There were no Facebook posts, no tweets tweeted, or photos Instagramed, but yet 35 years ago on July 1, Watco got its start. The only thing to document the day was the sweat dripping from the Team Members switching railcars in the 91 degree Louisiana heat.

After 35 years, the story has been told several times and things change as the versions are told, but one thing always remains the same. Dick Webb had a vision. That vision was to start a business switching railcars that focused on serving the Customer. And although the terminology has changed, the theory was that if you take care of your Team Members, they in turn will take care of your Customers and your business will be successful. The Customer First Foundation Principles weren’t written on paper at the time but they were shown in the actions of the Team Members serving our very first Customer.

Team Members who were on the ground taking care of our first Customer were Mark Blazer, Linn Herman, Jim Herman, Keith LaCaze, Pat LaCaze, Ed Mayberry, Jeff Mayberry, Art Smith, Carl McKeown, Herb McKeown, Benny Wise, Curtis Hare, Melvin Brown, and Sam Aeschliman. Four of those Team Members, Mark, Linn, Jim, and Keith are still playing key roles for Watco today.

Blazer said, “Our job was to take care of the Customer so if they asked us to do something that another railroad wouldn’t have done, we did it.”

Four thousand Customers later, that theory appears to have been proven true.

Some milestones to note in the Watco history include the start-up of each service division. Of course, 1983 was the year Watco began industrial contract switching in DeRidder, Louisiana. Two years later, a railcar repair shop was added and in two more years, Watco got its first chance to operate a short line railroad with the acquisition of the South East Kansas Railroad, which would later become the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad.

The company stayed busy the next few years building its portfolio of railroads and in 1998 Rick Webb took the helm as Chief Executive Officer. In 2008 Watco acquired Reload, Inc., which was the start of what is now the fastest growing division in the company, the terminal and ports division.

If any year was big for Watco, 2010 was it. Watco won a bid to operate grain trains in Western Australia, announced a Kinder Morgan relationship, and then acquired full ownership of Greens Port Industrial Park. That triad of opportunities has lead to an amazing amount of growth in just the past few years.

Because of the success of the grain trains, Watco will be operating grain trains on the east coast of Australia in the near future. The Kinder Morgan relationship lead to the acquisition of multiple Kinder Morgan Terminals, and Greens Port just expanded its operations to include the Industrial Terminal assets and now goes by Greens Port Industrial Terminals. Watco’s most recent addition was Supply Chain Services, which started up in 2014. This division provides logistics solutions to Customers both nationally and internationally.

Each addition of a new service was driven by Customer needs. Moving into the future, who knows where Watco Customers will lead us and what new ventures they’ll introduce the Watco Team to?
Watco signs agreement to move Eastern Australia grain

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Watco and Customer CBH Group have set so many records for moving grain in Western Australia that its time to move to the other side of the continent and try to accomplish the same feat.

Watco recently signed a contract with a new Customer, GrainCorp, to serve as their above rail operator for grain movements in Queensland, which is located on the eastern coast of Australia. Queensland is the second largest state in Australia, and it’s three times larger than the state of Texas. They have two harvests per year which produces approximately 2.8 M tonnes of grain. GrainCorp is the largest exporter of grain on the East coast of Australia and they represent more than 40% of Queensland’s annual grain production. They operate over 170 receival sites and seven port terminals. Watco will provide train service to Mackay, Gladstone, and Fisher Island Terminals. During the term of the agreement, Watco will have the exclusive right to perform narrow gauge rail product haulage services in Queensland from the designated loading facilities and destinations.

As part of the agreement, Watco is purchasing eight locomotives and new wagons for the operation. The locomotives have been ordered from National Rail Equipment in Mount Vernon, Illinois, and the wagons are being made in China. Because of the time involved in building and shipping the rolling stock, startup is expected to be underway around the fourth quarter of 2019.

When asked how the opportunity came about, Grant Thompson, COO of Watco’s Australia operations, said, “GrainCorp contacted Watco as they were impressed with our ability to deliver record grain tonnes by rail in Western Australia, and being a customer focused and efficient organisation.”

“Of course,” laughed Thompson, “Watco CEO Rick Webb also worked some of his magic.”

