

Amherstburg News

September 22, 1988

The new distillery rose on the site of the old one by 1955, and with the installation of an automatic bottling line the following year, the entire plant operated on a full, year round, capacity basis for the first time since the war. Shortly after the rebuilding of the distillery, the bottling and warehousing facilities tripled in capacity, the fermenter and yeast room facilities doubled, and a garage, pump house, quality control laboratory, dump house, and electrical substation were built. With the construction of a new 50,000 barrel warehouse in progress, and plans for a new bottling room under consideration, it appeared that the Calvert Distillery, one of the major industries in the town of Amherstburg, would continue to grow as the mainstay of the town economy.

The physical changes and development in the plant caused subtle changes in attitude of both management and employees. The easy informality and mobility of the pre-automation days were replaced by more exacting and confining demands of an automated operation, but the positions held by the employees now were more secure and stable than ever before. Faith in the Company and in job security had developed from even the early 1950's, when it took Caldist Employees Credit Union organizers Jim McBride, Les McKenzie, and Leo Deslippe among them, some vigorous arm-twisting to withdraw five dollars from twenty pockets in order to obtain their charter. In its first year of existence, the Credit Union fell seventeen dollars into the hole, and regulation meetings were made possible only by counting several members twice. In 1967, 340 people had invested a total of \$227,000 into the organization.

The days when women were making forty cents an hour on the bottling line were times when the family atmosphere of a small company in a small town prevailed, when company picnics were held annually in Kingsville, when contests were held to select the best design for the gardens along the river front property, and when the manager's daily tour of the plant was often interrupted long enough to tell Bob Sinasac, the Calvert ball team's ace pitcher, to take the afternoon off to rest his arm for the big game that evening. Some of this had passed, to be replaced by different means of welding the body of employees together - the Union banquet, bowling leagues, the family picnic, and the broader scope of these activities, such as the twice-annual golf tournament between the Amherstburg and Waterloo plants.

More people were working in one branch of the enterprise, at better wages, in an industry which was expanding constantly.

Although in the early sixties, the concentration of production had been on V.O. U.S.A, all the Calvert brands still carried the name Amherstburg on their labels, and the international distribution of these brands continued to focus attention on the town. The name on the front door of the unique and distinctive "Pioneer" office likewise continued to attract visitors who recognized the name. The very fact that V.O. was manufactured here reflected the integrated operation of the Corporation as a whole. With the House of Seagram, progress had been unprecedented in the past and appeared even brighter in the future.

Next issue: the 1967 - 1988 period.

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JOHN Q. DUFFY MEMORIAL

SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

Please be reminded that application forms for the John Q. Duffy Memorial Scholarship Grants are now available from the Personnel Office.

To be eligible, applicants must:

1. Be a child of an employee, (active, retired or deceased) who has been employed at least two years by the Company and who is not presently earning more than \$44,000 per annum in salary or wages.
2. Have successfully passed at least 1st Year University level.

The grant conditions, selection of candidates and application information are fully explained on the application form.

To apply for the grants, students should submit their application to the Personnel Department.

These applications are to be submitted NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30/88.

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The following press release was made by the company on the forthcoming closure of the Paul Masson Winery at Lincoln Ontario:

MONTREAL, September 1, 1988 -- Production of wine at its facilities at Lincoln, Ontario will be phased out this fall, according to an announcement made today by Gabor Jellinek, President, Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Limited.

"It is with deep regret that we have reached this decision," said Mr. Jellinek. "We initiated our activities there in 1984 and made a significant investment in anticipation of producing and marketing Ontario wines successfully. While production has been of the highest order, the market for our Ontario-produced table wines has not developed as we expected."

The decision to close the Lincoln plant is based entirely on economics. It will have no effect on Seagram's other Canadian facilities including its two Ontario plants at Waterloo and Amherstburg as well as facilities in LaSalle and Dorval, Quebec and Gimli, Manitoba.

In establishing the winery, Seagram purchased a building and approximately 5 acres of land on the Queen Elizabeth Way in the Town of Lincoln, not far from the City of St. Catharines. The building was expanded and improved to house production facilities as well as offices. These facilities will be available for sale when all operations have been concluded.

Twelve full-time, 18 part-time and 39 casual employees will be affected by this decision. A few will be transferred to other Seagram activities while the remainder will be accorded the normal severance arrangements.

