Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad begins operations

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

The weather may have been dreary, but spirits were high as Watco’s Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad (DREI) began operations on September 8, 2018. The Team began their first move by bringing nine locomotives online from Terra Haute, Indiana, with the MOW Team leading the way via hi-rail. The Team made their first interchange that same day and also spotted their first Customer, Cargill. The DREI’s first unit grain train completed a full first day by coming in right before midnight.

The 126.7 mile line operates two intersecting routes; the former Decatur Subdivision runs between Montezuma, Indiana, and Decatur, Illinois, and the former Danville Secondary Subdivision, which runs between Terre Haute, Ind., and Olivet, Ill. It interchanges traffic with Class I’s CSX, the Norfolk Southern Railway, the Canadian National Railway, the Union Pacific Railroad, and the Eastern Illinois short line railroad.

On hand for the start-up were two mechanics, six MOW Team Members, nine T&E crew members as well as Go Teamers from all over the Watco network. In addition, there are four Team Members who were in Birmingham, Alabama, finishing up training at the STAT Center. The railroad was also supported by Team Members from IT, People Services, Safety, and Commercial divisions.

Vice President of Operations Jimmy Patterson said, “It is really amazing to see so many people jump in with their sleeves rolled up to kick off this railroad. Every person, both new and veterans of Watco, pulled together as a team.”

He added, “Our new Customers were excited to see us as we pulled into town for the first time. This line has tremendous potential and I know our Commercial Team is working hard to find ways to help our Customers grow and the future in Eastern Illinois is promising.”

Denon Green, DREI general manager said, “There are always a few hiccups when you start something new, especially with an operation like this, but at the end of the day, all of our Customers were served, and everyone performed safely. That’s our number one priority, staying focused on safety. That’s the true measure of success and ultimately, what matters the most.”
Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad hosts Officer on a Train events

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

The last week of September was designated as Rail Safety Week by Operation Lifesaver in an effort to stop tragedies on railroad tracks. As part of this event, Watco’s Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad (KO) hosted an Officer on a Train event on September 25 in Wichita, Kansas.

The event was organized by Kansas Operation Lifesaver President Sergeant Matt Vogt from the Valley Center Police Department and KO trainmaster Chadd Timesch.

Conductor Aaron Morris and engineer Billy King rode with a Wichita Police officer while other officers followed the train. The officers wrote 12 railroad crossing violations and three pedestrians were also contacted.

Not to be out done, another KO location, Great Bend, hosted an Officer on a Train event as well. There were four crossing citations written and 10 pedestrians contacted. Of those 10 pedestrians, four were educated on trespassing and six were contacted as part of the positive enforcement campaign and rewarded with Sonic drink coupons.

The Great Bend event was organized by KO trainmasters Travis Schnelle and Chadd Timesch and Kansas Operation Lifesaver’s Sgt. Vogt.

The goal of the Officer on a Train events is never to see how many violations can be handed out, but to educate both officers and the public on rail and crossing safety. Many of the officers involved in the events are surprised at the number of violations that occur.

Last year there were approximately 2,105 vehicle-train collisions in the U.S. resulting in 274 deaths and 807 injuries.

AMERICAN SHORT LINE AND REGIONAL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES SAFETY AWARD RECIPIENTS

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) is recognizing safety award winners at their regional meetings during the fall.

This year, 20 Watco railroads won Jake with Distinction Awards. This award is given to the short lines with zero RPI’s for the year. These railroads were: Alabama Warrior Railway, Arkansas Southern Railroad, Austin Western Railroad, Baton Rouge Southern Railroad, Bogalusa Bayou Railroad, Boise Valley Railroad, Cicero Central Railroad, Great Northwest Railroad, Kaw River Railroad, Mission Mountain Railroad, Mississippi Southern Railroad, Pacific Sun Railroad, Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad, Pecos Valley Southern Railway, Pennsylvania Western Railroad, San Antonio Central Railroad, Swan Ranch Railroad, Timber Rock Railroad, and the Vicksburg Southern Railroad. Although not a short line, the Watco Switching Division also was recognized for being below the ASLRRA Group RPI Ratio.