Eastern Idaho Railroad hosts Officer on a Train

The Eastern Idaho Railroad in Idaho Falls, Idaho, joined forces with Operation Lifesaver and Idaho State Police in June to participate in the “Officer on a Train” program, or in this case, Trooper on a Train. During these types of events officers ride the locomotive with the train crew, while other officers are on the ground. The officers communicate via radio when they have a motor vehicle approach the crossing and if the vehicle fails to yield to the train, the officer on the train radios to the officer(s) on the ground and the vehicle is pulled over and usually written a citation.

Officers joined trainmaster Dustin Korell, engineer Scott Davis, and conductor Nick Altiere in a locomotive and on the ground to promote rail safety laws on June 11 between Idaho Falls and Pocatello. They made 49 stops and wrote 27 citations to drivers for failure to yield to trains at crossings.

“We are thankful for both Idaho Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator Travis Campbell and the Idaho State Police Department for allowing us to be a part of this program. It’s great opportunity to bring Railroad Safety Awareness to the public,” said EIRR general manager Joey Haynes.
It’s only about 120 miles from the outskirts of Austin, Texas, to the western suburbs of Houston, and for the Austin Western Railroad Team (AWRR) and Customer Oldcastle Materials, that distance just got considerably smaller.

Oldcastle is one of Watco’s largest Customers and the AWRR transports aggregates for them daily. When the opportunity to expand even further, together, came up, both sides jumped at it. Over the last six months, Oldcastle and the AWRR have worked together to rehabilitate 25 miles of track that was previously out of service. The line runs from Elgin, Texas, to Giddings, Texas. They also added a 2,200 foot spur for Oldcastle to receive their cars in Giddings.

“This development is right along Highway 290, which is the connection between Houston and Austin. Over the next generation, we’ll see that highway develop even more, potentially servicing hundreds of thousands of people,” said commercial manager Chuck Carr. “Oldcastle is looking at the future. One of the things they do really well is putting facilities, people, and resources in position for future growth.”

The plan was brought up in 2015, but Carr really started pushing for it in 2017. The plans came together and work started in January 2018. The job of coordinating the rehabilitation of track that had been out of service for almost 35 years was given to AWRR roadmaster Dustin Hiser. He oversaw the day-to-day of around 10 different contractors. The AWRR also brought on two new Team Members and split their road crew into two four-man teams, so one could focus mostly on the project since it was so large in scope. In the end, it was nearly a $7 million investment.

“We have quite the relationship with Oldcastle, and this increased it. We communicate with them on a daily basis, and this project just added to that,” said Hiser. “By completing this project, we’ve proven to them that we’re committed their growth. They trust us to move more, heavier trains for them and that makes it an all-around better relationship.”

Currently, the AWRR is expecting to move about 500 Oldcastle cars per month on the new line. That volume could increase depending on how quickly development in the area picks up. There’s also a Union Pacific (UP) interchange in Giddings that could open up even more opportunities in the future, aggregates may only be a part of traffic there.

“There will hopefully be more business coming into that Giddings area, so this will give us the ability to serve the eastern side of the Austin area,” Carr said. “It’s a work in progress. There are opportunities with multiple commodities going forward.”

A little further south, the San Antonio Central Railroad (SAC) recently saw some Oldcastle-related expansion as well. The Team there installed a unit train switch, to allow Oldcastle cars to come in directly off the UP main line. Previously, any rail cars that interchanged were dropped off and picked up in a separate location, and could only accommodate a smaller number of cars. Now, UP can directly deliver large sand or rock trains for Oldcastle.

This is new business for the SAC, and the trains will originate on the AWRR.

“It’s kind of a three way partnership with us, Oldcastle, and another Customer, CIG Logistics,” said SAC general manager Jeff Pacheco. “We plan on moving one to two trains per month to service Oldcastle’s new asphalt plant here. This new switch will help us do that faster for them, and increase our operations here as well.
Ribon cutting held at new Oshkosh Terminal

by Elizabeth Hayes
Contributing Writer

The City of Oshkosh, the Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation, and Watco Companies hosted a ribbon cutting at a new terminal facility in Oshkosh, Wisconsin’s Southwest Industrial Park in mid-June. Watco’s Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) provides rail access to the 11-acre facility.

The facility was built in part with a $1,009,000 Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) program grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). The TEA program provides financial assistance to help communities with road, rail, harbor, or airport improvements to attract employers to Wisconsin, or encourage a state employer to expand in the state.

“Partnerships like this, between the state, the community, and private business, are critical to Wisconsin’s success,” said WisDOT Secretary Dave Ross at the event. “The TEA program is a valuable tool for the department to support economic development.”

