M&H Valve Annual Company Picnic

M&H Valve Company hosted its 13th annual picnic on Saturday, August 12th at Camp Lee in Anniston with over 400 people participating. Employees and their families enjoyed great food, zip lining, swimming, canoeing, fishing, a cornhole tournament, face painting, and activities for the little ones. Our own Jose Rolon (Wedge Coat employee) used his “DJ skills” and played music throughout the day. One of the most popular things was the Kona Ice truck with unlimited snow-cones. The Camp Lee staff was friendly and helpful – ensuring a relaxing time for all. Several people (team members and family members) also won door prizes.

The winners of the Cornhole tournament:
1st Place - Mark Kane and Michael Homesley
2nd Place- Joe and Dillon Thornburg (Sue Thornburg’s husband and son)
I had the fortune during my time at Tyler Pipe to have many people enrich my life, and one of these was certainly a man named Don Waugaman. Don was the vice president of sales at the time, and as I was responsible for operations we didn’t interact on a daily basis. But when we did, it usually wasn’t to congratulate ourselves on how well things were going. Normally we talked when something had to some degree or other gone wrong.

Against that backdrop you might understand my mood was usually not good when I would call Don, and we often disagreed so you might guess our conversations were frequently emotionally charged (and you would be right). We were also quite the contrast: I was the filthy, sweaty operations guy with paint on his clothes. He was the quintessential cool sales guy with interesting socks, and when he wasn’t in I had to wait for his voicemail greeting to end to leave a message. The first part of the greeting changed from time to time, but the end – the part that got on my last frayed nerve – was always the same: “And, hey – Make it a great day!”

“Hey, Don” I would think to myself after hearing that advice for the nth time, “Guess what? It’s not a great day. In fact it’s the opposite of that. And how about you don’t tell me what to do? How ’bout I have any kind of day I want?!”

And so on.

It took some time before I began to see the wisdom of what I had first thought was just a throw-away sales line. I began to see how many of our problems existed simply because we had done nothing to stop them from occurring. In the absence of making the right things happen, we had found several ways to allow the wrong things to take their place.

Some managers just expected it to be a great day. They knew we had processes and procedures in place that were designed to make things work out so why (even in the face of consistent failure) should they not expect to get the results we were looking for? They seldom did, but the comforting thing was they were always able to pinpoint what part of the system fell down. We had another group that hoped it would be a great day. If hope does indeed spring eternal, in them I had found the source. They relied on faith that after a run of bad days certainly we were due, but that system didn’t work out much better for them than the first. The last group wondered what kind of day it would be. They sure didn’t know (how could you?), but they did know that when whatever what was going to happen happened they were going to react to it like nobody’s business.

Seeing all this with Don’s tagline etched in my brain crystalized our problem: We had no reason other than chance to expect tomorrow to be great because we had done nothing to make it so. We had not shared with everyone in the shop what success would look like. We did not plan out what we were going to do to bring that about. We didn’t anticipate what might go wrong and prepare for that. In short, we didn’t work at making it a great day; we just worked.

I’ll ask you then, is tomorrow going to be great? If you haven’t considered that yet, then you’ve already lost. And if you answer “yes”, then what have you done to make it so? If you can’t answer that question, I’ll suggest you’ve lost again. So please, go out there and try this. Understand what success looks like for your area and then make it happen. That’s right – I’m telling you to make it a great day!

Don would be proud. Oh, and have you checked out my socks lately?
In November 2016, a Mazak Palletech system with Mazak FH6800 horizontal machines were on auction in Kentucky. M&H Valve made the decision to purchase the machines and accepted the task of getting them relocated from Russellville Kentucky to Anniston, Alabama. M & H Valve team members- Jason Floyd, Ricky Powell, David Sheets and Cecil Payne took on that task. The machine shop maintenance department loaded up tools and supplies for the early morning trip to Russellville, Kentucky.

While the crew worked removing the machines in Kentucky, back at the plant, Mike Brown worked to find a location in the shop for the machines. Chris Boger coordinated with Gary Ray on getting a trucking company lined up to bring the machines from Kentucky to us at M & H Valve.

