

# Letters



## Use of hand signals when lifting with excavators

Dear Mark.

The Voluntary Code of Practice (VCOP) has been published by the Off-highway Plant and Equipment Research Centre (OPERC) as guidance, free of charge with all images copyright free. This VCOP aims to address the issue of poor communication between excavator operators and banksmen by providing a set of unequivocal (and in many cases long established) hand signals. We at OPERC believe in sharing good practice to improve the lives of workers so perhaps we can engender changes to international standards or at least create a common set of banksman signals for when excavators are used as cranes.

You may consider the VCOP worthy of a mention in any future publication of *Cranes & access*. We would welcome any feedback and the guidance will be reviewed at the six month point.

Regards,

**Mick Norton BEM**

## Stay in the cab

In relationship to the crawler crane fatality in India in which the operator died after jumping out of the cab as the crane overturned, I was reminded of my training, admittedly long ago, in which I was told that it is statistically safer to remain in the cab when things go south, even if it was for a tower crane in a disaster scenario. Such accidents always make me think of that.

**Mike Halligan**

*This relates to an incident on July 1st in which a mid range crawler crane owned by MVR overturned while lifting a large concrete bridge beam on the construction of a flyover in Hyderabad, India, killing the operator, Gurpreet Singh, 45, after he climbed out of the cab as the crane began to go over sustaining fatal injuries in the process. Police said that he sustained crush injuries, either from one of the carbody counterweights or the beam itself. He was declared dead at the scene.*

## Online Comments

Good Morning Leigh,

I am writing to you and am happy to have this as a letter in the next edition if you see fit.

The subject is specifically the comments section of the Vertikal website.

I am writing with regard to the article you posted about Art Moore. Sadly I never knew Art, but I knew of his name and all who have business in the Powered Access Industry owe gentlemen such as him a debt of gratitude for being pioneers in the business which we all make our living.

However, I am disappointed to see that subsequent comments on his passing have seen a number of "thumbs-down" clicks, which I find somewhat distasteful. I believe that in cases of obituaries this feature should be disabled for fear of causing offence to the deceased's loved ones.

Additionally, I am concerned at the ability of people to post comments under the cover of a Pseudonym or Nom de plume to protect their identity. This allows for seeming personal attacks and sometimes outrageous comments, which I am certain causes you Editorial headaches having to censor.

I believe that you should consider removing this anonymity and people should either post under their own names and have the courage of their convictions or keep their own council. Unlike others I am entirely comfortable to post under my own name and do not conform to the sentiments of keyboard warriors who hide and snipe from a protected position. Cyber bullying needs to be eradicated and certain comments in the past may potentially fall into this category and I am absolutely certain that a vast majority of contributions would be reduced if the protection of anonymity were removed.

Sadly such a feature has the unwelcome ability to bring your excellent magazine and website into disrepute and to reflect on what is otherwise the stand-out and go to industry leading publication.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Longstaff

Chairman

Clements Plant & Tool Hire Ltd

*Mr Longstaff makes some very valid points which we wholeheartedly agree with, the disabling of the thumbs down feature on obituaries was in fact adopted as a policy many years ago at the suggestion of a regular reader. However in this case the thumbs disable function had not been activated. Some of this is due to the fact that the method used on the backend of the new website is different and was simply missed. It was immediately activated as soon as it was spotted.*

*The second point however is much more difficult to deal with. It is almost impossible to ensure that a contributor has given their real name, unless you insist on a credit card or passport and have the ability to verify it, and even then, it can be circumvented. A few years ago we adopted the requirement to activate an account which*

*obliged people to use a real email address. We will also delete comments which make malicious personal attacks or contravene the normal rules covering things such as racism or incitement to violence etc... And should a contributor continue to post such comments they will be suspended or permanently blocked.*

*We take such feedback extremely seriously and are constantly reviewing our practices, it would be so easy to just not have the instant comment feature, however over the years this function has added a huge amount of good feedback and interest, and in the case of obituaries a feature that has repeatedly brought joy and comfort to the families of the deceased.*

*Editor*

**The late Roger Wickens - a message from Anne**

Following the loss of my beloved Roger on 17th May, I just wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone: family, friends and work colleagues (both present and past) - for all your support and care, the numerous cards and letters, your messages, the wonderful tributes to Roger on both Linked-In

and Vertikal - including Vertikal's own touching comments, the flowers and the plants and roses which will be lasting reminders of a truly wonderful man.

