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ZENITH BULLETIN

December 10, 1943



SUPERVISOR OF SHIPBUILDING, U. S. NAVY MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN

1 December 1943

Mr. Donald C. MacDonald, president,
Zenith Dredge Company,
Duluth, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

It has been with great interest that I have watched the sequence of events at the Zenith Dredge Company in the last few weeks. There has been a continuous stream of requests from the office of the Assistant Supervisor of Shipbuilding for our Sub Trial Board to be present in Duluth, and following these requests it seems that there has been a continuous stream of trial board reports. All of these reports have included an expression which appears to be becoming trite in connection with work at your yard. In essence, this expression has been that the workmanship is excellent throughout and preparations for trials have been well made.

The completion of six vessels within five weeks is an outstanding achievement, and I wish to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the Navy Department and convey congratulations to all hands for doing a fine job.

Sincerely yours,

G. C. PEABER,
Commander, USN,

Supervisor of Shipbuilding,



Welding School



Another first for Zenith Dredge is the fact that it is the ONLY shipyard at the Head of the Lakes which has its own welding school. Johnny Bayard, shown above, is the day-time instructor; and Gerald Sands, nights.

The Welding School was begun in our yard on August 10 with the company paying all expenses. However, after negotiations with the School Board and the Navy Department, the school was put under the supervision of the State of Minnesota Board of Education on the 10th of September. The building, pictured above, was constructed in October.

Classes were begun with 3 students in August: Robert Mlodzik, Bob Lindgren and Clarence Moran. At the present time, the school is equipped to handle 8 students at one time, and it is planned to accommodate 10 trainees in the very near future.

Students beginning the course work 8 hours a day (11 hours at night) and receive the same rate of pay that they were receiving at the time they entered the class (from 78¢ to 86¢ per hour). No specified time is set for a student to complete the course; some

men have taken over 200 hours and others as little as 40. The average is 121 hours.

It is estimated that the value of the course is \$600 to the student; but the cost of training a man in the school is 50% less than that figure.

One-half the time in the School is spent on fillet welds, the balance on butt welds. After the student has completed his training he may take the plate tests. If he passes one plate, he begins in the yard at 92¢ per hour. If he is certified by passing the two plate test, he begins at \$1.02 per hour.

Here are the figures for the 3 MONTHS' PROGRESS from August 10 to Nov. 10, 1943:

Day Class: 20 men who passed their tests went in yard. 7 men dropped because of inability to show progress. Total: 32 students

Nite Class: 7 men passed tests and went to work in yard. 2 dropped. 7 still in class.

HOW TO ENROLL IN SCHOOL:

Make application with Bruner's office in Fab Shop. Application is then cleared through Personnel Office for draft status; then is cleared by applicant's leader. Then applicant is notified of acceptance for training.



Once there was a gent named Elbert who had great, big beautiful eyes...

When the ladies looked into his peepers they would practically swoon

OH, ELBERT!



So Elbert went to bed early to keep his eyes bright and sparkling...

and he carried a bottle of eye-drops and washed them frequently...



and to avoid eye-strain Elbert never read signs

and he didn't want to hide his big, beautiful orbs so he never wore his goggles



so naturally, when a chip of metal flew his way, it smacked him right in the eye.

Now Elbert has only one great big beautiful eye- and if he is smart and wears his goggles- he will keep on having it.

BY THE WAYS...

- BY ARNOLD FOCHS -

Now that the deer season is over, it's time to take score of the "biggest" kill. At present, Albert Larson of the Outfitters seems to be the champ hunter. His buck weighed 280 pounds....

Bud Culver, fireman on the big boiler in the Fab Shop is the ONLY fireman we've ever seen who fires a furnace with a ps'll instead of a shovel... Bud is unusual in more ways than one, however... Recently his wife called his attention to the fact, while they were shopping uptown, that he had 2 different kinds of shoes on. One had a high Cuban heel and the other a low heel with the result that Bud walked like a cripple...

ODDS & ENDS: Henry Horton's middle name is "Davenport", believe it or not... the guards report that their free telephone in the Clockhouse is rarely being used these days ever since that pay phone was installed in the Cafeteria hallway.... There's no one we know who deserves the name of "Sultan" more than Paul Cartie; that is, if we can believe all the stories.

LeRoy Langmack got No. 22222 on his paycheck last Saturday, which wins in any check number pool. Getting 5 of a kind is a rare occurrence and can happen only once every 6 months at Zenith Dredge. The last 5 of a kind was held last May by Leon Karpeles who had No. 11111.

