

10,000 Generators For Ukrainian Families

Plant & Hire
Aid Alliance



Scan here to visit our
JustGiving page

Power to Ukraine

Following several successful campaigns the Plant & Hire Aid Alliance has launched its latest appeal, which aims to send 10,000 desperately needed generators to Ukraine.

Why are generators needed?

Following repeated attacks on the power grid and other critical infrastructure, President Zelensky said that generators had become "as important as armour in helping Ukraine to survive this winter".

Ukraine needs you!

By donating to the Plant & Hire Aid Alliance appeal you or your company can make a real difference, providing life-saving winter heating to a desperate Ukrainian family.

"For just £270, you can send a generator to keep these families warm," said Jeremy Fish, the CEO of Ardent Hire and one of the founders of the Alliance. "We're appealing to colleagues around the world, to join us to help reach this ambitious target of 10,000 generators."



Targeted help

The Alliance has created a website where aid workers will register each recipient. This includes details of their family or group, along with a declaration that the generator will only be used for personal and humanitarian purposes.

69 Rotary Clubs across Ukraine will monitor the generators' use, confirming that they have been installed where need is the greatest and are being used as intended. "This not only maximises the impact of the campaign," explains Fish. "It also gives our generous donors the reassurance that their contribution is making a real difference."



Make a difference today

100% of your donation will go directly towards generator orders for immediate dispatch. Your donation, however large or small, will genuinely save lives.

Please help the people of Ukraine at this time of need.

Please donate or contact us through:

www.aid-alliance.com

Or visit:

justgiving.com/fundraising/ukraine-gensets



READERS LETTERS

ORIGINAL LIVERY RESTORED

Hi Leigh

I hope you are keeping well. Please find attached an image of our 1947 Cole's EMA Mark 7 mobile crane on a Thorneycroft chassis. This is the same model as the first crane purchased by our grandfather William Ainscough.

It was last displayed at the Haydock Plant Show about 30 years ago in Ainscough Crane Hire yellow and blue livery. Brendan, James and I decided it should be restored into our original family business livery.

I hope it will be of interest to your readers for the letters section of your magazine.

Best wishes

Martin Ainscough

If you have any historic machine photographs of documents, please do send them to us either via email, or if its easier by mail, and we will be happy to publish them.



Ainscough's first crane



The three Ainscough brothers, James, Martin and Brendan with the restored crane

NICE TRIBUTE

The tribute to crane operator Ronnie Jones was a beautiful story and farewell. It made my eyes water-up for a man who truly was Going Up in the World. It shows how decent and respectful most people really are.

Sherm

WHAT NEWS ON THE RAPIER CRANE?

I enjoyed your story on this months Cranes & Access about the old Rapier crane -

page 72 - I just wondered what has happened to it. I have been watching the Vertikal site hoping to see its recovery, I wonder if I have missed it?

Taff Davies

The machine is due to be collected by Emerson Crane Hire and transported to Crowland Cranes for restoration. However there have been some snags and we understand that it is due to be collected in early May. We will follow up and hope to post regular updates on progress.



\$60,00 FOR AUTISM CHARITY

US distributor Fascan and its mini crane partner Jekko raised a least \$60,000 for the Kennedy Krieger Institute autism charity during the recent Conexpo event.

The company sold raffle tickets to win a very special Jekko MPK 20 Mini-Picker crane with a coat of many colours. The crane was won by Snorkel and Xtreme Equipment owner Don Ahern, who might just have bought the most tickets? He also added a very substantial donation to top up the funds raised.

The charity is dear to the heart of Fascan owners Bernie and Michael Faloney, after Michael's son was diagnosed with autism and benefited from the support the charity was able to offer. Its main message philosophy is 'Turning disabilities into abilities.'

Based in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. region of the USA, the Kennedy Krieger Institute is a not for profit organisation that operates 22 centres and is internationally recognised as having improved the lives and outcomes of tens of thousands of children, adolescents and adults with neurological, rehabilitative or developmental needs through inpatient and day hospital programmes, outpatient clinics, home and community services, education and research. Its website alone is an education and is filled with information on all manner of related issues. www.kennedykrieger.org

You can also donate directly with the following link https://supportus.kennedykrieger.org/site/Donation2?df_id=5340&5340.

donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&s_src=KennedyKrieger.org&s_subsrc=Footer



Don Ahern with the Jekko MPK 20 and the winning ticket

JOIN THE CONVOY TO UKRAINE

Ukraine suffered yet another intense bombardment overnight on Wednesday 8th March. More than 80 Russian missiles were launched at towns and cities across the country, most of them targeting power stations and supply lines. This has only made the situation worse, as Ukrainians struggle to survive on just a few hours of electricity a day, with overnight temperatures that are rarely above freezing.

