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ans My

December 7, 1998

A day that will forever live in infamy-especially for all of us whose father served in the Navy!

Dear Harold:

Well, at midnight Nov. 22, 1998, Dr. Wrone and I presented what I modestly consider the best program given on the JFK case this year. We were on the Joe Arnold show, on WHAS 840 AM, a 50,000 watt clear channel station that has been heard in 38 states at night. Harry Livingstone had been booked as the first guest, unknown to me. I told Arnold about Livingstone, and Harry proved me right!

Continued Dec. 10 Busy Week

Mike Espy said yesterday, "When evil men come to destroy you, they will stumble and fall." Maybe this applies to Harry Livingstone. He said that J. Edgar Hoover, LBJ"s people, and the Texas oilmen, all came together two days before JFK's death and gave the approval to go forward! I protested that I did not think that is even close to the truth.

I prodded Joe to ask Harry where he thought the shots came from, and he said the sewer grates down on the street. Once he protested that I was on the show. When the show went off the air, Joe thanked him for being on, and Harry said" That Neichter fellow is under the influence of Harold Weisberg. Weisberg is in the employ of some very powerful people, and Weisberg is the most dangerous of them all!" Off the fair.

Needless to say, after warning Joe about Livingstone, I looked like Nostradamus! Dave Wrone came on the air at11:06 am, and was on till 2am. Dave did a good job, as always. I was on until 4am. We had a good show, Jerry Ray called in, and we may do a show in January on Dr. King's death. Probably the most provocative thing I said was to the effect that "Many people including me, do not think it is a total coincidence that JFK is killed by mysterious assassins on Nov. 22, 1963, and in August 1964, the Navy is involved in a fake PT boat attack that results in the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution that escalated the Vietnam war."

We had callers from Calgary, Alberta, Toronto, Buffalo, KCincinnati, local, Lexington, Knoxviile, Nashville, and at least some other place. I tried to mention Harold Weisberg, Whitewash, _Case Open, Never Againand the documentary "Reasonable Doubt", every hour.

So, it was a lifelong dream come true. Joe Arnold said he would have me back, I think we educated people, and we had callers all night. Joe Arnold sort of apologized for having me on with Livingstone, but I told him that was fine, I believe in the free exchange of ideas, after all, Harry has had two best sellers, and that I was not afraid to defend my ideas.

Thanks especially for Dr. Wrone, my buddy and we recorded this so I'll try to send Ginocchio a copy so I can be peer reviewed!

The whole thing came together at the last minute, I am just sorry that Harold was sick and I could not get him on. I had sent Joe a letter, it got lost, probably because the station did not put a forwarding order in when they moved! Although after 10 days, you would think the Post Office could find the largest radio station in the state.

Harold, I have sent Dr. Bell Waketh. The epilogue will follow, I must print it out. No charge. I just hope you and Lil are getting better.

I am going to copy this letter to Wrone and Ginocchio, Gerry listened in KSpartanburg. Also to Ogilvie.

The morning mail just arrived, and I got the enclosed very nice letter from Jerry Ray. I wrote him thanking him for calling in, sent him the Frederick clipping on Harold and some other stuff, and we may have him on a show if Joe Arnold invites me back.

I have been kind of depressed since dad died Sept. 1, but doing the radio show kind of feinvorgated me. Thanks to all of you fellows for helping me over the years, I hope you all are proud of me, especially Harold. I have tried to do accurate work.

Harold and Lil, you two better get better! We all love you both.

Bill

genry Ray P.O. Box 194 Smantt, TN. 37378 Tel. 931-668-1692

Dean Att; Neichten,

I neceived your letter yesterday along with the clippings, and thanks for both. All three of the Clippings were interesting, and it's to bad that the main stream Press dosent write more of the truth, instead of promoting the lies that Gerald Posner writes.

I have known Hanold Weisberg since 1968, and he is a very honest and Honorable human being. It's kind of strange how i first become to know Weisberg, as i never talked to the Press until my brother got arrested in London England in June 1968, then i gave off and interview to ABC TV News, Frank Reynolds did the 530 News then, and it was shown on his Newscast, so Hanold Weisberg wrote to the reporter that interviewed me and asked for my address, the reporter wouldn't give him my address, but the reporter did give me Weisberg Address, and i wrote to him in 1968. We have met on several occassions plus i have visited his house and have become good friends with him and his Wife Lil.

I havent heard from Mr. Annold as of yet, but i'll be more then glad to call in on the show that he is planning on doing about Dr; King in January.

