



3rd Quarter 2023

THE MELTMINDER

A PUBLICATION BY BENTON FOUNDRY, INC.

Web Site: <http://www.bentonfoundry.com>

Congratulations - Employees of the Quarter



Congratulations to **Shawn Nevel** (above), Benton Foundry's 1st shift Employee of the Quarter. Shawn works in our Molding Department as a Machine Operator. He previously worked on 2nd shift in the Melt Department, serving as a supervisor. Shawn is a long-time employee with over 25 years. He has worked in various departments and he is willing to fill in wherever needed. He lives in Mifflinville, with his wife Crystal -- congratulations on their recent wedding. Shawn enjoys spending time with his nephew and grandson when he is not at work.

Great Job!

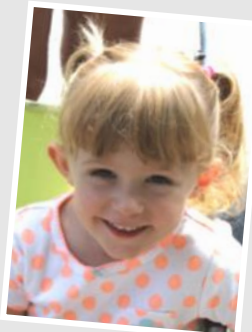
Congratulations to **Billy Green** (below), Benton Foundry's 2nd shift Employee of the Quarter. Billy works in our Melt Department as an Iron Pourer. He has been here for several years, previously working in the grinding room. Billy has received this award in the past. He lives in Benton and he enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, riding 4-Wheelers, snowmobiles and working on small engines when he isn't working.

Great Job!



Annual Company Picnic at Knoebels

Benton Foundry held its 27th annual company picnic on Saturday, August 12th at Knoebels Grove. It was a perfect summer day with lots of sun and fun. We had a nice turnout, with over 400 attending. There were lots of great prizes, many of which were donated. We enjoyed each other's company, good food, games and rides. A wonderful time was had by all and a huge **thank you goes out to all** that participated in making this event possible.



Knoebels Picnic



Knoebels Picnic



Knoebels Picnic



Knoebels



Benton Foundry History

War Effort Aided By Harrington Foundry

BF History Part 3:

Our last article covered the startup of the original foundry by Newton Harrington upon his return from the Civil War. We discussed the famous Harrington plow and dinner bell which most families owned at that time and also some unique practices families used to partake in, such as fixing their own shoes. This quarter's article will talk about Newton's son, Herbert and his sons, Roy, Alfred and Stanley. We will look at their contribution to the iron industry and to the customers they supplied.

Herbert Harrington, son of Newton, maintained a very successful business through the late 1800's and early 1900's. He was a man of hard work, but also enjoyed some recreational activities. He enjoyed trout fishing and hunting deer and bear. He built a room the full length of his house for square dancing where he would play the fiddle on occasion.

Roy, Alfred and Stanley Harrington, Herbert's sons, started working in the foundry as soon as they were old enough to lift a piece of iron. After Herbert passed away, these three brothers took over the business and formed a partnership. During this time, the foundry supplied an acid plant in Nordmont with grates for their boilers. The acid plant made wood alcohol. Herbert's sons, Alfred and Stanley, often made the trip over the

mountain by horse and sled in the bitter cold of winter. Now the business had gone from a local operation to out-of-state and out of the country. During World War II, they made 75 millimeter shells, about 2,500 per day for 3 years, in support of the war effort. Also, stove tops for the Army and for the Liberty ships of the Navy were made at the foundry. These were all waterproof packed for shipment overseas. During these years, the foundry produced bull gears for the New Holland bailer. They were the sole supplier for years making 42 per day each weighing 180 pounds. Another product made was electric irons for the Procter Electric Company. Stoker parts for a stoker called Koal King was also a big production item during the 1940's. The foundry not only sold King Koal stokers but also installed them from Harrisburg to Scranton. All of the manhole covers in Bloomsburg were made by the Harrington Foundry.

During these peak years, business was great and Harrington Foundry supplied some of the leading manufacturing companies of the nation. Employment went up as high as 120 at times. The average employed was about 70. Because of demand, the foundry had to be enlarged. A new concrete building was added to handle brass, aluminum and bronze casting work. They also rebuilt the original old foundry and put in a wood shop, core room, machine shop, sand blasting room and other more modern machinery. In all they invested about 250 thousand dollars, which was a lot of money in those days.

