



LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES HAS LOST ONE OF ITS PIONEERS: ROBERT "BOB" MCLUEN

By Dennis Dillon (Proud Lafayette Board Member)

Robert "Bob" Kenneth McLuen, who, along with his wife Ethel and several noted individuals, founded a sheltered workshop for adults with disabilities 45 years ago that eventually became Lafayette Industries, passed away on July 12, following a long illness. He was 95.

"Bob was a determined visionary that resulted in the betterment of thousands of lives", says Rob Libera, current CEO & Executive Director of Lafayette Industries, "We all will be forever in debt and gratitude to Bob, Ethel, and our other selfless Founders for making such a difference in those--and our lives-- as well."

There would be no Lafayette Industries were it not for the McLuen's and a handful of other families who, back in 1976, were looking for a post-schooling work opportunity for their adult children with disabilities. With funding from the state of Missouri, they opened a modest, one room warehouse with an oil- and grease-filled floor in Valley Park, Missouri. There were 16 workers originally, including the McLuen's son, Kenny, who is still working at Lafayette.

"We were such a shaky outfit that the landlord of our hole-in-the-wall insisted on \$10,000 for a three-year lease," Mr. McLuen once recalled. "If the workshop didn't fly, we were stuck for the 10,000 bucks."

The workshop not only flew, it soared.

Today, Lafayette Industries has grown into the single largest full-time employer of adults with disabilities in Missouri, with two industrial-sized workshops – one in Manchester (Lafayette West) and the other in Berkeley (Lafayette North) – and a work force of more than 400. There are an additional 42 employees on the support staff.

STORY CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Rob Libera
CEO & Executive Director

rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com

Mission: The mission of Lafayette Industries is to provide employment opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities and to persons with other disabilities who are 18 years or older.

Goals: • To provide a meaningful and productive work experience to persons who are disabled • To maintain a safe and pleasant work environment • To teach and to train persons with disabilities to acquire better work habits • To enhance self-worth and dignity through employment • To provide high-quality business service through packaging, light assembly and commercial mailings • To operate the center in a professional, fiscally responsible manner • To provide fair wages and good benefits

DENNIS DILLON'S ARTICLE ON BOB MCLUEN CONTINUED:

Lafayette Industries specializes in high-speed shrink-wrapping, assembly, mailing and contract packaging. “Building Dreams ... Creating Opportunities” is Lafayette’s credo. Its mission is employment of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Both of the McLuen’s served on the original Board of Directors at Lafayette, and later became Emeritus members. Mr. McLuen, who was originally from Iowa, worked for Wagner Electric, Emerson Electric and the National Alliance of Business in St. Louis before retiring. He and Ethel were married for 68 years.



Far left: Kathy Schmid

Immediate left: Carrie McKaskel

WEST – CAUGHT BEING

RESPECTFUL – JUNE 2021

Far left: Lillian Kwok

Immediate left: Ryan Preston

WEST – CAUGHT BEING

SAFE – JUNE 2021



FLU VACCINES

Lafayette’s flu vaccination clinics have now been scheduled. We have scheduled the on-site clinics with Walgreens again administering the shots this year. Our first on-site flu vaccination clinic is scheduled at North on Thursday, October 1st, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The second on-site flu vaccination clinic is scheduled at West on Thursday, October 8th, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. We will have the same types of forms we had last year. They’ll need to be filled out in advance of the clinic, with a couple of attached pieces of information. We’ll be giving more details as we move closer to the clinics. We hope you will make plans to get your flu shot, and stay as healthy as you can! Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Links for Lafayette

A beautiful day of golf raising funds to benefit the employees of Lafayette.

Thanks to our Sponsors, Golfers, and Donors help raise over **\$39,000!**



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John Dady - Major Ed Foundation



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THANK YOU Golf Auction & Dinner Donors!

You helped us raise over \$39,000!

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Jim & Linda Jandro

Mike & Barb Aufdenspring

Janet Adams

Marilyn Gaffney

Stacey Elster

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Kent Heinz



AT&T





Annual Employee Picnic

September 12

Details coming soon!