There is a lot to discuss concerning the King Assassination, and even through my Brother is dead, the Atty; General in Memphis is wanting to give all of my Brother personal Property over to the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, that including the Gun that they claim was used in the Assassination.

Being i'am the executor of my Brother Will, then i'am trying to get it as were going to have the Gun tested again.

In closing i want to say, if you do any shows in the future and want me to be on the same show, then i would be more then glad to do so, as i wouldn't need over a day advance notice so i could be home at that time.

Thanks again for the clippings and letter.

Sincerly Ray.

Whaynesco News



Ashland - Bowling Green - Corbin - Evansville - Hazard - Lexington - Louisville - Paducah - Pikeville

September/October 1998

Retired Whayne President Louis Neichter dies

Louis A. Neichter, retired President of Whayne Supply, died September 1. He was 76 years old. He served as President from 1974 to 1984 and later served as Vice Chairman of the Board. He retired on January 4, 1985.

He started with Whayne in 1935 as a part time employee when he was 13 years old. He moved to full time on September 10, 1938 shortly after the death of his father, Bill, who worked at Whayne as a demooperator and mechanic.

Bill Neichter was a steam shovel operator who moved with his family from job to job around Kentucky. In 1933 he finally settled down and became a mechanic with the Roy C. Whayne Supply Co. His job quickly evolved to mechanic and demonstrator since he had experience operating earthmoving equipment. Back then, a salesman would show up at a job site with a tractor on the back of a truck and the demonstrator would show the machine and its abilities. This was quite a way to sell tractors and it worked for years until the machines got too big to put on the back of a truck.

When Louisville flooded in 1937, Bill was among the mechanics who lived at Whayne Supply for two weeks until the water receded. Bill and Louis took a small boat filled with drums of gasoline, oil and parts and went from building to building maintaining the pumps that Whayne had in the basements of downtown buildings.

While returning from a job Bill wrecked his field service truck and was killed. Louis, who was then 16 years old, asked Harry Whayne if he could work full time and Louis was hired as Helper and Janitor. His first job was to clean the rust off a bucket of bolts with a wire brush and a pail of gasoline.

Louis attended Ahrens Trade School during the first half of the day and worked the afternoon and evening at Whayne. Louis learned quickly and was transferred to the shop.

By 1940 his skills as a mechanic had improved so he was promoted to Shop



Louis Neichter

Mechanic. The following year he became Field Serviceman. Life was good and on September 6, 1941 he married Katherine "Kitty" Givens.

With the outbreak of World War II, Louis continued working at Whayne Supply despite offers of more money from other companies, mainly defense contractors. Skilled mechanics were in short supply and Whayne Supply had a high turnover rate (95% one year) due to workers going off to war or to other jobs. Whayne was classified as a defense plant thus workers could not be drafted. Doing what he felt was his patriotic duty, Louis volunteered for the Navy in January of 1942.

After basic training he was to attend mechanic's school but on the first day of class, his teacher turned out to be his former apprentice and within days, he had been assigned to a ship. He served as a diesel mechanic aboard the submarine tender U.S.S. Eurayle and on the submarines U.S.S. Silversides and U.S.S. Darter.

Shortly after the war, Louis returned to Louisville and Whayne Supply. He continued to work as a mechanic and in 1948 he moved to Ashland to be the Resident Field Serviceman of what is now the Ashland and Pikeville territories. The closest thing he had to a shop was the garage at his house. Most work was done in the field but if the weather was bad he would take the component home to work on in his garage. There was no "Night Owl" parts truck so parts were shipped by bus. Bigger parts came by truck and were dropped off at the Neichter home. One day Kitty came home from shopping and could not get in the front door to their home because a set of D8 tracks and undercarriage had been dropped off and were blocking the door. She called a tow truck and had them moved. Their basement was the Parts Department.

Other Resident Field Servicemen were transferred to Ashland and Louis became the Parts and Service Manager. The work

quickly became more than they could handle and Doug Ezell, Company President, and Roy and Harry Whayne were persuaded to build a permanent branch in Ashland. In 1951 the Ashland branch was opened with Louis as the Parts and Service Manager.

While living in Ashland, Louis and Kitty had three sons. Louis remained in Ashland until 1958 when he was transferred to Corbin to open a depot and later, a branch. With the opening of the Corbin branch, Louis became its first Branch Manager. In 1963 he was promoted to Vice President and Corbin Branch Manager.