"Seagram is appreciative of the cooperation it has received in the operation of the Lincoln plant from the Government of Ontario as well as the municipal officials of the Town of Lincoln," concluded Mr. Jellinek.

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SEPTEMBER SAFETY SLOGAN WINNERS

GENE CHIKAZ

&

BILL MAITRE

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

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"AROUND THE PLANT"

Since the return from the summer shutdown, the activities in the Bottling Department have increased and we have been running mostly a 4-line operation. A few weeks of Xmas litres was produced on line #5 in August and after an interruption of two weeks, we resumed the Xmas program on V.O. 750 ml early in September. Everyone must have noticed the increase in bottling volume of this year vs. last year which is a welcome change of the declining production requirements we experienced in 1986 and 1987. The whisky market in the U.S. is still flat or declining and all the distillers are competing fiercely to maintain or increase their market share. We have realized some gains in bottling volume from the gradual growth of Canadian Hunter and the transfer of additional markets for C.R. and V.O. to Amherstburg.

Higher volumes in the bottling has affected the Maturing Department as well providing an extra workload for dumping and blending. The distilleries in Gimli and Waterloo have resumed production and the filling operation will return to the normal level we had prior to the July shutdown. The installation of the two new Orion filters was completed in August just in time before the busier bottling season. We were fortunate to have these two filters on line in August as the extremely hot weather increased the temperature of the part blends to record high levels. This in turn reduced the efficiency of the filters requiring frequent filter paper changes to maintain the clarity of our blends. The blenders therefore welcome the change in the weather and temperature we have seen more recently.

The record hot summer conditions have been tough on the lawns around the plant. The benefit of the inground lawn sprinklers became very evident this summer as the irrigated areas retained their normal conditions and suffered little from the drought. The proper appearance of the Seagram Park along Sandwich Street was maintained well throughout the summer due to the efforts of the Yards & Grounds crew. Inside the yard, we improved the conditions for the truck movements in the plant by doing paving repairs in front of the Case Bond loading dock and by regrading and providing better drainage of the yard between F warehouse and the old bottling building. This area is mostly used for empty trailers during this time of the year with heavy truck movements.

In the General Office and Maturing, the training of the computer operators and the spare clerks is continuing with a gradual changeover to the new system. With the departure of Noel Witherell, the responsibility for the office administration has been taken over by Elso Pontini. In preparation of his new assignment, Elso spent some time in Waterloo and Head Office to familiarize himself with their computer systems which are similar to our present system.

With all these positive signs of improvements and busier plant activities, we are looking forward to a successful Xmas bottling program this fall and a good overall performance in the plant for the balance of 1988.

S.A.F.E.T.Y

With the safety data available in the first 8½ months of 1988, we are showing an encouraging improvement in the plant safety performance compared to last year with 4 Lost Time Accidents vs. 11 in 1987 for the same period. It is a different story on the number of days lost from L.T.A.'s as we show 382 days lost in 1988 vs. 171 in 1987. The increase was mainly attributed to a large carry over of days lost from L.T.A.'s occurred last year. It gives us a reminder that major improvements in our safety performance can and should be made. We hope that the current trend with the number of L.T.A.'s will continue for the balance of the year.

In analyzing our plant safety data, we found that inspite of the problems with our total plant performance, we have many employees with excellent work records with regard to safety. It was decided to recognize these good performers and award them with a Seagram Safety Pin reflecting their years of service without a Lost Time Accident or additional time off from a previous L.T.A.

These pins were recently handed out by your Supervisor or Department Head. The list for these awards shows that we have 83 employees with 20 year pins, 29 with 15 year pins, 40 with 10 year pins and 30 with 5 year pins.

We wish to congratulate all these recipients with their excellent safety record and we hope that many more employees will become eligible for a 20 year pin in the future.

"UNITED WAY"

Each year at this time, a large group of volunteers, recruited from the generous and caring population of Windsor & Essex County, work together for six weeks to make sure that the annual campaign for the United Way will be successful in raising funds for the social services provided by this organization on a year round basis. The continued success the local United Way has enjoyed is not guaranteed automatically. Despite excellent organization and outstanding volunteer efforts, the last two campaigns have fallen short of the goal and the necessary services have been provided only through drawing on declining contingency reserves.

