

Sabin Nugget

Volume 7, Issue 1 JUNE 2008



This was the frightful scene Saturday afternoon, April 26 here at Sabin Metal West!

A fire investigator determined that the fire started in a storage area for pallets and "Super Sacks" in our Crushing room, apparently ignited by a stray piece of hot slag. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured, but a lot of equipment vital to furnace operations was either damaged or destroyed.

Cleanup began immediately and is largely complete, and Geyerman Construction Co. of Williston was awarded the contract for structural repair on May 30. Much work remains as our employees meet the massive challenge of restoring the full capabilities of our plant.



Lyle 'Bill' Bartlett, (above) one of our kiln supervisors, passed away on May 7, 2008 at the age of 59. Bill was a man of fine character who was loved and admired by all that knew him. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Bill's wife Sandy and family.

The ubiquitous ebullience of plant engineer **Scott Moser** will soon be absent at Sabin Metal West, as he has decided to retire from full-time duty (at far too young an age) effective July 2, 2008. Scott has been an integral part of the success of Sabin Metal West and he will be irreplaceable. "Happy trails" to you, Scott, from your grateful colleagues and friends here in North Dakota, and may you and Cathy enjoy a life of "pleasant sails" in North Carolina. – **Mark Kelly & Bonnie Steen / SMC West**

Sabin Metal History



This segment will be dedicated to the history of the Scottsville Plant location. Over the next few issues, we will look into the history of the site and the building. What started as a question turned into a major historical lesson.

Our many thanks to Florence Field & Barb Chapman at Wheatland Historical Society for all their information and the time shared with us. I would like to thank the Scottsville library for their contributions too. This project unfolded much larger than expected, with the numerous conversations, input from Sabin employees both current, and retired. With any luck, we will be attaching all the extra information & photos to the New Sabin Website thus allowing us to share with everyone interested. I would to thank Ed Garbowski for his input and the hours he dedicated to this project with me.

Marty Spoor

The first segment is a brief timeline dedicated to the location. In the future issues we will be showing photos and articles from different eras surrounding the site

Wheatland Center Mills

1804 Francis Albright built a gristmill.

1832 The mill was sold to Clark Hall

1844 Hiram Smith purchased the mill and considerable acreage; built a large house with servants quarters and 3 small houses for mill workers. (Pictured in painting above, done by Hirams' wife Emily. That now hangs in the Scottsville library) He completely remodeled the mill. His "Genesee Flour" was known in all principal markets and was in great demand in Boston and New York City.

1855-58 Wheat Crop failure caused a disaster for farmers and flour mills in Western New York

1875 The mill was destroyed by fire. W. D. Strobel (Owner of Trout Brook Woolen Mill No.1 of Mumford) purchased the site and built a large new cloth mill (Trout Brook Woolen Mill No.2) The demand for flannel and suiting was great but competition was also great. Strobel's materials were in demand from New York City to San Francisco. However the mill only operated for 12 years and was closed.

(To Be Continued)

Employees News

Robert Homer (Maint.) on May 2, 2008 retired after 28 years. Bob (below center) receiving his watch from **Jim Barrett** (below left), & **Dr. Bob Jacobsen** (below right) Congratulations Bob, we are going to miss you, best wishes on your retirement.



Dave Smith (Maint.) was the first one this year to reach the 25 year mark. On 2/07/08, Dave (below left) celebrated his 25th anniversary at Sabin. **John Waldon** (below right) presents Dave with his tie tack.



Martin Tilton son of **Gilbert Tilton** {Main. - HGPS) was married on January 25, 2008 to Ashley. Both are stationed at Mountain Home Air Base Idaho and are expecting a baby on Oct. 26, 2008. Martin is tentatively scheduled to go to Iraq Nov. 2008. Congratulations to both of you, and Best Of Luck.



On March 19, 2008, a baby boy was born to Melissa & **Aaron Gibson** (HGPS). Caleb Matthew was 21 inches long, and weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz. (114.8 T/Os) Caleb was welcomed home by his big brother, Jacob and new puppy Oliver.

