

Matt's Room: A Five-Month Learning Experience

Now that it's finished, the Bells wonder why they didn't build their 14-foot by 24-foot family room 10 or 15 years ago.

Originally Jack, a senior financial accountant, and his wife, Teddy, figured they'd have it built. But when the bids came back ranging from \$3,000 to \$8,000 (without the slab or electrical work), they decided that they would do it themselves with the help of their two sons. Their finished room attests to the wisdom of that decision. From the beamed ceiling to the indoor-outdoor carpeted floor to the paneled door, the signs of their attention to detail is evident.

Although the construction of the room involved everyone in the Bell household, from elder son Steve's digging the foundation to Teddy's offers of advice and selection of woven shades, it was primarily the work of Jack and his 12-year-old son, Matt. For five months these two spent most of their free time



Jack and son, Matt, admire the lamp Matt made for his mother. Along with Matt's lamp are two carvings done by Jack: a bull out of black walnut and a head out of maple. Jack sits on the contemporary style couch he built out of maple.

with a hammer in one hand and nails in the other. "I would come home from work," says Jack, "and find 'old Matt' out in the addition hammering away.

And he knew what he was doing, too."

Maybe this is why the Bells consider the addition Matt's room.

However the Bells' talents don't end with their construction of the family room. Jack and Matt both indulge in carving. For Jack it's carving caricatures, animals and stagecoaches complete with teams of horses. Matt, too, has done caricatures, but this prize is the lamp he did for his mother.

To make the lamp, Matt took an abandoned hickory log and rounded out the post leaving some bark on it. For the base he used a scrap piece of pecan, which he highly polished. The result is an unusually attractive lamp for their charming family room.

The new room also features an octagon shaped table constructed primarily from scrap pieces of wood and a few new ones. Then there's the contemporary couch and chair Jack built out of maple and had highlighted with moss green crushed velvet cushions.

The Bells plan to relax for awhile before beginning any new projects. Teddy's engaged in making very elaborately decorated Christmas trees out of

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THANKSGIVING

A time of hospitality,

A time to remember,

A time for being
with loved ones,

A time for
thanksgiving.



No Shellegram Next Week

Rush Order Requires Stage Coach Line Service

Believe it or not, VCM actually hired a stage coach line to deliver some badly needed ceramic bars. They tried to get Emery Air Freight to make the delivery from Akron, Ohio, to La Porte, Texas, but they couldn't make delivery in time. Hence, VCM's decision to hire the stage coach line.

This tale really began in June of this year when the VCM Department began operating a new steam stripper column designed to remove organic chlorides from its aqueous effluent. The amount of organic material going to the effluent treaters south from the unit had been significantly reduced since the column was placed in operation.

However, a suspicion that there was something wrong inside the column was confirmed when the current VCM shutdown got underway, and an inspection was made of the column. "The inspection," said Rick Erickson, VCM process manager, "revealed that the teflon packing supports had been damaged allowing a section of the packing to fall to the bottom of the column. This then reduced our ability to remove the organics from the related effluent."

"Replacing the supports proved challenging as the only materials we

could use were teflon, carbon or ceramic," continued Dick Lamb, inspection supervisor.

Calls were placed to companies all over the country before Joe Lee, a buyer in Purchasing, contacted the U.S. Stoneware in Akron, Ohio, and found 14 ceramic bars which could be used. Since neither Commercial Air Liner nor

Emery Air Freight could deliver them in the right time," said Dick, "we started looking around for an alternate and found the S. M. B. Stage Coach Line in Dallas."

S.M.B. could deliver on time, so VCM hired the Stage Coach Line. They just happened to have a Beech Turbine 18 airplane in Columbus, Ohio, that could



S.M.B.'s emblem of service is proudly displayed on this Beech Turbine 18. The Stage Coach Line recently delivered a rush order of ceramic bars for use in repairing the new VCM steam stripper column's tray supports.

go to Akron and pick up the load of bars on its way to making a delivery in New York. S.M.B. then flew the ceramic bars directly to the La Porte Municipal Airport before going on to another job in Louisiana.

The plane was met at the La Porte airport by Dick, John Judge and Pablo Wiggins of Inspection at 6:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning. These three unloaded the bars from the plane, then reloaded them onto a company pickup for delivery to the VCM unit. All 14 bars arrived intact.

Brickmason Don Straitwell then constructed two tray supports in the column using acid brick and mortar to hold the ceramic bars in place. These tray supports hold the packing necessary for removal of the organic materials from the VCM effluent.