Once the machines arrived, they were off loaded and stored in the AX building until they could be installed in the shop. The maintenance crew came together to cut the concrete and pour the foundation for the first machine. The first two machines were set in place to begin production in June. To install the next two machines meant removing two of the Okuma machines that were still running production. Blake Hurst would oversee that the Okuma machines ran until they were ahead on parts that would allow the shutdown. The two machines were then removed. Then, the last two Mazak machines were set into position. The third machine was released for production in August. The fourth machine is scheduled to begin production around October 6th after replacement parts arrive.

This was a great team effort from the Machine Shop. Everyone worked together to make this a smooth transition. Thank you to all those who contributed! -Cecil Payne
HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

We would like to give a big thank you to all of the M&H Team Members and our Vendors who contributed to the donations for all of those in Texas who have been decimated by the storms that occurred recently. We need to all be very thankful here, for not having to suffer a lot of the tragedies others are having to deal with in our country.
-Gary Ray

Thanks to our Shipping/Receiving team members for getting all these items ready to go to Texas!
A very important part of our waste management procedures is reducing the amount of RCRA hazardous waste generated to the greatest practical level. In fact, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) requires hazardous waste generators to have a waste minimization plan in place that says how they will do this.

I wanted to take this time to thank all of you and let your families know because of our efforts as a team M&H has continued to be a small quantity hazardous waste generator every month since February 2015. Before that time, our melting furnace baghouse dust was hazardous. We were able to change the chemical used for the baghouse filter bag “pre-coat” and render it non-hazardous. Most importantly the employees in the foundry are doing a great job of maintaining the pre-coat system on a day-to-day basis, month after month, and year after year.

Currently, our largest hazardous waste stream generated is brass machining waste. This waste is generated from the rags, gloves and other cleanup materials used around our brass CNC machines. The waste is considered hazardous because of the amount of lead it contains. Beginning in 2014 the machine shop began using “Eco Brass” which has a much lower level of lead than the brass used in the past. Since that time, both the operations and maintenance employees have done a great job of operating the machines and completing preventive maintenance including removing previous higher-lead chips from the machine. Because of their work, we will now be able sample each drum generated to determine the level of lead. Based on the first drum sampled, I expect the same results we accomplished with the melt baghouse dust.

Finally, McWane benchmarks or compares the facilities in its valve and hydrant group for environmental compliance including the amount of wastes generated. M&H continues to be the best in class in our group, producing about one percent of the hazardous waste generated by our comparable facilities. Great Job!

Thanks again,
Danny Lewis

Congratulations to Larry Parker! He retired on July 31st. Larry worked at M&H Valve for 45 years!! He was extremely talented in fabricating anything one might need and worked on special projects in Foundry Maintenance. Larry plans on spending time with his family after retiring.
Thank you for all your years of service Larry!

This “Hydrant Sighting” was sent in to us from Will Matthews (M&H Valve Machine Shop Supervisor). It is a 1965 M&H hydrant that has been repainted several times. It is located in Greenwood, Mississippi. Pictured with the hydrant is Will’s daughter Cadence.
Tailgate Treat “Ham & Cheese Sliders”

1 cup melted butter    1 tablespoon dried minced onion
3 tablespoons Dijon mustard    24 mini sandwich rolls
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce    1 pound thinly sliced deli honey ham
1 1/2 tablespoons poppy seeds    1 pound sliced Swiss or pepper jack cheese
1 teaspoon garlic powder

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease two 9x13-inch baking dishes.
2. In a bowl, mix together butter, Dijon mustard, Worcestershire sauce, poppy seeds, garlic and dried onion. Separate the tops from bottoms of the rolls, and place the bottom pieces into the prepared baking dishes. Spread 1/2 the butter mixture onto bottoms. Layer the ham onto the rolls. Arrange the Swiss cheese over the ham slices in a layer. Place the tops of the rolls onto the sandwiches. Pour the remaining half of butter mixture evenly over the rolls and use a brush to spread out.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until the rolls are lightly browned and the cheese has melted, about 20 minutes. Slice into individual rolls through the ham and cheese layers to serve.

YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WILL LOVE THESE!!!
Please welcome our new Team Members for the 3rd quarter of 2017

Welcome to M&H Valve Company!

James Hardcastle (Cleaning Room)       Joshua Stillwell (Cleaning Room)       Travis Franklin (Cleaning Room)
Noah Lynch (Powdercoat)                 William Jones (Molding)               Justin Kelley (Cleaning Room)
James Sams (Cleaning Room)              Forrest Carver (Cleaning Room)        Joshua Dupree (Cleaning Room)
Clinton Herb (Cleaning Room)            Richard Payne (Cleaning Room)         Artesia Jones (Melting)
Jerry Culberson (Cleaning Room)         Joshua Hawthorne (Cleaning Room)      Shaquill Ackles (Cleaning Room)
Torey Edwards (Cleaning Room)           Qurienton Scales (Cleaning Room)       Jomar Melendez (Outside Sales)
Matthew Hicks (Fdry Maintenance)        Charles Wilson (Molding)              Devarius Harris (Cleaning Room)
George Dibo (Outside Sales)             Charles McKinney (Cleaning Room)      Gregory Hill (Fdry. Maintenance)
Mark Goodson (Powdercoat)              

Robert Smith  10/1  10 yrs  Cheyenne Good  11/1  18 yrs  Daniel McIntyre  12/4  11 yrs
Eddy Balch    10/1  5 yrs  Clyde Brown    11/2  2 yrs  Timothy Davidson  12/12  1 yr
Tommy Fielder 10/2  45 yrs  Luis Gomez     11/4  4 yrs  James Forsythe    12/12  1 yr
Matthew Lambert 10/2  11 yrs  James Forrest 11/5  5 yrs  Menzo Parker    12/15  20 yrs
Bobbie Hammond 10/5  11 yrs  Peter Strickland 11/10  1 yr  Terry Storey    12/19  6 yrs
Will Matthews  10/8  5 yrs  Kenneth Boyce  11/12  15 yrs  Cody Roblee    12/19  1 yr
Kevin Bowers  10/10  1 yr  Michael Spears  11/14  1 yr  Luis Rodriguez  12/19  1 yr
Lanny Gaines  10/11  24 yrs  Steve Munroe  11/15  18 yrs  Keith Williams  12/19  1 yr
Nathaniel Moon 10/11  1 yr  Echols Bryant  11/16  30 yrs  Griffin Herb    12/20  7 yrs
Sue Thornburg 10/13  20 yrs  Larry Harrell  11/20  2 yrs  Jason Floyd    12/22  20 yrs
Drew McCullough 10/13  9 yrs  Joshua Hammond 11/21  1 yr  Thomas Strickland 12/28  2 yrs
Doug Lewis    10/14  4 yrs  Jerry Brown   11/22  18 yrs  Shawn Elder    12/29  1 yr
Dalton Heath  10/18  1 yr  Randall Kerr  11/28  23 yrs  Jacob Fortenberry 12/31  3 yrs
Anterio Turner 10/19  18 yrs  
Michael Brown  10/23  22 yrs  
Joshua Gunning 10/24  12 yrs  
Algaenun Christian 10/24  1 yr  
Wesley Bones    10/27  20 yrs  
Dennis Jackson  10/27  20 yrs  
Ricky Powell    10/31  6 yrs  
Aniceto Zavala  10/31  6 yrs  
Chris Bohannon  10/31  1 yr  

ANNIVERSARIES
October, November, December

Robert Smith  10/1  10 yrs  Cheyenne Good  11/1  18 yrs  Daniel McIntyre  12/4  11 yrs
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Dennis Jackson  10/27  20 yrs  
Ricky Powell    10/31  6 yrs  
Aniceto Zavala  10/31  6 yrs  
Chris Bohannon  10/31  1 yr  

Congratulations!
### BIRTHDAYS

October, November, December

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**