Jake Award winners were: Birmingham Terminal Railway, Eastern Idaho Railroad, Grand Elk Railroad, Lubbock and Western Railway, Texas and New Mexico Railway, and the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. Although not a short line, the Watco Switching Division also was recognized for being below the ASLRRA average RPI.

The Jake with Distinction Award and the Jake Award were named for Lowell S. "Jake" Jacobson, a long-time advocate and leader in railroad safety. Jacobson serves as president and chief operating officer of the Copper Basin Railway in Arizona. He was the recipient of the Railway Age Railroader of the Year in 1994.

Travis Herod, Watco senior vice president safety and training, said, “It’s exciting to see these railroads being recognized for their safety records.”

MECHANICAL TEAM GIVES SUN RAIL LOCOMOTIVE A FRESH LOOK

Watco primarily works with freight rail but our mechanical shop in Canal Point, Florida, recently got to work on a passenger locomotive. The Sun Rail locomotive had some front-end damage which was repaired and then the Canal Point Team repainted it.

Dupont Imron paint was applied from the cab forward featuring a white base, four stripes, and a clear coat on top for protection.

The locomotive normally travels on a path following Florida’s I-4 corridor but to get to the shop, the locomotive rode the rails of CSX, Florida East Coast, and South Central Florida Express. The unit spent less than 30 days at the location before being sent back home with a fresh new look.

Charlie Sigley, shop manager, said a former Customer, Drummac, had contacted him to see if the shop would be interested in bidding out the job.

“It’s always a great show of faith in our Team when a former Customer reaches out to us. I think they lived up to that trust and did a remarkable job painting the locomotive,” said Sigley.

The Canal Point (Florida) Mechanical Team recently had the opportunity to paint this Sun Rail locomotive that had front-end damage repaired.
Mitchell Alred is listed in the Watco directory as a marine operator, but, like many Team Members, that doesn’t capture the full scope of his responsibilities. Mitchell works at the Amory, Mississippi Bulk Terminal. He was there for about a year while it was still a Kinder Morgan Terminal, and joined the Watco Team in December 2016 when the terminal was acquired.

“I’m pretty much a float. I can do pretty much everything here and fill in where I’m needed,” said Mitchell.

Born in Panama City, Florida, Mitchell’s dad traveled a lot for Walmart when he was young. They eventually settled down in Smithville, Miss., and he grew up seven miles up the road from the Amory Terminal. He played drums and attended college on a music scholarship. After earning his Associate’s degree, Mitchell worked building boats, but was looking something more career-oriented.

“I got my degree, but I didn’t feel like I was really using it at all. So I started looking for where to start a career,” Mitchell said. “This seemed like a place where there’s room to grow. So that’s what I’m trying to do right now. I’m trying to learn everything and hopefully, at some point, move up to a different position with more of a leadership role.”

Mitchell’s already made some progress on that goal. He started out pushing the inside of barges out, loads railcars, and even mows the grass if needed. Mitchell talked with supervisors and started learning some of the administrative duties at the terminal. He knows the financials and learned about Safety Data Sheets. He was recently put in charge of the terminal’s monthly inspections too.

“I really want to get into the operations part of it next,” he said. “I really want to be able to run this place if need be.”

His initiative has paid off and his supervisors have noticed. Mitchell is scheduled to attend Watco University’s Team Safety and Improvement Committee training this December in Birmingham, Alabama, where he’ll learn more leadership skills and initiatives that he can take back to Amory.

“Mitchell can do nearly anything that is asked of him and does a great job at any task that is thrown his way,” said operations supervisor Cameron Ginther. “He has a good understanding of the Watco Team Member mentality that has been established and emits that mentality every day he comes to work.”