How's this for a co-incidence? Bill Durfee was originally hired in the yard on December 1, 1942. Then last June 15 he quit his job here. Then on December 1 of this year he was re-hired in the yard again...

It appears that most of the other guys in the place have to take a rear seat with the women when Dale Forte, super-wolf of the electricians, is in the vicinity. Dale is always in there giving the girls that city slicker talk and flashing his hundred dollar bills. He's got a smooth convertible, too....



If we all had 4 eyes like playboy Stan Myrhen we wouldn't need to worry about losing an eye or two.

But we haven't, so let's protect what eyes we have by wearing SAFETY GOGGLES

Incidentally, that cap which Stan Myrhen, above, is wearing is one of the warmest caps of its kind. It's a regulation Army cap used in Greenland and is made of Alpaca or something. Who said Stan doesn't set the fashions around here?

Here's a tasty job.... unpacking the projectors for the echo sounding sea chests. These instruments are packed in good old Castor Oil....

We heard that one of our women welders rushed uptown the other day and bought 5 sheets of 3-cent stamps because she heard that the rate on all letters was going to be increased to 4 cents soon.

Yard Topics

UNION MEETING TONIGHT: At 8 PM in the V.F.W. Hall, located above Clark's Shoe Store on West First Street. Please be there.


The Painter's Party was held last week at Matt's Bar & Grill was quite a success according to reports. A venison dinner which was provided by some of Stromquist's hunters was served to the 25 men present. Walt Benedict won the finger-pulling and arm-bending contests. The sensation of the evening was evidently some girl in a red dress, whose name we didn't quite catch.

The U. S. Coast Guard Cutter MALLOW was launched yesterday (Thursday) noon. The vessel, Zenith's 20th boat, was sponsored by Mrs. Norman Hall, wife of Captain Hall, Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Virginia Metter of the Accounting Office has resigned her job here and will leave on Sunday for Los Angeles, California. Good luck, Ginny.

Bernard Brusin, fabrication leader, will leave next week for his Army physical exam at Fort Snelling.

Place notices and news items in the special ZENITH BULLETIN box outside of the Clock House. We might add that this box is not a storage space. Last week someone left a bundle of venison for Len Tyacke in the darn thing. In addition, it is NOT the place to leave your gas applications for Mr. Niemi.

MAKE THE Most OUT OF YOUR
SQUAWKS 

Here's a chance for you to get your pet gripe off your chest....

The Labor-Management Committee is this week installing "RUMORS & GRIPE QUESTION BOXES" where you can tell what's eating you or puzzling you. These boxes will be put in the Fab Shop, Outfitting Shop and also the Cafeteria.

You do not need to sign your name to your letter, or to your question. Whenever possible, these letters will be answered in the ZENITH BULLETIN, which will provide a special column for this purpose every week.

Let's hear from you. Some of the responses should make good reading material...



Christmas Party

A big Christmas Party is planned for all our workers at the Hotel Duluth on Sunday night, December 19th.

There'll be plenty of Yuletide cheer beginning at 9 PM and lasting until 1 AM. Everything is free, including beer and a lunch. During the intermissions of the dance, professional entertainers will perform.

The reason Sunday night was chosen is because it was the only night an orchestra could be obtained. In addition, it will give our night men a chance to be present.

Plan now to attend. It's the big party of the year and a real get-together for all the men. More dope about the party next week.

LOST: A steel rule. Finder please return same to Bruer Hage, # 479.

(Editor's note on above: By coincidence, just a few hours after Bruer gave us this item to put in the BULLETIN, his wife came to the yard and put the bite on him for a few dollars because she had lost her purse while shopping uptown. We can just see Bruer raising Cain about "women always losing things.")

There seems to be some confusion in the minds of our workers regarding the new gas ration coupons.

Here are the facts: C-2 and B-2 coupons are now good for 5 gallons. However, the old type coupons, the C-1 and B-1 coupons are still worth only 2 gallons until expiration date.

Take advantage of the complete service our station, located at the Main Gate, offers. Leave your car here in the morning and pick it up when you check out at night.

We have everything your car needs for winter driving....frost shields, anti-freeze, batteries, winter lubricants, "loaner" tires and chains.

Why not come in and get acquainted ???

"Mal" JACKSON

for the Mac Donald
Motor Company

GIFTS HE'LL APPRECIATE



THE Columbia
Clothing Co.
303 W. SUPERIOR ST.