



BIDDLE
PRECISION COMPONENTS
"One Source"

Express

News for the associates of BPC - one of the largest independently-owned producers in the US of precision machined parts

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Mary Frances Remembers the Early Days

This is the third in a series of articles about the history of BPC. In this article Mary Frances Baird, daughter of Biddle's founder, remembers the beginnings.

Biddle Precision Components self-described oldest employee officially retired in 1992, and is still active as its Chairman of the Board. Mary Frances Baird, the only child of company founder Ken Biddle, witnessed firsthand the start from its early infancy in 1939 to present day, and remembers it

quite well.

Working at Home

She was just a young girl in high school when her father made the first company equipment purchase from Sears—a lathe and typewriter, as well as a used sewing machine for Mary Frances because she liked to sew. Evenings would often be spent finishing pans full of metal parts her father would bring home with him. As many boxes were being taken in and out of the apartment, it became of suspicious interest to the family's neighbors, some of whom thought Ken might be in the bootleg business. Mary Frances figures they were pretty disappointed to learn the truth, that the Biddle's were just making extra money filing off metal burrs.



Mary Frances Baird

Working and Playing Hard

When you hear the stories of those early days, the days when Ken Biddle was working multiple jobs and his wife and daughter were filing metal burrs, it's easy to imagine their lives being all work. In fact, Mary Frances describes her father as a very energetic person who might possibly have worked around the clock in his quest to get ahead. Mary Frances remembers it as a good time and really enjoyed growing up then. "We worked and we played, but worked harder than we played". Far from being a chore, their evening work provided the family a great deal of enjoyment as they'd "talk, talk, talk"—forming a bond she worries many families today are too busy to experience.

Working Around the Clock

She remembers her father being ahead of his time. He decided to try a lot of things people said wouldn't work. He offered customers heat treatment plating when no one else was. He used cash incentives to encourage employees to stop smoking. Ken once took a memory course at Butler University with his granddaughter Darlene. Turns out he was a natural. After that class he was able to remember every employee's name and birthday. No doubt there were also some flattered customers who were impressed when he successfully remembered so much about them too.

How to Park Airplanes

As evidence of Ken's willingness to try new solutions, Mary Frances tells about the airplane-parking problem. As a pilot, he was often in the position of needing to maneuver his plane in and out of the hangar. Working with the company's head of maintenance, Ken had a turntable constructed inside the hangar. Since his plane was a twin-engine, he just had to pull onto the turntable, cut one engine, and gun the other. The plane would turn about and be ready to pull out of the hangar for the next flight. A design still very unique to this day!

A Touch of Home

Mary Frances credits her mother Velma for being a very valuable asset to her father. Of course she was there from the start, smoothing the burrs off of manufactured parts, but as the business grew she became a skilled hostess. Many early customers enjoyed delicious meals at the Biddle home after a day of meetings and tours at the plant. Although all of her meals were good, Mary Frances particularly remembers folks enjoying Velma's meat loaf, oatmeal cake, and (Ken's favorite) beans and cornbread.

A Lot of Admiration

As Mary Frances deeply admired her parents, her admiration is not limited to just them. Mary Frances recognizes the crucial role good employees play in the success of BPC. "They're wonderful people," she often says and speaks warmly of their loyalty and conscientiousness. As an example, she tells of attending the recent company open house and being asked by Sharon Reners if she'd like to see a demonstration of the two machines. Her expertise and pride were clearly evident and Mary Frances feels fortunate that the company continues to be staffed by such good workers, many of whom are second and third generation employees.



Mary Frances Baird, Velma and Ken Biddle at a trade show in Miami in 1957.

Many Memories, Many Stories

As she sits in her favorite plaid chair in her Carmel home, she's surrounded by family photos and children's toys, and it's quite clear that Mary Frances is enjoying her new job of being a grandmother to five grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Not surprisingly, she talks about their creativity, funny antics, good looks, and their smarts. As these kids provide lots of stories for her now, it's clear she's giving them many stories and great memories as well.

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MILESTONES

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Xiong Cheng	7	Kevin Stahl
6	Larry Moss	8	Walter Mercer
13	Judith Delph	10	Thomas Barnes
15	Robert Johnson	12	Michael McPhearson
17	Byron Hammack	13	Billy Reners
23	Brad Meyer	15	Richard Durbin
25	Tonya Kercheval	16	Trena Malbone
28	Sharron Reners	16	Michael Teter
28	Bradley Surber	17	Larry Boyer
		17	Jeffrey Vickers
		17	Rodney Wheeler
		18	Christy Minear-McClain

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Richard Cokley	21	Dennis Campbell
3	Stephen Smyser	25	Billie Bougher
4	David Biddle	26	Harold Stapleton
4	Dawn Lewis	26	Paul Walton
8	Janet Lindenmayer	27	Anita Parrish
8	William Murphy	29	Janet Prater
12	Ricky Stone	30	Tony Bailey

FEBRUARY SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

10 Years
Richard Reeves

APRIL SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

30 Years
Dale Leap

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Boyd Campbell
5	Timothy Hale

Employees in Memoriam

Meredith Barker
1919 - 2006

Biddle Has a Strong Year

Brian Myers,
President



2006 was a very good year for Biddle. Sales were up 9% over 2005, and profits were the best since 1998. The manufacturing economy is still robust in most market segments, and it was very evident for us. Our backlog was strong almost all year, and when it dipped at all, it gave us a great opportunity to cross-train our associates in other departments. We saw the arrival of many new pieces of machinery; two more Hydromat's and several new CNC lathes & mills. The new technology is a key ingredient in our ability to compete in this global marketplace. As new offshore companies emerge and the domestic shops continually improve, we must keep up in order to survive.