Don's previous plans to go goose hunting were changed so that he could install the bars in the steam stripper column. "When Don looked at the job and said that he could do it," related Dick, "we certainly were relieved since we weren't sure how we could make the ceramic bars work."

Thanks to the united efforts of Purchasing, Inspection, Maintenance South and some outstanding craftsmanship from Don, the steam stripper repairs were completed at about 10:00 p.m. Saturday night and the VCM shutdown continued as scheduled. All with the help of a stage coach line.

Retiring? Here's The Man To See



When you get ready to retire from the refinery, here's the man to see. Employee Relations analyst Bobby Garrett handles all aspects of the refinery retirement process.

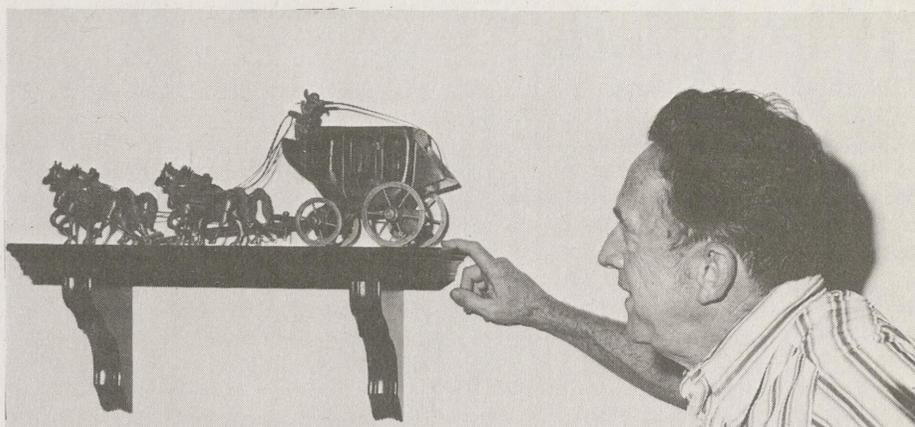
From the time you decide you want to retire until the day you actually do, Bobby assists you. He figures your benefits, handles the Provident Fund withdrawal and maintains an address file. In addition, he schedules service anniversary pictures and orders the service emblems and the 25-year gifts.

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costume jewelry picked up at various garage sales for herself and her two sisters.

Matt is a busy sixth grader at Queens Intermediate in Pasadena, but he plans to follow his big brother and attend Texas A&M so that he can become a farmer like his granddaddy. In the meantime, Matt puts in an annual garden which provides fresh tomatoes, okra, squash and greens for his family and their friends.



This is one of three stagecoaches Jack has carved over the years. Notice the fine detailing on the cherry wood stagecoach.

Tire Tips For Traveling

Inspecting for worn tires, improper inflation and vehicle overloading should be at the top of a vacation-bound driver's check list before he leaves home, advises the Tire Industry Safety Council.

"With the correct tire pressures and reasonable loads of vacation gear, vacationing motorists will save gasoline, improve traction and braking, and enjoy easier steering, better cornering and longer tire life," says Malcolm

Lovell, council chairman. He noted that a Commerce Department study shows that more than one out of every four cars has at least one seriously under-inflated tire.

The council offered these tips for holiday driving:

+Increase inflation four pounds over the tire pressure recommended by the vehicle manufacturer for long-distance driving at turnpike speeds. However, never exceed the maximum allowable air pressure marked on the sidewall.

+Make regular checks for objects imbedded in tire grooves.

+Do not reduce air pressure after driving. Heat buildup is normal during extended driving and tires will cool down on their own after you stop.

+Beware of "summer ice" - slick roads in hot weather. Highways become slippery after a light drizzle following a long dry spell.

+Carry your own tire pressure gauge. Service station air towers often are off by several pounds.

Tree Tops Flare



A tree tops off the 360-foot flare being constructed at the ethylene plant. When completed, the flare will serve the entire OP-III area.

Sundstrom Dies



C. J. "Stroke" Sundstrom, 58, died November 12.

At the time of his death, Stroke was a boilermaker No. 1 in Maintenance North with 25 years of company service.

Funeral services were held November 14 at the Art Simpson Funeral Chapel in La Porte with burial in Grandview Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, who resides at 434 South Shady Lane in La Porte.

Bits & Pieces Within Shell

For serious runners, George Breeden's 8 minute 40 second record for running a mile and a half might not sound like a winner. But for those over 30, it's pretty good.

George, process manager for "A" Operations, is a security police officer for the Tenth Air Force Reserve Unit headquartered at the Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin. Every year the 300-400 reservists run a timed mile and a half to make sure they are still in good physical condition. This year's run was held on a bright sunny day in Austin on November 6, and George was proved to be in top physical form.