DARICK GAUGH RETIRES

By The Editor



Why is the Editor of this newsletter writing this particular article? It's because these are dear old friends of mine. I've known Darick since he was a wee lad of just seven years old. His mother and father, Barb and Larry, are long-time friends of mine. It was great when I started at Lafayette and recognized Darick, who remembered the church he grew up in, and all of his teachers in Sunday school, including my mother and me. Now he's retiring early. Darick always did his best while at Lafayette. He tried to follow instructions and to be safe. He has loved being at Lafayette Industries for the past 21 years. He enjoyed working here while he enjoyed seeing his friends. Throughout the years he has taken pride in what he was doing, and has grown into a fine young man. He has had some health issues in recent years that have kept him out of working like he would normally. So when he stayed home due to Covid-19 lockdown, he talked with his parents about the possibility of retiring. He now wants to start a new chapter in his life, and spend more active time at home with his family, friends and his church family. He will continue to visit

Lafayette every now and then, and if allowed, would like to attend some of the festivities with his friends from Lafayette. His final words to everyone at Lafayette: "Thank you for giving me the 21 years of helping me to develop as a better person in my workspace and community. I will always have a very special place in my heart for Lafayette." Enjoy your retirement, old friend!



Be a local *Safety Buddy* and make a difference!

How would you like to be a *Safety Buddy* for a hard-working person with developmental disabilities for **\$39**! Lafayette Industries, a 501c3 social enterprise right here in West County, is a vital part of the neighborhood and is Missouri's single *largest full-time employer* of adults with developmental disabilities. Lafayette employees have been coming to work during this time to package essential health care and retail products as we have instituted detailed specialized training, preventive procedures and supplies to keep everyone safe! Obviously, this is an unbudgeted but absolutely essential expense.

You can make a difference for just \$39!

For a \$39 tax-deductible donation, you can be a *Safety Buddy* for one of our employees for Safety Week as a reward for their hard work. Your sponsorship will provide lunch and a "Safety" shirt, in addition to help pay for training and protective equipment. You will receive a personal thank you from your *Safety Buddy*, **along with a display picture to put on your business counter or desk!** We will let our local families, who total over 1500, know of your support!

Thank you for joining your neighbors as a Lafayette *Safety Buddy*! You will find sponsorship information enclosed. Contact Alesia Roccia, aroccia@lafayetteindustries.com, with questions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR AUGUST FOLKS!!

NORTH

Stephanie	Esmond	4	Andrea	Becker	20
Melinda	Proctor	4	Anrico	Gaddy	21
Craig	Donaldson	5	Jerry	Phillips	22
David	Sims	6	Arianna Mariah	Kelly	23
Shirley	Woodward	10	Dale	Reuber	25
Melvin	Cosey	12	Nicoro	Verges	25
Florica	Gault	13	Donald	Jackson	26
Tracy	Minion	14	Margaret	Nilges	27
Beatriz	Trejo	16	Sandy	Shaw	28
Anthony	Williams	17	Erica	Humphreys	30
Michael	Dauge	19	Charles	Brefford	31



Michael	Branca	1	Kenneth	McLuen	19
Angela	Gentile	2	Boots	Berry	22
Darick	Gaugh	5	Virginia	Branson	25
Jerome	Butler	7	Debanjan	Bhowmick	26
Amanda	Schlueter	8	Shelly	Radinsky	28
Lisa	Swoboda	9	Suzanne	Covington	29
Scott	Carron	17	Michael	Owens	31
Diana	Hemkens	18			

WEST

AMY LOFTUS RETIRES



Far left: Amy Loftus receives her 25 year watch in 2014 with her proud mother by her side.

Immediate left: Amy Loftus giving a last wave goodbye with Rob Libera.

On Friday, July 23rd, Amy Loftus came to share in a last Free Lunch with her friends and fellow employees as she left Lafayette officially as an employee for the last time. She may come to visit as others do, but she will officially hang her locker key up as of the first part of August. Amy, you have always been the gal with the beautiful smile, and you have been at Lafayette for over 30 years, a whale of a long time. We know that things change, and we wish you the best as you move forward as a newly retired person. Drop by from time to time, and hopefully the next time we won't have to wear masks when we take your picture. We won't say so long, but see you soon!

SAFETY TIP FOR AUGUST 2021

by Tom Heitert (Safety Guru)

NATIONAL MEDICALERT AWARENESS MONTH

We have all seen the silver bracelets with the medical symbol on one side, and lettering on the other. The MedicAlert bracelet has saved many a life over its 68 years of existence. Amazing it has been around for so long, isn't it?