Under the leadership of the Chrysler employees who have been given the responsibility this year for the United Way, we have been asked again to run an effective plant campaign, which will start on Tuesday, October 4th. Joe Beneteau has accepted the position as in-plant campaign chairman and he will be assisted by Dan Keltika to organize the 1988 fund drive.

The key to the success of the United Way campaign throughout this area, has been the support of all the workers in the various plants and offices. Many companies reach levels of participation between 90 - 95%. Although we can be proud of our past performance, the participation at this plant is below the level of the major industries in our area. We are appealing this year, specially to the employees who did not give in previous years. Our canvassers can assure that your donation is well spent, and will be applied totally to social services spent in our own community.

The United Way campaign slogan: "YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE" expresses exactly that every donation, large or small, counts. Organized labour in this district and your union fully support the United Way. With the payroll deductions available and the company's pledge to match your gift dollar for dollar, we make it easier to donate.

Let's make this year's United Way campaign the best ever in our plant.

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EXCHANGE AMHERSTBURG - LASALLE

On the weekend of August 26-28, a group of Amherstburg Seagram employees, retirees and their friends enjoyed a bus trip to Montreal. The purpose of the trip was to make an exchange visit with employees from the LaSalle Plant and play a softball game against their team on Saturday afternoon. The Amherstburg team did well and won the game: 7 to 4.

The most valuable players in this event and trip were:

ED MACHURA, who was the winning pitcher and JIM HUTCHINS, who won the most Euchre games on the bus.

After the game, the visitors were treated to refreshments and a dinner in the hospitality room at the LaSalle Plant. On Saturday night, the group went to the Montreal Olympic Stadium where the Expos beat the San Diego Padres 4 to 0.

Highlights of the exchange visit were:

- the hospitality and the dinner at the LaSalle Plant.
- the Expo's baseball game in the very impressive Montreal Olympic Stadium.
- the occasion to meet and have pictures taken with Bobby Clarke and his Philadelphia Flyer hockey team who were staying at the same hotel.

With the help of Joe Beneteau, the "personal interpreter" for the team, everyone got around the city without too much of a problem.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and they thank their hosts at LaSalle for the warm hospitality.

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BOB DESLIPPE:

CONGRATULATIONS to BOB DESLIPPE who retired on September 9th after 41 years of service with the company.

Bob worked for most of his time with Seagram's in the Company Excise and Maturing Office, although he was assigned to the plant Quality Department and the Waterloo Office for a short time. He was treated well by his co-workers on the last work day; they provided a dinner and presented him with several gifts.

Needless to say that Bob will spend a lot of time on the local golf courses and he will keep himself busy with involvement in K of C and Legion activities.

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

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CONDOLENCES TO:

The family of GEORGE GREENHAM, who passed away on August 4th after serving 30 years with the company as a Security Guard.

The family of GUY WILLIAMS, who retired 3 years ago. At the time of his retirement, Guy had worked almost 30 years in the Bottling and Maintenance departments.

ROBERT BONDY, whose father passed away July 28th.

MARGARET PETTYPIECE, receptionist, whose husband Tom passed away August 1st.

EDWARD MACHURA, whose father Peter, died July 9th.

LAURENCE BRIDGEN, Security Guard, whose brother Merrill died August 25th.

LARRY HARRIS of Bottling whose grandmother Sadie Harris died on August 2nd.

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FAREWELL TO EDITH BROWN

On Wednesday, September 24th, 56 Bottling ladies and retirees from Seagram's met at the Anderdon Tavern for dinner to say farewell to Edith Brown.

Edith and her husband Elton have decided to spend their retirement years back home in Newfoundland and they are moving to Corner Brook at the end of September. She had 30 years of service with us when she retired last February 1st, 1988.