April 1st, 2008 Cheryl & **Dana Cotton** (FCE Maint./pictured below) along with daughter Cheyenne, welcomed another member to their family. Daughter Julienne Cotton was born 19 ¾ inches long, and 6 lbs. 13.9 oz. (100.2 T/Os)



Jenn & Mary Gremer, daughters of **John & Betsy Gremer** (Sales) will participate in the Livingston County Dairy Princess Program this year. The purpose of the Program is to promote the advantages of dairy consumption. Congratulations girls.

On May 9,2008 **Steve Cooke** was promoted to Senior Scientist in the Laboratory. **Algis Naujokas** was promoted to Lab Director. Best Wishes & Good Luck Gentlemen.

As mentioned earlier our Plant Engineer **Scott Moser** (below) will be retiring on July 2, 2008. Therefore, as a special treat we are adding a third page containing Scott's latest poem. We will miss your writings, but I'm sure Mark Kelly has been sufficiently trained to take over for you. We look forward to his work, and wish you the very best during your retirement.



Congratulations SMC Canada

The Tri-Town & District Chamber of Commerce has announced SMC Canada as the 2008 Corporate Citizen Award. This award is given to those businesses that help promote an outstanding quality of life for those living in and around the South Temiskaming area.

Thank You

Again, I would like to thank everyone who helped with this edition of the Nugget. If anyone would like to share Sabin related news, from any of our locations, please contact me, Marty Spoor at the Scottsville Plant {585} 538-2194 ext.267 or martys@sabinmetal.com

Submit news for any section of the Nugget to Marty Spoor in the Furnace Area (ext. 267) Submissions for the December issue are due by Wednesday, December 10, 2008

The New Feed

The New Feed appeared by the voodoo of Sales at the loading dock door, 'mid the rain and the gales. From far to the south, nearby Old Monterrey, it arrived in Dakota by a round about way.

Such an aura of profit hung over the van, that we circled the truck and unloading began. The curious drums, not a sticker or mark, seemed to ripple and hum, even glow in the dark.

The first clue arose when a bright yellow toad, leapt out of the truck, he abandoned the load. He jumped to the floor as straight as an arrow; And I swear that he sported a tiny sombrero.

In spite of this omen, we started the grabs.

With fork lifts and drum tools and probes to make stabs, in the barrels of New Feed placed neatly in line, to find out if kilning the feed would be fine.

The lids started flying like leaves from the trees, 'till the odor emitted brought men to their knees; And slimy great lumps slithered under each disc, Like the dance on a plate of a slick Lutefisk.

In spite of its challenge, its goo and its smell, we kilned the New Feed, and it oxidized well. It emerged from the tube looking greenish and yellow; at last it stopped moving about like old Jell-O.

Then on to the furnace, the New Feed proceeded, to the magical arc where they whisper it needed a new set of fluxes, to cough up the metals, from a high-melting alloy, just after it settles.

The furnacemen gathered in their most sacred spot, to calculate options, a mix for the pot.

They muttered of voltage and ohms and the part that viscosity plays in the smeltery art.

When the gnomes reappeared, they announced for the crew that a feed blend was ready, a plan was abrew.

Then they lit up the arc and started to feed the magical mix we expected to need.

Melting proceeded through the tensest of hours, while we waited to learn if the blend had the power to deliver the PMs, and to generate joy, From the high-melting bath, the iron-based alloy.

The metal tapped thick, like a dark, tawny port, and the assays suggested the PMs were short.

The grade of collector ran lower than plan.

A "hard head", perhaps, may have froze in the pan.

Concern in the air, and hearts in their throats, the gurus were drawn to the furnacemen's notes; where they quickly discovered some low-temp conditions, which threatened the state of our business position.

Up went the power, with a sprinkle of lime, and the PMs appeared in almost no time.

Viscosity dropped and the metal was cast, and "bingo" our problems moved into the past.

The furnacemen danced, waving logbooks and tongs, puffing and glowing from righting the wrongs.

Now the New Feed comes frequently back to our door, bringing rhenium, happiness, reptiles and more.

Asked Bonnie, "What phantom directed it here?"
And the chief murmured softly right into her ear.
We may never know what exactly he told her,
but we've always suspected Monsignor Affholter.

Moser - El Rancho / 5-22-08

I would like to personally thank everyone who has helped me with the "Nugget" over the years. It has been a privilege and honor to share our news and information with everyone and I hope it continues. This will be my last submission. Again Thanks to All & God Bless!

Marty Spoor