



Wind safety developments

The following responses were received in response to the article published in the last edition of *Cranes & Access* which reported on the long term efforts to make wind turbine installation lifting safer.

Dear Sir,

I read this with interest having been involved in turbine erecting, albeit in a smaller role as a tailing crane for the tower sections and the tandem lifting of blades off of transport and onto a lay down area. What surprised me about this article is that the people in the conference were shocked into silence. I only have a rudimentary understanding of physics due to only having an O level in it, academically wise, but basic physics, and to me common sense, means that this stands to reason! I've lifted concrete fascia slabs that have a similar surface area to fire panels for houses - the drag effect, of course, is far greater on this than the concrete therefore the likelihood of the load shifting outside of the safe working envelope of the crane and leading to an accident is greater - this is just basic stuff of crane operating. Maybe I'm assuming too much because I've experienced it personally as an operator and perhaps, therein lies the problem - the crane industry, certainly in the UK, is populated by a lot of people who have only a theoretical knowledge or worse still, none whatsoever but have jobs because they are sales people - who have no practical experience of the service they are selling. Experience counts for a lot!

Steven Schmalenbach
Crane operator

Dear Sir,
Very very interesting and the heavy lifting industry needs to take on board the importance of sharing critical safety information

Andy Tymon
Lifting Engineer

Adapting and keeping going

Greetings Leigh,

Snow and freezing cold has gripped our region of Arkansas, USA for three weeks or better. However, I'm still an avid dedicated follower of your mission in the lifting industry. I turned 80 last November and had a good business year in 2020 until November. That is normally a slow time for tree services, but it stopped the first week of November.

I still own a 2003 Niftylift TM40 and it runs very well. If my crystal ball weren't cracked and clouded, I'd announce I am prepared for another good year, my 31st in tree care. In November I saw the dead time as perfect timing renew my business of spinning tops or spinners in the UK. I hopped on the planning mode to develop my 10th workshop the smallest ever at 6 x 8ft. It is about 80% done and with this cold weather we have, I am driving myself to complete the setup and turn on the lathe. My blog site - www.shermanstops.com - will soon have spinners for sale, and I hope to learn how to make and spin whip tops which have been popular in the British Isles.

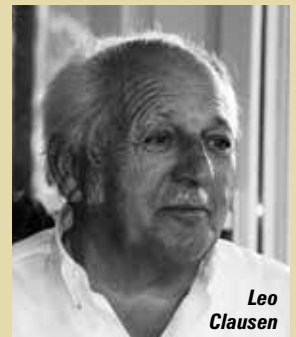
Praying your good health and success this year,

Sherm Anderson

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Leo Clausen-Gerold 1939-2021

Swiss crane veteran Leo Clausen-Gerold passed away on March 4th after a long illness. He would have been 82 next month. Clausen laid the foundation for his crane rental company, Clausen Kran, in 1969 when he purchased a tracked excavator and set up as an excavation contractor in the town of Brig, along with his wife Marie-Therese Clausen-Gerold, who died from cancer in 2004. They acquired their first crane, a 15 tonne PPM 1507, in 1972 and in the years that followed added larger cranes to the fleet. Today the company's 'flagship' is a 250 tonne Liebherr LTM 1250-5.1.



Leo Clausen

In 2002 Leo handed over day to day management of the business to the next generation in the form of Geri and Cornelia Clausen. The company has gone on to become a real specialist in alpine lifting and has used its 60 tonne telescopic crawler cranes to great effect, installing cable car stations at high mountain elevations.

Clausen Kran issued the following message: "Words cannot describe how touched we are to hear how much love and appreciation others had for Leo, and who grieve with us and will miss him. Thank you very much for all of great sympathy. We are so proud to be able to continue Leo's and Marie-Therese's life's work."



Leo Clausen with his first crane

Denis Henry Ashworth 1923-2021

Access industry veteran Denis Ashworth passed away on February 28th at the tender age of 97.



Ashworth was in at the very start of the powered access market, having joined Simon Engineering in Dudley in 1951 as a management trainee.

An engineer by training, his career began in 1939 as a student apprentice with Renold & Coventry Chain company in Manchester. But he had always wanted to work at Simon, as his father was employed there, and he had visited the factory on numerous occasions in his youth. He eventually went to work with the Thomas Adshhead subsidiary which Simon had acquired along the way.