The idea of one is to draw attention to any attending medical personnel, or Good Samaritan for that matter, which happens upon you when you have been hurt. You may not be able to communicate any allergies you may have, and that would be life threatening. They would see the bracelet, immediately recognize what it was, and read it before any treatment. Great idea!

Like so many great ideas, it was born of a personal experience. In 1953, 14-year-old Linda Collins of Turlock, California, cut her finger badly and was taken to the hospital. During a standard test she went into anaphylactic shock and nearly died. Motivated by the close call, she developed the idea of a silver bracelet with the medical symbol and pertinent information. Her father was a doctor, and the two of them developed the concept and sent the idea to a jeweler. We still use it today.

The MedicAlert Company has since expanded their computer base to be even more helpful. If you believe you might benefit, you can reach them at MedicAlert.org.

I personally thought one for peas and lima beans might be helpful.

Be careful out there. –

Tom Heitert

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

- MORE LATER!

ORANGE DOTS

by Sue Pfeil (Proud Mother)

What is the best way to remove residue from orange stickers after they have gone through the washer and dryer? Goo Be Gone is my treatment of choice. LOL. Would love to hear other ideas.

Editorial Note: You can submit those ideas to Becky S., and I'll be glad to include them in next month's newsletter.

PROTOCOL REMINDER TO OUR FOLKS AT WEST

PLEASE REMEMBER, if you are planning to pick up someone early at West, we are asking you to call in to me, Becky S., at 636-227-5666, x1100. I will call up whoever you are picking up, and send them on out. I'll be sure to sign them out as well. Also to remind everyone, one of our standing protocols this past year is that ***only*** Lafayette staff and employees can use the restrooms. Our idea is to limit contact with people other than those we work with at Lafayette. Most people understand why we are doing it. Thanks for your understanding and for your patience. Some day we won't have to worry as much about this illness, but until then, masks, distancing, washing hands 20 seconds, etc. If you haven't gotten your vaccination, please think about doing it.

MARK CARLSON SERVES AS BEST MAN

by Edward Carlson (Proud Father)

On Friday, July 16th, Mark served as his youngest brother Michael's, best man in Boulder, Colorado. The wedding was up in the mountains west of Boulder. Mark gave his speech to congratulate Michael and Kate's on tying the knot in this beautiful setting.

Before the wedding Mark rode with the families of his other brothers, Bob and Tim, and sister, Peggy. There were 17 of Mark's family members riding the rails that morning. We had a tooting good time as the engine pulled us up to Silver Plume, Colorado.

In addition, Mark hiked to the top of Bald Mountain with his brother and nephew, Bob and Ted. The view at the top was so amazing, as he looked down into the valley below or up to snow-capped mountains further west.



PETRA BAUER'S VACATION IN DESTIN, FLORIDA

By Julie Bauer (Proud Mother)

Petra enjoyed spending a week in Destin, Florida, with her mom, brother, and two sisters. She spent every day on the beach, soaking up the sun, with her toes in the sand, and catching some waves! A highlight was searching in the morning for seashells so she could bring back a few for Becky's desk. Petra also loved sipping on "virgin" strawberry daiquiris on the beach. In the evening, she hopped on the golf cart with her family to head into Baytowne Wharf, or the Grand Boulevard for shopping, dinner and ice cream. Petra can't wait to fly back!



BAUER FAMILY PORTRAIT AT THE BEACH IN DESTIN, FLORIDA

Far left: Bella, Petra, Julie (Mom), Teddy and Reina

NORTH WOODS OF WISCONSIN

by Barb Aufdenspring (Proud Mother)

Julie Aufdenspring and her family recently visited Annie Walters and her family at Lost Lake, Wisconsin. The girls had so much fun on the Walters' pontoon boat, especially when being pulled on the tubey!

Ahoy, Matey!! Another highlight was the 1½ hour cruise on a pirate ship through 4 different lakes at Eagle River, Wisconsin. The best part was escaping to low humidity and temps in the 70's!



AUGUST 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 6:00 p.m. – Board of Directors meeting	19 North Free Lunch	20	21
22 Full moon	23	24	25	26 West Free Lunch	27	28
29	30	31				