Employees have the most impact on growth and performance.

A company's success in the marketplace today requires the best and brightest workers. We invest in our employees because they are the center of everything we do. Employees are not only the foot soldiers of the company; the spirit of their work lets customers know how the company is perceived in the marketplace. If we produce high-quality goods, we spent less time and money fixing them, and we have better customer satisfaction and more repeat sales.

2007 looks bright for us also, as orders are already strong. We have more new equipment on the way, and the hiring of qualified operators continues. Stay tuned for more updates.



Did you know that the Automatics Department area used to be Sheridan's only roller skating rink?

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Curtiss Wright (Teledyne) has an interesting heritage with its roots dating back to the Wright brothers' first flight in 1903. Today, as it was in the Wright brothers' days, Curtiss Wright Corporation is centered upon engineering and looks to markets where their engineering expertise can gain market advantages. There are three business segments to Curtiss Wright: Motion Control, Flow Control and Metal Treating.

Our part controls the lifting of the flatbed platforms on semi-car carriers. Biddle became involved in this spool after the car hauling industry demanded lighter transport trailers to conserve fuel. Teledyne came to BPC early in 1993 to develop a close tolerance aluminum spool to solve the leaking valve problem and to further reduce the overall weight of the valve. The success of the new lightweight directional control valve has allowed Teledyne/Curtiss Wright to capture a significant share of this market. In addition, we now manufacture 13 more part numbers for Curtiss Wright.

Biddle's SMED Program Takes Off'



by Rick Durbin
– Mfg. Manager

In July of 2003 the average plant-wide setup was 4 hours, with as many as 100 setups completed per week. Now that customers are demanding smaller quantity deliveries with a quicker turnaround, the need for some type of setup reduction became very apparent. The metal stamping industry was showing great setup time reductions with a program called SMED (Single Minute Exchange of Dies), and that is what we adopted. Since starting this program, we've have seen some incredible

reductions over the past 3 years.

The program places great emphasis on team participation. We form groups in each department that include: operators, setup people, supervisors, and managers; then focus on a work center to identify "waste" in all steps of the setup process. Many hours of video are watched together and then critiqued as a group for solutions. Unnecessary items/moves or what we call "Waste" for example, might be searching for tools, waiting on gauges, or other needed items. Once this waste is identified, it can be reduced, or better yet 'eliminated'.

We have found that with

our team approach to SMED, our setups have been reduced up to 50% in most areas. For example, in July of 2003 the average setup in the Automatic's department was 13.9 hours. At the end of 2006 it had been reduced to just 5.9 hours. This will give us more opportunity to grow our business with customers and to be more competitive in the marketplace. Plant-wide setup averages have dwindled to just 2.1 hours as of the end of 2006. A true testament to our dedicated workforce! Through continued application of this program we hope to drive our setup times even lower.



HEALTHY LIVING

Cooking School by Teacher & Cook, Patty Swank

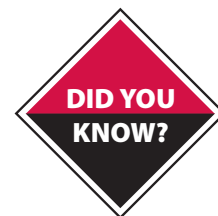
Some home economics teachers have gourmet tastes. I don't. When I attended Ball State, back in the late fifties, my favorite place to eat was the cafeteria in the student center. All the recipes were from scratch by, what I called then, old fashion cooks. I can still "taste" the scalloped chicken or the baked chili. I am always looking for recipes and I have found one that reads like it might be similar to their baked chili.

Baked Chili

Cook two pounds of hamburger. Drain. In oil, saute 1 medium onion, chipped, until transparent. To the cooked meat and onion add 1 cup uncooked elbow macaroni, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 quart diced canned

tomatoes with juice and a one pound can of chili beans. Place in a casserole dish and bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Serves 8.

Enjoy, Patty



Our founder, Ken Biddle obtained his private pilots license in 1946; the same year he built the Sheridan Airport. It is still in operation today, and is home to over 38 aircraft. It has a 3800' paved & fully lighted runway, and is the only privately owned airport in Hamilton County with a paved runway.



**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

In the next issue:

*More History of BPC
Customer Interview*



February

- 4 Colts Win Superbowl
- 9-11 Indianapolis Symphony
"Be My Valentine"
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14-25 Beef'n'Boards
"Thoroughly Modern Millie"
- 21 Ash Wednesday
- 22 Washington's Birthday

March

- Thru the 25th Conner Prairie
Hearthside Suppers
- 9-11 Indianapolis Arts and
Antiques Show
State Fair Grounds
- Daylight Savings Time
Begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day

April

- 1 Palm Sunday
- 6 Good Friday
- 8 Easter



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