The facility features two 1,200-foot-long rail spurs with concrete rams for vehicle loading at the end of each track. One spur serves Oshkosh Corp., the city’s largest employer, which manufactures and markets access equipment, specialty vehicles and truck bodies for the defense, refuse hauling, and fire and emergency industries. The second spur is used by Certainteed Corp., 3D Corporate Solutions, Darling Ingredients, and Agri Trading. Oshkosh city officials have identified potential expansion plans to serve future demand.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, Wisconsin Transportation Secretary Dave Ross, Oshkosh City Manager Mark Rohloff, Oshkosh Mayor Steve Cummings, and Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation CEO Jason White hold the left side of the ribbon as the WSOR locomotive rolls down the track to “cut” it. The other side of the ribbon was held by Watco Team Members Solomon Watkins, Adam Hanson, and Brad Peot.

“This is a wise investment for Wisconsin,” said Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. “This facility will enable shipping and serve to keep Wisconsin businesses competitive in regional, national and international markets.”

The Governor recognized the ambition and potential that Watco has seen in Wisconsin, and hopes more public-private partnerships develop from the example of this successful terminal.

Jason Murphree, WSOR commercial director, said, “We are very grateful to the City of Oshkosh and the Wisconsin DOT for their support and assistance in developing this transload terminal.

Watco Team Members with Governor Walker at the Oshkosh Ribbon Cutting (l-r): Operator Joseph Wendt, Terminal Manager Solomon Watkins, Governor Walker, Divisional Safety Manager Nick Golian, VP Occupational Safety and Health Jeff Baum, AVP of Operations Adam Hanson, VP of Operations Scott Rudolph, Commercial Director Jason Murphree, and in front, Supervisor Joey Casey.

Transloading has become a major pillar of Watco’s service offering in Wisconsin and has become a significant part of our growth strategy on the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. This facility, and others like it, opens the WSOR up to Customers who are not along the tracks and have not been able to access the railroad in the past. The rail access creates additional shipping options for many Customers in Wisconsin, which in turn makes them more sustainable in a market where long-haul trucking is becoming more of a challenge every day. We are very excited for our great Customers, current and future, to be able to utilize this great facility in Oshkosh.”

#WHY WATCO

by Jay Benedict
Digital Communication & Social Media Specialist

Charlene Huskey has her dream job. Charlene’s been the receptionist at Watco’s corporate office in Pittsburg, Kansas, for 14 years now.

“I always wanted to be a receptionist,” she said. “When I started here, we had eight railroads. By the end of the second year, we had 16 railroads. We had doubled in size, and I thought, ‘This is going to be a good job.’”

Charlene is the first impression of Watco for many people. Whether it’s potential Team Members coming in for an interview, a Customer calling in with a question, or a Team Member out in the field coming to the office for the first time, Charlene is the first person they see when they come through the doors and is the voice they hear when they pick up the phone and call. That kind of responsibility might get to some, but it’s one of the aspects that she enjoys the most.

“I think it’s very important. In fact, that’s one of the things that spurred me on in the beginning because I knew the effect that it’s going to have,” Charlene said. “If someone didn’t know what to do, it would show an attitude that this company doesn’t know anything. It’s very important for me to represent the company as knowledgeable, so that people know that we know our information and they want to work with us.”

Prior to joining Watco, Charlene worked at the George A Spiva Library at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Missouri, as a library clerk. Her practices of having the correct knowledge and helping people started there. She worked in several departments, but was always helping students find the resources they needed.

When she was looking for a full-time job, Charlene originally applied for a customer service position. She wasn’t familiar with railroads and didn’t feel she had enough experience, though. When she spoke with someone here, they also mentioned a receptionist was leaving. Charlene jumped at the opportunity and hasn’t looked back.

“When I was in school, I had two things come up on the test. One was to be a library clerk, and the second thing was to be a receptionist, and those have been the two of the most happy jobs I’ve ever had,” Charlene said.

Aside from being the first impression of Watco, she also enjoys the duties that come along with the job.

“I enjoy the memorization of the phone numbers and extensions, the recognition of the names, knowing who the managers are for the different departments and locations. Trying to keep up with that, and being helpful and cordial,” she said. “I used to have a hard time with memorization, but I knew that this job would help with that, and it has.”