His first encounter with an aerial work platform came in 1953 when Ted Trump arrived at the Dudley plant from Canada, having reached a partnership agreement with the British manufacturer. He brought with him a stack of drawings of his first truck mounted platform, the IG-40 - or Industrial Giraffe as he called it - a development of Trump's self-propelled Orchard Giraffe. Ashworth was promoted to works superintendent and told to convert the scrappy drawings into a proper design ready for production. The first 10 units had already been sold by Trump for delivery to Pitman in the USA. The team succeeded, largely it seems by trial and error, as the concept required some completely new designs and structures.

Ashworth and his colleagues worked around the clock and shipped the first production unit seven months later. Needless to say, it developed some major issues and Ashworth was flown out to Kansas to sort them out. He worked with Ray Pitman over a three week period and developed a friendship that lasted until Pitman passed away in 2014. The order was ultimately cancelled but the IG-40 went on to become a very successful machine. The next step though was to start designing work platforms from scratch, with the first unit - the P30 - launched in 1956.

Simon went on to become the world's leading aerial lift manufacturer, through a series of acquisitions which were never properly integrated or thought through. But Ashworth became chief engineer and served as engineering director for many years. He was rewarded in the



The first IG-40 on demonstration before shipping

Queen's 1974 Birthday Honours with an MBE and in 2009 given an IPAF Lifetime Achievement award.

However, Simon went into terminal decline and Ashworth retired from the company in 1994. But his career did not end there, as chairman of IPAF's technical committee he was heavily involved in the EU



Ashworth with his family collecting his MBE at the palace in 1974.

Machinery Directive and its application to aerial lifts. In 1995 he was retained by IPAF as technical director to represent the association in the development of the new European standards for aerial work platforms and was most instrumental in the drafting, and eventually the harmonisation, of the EN280 standard, a job which took years and was finally completed in 2004.

The work he did on this was a classic example of his persistence and patience. He presented updates at every IPAF council and manufacturer's committee meeting, having the unenviable job of updating a room full of people who had long ago given up on and lost interest in the detail of the ongoing saga of the new European standard. His dogged persistence paid off however, and the workable and sensible standard that he played a major role in developing has set the parameters for the latest global ISO standards for aerial work platforms.

In addition to his work in the access industry Ashworth spent 50 years in scouting, picking up numerous awards along the way. He was also a Scottish country dancing fan and travelled all over the country in a small camper van attending events. The industry has almost certainly lost its longest serving and one of its most talented engineers.

Ashworth published a book on both his life - in the form of an autobiography - and the history of Simon Engineering which is still available for those wishing to learn more.



John Ball (L) presents Denis Ashworth with his IPAF Lifetime award in 2009.

The letter below was received following the publication of the original obituary on Vertikal.net

Dear Leigh,

"I first met Denis in the late 1960's when ordering two Simon S 85 platforms for Eddison Plant Ltd. That was the first of so many meetings over the next 40 years through which Denis worked tirelessly with the International Work Platform Association, which through its amalgamation with the International Federation of Hydraulic Platform Manufacturers became IPAF. Few people in our wonderful worldwide powered access industry today will be aware of the massive contribution Denis made through his 23 years of patient determination and dedication as a leading member of EC Committee PrEN 280, whose purpose was to produce an EC Standard for the design and construction of mobile elevating work platforms. As a direct result of that standard, which is now regularly reviewed and updated to reflect engineering advances, manufacturers are able to produce products which by compliance with the standard ensure ever increasing safety for operators and members of the public.

I will always remember and admire Denis as a man who remained cool under pressure and who would stick to his guns when he knew he was right, and these were his great strengths when dealing with technical experts from other EC countries on PrEN 280, some of whom were more interested in personal vanity than the creation of a really viable and safe Standard for the European Community.

Thank you, Denis, for your massive contribution to technical advancement and safety in an incredible industry!"

Paul Adorian

Dan Kaplan 1942-2021

Rental industry veteran Dan Kaplan sadly passed away on February 28th at the age of 78 having developed pneumonia and complications resulting from a fall and broken hip.