When he’s not at the terminal, Mitchell keeps busy at home with his wife, April, and two sons, one of which is just a month old. He’s also a worship leader and plays in the band at their church. He approaches music the same way he does work. In addition to drums, he primarily plays guitar now, but can also play piano and ukulele.

Two new engines were recently added to Watco’s roster of school themed locomotives. WAXM 3942 and WAXM 3946 were painted to represent two of the schools in towns that Watco’s Mission Mountain Railroad (MMT) railroad operates.

The 3942 was painted in an orange and black color scheme with the Eureka Lions mascot and GO LIONS! painted on the side. The 3946 sports the Columbia Falls red and blue colors along with the wildcat logo and GO WILDCATS! on the sides.

MMT general manager Kyle Jeschke said, “We work and live in these communities and we wanted to give something back and show our support for them.”

“We’ve had a great response from the schools,” said Jeschke. “They really appreciate the fact that they have something pretty unique out there showing the school pride.”

Columbia Falls High School principal Scott Gaiser said it is something the school appreciated.

“We were excited about it because we bleed blue around here,” said Gaiser. “We are pretty proud of our kids and this school and our community.”

“We talked about the locomotive at our homecoming rally,” added Gaiser. “We were able to reference the big strong engine, which is just like Columbia Falls and our kids.”

Watco now has 10 locomotives on the rails sporting the school colors of six universities and four high schools.
Wisconsin governor recognizes WSOR's flood recovery

by Jay Benedict
Digital Communication & Social Media Specialist

During the afternoon of Monday, August 20, rain started falling across South Central Wisconsin. The storms gained intensity through the night and by Tuesday morning, nearly a foot of rain had fallen in and around Madison, Wisc. The rivers and creeks rose quickly, causing flash floods and flooding at levels that hadn’t been seen in years.

“We saw flooding in 2013 at Boscobel and in 2008 in Reedsburg, but nothing involving this many feet of track being gone, it was a lot more than we’ve ever seen,” said Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) roadmaster Chris Jacobson.

First thing Tuesday morning, while many were surveying the damage to their homes and businesses, Team Members with the WSOR were out in hi-rail trucks counting washouts and formulating a plan to get the track repaired and back in service. In total, there were 85 washouts totaling 6,000 feet of track on the WSOR’s Prairie Sub, mostly between Middleton and Mazomanie, including several bridge structures. All together it exceeded more than $1.5 million in damages.

“Some work we were able to start immediately and then in a couple locations, we had to wait a good seven days before the water receded enough so we could start,” said WSOR general manager Preston Nelson.

The Team prioritized what could be addressed first and set a timetable to reach certain benchmarks. The first was the restore service to Customers in Mazomanie, by September 8. The September 1. Next, was restoring service to all Customers in the Middleton Industrial Park by benchmarks. The first was the restore service to dressed first and set a timetable to reach certain

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker recognized WSOR’s flood recovery Customers in Mazomanie, by September 8. The September 1. Next, was restoring service to all Customers in the Middleton Industrial Park by benchmarks. The first was the restore service to dressed first and set a timetable to reach certain

The Team’s quick actions in restoring service and congratulated them mid-September. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) worked with the WSOR and will allow them to seek reimbursement for 80 percent of eligible costs, up to $750,000, which they are eligible for since they met all their deadlines.

“Leaving companies stranded without the ability to get products to and from market efficiently was not an option,” said WisDOT Secretary Dave Ross. “Congratulations to WSOR for their immediate mobilization of staff and contractors. By working around the clock, they made the necessary repairs to ensure the needs of industries located along this rail line are met.”

The bulk of the work is done, but there’s still more to do. The track still needs surfacing work and ballast in some areas and as trains roll through, the new track is going to settle. There is plenty of debris to clean up too. That’s expected to be done in the coming weeks.

Top photo: Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Team Members work to repair washed out track near Black Earth, Wisconsin. Bottom photo: The same view of the completed track.