Help on its way

Even as the attacks were being launched, a truck from the Plant and Hire Aid Alliance was setting off to Ukraine with a 100kVA generator and automatic transfer switches to power the central hospital in Oleksandria, funded by the Concert of Warmth and Light held at Bath Abbey.

The truck also carried five generators from MV Kelly, two generators from Tamdown and a further generator which was kindly donated by a member of the public. It also carried 1,200 litres of oil for the generators donated by Rock Oil.

A long way to go

While we may be approaching the end of harshest winter weather, there is still a long way to go for the people of Ukraine. Generators are still desperately needed to provide the basics of heat, light and power for the homes and shelters of ordinary people. Hospitals, schools and other services are also in dire need of electricity to deliver their vital care.



How you can help

As Russia sends more missiles, the Aid Alliance is working hard to send more generators. It costs just £270 to provide heat, light and power for a Ukrainian family - that's only £216 with Gift Aid. Every donation helps, no matter how large or small, so please give whatever you can.

To make a donation visit the Just Giving page. The Plant and Hire Aid Alliance is run entirely by volunteers, so every penny given will fund generators to be sent directly from the factory to those in desperate need. Thank you, in advance, for your help.

We are also organising another convoy of volunteer vehicles to take humanitarian aid to Kosice in East Slovakia on the 15th and 16th October. This will be our third run so far, the route and channel for distributing aid is now well and truly 'tied and tested' and very straightforward. Those that attended last time had a lot of fun and it was humbling and inspiring to meet so many enthusiastic Ukrainian refugees who unloaded our vehicles.

If anyone would like to participate, please let me know as we'll start to get a list together in the next few weeks.

Best Regards

Jeremy Fish



JOHN W. PARKER 1935-2023

John W. Parker played a major role in the development of the self-propelled scissor lift and has been described as an access industry icon.

He passed away on Thursday, April 6th at the age of 87, and leaves behind his wife Marilyn, daughter Lori and sons Johnny, Robert, David, Mark and Ronnie .

A true pioneer

John Parker began his aerial lift career in May 1966 when he went to work for the A1 Machinery Rental company in Los Angeles, which was owned by Bob Irving. It so happened that Irving purchased his equipment trailers from Selma Trailer in Fresno, which started manufacturing a self-propelled boom lift called the Tree Farmer in the early 1960s, as it attempted to diversify away from cyclical trailer lift market. The machine was improved and refined into the Tree Master in 1965 and Selma's president and owner Carl Ruegg thought that this new improved machine had potential in construction and other markets, and began to sell a few, but quickly realised that to gain real volume it needed to be available to rent.

So, he did the natural thing and approached his best customer - Bob Irving - to see if he would help him develop a rental market for his boom lift. Irving agreed and purchased two units - which were rebranded as Manlift for the construction/industrial market - and Ruegg rented him four more in order to give the trial greater impetus. The machines arrived in A1 Machinery's yard just in time for Parker's first day with the company. Irving told him in no uncertain terms that his sole job was to find out "if these boom lifts... will rent to our customers". Parker was now in the self-propelled aerial lift business.

In order to help him in his endeavours, Parker was given the authority to loan the boom lifts to customers whom he thought would benefit most from using such a machine. He soon discovered that once such a company had used them, they would never go back to their former access methods and would become regular customers. Parker must have made a pretty decent job of it, as during one of Ruegg's follow up visits to check on the programme's progress, Irving asked him if he could convert an old tow-around Sky Witch scissor lift (made by Ditch Witch) into a self-propelled model by equipping it with the drive mechanism from the Manlift booms. Ruegg took the Sky Witch machine back to Selma and did just that, creating what was almost certainly the very first self-propelled scissor lift, which was soon developed into the 25ft Manlift SM31 (Manlift always used working height for its nomenclature).

A move to Manlift

In 1968 Ruegg hired Parker as the Selma Trailer/Manlift international sales manager. Speaking about it a few years later Parker said: "With a title like that I could get a cup of coffee for a dollar anyplace in the country." However, the new job only lasted a year or so, Parker apparently quit at the end June 1969 out of frustration that Ruegg refused to develop or build a smaller scissor lift, on the basis that the cost to manufacture a smaller one would be almost the same as the larger models. When Bob Irving heard that Parker was free, he persuaded him to come back to A1 Machinery Rentals and on listening to his ideas for smaller scissor lifts, agreed to set up a new division/company to design and manufacture them.

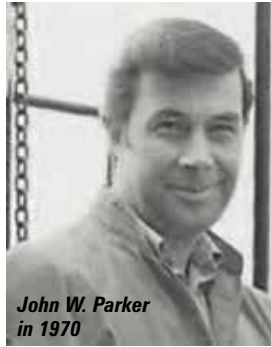
Mark Industries is born

Irving named the new business 'Mark Industries', after his son Robert Mark Irving. However, the venture was a form of partnership, so when the first models - 10ft and a 14ft mini scissor lifts - emerged in 1970 they were branded as Parker Lifts. A1 Machinery purchased the very first units - of course. The 10ft model was highly unusual in that it was a three wheeler, which allowed it to turn within its own length, a feature that is much appreciated.