As one can see from Newton Harrington to Herbert to his sons, the foundry succeeded through hard work, determination and a vision of the future. Our foundry is one of the oldest in these parts and originally operated under three generations of the Harrington family for over 100 years. They always maintained a reputation of making an outstanding grade of gray iron. This clan of Harrington's all lived in the Benton area, in what used to be known as Harrington Hollow. The Harrington's were a unique family, who spent 100 years serving our community and served America for over 350 years. They set the stage for the eventual takeover by the Hall family, who once again, through hard work, determination, and vision kept our foundry on the cutting edge of the iron industry.

Our next article will cover the Harrington Foundry, being turned over to new ownership.



Fires, Floods & Fortitude

The people of Benton persevere in the face of disasters.

By Maureen Longnecker (a Benton native)

In 1910, the Fourth of July celebration in Millville was suddenly interrupted by beating drums. When people hurried to the bandstand to see what the commotion was about, they heard a shocking announcement: Many homes in nearby Benton, a small community in northern Columbia County, were on fire.

"The fire must have had a big start when discovered for when the alarm was sounded, the whole town was being enveloped in a volume of smoke, and a minute later, a big blaze broke forth from the smoke and swept along the street with great rapidity," an eyewitness said.

Driven by a strong north wind, the fire jumped blocks and devoured everything in its path.

Hours later, one-third of Benton would be gone and more than 200 of Benton's 719 residents homeless. Smoldering ashes and gaping holes in the ground in a four-block area marked where buildings had stood that morning.

Newspapers reported an estimated loss of \$300,000, equivalent to \$9.4 million today, yet only \$100,000 was covered by insurance. It's believed the fire was started accidentally by boys playing with firecrackers.

That evening, neighbors took in the homeless in a spirit of brotherhood that would soon envelop the community. In the days to come, residents resolved to face the challenges before them together. Everyone chipped in. While neighboring communities held fundraisers and collected donations, the Bloomsburg & Sullivan Railroad didn't charge freight for items shipped to Benton.

"The town is showing remarkable energy and determination in facing its loss and is, therefore, all the more deserving of substantial aid," a local newspaper noted.

With a significant number of residences and more than half of the businesses gone, the borough soon began the tremendous undertaking of rebuilding what had been lost. According to historian David R. Kline, volunteers came from other communities to assist in building houses, while businesses were slower to rebuild.

The community's ability to bravely overcome challenges together reflects a strength of character and tenacity of spirit that is reminiscent of the area's pioneer ancestors. It's fortitude that has lived on through the generations whenever their community faced new trials.

Growth of Benton

Pioneers in the late 1700s were drawn to the upper Fishing Creek valley for its mixed forest, abundant fish and game, plentiful year-round springs and creeks, fertile soil, rolling hills and agreeable climate for growing crops. Lumbering, hunting and farming were common occupations.



1910 Fire

Valley Girl Views

Generations of families who were among the earliest settlers remained there. William Hess Sr., a farmer, settled just north of Benton around 1792. His descendants moved to Benton Township, and their land has been passed down through generations of Hesses for more than 140 years. Today, William Hess Farms is still owned and operated by the Hess family.

Other early pioneers included John McHenry, who in 1812 started distilling whiskey using rye from local fields. His son, Rohr, commercialized the Rohr McHenry Distilling Company and Rohr's son, John G., helped the company—with its slogan "Born 1812" - became known across North America. The firm's "strictly pure rye whiskey" was double distilled in a copper-lined pot from thoroughly cleaned rye and pure spring water. The distillery remained a major industry in Benton for 100 years.

In the late 1800s, Benton's growth would accelerate. The Bloomsburg & Sullivan Railroad, which extended to Benton in 1887 and to Jamison City the following year, operated multiple passenger trains and several freights a day. This ability to transport goods by rail attracted more business men and investors. Jamison City's lumbering and tanning industries also provided opportunities for related businesses in Benton.

Between 1890 and 1910, the borough continued to prosper. An article from this era reported how new buildings were being constructed throughout the borough. "There is probably no other town in the state of the size of Benton that shows so much enterprise," the article said.