Before and after photos of the track west of Mazomanie, Wisconsin.
Peabody Team sets record

by Jay Benedict
Digital Communication & Social Media Specialist

In their first month switching railcars at the Peabody location in Wright, Wyoming, the Switching Team at the North Antelope Rochelle Mine – North location broke the record for most tons of coal loaded in a month.

From startup on August 1 to the end of the month, they loaded 2.37 million tons, which was 200,000 tons more than the previous record. That is roughly 12 more trains, bringing their monthly total to 147.

Location Manager Todd Hamilton said, “This is a huge accomplishment considering the Peabody Team was short staffed and not at full strength at startup. We did have some talented Watco Go Teamers who were on location and helped us accomplish this feat.”

Across all four Peabody locations, the Team loaded 690 trains in August.

The number of railcars being loaded at the mine during the first month of operations set new records.

#WATCO MOVES

by Jay Benedict
Digital Communication & Social Media Specialist

Customer: Loup Logistics
Commodity: Rubberized Pipe
Location: Oklahoma Transload Services – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

These days, it’s not very often you get the opportunity to be the first to ship a product by rail, but when that opportunity was brought to commercial manager Laura Schmidt she jumped at the chance to find the solution.

Loup Logistics, a subsidiary of Union Pacific Railroad (UP), approached Schmidt with a project they were working on for one of their customers. They needed to stage large rubber irrigation pipe at the Oklahoma Transload Services (OTS) yard before shipping by rail. The pipe was being stored at three different locations about an hour from OTS near Kingfisher, Oklahoma. The leases at these locations were expiring, and the product needed to be moved by August 31.

So, the first challenge was getting the pipe to OTS.

“Loup came to us and asked if we could store the pipe on our yard,” Schmidt said. “So we came up with a trucking solution for that. We utilized two trucks from Pittsburgh (Kansas) and the one truck we had in Oklahoma City. We got all the pipe trucked to our location and we’re providing the storage as well.”

The Team made the deadline and filled the OTS yard with around 1,700 pieces of pipe in about a six week time period. Each pipe is about 52 feet long and its outside diameter is 38 inches. They weigh anywhere between 5,500 and 11,500 pounds apiece depending on wall thickness, which ranges from one and a half inches to seven inches thick.

The pipe is traveling by rail to the Bakersfield, California, area, so after getting the pipe on the ground, the next challenge was figuring out how to load the pipe on railcars since it had never been done before.

The terminal is located next to the Stillwater Central Railroad (SLWC) depot, so the pipe starts out on the SLWC before being interchanged to UP for the rest of its journey. If everything keeps going according to plan, the Team hopes to meet their goal to have all the pipe loaded and shipped in time.

“It was definitely a Team effort, and on the operations side, it was a big learning curve, but we provided the solution that helped Loup gain this business,” Schmidt said.

The Watco Teams involved in putting this solution together included Watco Terminal and Port Services, OTS, Commercial, Pricing, operations support, and the SLWC.

“Laura was wonderful in working with the Customer. (AVP of operations) Adam Hanson and (WTPS director of transportation) Ed Diemert helped us out a lot. It was a real Team effort,” Skeen said. “Nobody had gotten to do it before, so it was definitely a challenge, but it’s a blast being involved in it.”

After being trucked in and stored in the Oklahoma Transload Services yard in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, rubber irrigation pipe was then loaded to rail (top picture) and shipped to the Bakersfield, California, area.

“Our Operations Team and our support group worked with Union Pacific to put together the loading diagram, figure out the damage and the strapping that would be required,” Schmidt said. “They all worked together to come up with the solution for that.”

In all, it will require about 140 railcars to ship all the pipe to its final destination. The OTS Team’s goal is have the project completed in 16 to 18 weeks. After getting used to the new loading process, the Team is averaging two rail cars each day.

“Anything new comes with its challenges, but our Team hit the ground running,” said OTS yard supervisor Dylan Skeen. “We went from being able to load one car in a couple days to loading two cars in a 10-hour shift.”

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Our Deepest Sympathies

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of the following Team Members who recently passed away.