Dan Kaplan

Kaplan made his name as president of Hertz Equipment Rentals where, between 1982 and 1997, he is credited with building the first major national rental company in the USA, taking revenues from \$58 million to more than \$500 million. After leaving the business in 1997 he set up a consulting business - Dan Kaplan Associates - working with rental companies in North America, Australia and Europe. He also wrote a book *Service Success! Lessons From a Leader on How to Turn Around a Service Business* and was a regular speaker at industry events. He was inducted into the American Rental Association's Hall of Fame in 2006.

At Hertz, Kaplan developed a way for the multi outlet organisation to work as a unit, with a unified image, sharing equipment between branches and making use of economies of scale along with a systematic management structure with branch managers, districts and regions, and a system of reporting and communication. He introduced and developed a range of measurement criteria in order to gauge the performance of individual managers and employees and was an early advocate of using dedicated rental software to help manage the business. As a consultant he played a significant role in helping United Rentals manage its industry 'roll-up' which developed into the world's largest equipment rental company.

Larry Silber, chief executive of Herc Rentals - as Hertz is now known - said: "We are deeply saddened by the passing of Dan Kaplan. Dan was a true pioneer, visionary, and innovator in the equipment rental industry, and created a legacy that those in the industry will benefit from for many years to come. He was a leader, mentor and friend to many people in our business and his influence was felt far and wide, from small independents to global equipment rental companies. Dan will always hold a special place in Herc Rentals as a central figure in our company's history, and we were especially honoured by his presence and remarks at our company's annual conference and expo in 2018. We know he was proud of what we had accomplished since becoming an independent company and he gave us excellent advice to help us continue our momentum. We will miss Dan tremendously and we will always do our best to live up to the example he set."

He is survived by his wife Doris, son Bradley and daughter Tammy, along with three grandchildren.

Stephen Gray 1977-2021

We received the tragic news that Stephen Gray, a tower crane operator with UK based tower crane company Falcon Tower Cranes, passed away in early February, after contracting Covid-19 in December and being admitted to hospital on December 26th. He was only 43.



Stephen Gray

He began his working life in 1999 as a stock quality and co-pack manager with DHL, before deciding to train as a crane operator, joining Falcon in 2015. Everyone who knew him has commented on what a first class human being he was, emphasising how funny, kind, generous and totally devoted to his family he was. He leaves behind his beloved wife Angela and two children.

The company said: "Stephen was a model employee, and he will be sadly missed by all that had the pleasure of working with him. He turned up for work every day with a smile on his face and would always have time for others that he came into contact with during the day and for the past six years we have had the privilege of his service."

"He contracted Covid-19 during December and was in intensive care throughout January. He had no underlining health conditions and this serves as a reminder of how indiscriminate the virus can be for all ages. He leaves behind a wife and two children. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family and friends at this very sad time. He will be missed by all who knew him."

José Antonio Eiriz 1959-2021

José Antonio Eiriz, owner and chief executive of Spanish crane and aerial lift rental company Gruas Eiriz passed away in late January, just a few days after going into hospital with Covid-19. He was just 61. Eiriz took over the management of the company, which is based in A Coruña in north east Spain, after his father, Ángel Eiriz, passed away in 2011, having started the business as a transport company in 1967 and added a wrecker crane/tow truck in 1974



José Antonio Eiriz

moving on to focus on crane and aerial lift rental. Today the company has revenues in the region of € million, employs 28 and runs cranes up to the 650 tonne Demag AC650 and work platforms to 40 metres. José's son Iago will now take over the management of the business.

Macarena García Oliver of Spain's crane and access magazine *Movicarga*, said: "The Spanish crane sector is in mourning with this sad loss. José Antonio was one of those people that absolutely everyone qualifies as good, no matter if he was a customer, friend, competitor or employee. He followed the legacy of his father with pride, optimism and respect. He was a very loved person in the sector and the loss of him is a jug of cold water. We send the family all the courage and all the strength to overcome this terrible event. We feel it from the heart. His son Iago will continue the saga and will make José Antonio very proud of him."

William 'Bill' McKenna 1956-2021

William 'Bill' McKenna of US crane and rigging supply company F&M Mafco passed away on January 4th at the age of 64, after having contracted the Covid-19 virus.

McKenna grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, in a family of four older brothers and a younger sister. His



Bill McKenna

father Bill and maternal grandfather A.I. Friedmann had set up the F&M trading company in 1945, initially buying and selling just about any surplus materials put up for sale by the Department of War Assets. The company later merged with Mafco to create F&M Mafco. At high school Bill Junior had a number of usual teenage jobs, including paperboy and filling station attendant and later a trainee mechanic working with his brothers at the family firm.