He not only out ran his reserve unit members, but he broke the record for the mile and a half run with his 8 minute 40 second score.

Senior inspector Bill Whitehead reports that Brown and Root's construction employees located at the DPMC reached one million safe man hours Thursday, November 10, at noon.

Keep up the good work, fellows.

Classifieds

FOR SALE

1947 GI jeep, runs fair, new tires. \$895.
13' bass boat, small wheel trailer. \$295.
15' sea King, 40 hp all electric 1971
Mercury motor, big wheel trailer. \$595.
10" table saw, 220 motor, stand with
casters. \$225. 1-945-4574

16' Mobile Scout camp trailer. \$795. 1-
948-2282

1976 Mercury Cougar, loaded, excellent
condition, low mileage. \$5,100. 487-2893

Electric guitar and amplifier, played 3
times, sounds good. \$110. 472-6476

1977 Ford Explorer truck, air, P-S-B,
auto, 460-V8, 15,000 miles. \$5,200. 649-
0122

Spalding golf clubs, 3 woods, set of
irons, bag and pull cart. \$50. 458-4017

Sears Kenmore heavy duty electric
dryer, loaded, 2 years old. \$125. 476-5433

1973 Honda 450, double overhead cam
twin, 14,000 miles. \$550. 926-9787

20 cu ft chest freezer with baskets and
divider, excellent condition, coppertone
with wood-grain top. \$175. 471-0794 after
5:30 p.m.

1977 Pontiac Grand Prix LJ, 400 CID
engine, Landau top, P-S-B-W and door
locks and trunk lid, AM-FM 8-track
stereo, lighted vanity mirror, velour
seats, 12,000 miles. \$6,750. 743-1670 keep
trying.

Four 11 x 15 inch Armstrong Tru-Trac
tires and rims for 6 Bolt Chevy wheel.
\$140. 488-2961

Semi V 12' aluminum boat, good condi-
tion. 472-7054

3-2-2 Deer Park house, 2400 sq. ft. 1/2
acre. 479-1338

14' x 60' mobile home on 2 large lots,
central air and heat, 10' x 25' porch and
20' x 20' carport, 15 minutes from Shell.
479-2217

975 Plymouth Sport Fury, clean, low
mileage, good tires, cruise control, P-B-
S. \$2,995. 473-1849

1969 Chevy 2-door coupe, 327 V-8, auto.
\$200. New Auto-lite 12-volt battery R-24
F. \$20. New Delco distributor for small
block Chevy V-8. \$25. 472-5988

Top of the line white gold Seiko alpha-
tron digital watch, 8 months old. \$65.
487-0917

36" gas coppertone stove. \$35. Upright
coppertone Wizard freezer, 20 cu ft. \$35.
487-4962

Two twin bed mattresses in good condi-
tion. \$20 each. 473-1611

Two steel-belted radial Firestone tires,
white sidewalls, GR 78-15. \$20 each. 481-
0359

Manual Royal typewriter. \$40. Lowrey
organ. \$300. Chrome dining table and
chairs. \$40. Electric adding machine.
\$30. Georgia buggy (cement cart). \$60.
673-1130

3-2-2 brick house in College Park, den,
utility room. \$10,000 down, balance 20
year. 479-7603

Early American sofa, chair and table.
\$200. 479-7439

1976 Ford F100 Ranger XLT, auto, P-S-
B, air, 19,000 miles. \$4,100. 485-2195

1972 Impala Chevy 4-door H-T, air, etc.
\$1,195. 1974 Gran Prix, air, P-S, etc.,
low mileage. \$3,495. 328-1407 or 455-7393

17' Fiberglass deck boat, 75 hp Johnson.
\$1,500. 474-5068

1972 VW in excellent shape. \$1,200. 635-
1665

Foosball table, 10 months old, excellent
condition. \$350. 944-1072 after 5 p.m.

Two 600 x 16" 6-lug wheels, fits Chevy
axle. 472-3180

WANTED

1969 VW bug trans-axle. 487-5386

Pump, bolt action, clip fed or single
shot .22 rifle. Pump or single shot, 12 or
16 gauge shotgun, full choke only. 453-
0235 after 6 p.m.

FOUND

Key with tag reading "key cabinet."

Welcome To The Complex



David Snyder
Lab Technician
Quality Control Lab



Alan Stanley
General Helper
Maintenance South



Beverly Vaidak
Senior Clerk
General Services



Paul Drunen
Engineer
Process Engineering



Randy Walker
General Helper
Maintenance South



Wayne Westbrook
Boilermaker No. 1
Maintenance North

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