Thanks to everyone who attended Roger's funeral on 10th June, it was good to see so many of you there to say a final goodbye to him. Roger was a very special person to so many people

in so many ways.

Last, but not least, a huge thank you for the donations to Cancer Research UK in Roger's memory. Donations given at his funeral and those via his JustGiving page currently total £1,602.41. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**Anne Wickens**

**Arthur 'Art' Deshon Moore 1924 - 2019**

**Access industry veteran Art Moore, the co-founder of crane and boom truck manufacturer Pitman, who went on to establish the Snorkel aerial work platform business passed away on Wednesday June 19th. He would have been 95 next month.**



Born in Abilene, Texas, he moved with his mother to St Joseph, Missouri when seven years old. A couple of years later in 1933 he and his mother moved again following the divorce of his parents, as a result he started at a new school where he first met crane and boom truck pioneer Ray Pitman. The two become instant and lifelong friends.

He joined the Naval Air Corps towards the end of the second world war and trained as pilot, although was probably too late to see the worst of the action. After the end of the war he took up the opportunity presented by the GI bill for veterans to attend the university of Kansas and then in 1950 he joined Pitman to found Pitman Manufacturing to develop the Hydra-Lift crane/boom truck that Pitman had conceived to solve a problem encountered in his contracting business.

The two did surprisingly well, and in 1952 when looking to develop a longer boom for their increasingly popular boom trucks, they came across a trailer mounted aerial work platform designed by Canadian Ted Trump. The unique platform - the IG-40 Orchard Giraffe - was designed to pick apples, but clearly had potential in a wide range of other industries. The two looked to license the product, and also build units for Trump to sell. At the same time Simon Lift from the UK became involved in the negotiations and acquired the overseas rights for the product, while Pitman acquired the North American rights and also built the first kits for Simon to assemble at its plant in the UK.

In addition to utility work the Giraffe was used for aircraft de-icing applications by the military, and a larger truck mounted version was introduced. In 1958 a 50ft Giraffe was modified by the Pitman dealer in Chicago for fighting fires at the request of the local fire chief and was nicknamed the 'Snorkel'. At this point Moore - who only had a small minority stake in the Pitman business - registered the Snorkel brand name and then left the company to establish the Snorkel Fire Equipment Company to sell the firefighting units, which continued to be manufactured by Pitman.

In 1971 Moore sold Snorkel to Harry Figgie's ATO company, remaining on board to manage the business as part of the Figgie corporation. In 1977 they decided to enter the



*Art Moore with the restored 1979 Snorkel TB-42 at the ARA 2017*

budding self-propelled aerial work platform market, with a focus on the telescopic boom lift market which had been developed by John Grove's JLG. Moore launched Snorkel's first model, the TB-42 telescopic boom lift in 1979, a product that became well known for its rugged build and reliability.

In 1988 Figgie acquired market leading scissor lift manufacturer Economy Engineering, incorporating it into Snorkel. Moore eventually retired in 1991, although he rarely seemed far away from the industry - it remained 'in his blood'. Moore's numerous contributions to the powered access industry have been recognised with numerous honours including IPAF's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016, and induction into the American Rental Association's Hall of Fame in 2017.

Moore returned to the Snorkel board of directors in 2013 after the company was acquired by Don Ahern, and continued to work with the company. He is survived by wife Sue, and daughter Melissa Moore and several grandchildren.

Snorkel owner Don Ahern said: "For many years, Art Moore was a mentor to myself and others in the early years of the access rental and dealership business, and he ultimately became a close friend. He will be a great miss to Snorkel and the wider industry, and I send my sincere condolences to Sue and family at this difficult time. Art's legacy extends beyond his outstanding achievements in the access industry. He lived for adventure, travelling around the globe, and never shying away from adrenaline with friends and family by his side."



*Don Ahern and Art Moore during Conexpo 2014*