Richard Ernest Polk
June 20, 1967 - August 19, 2018

Richard Ernest Polk was born on June 20, 1967, in Lufkin, Texas, to Janice Marie and Ernest Polk and died on August 19, 2018. Earnest was raised by his grandmother, Ernestine Merle Bradford Anderson. He attended the Lufkin Independent School District and had been employed by the Timber Rock Railroad and then by the Vicksburg Southern Railroad. He was a member of Triumph Church in Vicksburg, Mississippi. His livelihood included: video games, especially Dragon Ball Z and he was an avid video game player. He also loved his job and was very family oriented and spent quality time with them. Earnests' second home was at Game Stop where he purchased video games that he enjoyed. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Survivors include his fiance, Wendy Jones, of Vicksburg, Mississippi; son Teyard Polk of Beau- month, Texas; sisters Stephanie R. Wilson, Taresa Coutee Wilson, and Rena Alexander (Michael) all of Lufkin. Niece Kirsten Fahy (Anthony); nephews Denzel Wilson, Jermaine Alexander, Darius Williams, and Tyrell Williams. He also leaves behind a wealth of cousins and other relatives and friends.

William Scott Gray
January 13, 1962 - September 6, 2018

William Scott Gray of Pittsburg, Kansas, passed away September 6th with his loving and devoted wife by his side. Scott was born on January 13, 1962, in Oakridge, Tennessee, to William Arden Gray and Janice Carleen Gray (nee Garrett). Within a few years, the family moved to Pittsburg, Kan., and this is where Scott grew up attending Horace Mann Elementary School, George E Nettles Elementary School, Lakeside Junior High School, then Pittsburg High School.

Scott played football for PHS and graduated from PHS in 1980, then attended Pittsburg State University for studies in the Plastics program.

On November 16th, 1985, Scott was joined in marriage to Lisa Gayle Platt at the University Timmons Chapel. Over their 33 years of marriage they lived in Kansas City, Kan., and Phoenix, Arizona, eventually returning to Pittsburg.

Lisa was the love of his life, and Scott was the love of her life. They enjoyed watching the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals Baseball. His sense of humor will be missed by all his friends and family.

Scott worked at Watco for the past seven years, enthusiastically planning, setting up, and cooking for the Watco tailgate parties at the Pitt State Gorilla football games. He was a key Team Member of the warehouse and facilities team and was involved in many of the community activities on behalf of the company. He loved his job and loved his Watco family.

Scott is survived by his wife Lisa Gray, parents William Arden Gray and Colleen O. Gray, his sister Rebecca (Gray) Ash (Jeffrey), and brother Ed McKechnie, mother-in-law-Charlotte Platt, his aunt Susan Lloyd, sister-in law Kelly Colvver, brother-in-law Whitney Platt and partner Nick Typardos. He is also survived by five nephews; James Colvver (Amy), Nick Ash, William Ash, Austin McKechnie, and Jackson McKechnie.

He was preceded in death by his mother Janice Siebuhr and father-in-law Harry Platt, grandparents Ruth and Karl Garrett, Wilbur and Elta Gray, and Bill and Elizabeth Lane, as well as his dear friend Dave Walker.

Kelly King
April 2, 1967 - September 9, 2018

Kelly King, 51, of Sylvan Springs, was born on April 2, 1967, and passed away September 9, 2018.

Kelly graduated from Hueytown High School in 1985. He was employed by Watco Companies for 23 years. He loved fishing, hunting, golfing, yard selling, and spending time with his family. He attended Heritage Christian Center, Hueytown. He was a volunteer fireman at Sylvan Springs Volunteer Fire Department.

Kelly was preceded in death by his mother Margaret Louise McCombs, and his father William Cameron King.

