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READERS LETTERS

Dear Mark and Leigh

I was very interested to read your article in the letters section of Cranes & Access concerning identification of 'old cranes'. I would think a regular feature along those lines would be very popular.

It occurred to me that you might be interested to have - as a gift - my library of old specs mainly from 1960s/70s and also still older cranes from Coles in particular.

I used to deal in used machines and, of course, they were invaluable to me in the days when I was a real person (now 83). My remaining dealer friends wouldn't want them because they represent machines in which they no longer deal. At the same time I don't want to just throw them away.

Let me know if you have any interest and I'll get them boxed up and include a selection of old photos which should present a challenge in identification.

Best Regards

Dave Carncross

WHAT WORK ARE THEY DOING?

One of our Vertikal.net readers asked a question that hopefully one of our Cranes & Access readers can answer. It regards the use of a platform in an aviation related application (see photograph) of a Manitou 360 degree telehandler with a platform and material handling davit installed. It is working on a Quantas Airbus A380 where two inspection panels have been opened so one assumes that they are carrying out a series of inspections, checks and routine maintenance.

The following two responses show the sort of feedback seen so far:

"It is a standard basket that Manitou produces that are allowed to both carry people and lift materials. It's a great tool for the people who know how to use it."

"This MRT is fitted with a platform and a winch. It was designed to remove the overwind slides on the A380"

If anyone can enlighten us further - perhaps those actually carrying out the work? - then we would love to hear from you editor@vertikal.net.



THE IAPA 2023 SHORTLIST

IAPAF has published the nominations - shortlist if you prefer - for the IAPA awards 2023 which will be announced and presented at the dinner following the IAPAF Summit, to be held in Berlin, Germany on April 20th. The nominations are:

Access Rental Company of the Year

Horizon Construction Development, China.
Mills, Brazil. Nationwide Platforms, UK.
Sunbelt Rentals, UK

Contribution to Safe Working at Height

Manitou, France. Nationwide Platforms, UK.
Protective Pty, Australia. Sunbelt Rentals, UK

The Sustainability Award

Haulotte, France. Genie, USA. MEC, USA.
Palfinger Platforms, Germany

Digital Development Award

Alimak, Sweden. Digiquip, Norway.
Nationwide Platforms, UK. Serious Labs,
Canada

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Award

Vicki Allen, International Platforms, UK.
Dayim Equipment Rentals, Saudi Arabia.
Mills, Brazil

Innovative Technology Prize

Mateco Romania - trouble shooting ecosystem. Nationwide Platforms, UK
- Harness On, Phase 2. Protective PTY, Australia - Scissor shield

Mast-Climbing Work Platforms and Hoists

Alba-Macrel Group, Spain - PMH passenger & materials hoist. Maber Hoist, Italy - MBC2000 transport platform. Torgar, Spain - PW-18 mastclimber. XL Industries, France - XE5 Top-Down Hoist

Scissor Lifts and Vertical Mast Platforms

JLG, USA/UK - Power Towers Duo. MEC, USA - MMAE16 vertical mast lift. Skyjack, Canada - E Series vertical mast lift.

Self-propelled Booms and Atrium Lifts

Almacrawler, Italy - Jibbi 1890 Primo self-levelling boom lift. Hinowa, Italy - Lightlift 40.18 spider lift. Manitou, France - 160 ATJ+e electric boom lift

Vehicle and Trailer-mounted Platforms

Elliott Equipment Company, USA - E150i truck mount. France Elévateur, France - UPTO 15 van-mounted platform. Ruthmann Germany - Steiger Ampero TBR 260 E truck mount. Palfinger Platforms, Germany - All-terrain Unimog-mounted platform

IAPAF Training Centre of the Year

Dayim Equipment Rentals, Saudi Arabia. Mills, Brazil. Nationwide Platforms, UK. Speedy Training, UK

IAPAF Training Instructor of the Year

Anna Sarah Costa Morais - Mills, Brazil. Gonçalo Pereira - Transgrua, Portugal. Uta Koch - Koch Arbeitsbühnen, Germany

Lifetime Achievement Award

To be announced at the ceremony.

