
FRONT ROW: Terry Manson, Norma Horsley,
Betty Renaud, Toni Rosati, Frank Smith,
Evangeline Grondin, Paul Bisnaire,
Rosemary Montgomery, Bob Deslippe,
Bully Sprague



FORMER CHIEF EXCISE OFFICERS

JIM HENDRY,
FRANK SPITTEL,
LES MCKENZIE,
ABE THRASHER