An 18ft model followed in 1972, designed by Nick Hunt and Russ Guthery and Mark Industries became increasingly successful. It later went on to become a global market leader for a time. But everything changed for John Parker in early 1975 when Bob Irving died suddenly, leaving the business to his family. The Irving family attorney quickly brought in a new president to run the company - Rallie Rallis - while Dick Moyer became vice president. John Parker no longer fitted and was fired a couple of months later.

A new beginning

Now out of a job, Parker began reviewing his options, and towards the end



*John W. Parker
in 1970*

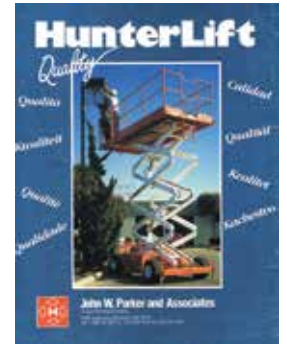
1970 - one of the first Parker Lifts, a 10ft 10SP three wheeled model (L-R) Tom Gross, John Parker and Russ Guthery



of the year was approached by Bill Graham of Economy Engineering to design and manufacture a scissor lift that the company could brand and sell alongside its other products. At around the same time Nick Hunt - the engineer from Mark Industries - and four of Mark Industries suppliers approached Parker to set up a new company to build scissor lifts. And that is exactly what they did, establishing John W. Parker and Associates. He and Hunt set up a tiny production facility in Paramount, California - a suburb of Los Angeles - part funded by a \$20,000 deposit/advance from Economy Engineering, with an order for the first 25 units.

HunterLift

Production of the new scissor lifts began in July 1977, but in the intervening period, Economy had hired a former UpRight engineer to design its own scissor lift range. We do not know if they honoured the agreement and took the 25 units, or if Parker simply kept the advance. With no OEM deal on the books, a brand name was required so, when Parker and Hunt's first machines shipped in September of that year, they were branded as HunterLifts, after co-owner Nick Hunt, the Parker Lift name having been left behind with Mark Industries - even though it had switched its product brand to Mark Lift.



A HunterLift advert from the late 1980s

The HunterLift business really took off in 1982 when it landed an \$800,000 order from Hertz Equipment and then in 1983 the company began building scissor lifts for Calavar/Condor and later teamed up with Frank Delaney in Ireland, who began selling them in large numbers across Scandinavia.

Time to change - the Figgie years

By 1985 the two partners - Hunt and Parker - began to have differences of opinion on how the business should develop and progress, and as a result they decided to sell up and began talking to prospective buyers. The British owned conglomerate Simon, which had become a major player in the powered access market, was the first in the picture. However, Parker's 'acquirer of choice' was Snorkel, which at the time did not have a scissor lift product line.

Parker met with Snorkel president Art Moore at the AED convention and ARA show in early 1987 and a deal was reached soon after, leading to the sale of the HunterLift business to Snorkel's parent company Figgie. While Snorkel chief executive Art Moore had overall responsibility for the HunterLift business, John Parker stayed on as president to run the business as a standalone company within Figgie. With limited capacity at the Paramount plant, he opened a new production facility in nearby Norwalk, California, starting off with 55 employees, many of whom spoke no English, presenting a bit of an issue for Parker, which generated several humorous anecdotes.

Later in 1987 Figgie acquired Economy Engineering - by now a leading scissor lift manufacturer - in spite of strong objections from Art Moore. This complicated the situation, given that all three brands had conflicting dealer networks and was exasperated when Economy was merged into Snorkel. As time went on several of Snorkel's larger distributors become angry that they were being undercut by HunterLift, especially in Scandinavia. John W. Parker and Associates was closed in 1990 as Figgie looked to consolidate the Snorkel, Economy and HunterLift operations into a single streamlined entity/operation. We understand that John Parker continued to work in the aerial lift industry until somewhere around 1996, before retiring properly. In the last two years he and his wife Marilyn moved to the Phoenix, Arizona region.

A true pioneer and icon

There are some who have credited John Parker as the inventor of the scissor lift aerial work platform. This is absolutely not the case, not even close. However, he actually played a much more important role than that, in spotting the potential for smaller self-propelled slab electric scissor lifts, then developing and championing the concept. He was right there at the beginning with Bob Irving and Carl Ruegg, and played a significant role in kicking off the industry as we now know it. He is a true icon of the industry and yet has received very little credit for the important and critical role that he played in the development of the aerial lift industry. Those who knew John Parker well speak highly of him as man and a friend, and he will certainly be missed.