Now, almost a decade and a half later, Charlene isn’t planning on making any changes. That same feeling she had at the beginning is still there.

“It’s amazing where we are now compared to where we were when I started,” she said. “More railroads came, then GBW Railcar Services, and then the terminals. I hope they keep me until I can’t work. My goal is not to retire at 63.”
Watco wins second consecutive AEU Safety Award for stevedoring services

by Elizabeth Hayes
Contributing Writer

On June 27, 2018 Watco Companies accepted the 2017 American Underwriters Equity, Inc. (AEU) Safety Award for stevedoring. The event was hosted by the AEU at the Decatur Ferro Terminal in Decatur, Alabama. “The AEU gives these awards out measuring not only accident prevention performance but also specific management-based controls. Out of 1,200 companies, nine companies were awarded the AEU 2017 Safety Award. Watco was first in its class for the second year in a row. They are the top of their class and size,” said Holly Chapman, chief financial officer of AEU.

Watco Team Members, Decatur Port Authority, AEU employees, management, as well as the Mayor of Decatur were in attendance. Stan Bryant, Joe Brown, and Nick Coomes of Watco Companies spoke at the event. The Senior Vice President and Director of Loss Control at AEU, Jimmy Burgin attributed the award to Watco’s dedication to safety and other commitment to the “Watco Way”.

“The Team Members have all embraced the Watco Way of working safely and getting the job done. And it really does pay off,” said Burgin. “We have established great relationships with the people at Watco, but that is not why we have given them this award. Your award was for meeting our set criteria of safety, and for that you should be very proud.”

The Award was presented to Team Members from Birmingham, Alabama; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Dravosburg, Pennsylvania; Houston, Texas; Galena Park, Texas; Ghent, Kentucky; Louisville, Kentucky; Industry, Pennsylvania; Jeffersonville, Indiana; New Johnsonville, Tennessee; New Martinsville, West Virginia; Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Port Arthur, Texas; Vicksburg, Mississippi; Blytheville, Arkansas; Guntersville, Alabama; Amory, Mississippi; Memphis, Tennessee; West Memphis, Arkansas; Decatur, Alabama; Grand Rivers, Kentucky; Rockwood, Illinois; St. Louis, Missouri; Sauget, Illinois; Chicago, Illinois; Hainesville, Kentucky; Cincinnati, Ohio; Columbus, Mississippi; Elizabeth, New Jersey; Pittsburg, Kansas; Brooklyn, New York; and Catoosa, Oklahoma. Representatives from the facilities were at the event to accept the award and visit with Team Members from other locations. This is the second consecutive year that Watco has received this award. It is an amazing feat, and safety can never be taken for granted.

“Everyone has earned this. This award is good, but what is better knowing that you are working for a company that cares about your safety. Things can still happen, so always remember what you are doing,” said Burgin.

Burgin concluded the event by stating, “We would like to thank all our team members for performing safely and efficiently. It takes hard work to maintain the safest work environment possible. Continue living out the Watco Way!”

Watco operates 87 terminals in 29 US states and one in Mexico.
It’s summer, summer, summer time! That often translates to the pool, vacations, baseball, and BBQ’s. Here are some of my favorite go-to tips to staying healthy during the hotter, often busier summer months.

1. **Protect Your Skin:** I know we all like that bronze summer tan, but it’s important to protect your skin from the sun’s harmful rays. Not only will you avoid wrinkles and premature aging, but you will reduce your risk of skin cancer. Wear hats, light, loose-fitting clothes, and avoid being in direct sunlight during peak hours. When choosing a sunscreen and lip balm, stick with an SPF between 30-50, and strive for a natural, organic brand that does not use harmful chemicals. (I like EltaMD, Honest Company, or Alba Botanica - they also have great bug sprays as well!)

2. **Stay Hydrated:** Hotter temperatures, means more sweating, which leads to increased dehydration. Make sure to drink PLENTY of water! (You can reference my article about the Benefits of Water in the April Dispatch for more info on H2O.) You can also eat more water-rich fruits and vegetables to stay hydrated. Produce that is made up of 90%+ water include: watermelon, cucumber, pineapple, romaine lettuce, tomatoes, blueberries, cantaloupe, grapefruit, and pears, to name a few.