Moving Forward

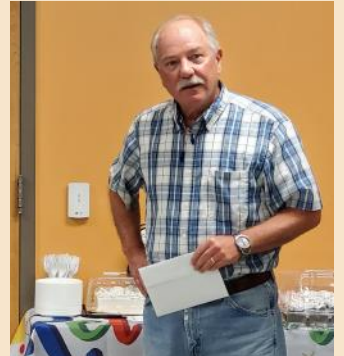
Unfortunately, fires would continue to plague the community after the 1910 disaster. In 1911, a fire at the distillery destroyed a 10-story brick bond house that held 17,000 barrels of whiskey. Only one barrel was saved.

Two years later, Benton suffered from three additional fires, including an arson that destroyed the Presbyterian church. Fol-

(Continued on page 8)

Retiring

Congratulations to **Lou Sappe** on his recent retirement. Lou has been the Benton Foundry Human Resource Manager for the last 24 years. Thank you Lou, for all your years of loyal service. Prior to joining Benton Foundry, Lou worked at Acme Markets. He spent several years as a manager for multiple Acme grocery stores in Northeast Pennsylvania. Lou came to Benton Foundry from Acme Markets on a recommendation from Jeff Wilt, a previous production manager at Benton Foundry who also worked at Acme Markets. Lou plans to spend his retirement catching up on his "honey-do list," spending time at the shooting range, improving his golf game and spending more time with his children and their families. We wish Lou and his wife Cheryl, a long, happy, and healthy retirement. Congratulations Lou!



Happy Retirement



Mary Alice Green is retiring after over a total of 15 years. She is married to Roger Green, a molder who previously retired, but continued to work part time. So now they are retiring together. They live outside of Benton and Mary is looking forward to gardening and spending more time with her family. They have a son Roger Lee and two grandchildren, Lloyd and Rachel. We wish Mary well and her and Roger a long, healthy and happy retirement! Congratulations and thank you for a job well done!

Enjoy Your Retirement!

Fires, Floods & Fortitude

(Continued from page 7)

Following a midnight fire at the planing mill of R.T. Smith and Son, one of the largest planing mills in the county, creative citizens crafted a plan to save the business by building a new mill and outfitting it. In return, they were given stock in the company.

In 1915, the Benton dam was built to provide a water supply for firefighting. Anyone who has grown up in Benton will likely recall carefree summer days spent at the dam where many learned how to swim.

As the decades passed, the borough would occasionally face a new catastrophe, and like a phoenix, it would rise out of the ashes each time. In 1975, firefighters stood in 2 1/2 feet deep floodwater to battle a fire that destroyed the Benton Pharmacy and the Benton Hotel.

As someone who grew up in Benton, I watched my parents and the entire community face the devastation accompanying this and other disasters. I also witnessed the intrinsic strength and beauty of people selflessly helping one another to overcome adversity together.

Pennsylvania Magazine May/June 2023

Celebrating Manufacturing In Pennsylvania!

Notable facts about key PA Industry:

- **6th Largest Manufacturing Industry in the U.S. - by Employment**
- **\$113.2 Billion in Gross Domestic Product in 2021.**
- **More than 564,700 Employees, About 9.5% of all Private Sector Jobs in PA.**
- **More than 14,000 Manufacturing Establishments.**
- **Workers Earn 33% More Compared to the Average of other Non-Farm Businesses in the State.**
- **\$86,129 Average Compensation for Workers in manufacturing, including benefits.**



Good Job!

Congratulations to **Brittany Masakowski** and **Julia Guiso** for being among the top five AFS (e-learning) students in the month of August.

Congratulations to **Stanley Trojan** and **Xenia Ponce** for being among the top six AFS (e-learning) students in the month of September.

Congratulations to **Ray Campbell** for completing his Melt Manager training.

Congratulations to **Jim Tumolo** and **Ryan Keeler** for doing well in their Supervisory Training Program.

Congratulations to **Brittan Kittle** and **Eric Piatt** for completion of the Wastewater Maintenance Class.



Good Job to **Franklin Ventura** for his willingness to help wherever needed.

Good Job to **Brittany Masakowski** for training on the Romer Arm with Don Copeland.

Congratulations to the following Maintenance personnel for completing the first session of the Bosch-Rexroth Hydraulics training. **Ed Whitmoyer, Lynn Sheatler, Eric Piatt, Aric Strauch, Ben Hatch, Sean Burke, Tim Schechterly, Dave Buma, Nate Steinruck, Colton Young, Matt Herr, Joe Tabor, Gabe Keller and Billy Ribble.**

Congratulations to the following personnel for the 3rd Quarter 2023.