He is survived by his wife of nine years Melony King; children Kayley Garza (Larry), Cody King (Tiffany), Katie Black, and Dalton King; grandchildren Abigail Garza, Conner Cameron King, Olivia Garza, Barrett Nolan King, and Ella Cameron Garza; sisters Tammy Clements (Gary), and Kimberly Miller; step-sister Terri Davis (Steve); mother-in-law Carrie Smith; step-father John McCombs; and many special aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Births

Everett (Rhett) Wayne Booth

Jeff and Mindy VanBuren are proud to announce the birth of their grandson Everett (Rhett) Wayne Booth. Rhett is the son of Dakota and Emily Booth. He was born on August 18, 2018, and weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz., and was 21.5 inches long.

Rhett was welcomed home by his sister McKynlee, 2.

Jeff is an engineer for the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad (SKOL) and Mindy is the administrative assistant for the SKOL. They office out of the Cherryvale, Kansas, depot.

Louis Franklin James

Jessica and Ben James are proud to announce the birth of a son, Louis Franklin. Louis was born on July 2, 2018, and weighed 7 lbs., 7 oz., and was 21 inches long.

Louis was welcomed home by his brother Jackson, 2.

Jessica is a customer service representative and works from the Pittsburg, Kansas, office.

Ella Grace Brown

Clayton and Michaela Brown are proud to announce the birth of a daughter, Ella Grace. Ella was born on June 21, 2018, and weighed 8 lbs., 13 oz., and was 21 inches long.

Clayton is a switchman at the El Dorado, Arkansas, facility.

Michaels (Trip) Harris III

Michael and Jasmine Harris are proud to announce the birth of a son, Michael (Trip) Harris III. Trip was born on August 7, 2018, and weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz., and was 20 inches long.

Trip was welcomed home by his brothers Elisha and Jerry and his sisters Bryonna and Michaela. Michael is a switchman at the El Dorado, Arkansas, facility.
Congratulations to the following Team Members celebrating anniversaries this month.


2 Years: Kimberly Berry, Daniel Casey, Jennifer Fore, Jake Gandy, Calvin Jonas, Vance Kirkpatrick, Robert Lawrence, Margaret Miles, Brian Mills, Joe Percival, Samuel Radzak, Pete Reyes, Joseph Riley, Ethan Sailor, Tanner Tate, Carlos Torres, Joshua Walker, Kenneth Womble, Tyler Workman, Mitch Wortman, Michael Zimmerti


5 Years: Clint Allen, Amber Brown, Nicholas Burnham, James Burris, David Charters, Kyle Clutter, William Coleman, Rosalio Collazo, Kylie Collier, Vanessa Espitia, Rebecca Garza, Credrick Gray, Virgilio Ibarra, Daniel Lester, Robert Llewellyn, Evelio Morales, Michael Onuskyanch, Clint Pavlicek, Rocio Perez, Marcell Salmond, David Shortel, Brian Spiller, Tommy Terrell, Ricky Vidrine

6 Years: Peter Christy, Tyler Crawford, Jayon Exum, Michael Galligan, Jesus Garcia, John Harrigan, David Lawson, Larkland Linton, Carine Maxie, Brian Morgan, Rodney Pickett, Richard Wheeler, John White

7 Years: Peter Bercier, Jeffrey Buck, Lonnie Evans, Douglas Frazier, Gabriel Grad, Milton Gray, McKenzie Green, Joseph Hartley, Travis Ivy, Trenton Jones, Brian Manning, Erik Mitchell, Marilyn Moore, Arturo Perez, Leonel Ruiz, Salvador Sanchez, Michael Sepulvado, Michael Tucker, Jeremy Veley, Derrick Williams

8 Years: Corey Black, Timothy Dykes, Mark Maddox, William Sorensen

9 Years: Merlin Bridge, William Hill, Elvis Johns, Todd Johnson, Erik Kebel, Brian Pitt, Jeremy Sepulvado, Michael Toler, Dion Weichel

10 Years: Sherrie Baykowski, Mark Bowen, Lucas Conrad, James Culbertson, Troy Forsis, Cleveland Garth, Michael Harris, Albert Perez, Justin Ray, James Shoop