Following the death of company President Nelson Helm in 1965, Whayne management was restructured and Louis Neichter was transferred back to Louisville and promoted to Vice President and Director of Services. The

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Louis Neichter - The Personal Side

by John Neichter

Louis Neichter was more than President of Whayne Supply. He was a loving husband and father with a wonderful sense of humor and a great enjoyment of life. For the past thirty years his name has been synonymous with Whayne Supply and to many he was Whayne Supply. He knew the company better than anyone else ever has or ever will.

After the death of his father, Roy, Sr. and Harry Whayne became his mentors. He learned much of how to treat people and how not to treat people from them. Roy and Harry were not known for their kindness or compas-



Louis Neichter in the shop at the 8th and Main Street location in the early 1940's.

sion. They were, however, very kind and compassionate to Louis. Although he occasionally went out of his way to throw Roy and Harry into tantrums, they always forgave him.

Once, after the company had purchased a new truck, Harry told Louis to paint the truck yellow. "The whole truck?" Louis asked. "The whole truck!" Knowing what he meant, Louis went ahead and painted the whole truck - tires, windshield, mirrors, etc., yellow. Harry came back and just about had a stroke. (Louis got to spend the night removing paint from the truck and Harry docked the cost of the paint from Louis' paycheck.) Between being fired by Roy or Harry, he was fired three times and always re-hired. Louis was the son Harry never had.

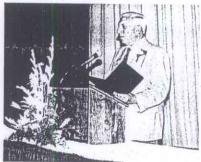
This was the foundation of his lifetime

60 years at a place you don't like. While going through his personal effects following his death, it was discovered he still had his employee badge when he was hired full-time in 1938. He also had his temporary employee badge. Louis loved coming to work and the people he worked with over the years. It was his second family.

Even though he spent a lifetime with his

devotion to Whayne Supply. You don't work

Even though he spent a lifetime with his second family, he always had time for his first. He had his priorities in order. Growing up he was never an "absentee" father. He was



Louis was proud to be recognized for his 50 years of service at the 1988 Service Awards.

always there for his family. For a man who grew up without a father he set a wonderful example.

He was most definitely a people person. He treated everyone the same whether they were a janitor or United States Senator. To him, people were people and they all deserve respect. If you worked here while he was president, you knew that.

When he volunteered for the Navy during World War II, he did it as a diesel mechanic, not to kill people. He volunteered for submarine duty when submarines were still in their infancy. One of his submarines, the U.S.S. Silversides, was the most decorated American submarine during the war - although he would never have told you that. Louis was also a member of the occupation troops in

Hiroshima after the war.

As he worked his way up in the company he did not do it at the expense of others. When he became president he made it a point to always look after the employees. He knew

Last year at Quarry Days Louis enjoyed checking out "the big iron." Standing in front of a bucket on a Cat 5130B is Bill Pullen, John Neichter the employees made this company. They always will. Louis maintained an open door policy and if someone wanted to talk to him. he would listen. He could make a decision and stick with it. If it turned out to be the wrong decision, he would do his best to correct it. He was extremely honest. If he told someone he would do something, he did. He was always very generous and was almost always for the underdog.

He enjoyed stock car racing and had been attending them since the early 1950's. He hated to see one driver dominate but knew whoever was hot today would fade and someone else would take their place. They always did. It is that way in business as well.

His death was a loss for the company as well as for everyone that knew him.

Louis Neichter

(continued from front page)

next year he was promoted to V.P. and Assistant General Manager and in 1968 Louis became V.P. and General Manager. In 1971 he was again promoted, this time to Executive V.P. and General Manager.

Following the death of Roy C. Whayne, Sr. in 1974, Louis Neichter became the fifth President of Whayne Supply. In 36 years he had gone from Helper and Janitor to President of one of the largest Caterpillar Tractor dealers in the world. (He often joked that if he had the opportunity to go to college he might have done something with his life.)

In July of 1984 he had a heart attack and that September he stepped down as President and became Vice Chairman of the Board, his title when he retired in January of 1985. He continued to serve on the board of directors and even attended a board meeting two weeks before he died.

Louis died peacefully at home following recent health problems. He is survived by his mother, sister, Kitty, his wife of almost 57 years, sons Bill, Larry, John, their wives, and his daughter, Linda.

Whayne Supply announces Louis Neichter memorial scholarship

At the September meeting of the board of directors it was announced that Whayne Supply would be naming a Technical Scholarship in honor of Louis Neichter.

The aim of this program will be to encourage and assist young people in the pursuit of a technical career in the equipment industry.