Sergio Aguilera - Highest Grinding Efficiency
Gilberth Aleman - Greatest Foxall Run-Time Percentage
Otilia Miranda and Cynthia Newhart - Highest Core Operator Efficiency
Myriam Mayorga - Highest Assembly Efficiency
Tom Foust - Lowest Molding Scrap Rate
David Straub - Highest Molding Efficiency

Thank You!

Thank you to **Daniel Villanueva** for his assistance on the Melt Deck.

Thank you to **Annette Brown** for organizing the company picnic.

Thank you to **Ana Ponce** and **Xenia Ponce** for their translating efforts.

Thank you to **Walt Lutcavage** for stepping in and being instrumental with the Forklift Certification Program.



October 23, 2023

Mr. Jeffrey Hall
 Benton Foundry, Inc.
 5297 St Rte 487
 Benton, PA 17814

Dear Jeffrey:

I am pleased to report that Pennsylvania College of Technology has awarded the Benton Foundry, Inc. Scholarship to David Buma Jr. of Stillwater, PA for academic year 2023-2024.

David is a sophomore in the Diesel Technology program. He will receive \$11,552 for the fall semester.

We are extremely grateful for your generous investment in our students, empowering them to achieve their educational and professional goals. Thank you for helping us set the stage for the future.

Sincerely,

Kyle A. Smith
 Senior Executive Director of College Relations

Thank you!

Trivia Question???

What family has provided the most Benton Foundry employees through the years?

Answer will be in the 4th Quarter 2023

3rd Quarter Question & Answer:

What year did Jeff Hall become President of Benton Foundry?
2013

Birthdays

November

Mike Newhart
Justo Guido
Angela Rodriguez
Yesslan Ruiz
Stanley Shuleski
Irlanda Aviles
Franklin Ventura
Gene Burkhart
Aaron McHenry
Daniel Villanueva
Pat Packer
Edwin Ramirez
Rob Feliciano
Jesus Pina
Vladimir Mejia
Mike McDonald
Steve Fritz
Ed Gill
Terry Whitmire
Pete Gowin
Jose Machado
Juan Salgado



December

Bill Simback
Gene Eckroth
Gersson Centeno
Shane Eddinger
Billy Green
Jessica Pineda
Tim Antoniello
Dave Buma
Ben Hatch
Maria Higgins
Greg Woodside
Julio Hernandez
Nicolina Priolo
Noelle Myers-Saxe
Gustavo Taveras
Guillermo Acevedo
Jeff Garrison
Donna Remley
Joe Tabor
Jose Martinez
Paul Wakely
Wilmer Sanchez

January

Otilia Miranda
Jason Karcher
Gabe Keller
Kristhian Santos
Dave Hetler
Wilberth Lopez
Aric Strauch
Tim Miller
Cassandra Shoemaker
Jacqueline Artero
Teo Grigas
Martha Guillen
Lori McAndrew



Happy Birthday!



Oxymoron
Negative Growth



Want



\$500?

Company Referral Plan

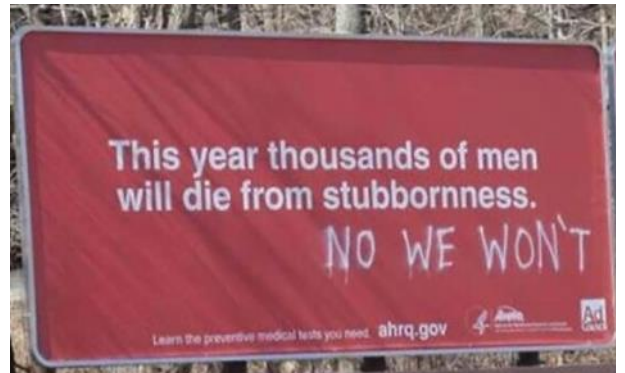
Refer a Potential Employee to Morgan
(Before They Come In)

If Hired,

After 90 days of Employment
You Get \$250.

After 6 months of Employment
You Get Another \$250.

IRONY



Bored Panda

“The Wisdom Well”

“Inflation is taxation without
legislation.”

~ Milton Friedman