3. **Exercise Outside:** Summer mornings and evenings are the perfect time to get outside and exercise. Enjoy some laps in the pool, go for a bike ride with the family, walk, jog, golf, play with your dog, join a baseball or frisbee league - the list is endless! There are so many active things you can do outside that aren’t always available to you during the rest of the year, so take advantage. Plus a little Vitamin D from the sunshine does the body good.

4. **Eat Fresh Produce:** Summer is prime season for amazing produce! If you have access to a Farmer’s Market, definitely checkout what the local farmers are growing this time of year. When you consume fresh produce that is in-season, you are getting so many more vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and nutrients that keep your body healthy. Some of my favorite fresh fruits and veggies during the summer include: corn on the cob, cherries, watermelon, peaches, apricots, plums, tomatoes, squash, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, okra, basil, kale, and swiss chard.

5. **Try a New Summer Recipe:** I’m sure most of you have been to several BBQ’s already this summer, with a few more to go. I encourage you to up your recipe game by trying a new one (or two) that incorporates some flavorful summertime ingredients! I guarantee your family & friends will not only be impressed, but be begging for the recipe. Some of my favorite food bloggers with amazing (and healthy) recipes include: Ambitious Kitchen, Fit Men Cook, Cookie & Kate, Just A Taste, JoyFoodSunshine, & Cotter Crunch, to name a few. To get you inspired, here is a yummy dessert to try this summer!

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**Peach Blueberry Cobbler**

(Adapted from Ambitious Kitchen)

**Ingredients:**
- 4-5 medium slightly firm peaches, pitted, peeled, and thickly sliced
- 1/4 cup coconut sugar
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 cup all-purpose flour or whole wheat pastry flour or gluten-free flour
- 1/3 cup coconut sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon celtic sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/3 cup melted coconut oil
- 3/4 cup unsweetened vanilla almond milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

**For Topping:**
- Extra blueberries
- 1 Tablespoon coconut sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

**Instructions:**

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease a 9x9 inch pan or a 2 quart baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.

Add peaches and 1/4 cup coconut sugar to medium saucepan and place over medium-high heat. Bring to a boil - this should only take about 5 minutes. Immediately remove from heat and fold in blueberries. Pour into prepared baking pan.

In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, 1/3 cup coconut sugar, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon. Pour in melted coconut oil, milk and vanilla. Stir until well combined and batter is no longer lumpy. Pour over the fruit and spread evenly with a spatula.

Combine additional coconut sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over the top of the cobbler.

Bake for 35-45 minutes or until the fruit is bubbly and top is slightly golden brown. Serve warm - it’s especially yummy with dairy-free coconut ice cream!
Congratulations to the following Team Members celebrating anniversaries this month.


3 Years: Justin Ave, Gregory Barnett, Jerson Barrios, Christopher Crompton, Jonathan Cunningham, David Dougherty, John Gates, Anthony Gay, Cameron Gonzales, Brad Hamlin, Jon Harden, Gene Hernandez, Micah Howard, Jared Hurst, Gerald Kattner, Noah Lucero, Ed McGuire, Heriberto Mendoza, Eric Powers, Kaileb Rose, Myra Shumate, Christopher Smith, Morgan Westhoff

4 Years: Bryan Adkins, Eddie Atkins, Justin Ayala, Bret Burricht, George Cabrera, James Carnes, Joshua Clifton, Kevin Cloward, Chantz Conlin, Robert Curtis, Darl Farris, Michael Fields, Paul Gonzalez, Joseph Harris, Cameron Hawkins, Joey Haynes, Todd Krydynski, Jeffrey Linvile, Vancell Lucas, Brittany Mays, Jacky Miller, Casey Mills, Carlton Moody, Thomas Nicholson, Brock Parham, Lynda Patterson, Angel Pequeno, Rajendra Ramesh, Brigid Rich, Shelia Stice, Kevin Waite, James Welch, David Woody

5 Years: Brenda Antle, Christopher Bauder, Alan Beggs, Luis Del Rosario, Yeibi Gutierrez, Michael Hanna, Nathan Holmes, Kevin Kaczmarek, Jacob Kleckner, Jacob Lipinski, David McCloud, Ruben Powell, William Richardson, Cody Rickman, Dane Rowe, Toni Scroggins, Bryan Waldon, David Wastak, Drew White, Billy Williams, Tyler Wilson