11 Years: Russell Antonucci, Jana Austermiller, Billy Barton, Donald Byrd, Gumaro Castillo, Ryan Gordon, Roger Howard, Elizabeth Newberry, Amanda Santha, Misael Santos, Jason Seger, Sterling Teague

12 Years: Gregory Baker, Robert Graham, Teri Kinyon, Karl Meyer, Matthew Stover

13 Years: Jeffery Hoagland, Scotty Presley, Pedro Ramos, Jose Saavedra, Diana Scheffel, Thomas Scherzer, Delia Winegarner

14 Years: Sheri Escobar, Bo Fox, Travis Herod, Myron Kilburn, Efren Llanas, Phyllis Wyatt

15 Years: Marvin Albrighton, Jeffrey Baum, David Hambrick, Kyle Kozman, Charles McGinn

16 Years: William Czapla

17 Years: Scott LYNAS, Michael Sturm, James Wren

19 Years: Randy Hartley

20 Years: Scott King, Daniel Lewandowski, Norman Neal

21 Years: Donald Brau, Heath Morgan

22 Years: Ivan Ferrin, Silvio Gomez, Raymond Higgins, Phillip Lee, Edward Moore

23 Years: Rodney Daughterty, Steven Korell, Roos- evlet Robinson

24 Years: Matthew Davis, Shannon Downen, Marcus Kuhlman, Lori Magee, Clay Quillian, Kevin Smith

25 Years: Cirilo Bueno, Carl McCartney

26 Years: Brian Daental, Bruce Hueter, Craig Stanbury

27 Years: Anthony Clark, Jamie Swaynos

29 Years: Eddie Bennatt, Kelvin Matthews

30 Years: Michael Allen, Robin Doom

31 Years: Ralph Ferrebee, Earl Holt, Michael Noss, Michael Tappy

32 Years: James Moore

33 Years: Keith Lacaze

34 Years: Clarence Parrie, Mark Turner

35 Years: Phillip Penner

37 Years: Lonnie Joyce

38 Years: Kimberly Bourgeois

41 Years: Mario Marghella

42 Years: Medric Hayes

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Births

Maylin Michelle Peterson

Rachael and Sean Peterson are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Maylin Michelle. Maylin was born on August 25, 2018. She weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz., and was 19.5 inches long. Rachael serves as Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer and works out of the Overland Park, Kansas, office.

Colt Lee and Kash Vance Gomez

Chanc and Jen Gomez are proud to announce the birth of their twins, Colt Lee and Kash Vance. The boys were born on August 17, 2018. Colt weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz., and was 20 inches long and Kash was 6 lbs., 10 oz., and was 19 inches long.

Colt Lee Gomez

The boys were welcomed home by siblings Me-lina, 19, Micah Jo, 8, and Ryder Kross, 4.

Chanc is a real estate property manager working out of the Pittsburg, Kansas, office.

Zara Samira Carnes

Danyale and Cheryl Norman are proud to announce the birth of a granddaughter Zara Samira Carnes. Zara is the daughter of Trentavi-cous Carnes and Tamara Brown. She was born on August 13, 2018, and weighed 5 lbs., and was 18 inches long.

Zara was welcomed home by her siblings Dalen and Ivanna.

Danyale is the location manager at the El Dorado Arkansas, switching facility.
Watco's Terminal Team in Amory, Mississippi, recently hit an impressive safety milestone; eight years injury free! A cookout was held for the Team to celebrate their continued focus on safety. Mechanic Andy Carter and leadman Mitchell Hood manned the grill and provided steaks and brats.

Terminal manager Jim Strawn said the biggest factor in hitting the eight-year milestone was communication. "The Team communicates well and they always are watching out for each other. They take their time to get the job done safely and efficiently."

"Longevity also plays a part in the location's safety record. Most of Team has at least 10-11 years at this location," said Strawn. "That longevity helps with the communication because they've had more time to get to know each other and how they operate."