Those of us who have worked in the aerial lift industry owe him a debt of gratitude and what he achieved needs to be more widely recognised. Hopefully this tribute will help bring more attention to that fact.

ROBERT THOMAS 'BOB' FRANCIS 1937 - 2023

UK crane rental man Bob Francis, the founder of Bob Francis Cranes Hire in North Wales, passed away in early April at the age of 85.

Bob Francis, a native Welsh speaker, set up his crane hire company in 1981, formally incorporating the current business the following year. Prior to that he had worked in a variety of jobs, including the police force and even a spell as a private investigator. He was also a successful rally car driver, something he passed on to his son Mark and grandson Luke - who has been particularly successful, winning several competitions.

When Francis started off in the crane rental business he regularly worked 19 hour days, operating cranes such as an eight tonne Hydrocon Marksman and later NCK Pennine crawler cranes. The business expanded in the 1980s on the back of the A55 road development, construction of which began in 1985 with the Conwy Tunnel project, which took more than five years to complete. Bob Francis Crane Hire was appointed as the sole provider of cranes for the project, the work was guaranteed and introduced Francis to 'blue chip' companies, such as the British Nuclear Group.

In an interview with Cranes & Access in 2006 he said: "The geography here is not brilliant, we have fish to the north and sheep to the south and neither of them want cranes! By that time, he had already begun handing over the day to day management of the business to his son Mark, but the process moved up a step when he suffered a stroke in February 2009 from which he managed to bounce back from, with the help of his wife Hefin whom he referred to as "she who must be obeyed."

Bob Francis was one of the UK crane hire industry's real characters, hardworking, honest to the day and a true - larger than life - gentleman. One person who knew him as a customer was Bill Green, who said: "Bob was an entrepreneur of the old school, who believed in hard graft to achieve his objectives, and always enjoyed good company. He will be sadly missed. Rest in peace Bob."

The 2006 interview with Bob Francis can still be viewed online at https://vertikal.net/en/pdf/405/d334af1e/ca_2006_5_p43-44.pdf



Bob Francis with crane operator Neil Roberts and one of his first cranes, a Hydrocon Marksman



Bob Francis at his desk with beloved pipe in hand

HANS GEORG E KRAUSE 1937-2023

German access and telehandler sales manager Hans Georg Krause passed away on March 6th at the age of 86, having suffered from ill health over the past few years.

Georg Krause was born in Magdeburg which became part of East Germany after the war but moved away in the 1950s and travelled to the USA where he worked with a number of companies including Sealand and Ford, before moving back to Germany. He spent most of his career in the Cologne area, where he worked with Sony and then chocolate company Stollwerck, he even worked for a film producer in Frankfurt.

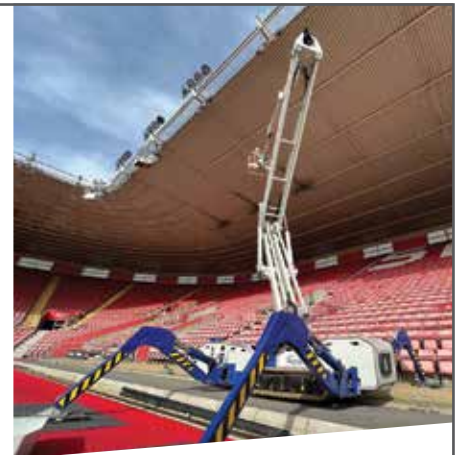
His career in the equipment market began, as far as we know, when he started working for JCB Germany in the late 1980s and into the early 1990s. However, he found 'his niche' in the access market when he joined UpRight in April 1994 to manage the company's wholly owned Germany distribution business - Instant Deutschland - a role he fulfilled until he retired. Although retired, he served as a consultant to several companies in the aerial lift business, helping keep busy and his mind active until around 2014, when his much loved wife Gisela sadly passed away, following a long period of illness.

George Krause was a true 'one off'. His former colleagues can and have related numerous anecdotes of 'George being George'. He could talk his way out of almost any situation, no matter how challenging, and it is almost certain that some of the frequent orders he landed were due to customers giving in to his friendly, eloquent but persistent persuasion - you can just imagine them saying: "OK OK where do I sign!"

He was always impeccably dressed and fastidious about everything, from his car to his office, not to the point of being weird, he just had his act together and appreciated precision in almost everything he did.

In his decade or two in the access business he made a great many friends in the industry and kept in touch with many of them long after he had retired. He and Gisela loved to travel and spent a great deal of time in Southern Africa, enjoying trips to Namibia, South Africa and Mozambique.

Georg Krause was a one off, a true character of the German powered access industry of the 1990s and early millennium years. He will be mourned by everyone who knew or worked with him.



TELESCOPIC AND ARTICULATED SPIDER LIFTS FROM 13 TO 52 METRES

Spider lifts at a higher level for 40 years



falconlifts.com