6 Years: Dustin Bain, Thomas Glover, Lucinda Grimes, Henry Howard, Ronnie Jackson, Wayne Matthews, Joelye May, Michael McAllister, Mark Mcgee, Jessica Mitchell, Michael Newlan, Jeffrey Pacheco, David Pacholski, August Pappas, Ronald Perkins, Ryan Roos, Charles Schilling, Andrea Stouffer, Charles Teevers, Joe Via

7 Years: Bryan Barney, John Brown, Reginald Burks, Edward Diemert, Thomas Hayes, Douglas Hicks, Casey Irvan, Jacob McCullough, Thomas McMullan, Ronald Miller, Travis Phillips, Melissa Rains, Jose Rodriguez, Leon Steege, Steeny Swinford, Darren Taylor

8 Years: Gary Alms, John Bradner, Joseph Bristow, Brian Cosby, Joe Fells, Matthew Hutcheson, Patrick Kinney, Crystal Lancaster, Stefan Loeb, Andrew Mitchell, Robert Smith, Tammy Springer

9 Years: Patrick Lineback, Ryan Corder, Matthew Jackson, Amanda Pequin, Sherrell Ramey, Gary Wagenseller

10 Years: Susan Blake, Garrett Bolyard, Carla Ewing, Ty Fuller, Timothy O’Sheel

11 Years: Tandi Colibet, Bobby McFadden, Michael Milligan, Travis Thorpe, Jeremiah Williams

12 Years: Francis Benally, Chet Clasen, Kyle Jeschke, Matt Lewis, Jennifer Muckala, Cesar Oglesby, Dianna Peak, Sambo Sam, Kenneth Tober, Jeremy Tyler

13 Years: Antenogenes Barajas, Carl Fanello, Mitchell Hood, Cornelius Jones, Colby Jordan, Michael Redden, Bridget Smith, Toby Wampler

14 Years: Robert Bailey, Laura Bole, Bradley Bowden, Doug Story

15 Years: Beau Embrey, Royce Price

16 Years: Don Rudd, Douglas Tank

17 Years: Brian Arnold, Jeffrey Schroeder

19 Years: Derek Damesworth, James Dwire, Robert Hasheider, Steven Landis

20 Years: Scott Rudolph, Hector Saenz, James Taylor

21 Years: Joseph Bennett, Gregory Johnson, Bart Lawrence

23 Years: Bryan Brooks, James Riley

24 Years: Gisele Brown, Harold Cornelius

25 Years: Tona Townzen

26 Years: Joseph Leport

27 Years: Jeffrey Adams

29 Years: Donald Dowlin

32 Years: David Bierman

33 Years: Stephen Thornton, Stewart Uhl, Jeff VanBuren

34 Years: Gary Skelton

35 Years: Mark Blazer, Jim Herman, Linn Herman, Keith LaCaze

38 Years: Steven Groth, Stephen Reames, William Tope

41 Years: James Johnson

Births

Amon Jack and Kit Murdock Smith

Christopher and Bianca Smith are proud to announce the birth of their twin sons, Amon Jack and Kit Murdock.

The boys were born on May 10, 2018, at 35 weeks. Amon was born at 6:20 pm and weighed 6 lbs., 8 oz., and was 20 inches long. Kit was born at 6:21 pm and weighed 7 lbs., 9 oz., and was 20 inches long.

The boys were welcomed home by their big sisters Leah, 8, River, 7, and Pipa, 2.

Christopher is a helpdesk technician based out of the Springdale, Arkansas, office.
Watco short lines win Norfolk Southern Awards

Two Watco short lines recently received three awards at the 17th Annual Norfolk Southern Short Line conference. The Ann Arbor Railroad won both the General Manager’s Operating Achievement Award North Region Dearborn Division and the Automotive Group Marketing Achievement Award.

The Autauga Northern Railroad was the big winner of the evening by taking home the Norfolk Southern Short Line of the Year Award. Anthony Kirkland, AUT general manager was there to accept the award on behalf of his Team.

Watco Team members attended the Norfolk Southern Short Line conference where two of the Watco short lines received awards. Pictured (l-r) are Stefan Loeb, EVP network strategy; Marc Massoglia, senior vice president of commercial; Ed Elkins, Norfolk Southern VP of industrial products; Jason Murphree, commercial director; Bill Goldsberry, vice president of operations, Kirk Small, commercial manager, Matt Smolek, vice president of commercial; Tony Kirkland, AUT general manager; KR McKenzie, commercial director, and Chris Slasinski, NS short line development manager.