ARUP SAHA DEURI 1960 - 2023

Dr. Arup Saha Deuri, head of R&D materials and a renowned Indian rubber and compound technologist at Indian off road tyre specialist Balkrishna Industries (BKT), has died. He passed away on February 17 at the age of 62, due to liver related issues.



A company statement said: "BKT mourns the loss of a dear colleague and remembers the profound impact Dr. Deuri had on the team and the company. He was a highly regarded scientific leader who made countless contributions to BKT during his more than a decade long association with the company."

"His innovative and strategic approach to R&D significantly contributed to the success of BKT, his absence will be deeply felt and his contributions to the company will be remembered with gratitude and appreciation. The company will continue to honour his memory by upholding his legacy of excellence in all areas of operation."



The crane earlier this year - photographs taken at the TFL depot in Acton last month

SAVING THE CRANE

It looks as though an aging Rapier mobile crane with cantilever boom has been saved from the scrap yard crushers. The crane - which we believe is a Rapier 8 Standard Mobile Crane built by Ransomes & Rapier - was owned by Transport For London and was sitting in the Acton depot under the management of the TFL museum staff. However, it did not have the space or resources and had to be cleared or scrapped.

The museum curator made indirect contact with the following letter:

"Hi there,

I know this might sound like a strange request, but I wondered how you dispose of old cranes and heavy plant? We have within our collection an old crane that is now cleared for disposal. However, we have failed to find anyone willing to take it off our hands so I thought I'd ask companies like yourselves who you deal with and if you have any suggestions that might be able to help us out.

Thanks for taking the time to read this, I look forward to any suggestions you might be able to make.

Kind Regards

Elisabeth

We contacted Peter Issitt of Crowland Cranes, who has restored several historic cranes over the past few years, and also posted the story on Vertikal.net. Issitt came through and agreed to collect the old crane and will hopefully restore it to its former glory.

The crane is based on a design concept that dates back to around 1923 and, apart from the cab, it remained largely unchanged over the years, at least in terms of the overall concept.

This type of crane was used widely in the UK rail industry working in station and goods yards. The Rapier was also the crane on which 'Kevin the mobile crane' in the children's books Thomas the Tank Engine was based.



A drawing from an advert which featured this type of crane and its application dating from 1939 promoting the benefits of using containers

As to the exact model, we are not sure. We found a few Rapier spec sheets and brochures and think it looks closest to the 8 Standard, but there must be someone out there who knows for sure, and once Crowland cranes gets working on it I am sure we will know for certain.



We think this model dates from the 1960s and that it is a Standard 8. But we would like to hear from those who might know for certain.

RONNIE JONES 1959-2023

Ronnie 'Rocket' Jones a tower crane operator who had been working at the Hinkley Point construction site in the UK, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Friday January 27th he was 63.



Ronnie Jones

Jones came from Sunderland but was employed by Bylor, the Laing O'Rourke/Bouygues joint venture, to operate one of the cranes on the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station construction site in Bridgewater.

On the following Monday his fellow crane operators all staged a special tribute to him by lowering the jibs of their cranes and slewing them towards his vacant crane, while sounding their horns and sirens.



Cranes in the clouds

Nigel Cann, delivery director at the site said: "This touching tribute by our crane operators demonstrates the affection and high esteem in which Ronnie was held by us all. His sudden passing has been a real shock and we will miss the contribution Ronnie made, not just



Hinkley point tribute

to the project itself, but to the spirit of teamwork and community that exists across the site. Our thoughts are with Ronnie's family, friends and colleagues at this sad time."

Darren Loveridge, Bylor's lifting operations manager, added: "Ronnie was a much loved member of the team. His crazy antics and cheeky, bright smile will be greatly missed."

Colleague Steve Pace, also from Sunderland, added: "Every day he made everybody laugh. He was bonkers, but completely sound."

He is survived by his brother Alan. His funeral was held on February 21st.



Ronnie Jones



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