



VALCO INDUSTRIES, INC.  
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# PRESSing NEWS

June 2016



This month instead of highlighting a Valco Associate we would like to recognize, remember, honor, and thank Fred Leventhal for a life well lived and for all he did for the Springfield community and a number of Valco associates at one time or another.

Fred passed away on June 16th less than a week short of his 95th birthday. Fred left Cleveland, Ohio and came to Springfield at the age of 17 with his brother Harry to purchase Vining Broom, which at the time was located in a garage on West High Street. The company was purchased from Mrs. Vining whose husband had passed away. At the time Vining had 5 employees and Fred/Harry paid Mrs. Vining \$6.00 a week for room, board, and laundry.

After a number of years and lots of hard work, Vining Broom had grown into one of the largest broom and brush manufacturers in the country and employed nearly 600 people in four states. In the late 1970's or early 1980's Vining purchased the building complex where Valco is currently located. As part of the purchase the offices and manufacturing areas were completely renovated.

When Valco had its devastating fire in February of 2007, we were lucky that the offices and several of the buildings were available for us to quickly move into so we could move our new equipment into and start manufacturing again by early May. This is one of the main reasons why Valco was able to survive the fire we had and are still operating today.

In 1993, the Leventhal's sold Vining Broom and a new company O'Cedar/Vining was formed. A couple of years later, Fred started a new company called Basic Plastics in order to provide jobs for many of the people who worked for him at Vining. They did injection molding, manufactured plastic brooms as well as brushes. Basic Plastics remained operational for several years.

A number of former Vining employees currently work at Valco and as Fred would take his daily tour of the facilities in his golf cart he would always take the time to stop and see how they were doing and getting along. Many of us worked for Fred for well over 30 years and appreciated his continued interest in each of us. Fred continued to work by buying, assembling, and selling closeouts and discontinued cleaning aid items and products. He remained active and was still able to come to work until a few days before his passing.

There were few, if any projects, undertaken in Springfield that Fred was not involved in and/or leading the way. He was very active at Clark State, Wittenberg, United Way, Community Hospital, Rocking Horse, CHIEF, Springfield Foundation, and Temple Shalom. He always had a smile for everyone, remained optimistic about Springfield and its future, and always led by example. Many of us at Valco feel lucky to have known Fred, to have worked with him, and to be able to follow his example of all that can be accomplished when people work together for the greater good and believe in each other. We certainly will miss him.

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## Announcements

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Steve Queen ..... July 8th  
Gene Messer ..... July 9th  
James Martin ..... July 22nd

We hope you each have a great day on your special day and an even better year that is filled with good health, lots of laughs and much personal and professional success. Here's hoping for many more birthdays to come your way.

## Years of Service

Jim Hardesty.... July 11 .....5 Years  
Larry Brown.... July 15 .....3 Years  
Bryant Wells.... July 21 .....2 Years  
Don Briggs..... July 22 ... 7 Years!!  
Ray Powell..... July 22 .....3 Years  
Mark Winn..... July 22 .....4 Years

We thank each of you for being such a valuable member of the Valco Team and for doing all you do on a daily basis for our customers and for Valco. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the months and years ahead.

## Welcome Back

Welcome back to Lita Wood from her recent medical leave. It is great to have her back and we sure did miss her while she was recovering.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Bryant Wells on his June 18th marriage to Stephanie. It took them 12 years to take the plunge and now they are happily married. We wish them many years of happiness and togetherness.



The Summer Arts Festival will be wrapping up its 50th anniversary season on July 16! It is hard to believe that for 50 years the Springfield Arts Council has continuously been able to provide 6 weeks of outstanding free summer entertainment for everyone in our community to enjoy. The Summer Arts Festival will end this year's festival on Saturday, July 16th with a three night performance of Mary Poppins. Each evening's entertainment starts at 8:00 pm and takes place at Veterans Park. As always, there is no charge for any show. All you need to enjoy the show is to bring a lawn chair or blanket. To get more information and a complete listing of all shows and activities you can go to [www.springfieldartscouncil.org/series/summer-arts-festival](http://www.springfieldartscouncil.org/series/summer-arts-festival).



Independence Day, otherwise known as July 4th, will be celebrated on Monday, July 4th. This is another holiday that really does mean a great deal more than just getting a day off from work and watching some fireworks. While you are

enjoying your cookout or the evening fireworks, give some thought to the real meaning of Independence Day and how lucky we all are to be living in a free and open country unlike so many other millions of people around the world. Hopefully, Independence Day will also encourage you to register to vote so you can be heard on November 8th. We will of course be closed on Monday, July 4th but will resume normal production and business hours on Tuesday, July 5th. Have a great holiday with family and friends. Be safe and smart out there so you can enjoy the holiday.

## UPDATE

Zac Peck's artwork, which was featured in last month's newsletter, can now be seen at the Hub Gallery in downtown Springfield. Be sure to check it out during the gallery's 1 year anniversary party on June 30th and July 1st. Way to go Zac!

## Great Quotes

*"A person with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds."*

*Mark Twain*

*"If better is possible, good is not enough."*

*Anonymous*

*"Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day."*

*Author Unknown*

*"The only people with whom you should try to get even with are those who have helped you."*

*John Southard*

*"Worrying is like a rocking chair, it gives you something to do, but it gets you nowhere."*

*Glenn Turner*