He formally joined the Mafco company in 1974 before it was consolidated with F&M and became chief operating officer in 2014, playing a key role along the way in building the company into what it is today. His hobbies and interests included working on motorcycles and riding out with wife Carole on a mission to find the perfect diner with the best cup of coffee, or the best fried chicken, or pie etc...as well as antiques.

Those that knew him personally have recounted numerous examples of how kind, generous, genuine and easy going he was. "Deliberate and precise with his words, he was honest, clever, hilarious, and chock full of wit and wisdom with a knack for knowing the perfect place to drop a certain word."

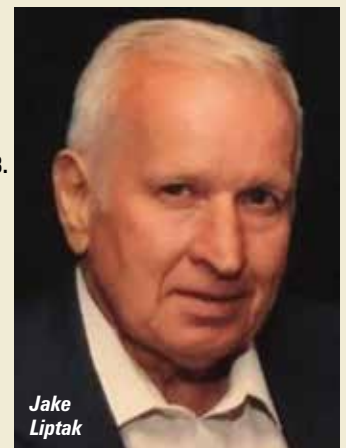
The company said: "Last Friday we laid to rest an amazing man. As an owner, the chief operating officer, and a one of a kind human being, Bill McKenna inspired us to do great things. His lasting legacy will forever energise us as we make our way forward. Bill's wisdom from nearly 30 years ago still rings true. The only constant in life is change, in fact, to change is to grow. Here at F&M Mafco, that is exactly what we are doing — changing and growing."

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 43 years Carole and children Shannon, Kane, Kyle and Corey, along with six grandchildren, and is also survived by brothers Robert, Patrick, Daniel and Michael, and sister Mary.

Jerome 'Jake' Liptak 1937-2021

Jerome 'Jake' Liptak, one of the co-founders of ALL Erection & Crane Rental and a pioneer of the US crane rental industry, has passed away. He was only just 83.

He and his brothers Larry and Mike and his wife Marvine, founded the company in Independence (Cleveland), Ohio in 1964 with the purchase of a 46 tonne/52.5 ton American #20. Jake spent many years operating a Galion cab-down Rough Terrain crane in the steel mills



Jake Liptak

of Cleveland and gained a reputation for his cheery disposition and work ethic. While he never married, he loved his family, his friends, his work, travelling, slot machines and attending equipment auctions.

The brothers expanded the business organically and then in 1978 acquired Dawes Rigging & Crane Rental of Wisconsin, opening an aerial work platform division in 1980. That same year it moved into West Virginia, buying a branch in Nitro from ACE. The company continued opening new branches and spreading its coverage, moving into Georgia in 1989 and acquiring Jeffers Crane Service in North Western Ohio in 1995. It moved into Tennessee in 1999 and also acquired a branch in Elkhart, Indiana from Central-Rent-A-Cranes. Branches were also opened in the Carolinas, Alabama and Louisiana. Today the ALL group claims to be the largest privately owned crane sales and rental business in North America, with 33 branches, 1,500 employees, and a fleet of around 3,500 machines.

A statement from the company said: "Jake Liptak is remembered as an industrious man who loved his work in the field, even after ALL became a leading brand across all of North America. He remained active in the company until just a few years ago, when he retired from his day to day work to focus more on his health. He passed away on Wednesday, January 27th, with his family by his side."

Nephew, and current ALL chief executive, Michael Liptak, added: "I have been overwhelmed with tales of my uncle's generosity. It seems everyone has a Jake story. He was a 'shirt off his back' type of person and we are finding out how many times he came to someone's aid, without seeking attention and without expecting anything in return. He had friends everywhere and will be missed by so many people."

"The brothers and my mother all complemented one another. In those early days, each was crucial to establishing the company we know today. They worked 100 hour weeks to get this company up and running. I am still amazed by what they built. Without Jake, ALL Crane as we know it would not exist."

Another nephew, Lawrence Liptak, said: "Jake was vital to maintaining the family atmosphere as the company grew. Jake would say that he 'never met a stranger'. He was accessible, knew everyone's name, and always had time to listen. That went a long way toward creating the type of culture we are now so blessed to have here at ALL."