Everyone is wishing her well in the future; she will be missed by her friends in Amherstburg.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

September 1	- Joan Browning	September 16	- Diane Cadarette
2	- Elsie Sprague	18	- Paul Pouget
4	- Margaret Pettypiece	21	- Jeannine Shaw
12	- Howard Skidmore	23	- Richard Bezair
13	- Pat Robinson	26	- Ruth Ann Rocheleau
15	- Marjorie Beaudoin	29	- Tom Ostapovitch

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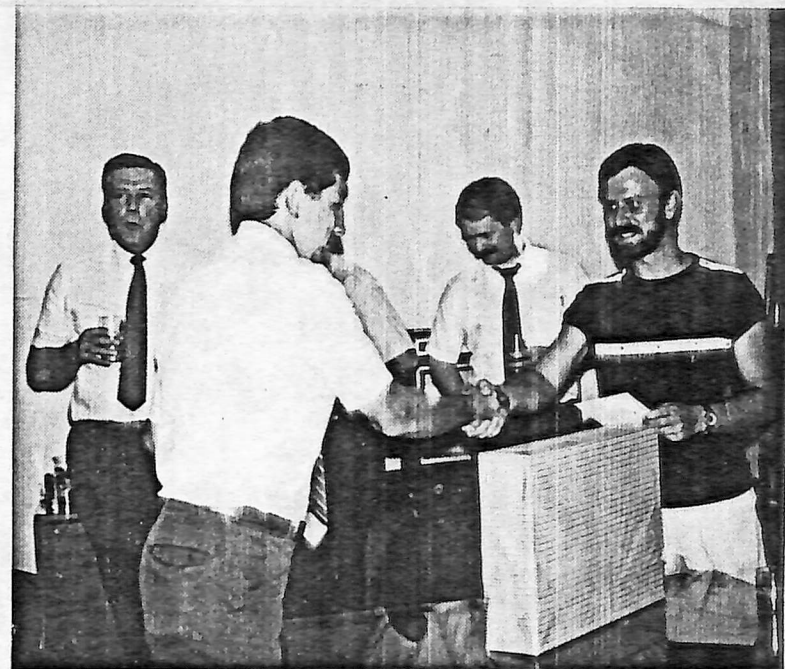
CONGRATULATIONS TO:

JOHN SCHUURMAN of Bottling and his wife Laura on the birth of their 3rd child, a daughter Brittany Anne on July 30th.

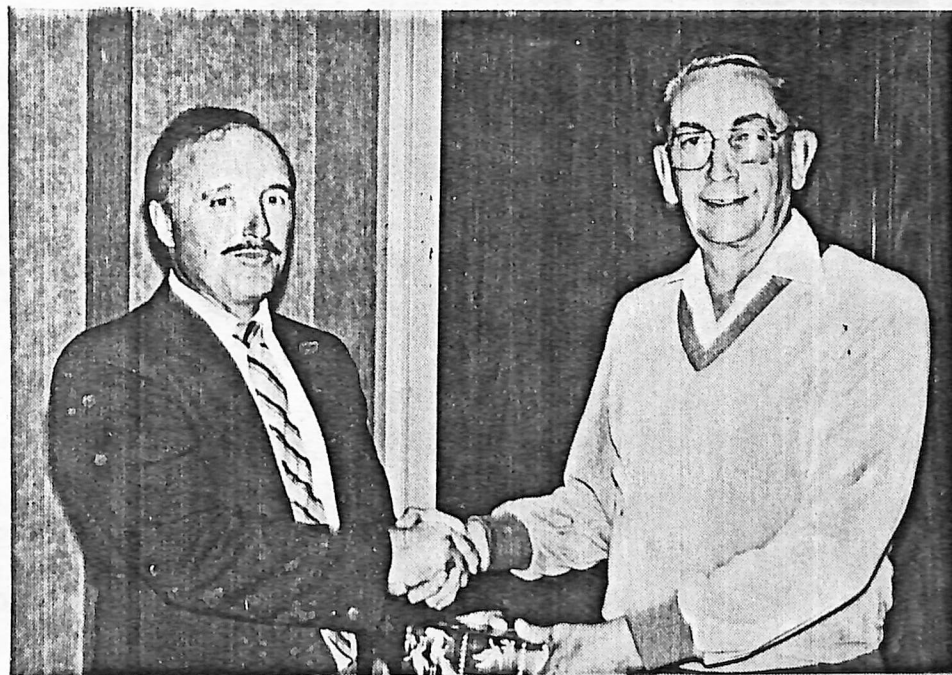
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30 YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS
L to R: M. BRESHAMER, M. FOX, J. RENAUD, M. PETTYPIECE,
M. BEETHAM, G. NEMETH, G. GREENHAM



D. KELTIKA N. WITHERELL
"FAREWELL TO NOEL"



G. FREEMAN

RETIREE BOB DESLIPPE



RETIREE BOB DESLIPPE