



Southern Weights & Measures Association

93rd Edition

SWMA Newsletter

April 2003

SWMA NEWS FROM THE PAST

Bob Eaves, Historian

- During 1950, it was reported that: Kansas found shortages in cattle feed pellets and commercial fertilizers; North Carolina encountered an offer to sell coffee in fourteen ounce packages instead of the customary one pound package; Virginia announced shortages in motor lubricating oil dispensed from cans to car owners; Maryland enacted new Weights and Measures Legislation, and the Department has been transferred to the State Board of Agriculture from the State Bureau of Labor and Industries; Baltimore, Maryland Weights and Measures Director George Leithauser acted as weighmaster for the soap box derby; North Carolina held it's first pump mechanics school; and Kentucky reported that a trucker was fined \$100.00 for a short-weight corn transaction.
- During 1965, it was reported that: Kentucky purchased five new trucks to be used in the inspections of medium scales and meters; Louisiana makes an all out effort in package checking; West Virginia added a new truck and two inspectors; Florida found gallon plastic milk containers that would not hold a gallon; Arkansas received authorization for eight additional full time inspectors; and Maryland added its third large capacity scale truck. ♣

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

MARYLAND

- Our annual Weights & Measures Training Class was held for our staff during February 3-5, 2003. On February 3rd, Chief Lou Straub reviewed administrative matters with the staff, and a review of the inspection of packaged commodities, including liquid commodities, was presented by Program Manager Bob Eaves and Field Supervisor Ken Ramsburg.

On February 4, 2003, in cooperation with Giant Food, Inc. a major local grocery store chain, three training classes were held simultaneously. Training stations were set up in different Giant Food stores and each inspector rotated to all three classes. The store locations were selected to expose all

of our field inspectors to the newest technology in customer operated self check outs and POS systems.

A Kyros model point of sale system which utilizes a new key pad feature with the primary weight display on the PC screen and incorporates a screen saver, was tested. To select a weighed produce item the clerk uses the produce key to bring up an alphabet key pad on the key pad. The alphabet key pad is used to find the correct item by selecting the first letter of the item, example "A" for apples, etc. All available types of apples are then displayed to the clerk to select from.

The system was tested for programmed tare and manual tare capability. The class also reviewed multiple price per pound items. A multiple count items check list was used to make sure the system calculated price computations correctly. Marking requirements of the PC display were also covered in the school. All inspectors were given 20 minutes to work with the system on their own.

The second and third stations were customer operated self check outs. Two self check outs, a PSI model and a Optimal Robotics model U-scan were used in the training. Items that were covered in these sessions were motion detect, and how to apply the Maryland EPO for POS systems to the customer operated self check outs. Programmed and customers selective tare were examined for correctness.

One of the main points in the training was that the same Handbook 44 requirements would apply to customer operated self check outs and to the POS systems operated by a clerk.

The field review and training of the inspection of point-of-sale systems was presented by Program Managers Will Wothlie, Andrea Buie-Branam and Inspector Jim Price.

On February 5th, Program Manager Dick Shockley reviewed LMD issues and Program Managers Will Wothlie and Andrea Buie-Branam reviewed scale and NTEP matters.

- The 15th Annual Maryland Department of Agriculture Open House was held on Saturday, March 22, 2003. The 30th Anniversary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture was

also celebrated on this date. Our labs were on display, and we gave demonstrations on the inspection of packaged commodities. We also had on display a cord of firewood, a LPG prover, a VTM prover, and a 3-5 gallon prover LMD test unit. We provided a scale for those in attendance to obtain their correct weight. Representing our section during the open house were Chief Lou Straub, Program Managers Dick Shockley, Will Wotthlie and Bob Eaves, Field Supervisors Don Mason, Ed Payne and Ken Ramsburg, Inspectors Ethan Halpern and Aaron Webb, and Laboratory Staff Member Joe Hyla.

- Inspector William J. Troup, III (Bill) is retiring with 30 years service effective March 31, 2003. We wish Bill a very long and enjoyable retirement. We know Bill will keep busy with his apiarian work, hunting and other activities.

Recent Civil Penalties and Court Activities

- On February 13, 2003, we received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Safeway #2629, Annapolis, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.
- On March 12, 2003, we received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Korean Korner, 12207 Viers Mill Road, Wheaton, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.

NORTH CAROLINA

The Standards Division and the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has finished the first quarter of 2003 with much concern for our new department budget proposals going to our General Assembly. The Standards Division has presented a 6 % reduction package to be added to the overall package from the department. This included giving up one vacant position. Plans are being made for additional budget reductions during the second part of the biennium in 04/05. We continue to have some successes, however, with promotions and hiring into critical positions. The division must continue to be very cautious when filling other positions until we see how the budget process plays out. As reported before, it continues to be a balancing act. The state is still looking at \$1.5 billion shortfalls over the next two years, however, we are seeing some increase in tax revenues. This tells us that our economy is slowly beginning to show signs of recovery. We doubt that it will be back to anything like the mid- nineties but it is at least some progress. Our inspectors continue to do a good job without pay incentives and increases in family health premiums. Hopefully things will turn around soon. We are thankful to have a great group of folk that continue to be dedicated to protecting the consumer in the marketplace.

The Measurement Section continues to go through quite a few changes. Mr. Donald Byrd has been promoted from a weights and measures inspector to the Eastern Area Super-

visor's position. Mr. Ken Nelson has retired after 30 years of service with the department. His knowledge and expertise will be sorely missed. While promotions and retirements are great milestones, they have added more vacant positions to a staff that was already shorthanded. We will work toward filling these positions as we can while keeping others open for budget emergencies. That old balancing act again.

Springtime and mild temperatures have allowed everyone to begin working in their yards and gardens. Decorative stone, pine bark, potting soil, mulch, fertilizer and other seasonal items are abundant everywhere. This is the time of the year we focus on these items associated with the season. As usual most bags are found to be within tolerance, but a few have been found to be short and were taken off sale. These are returned to the packer.

We are continuing our regular inspection duties including price scanning. This is still the area where we are finding the most problems. Several civil penalties have been issued this year but overall the error rate seems to be decreasing. Problems with dispenser calibration and weight declarations on packages are what we are typically finding this time of year. Indications are that these issues are due to wear and tear and lack of personnel at the stores. As normal, top priority is given to complaints.

The Motor Fuels Lab has installed a new gas ignition Automatic Flash Point Tester to bring our total back up to two, one was brought online last spring. The advantage of using the automatic units is that they can be run unattended while the technician performs other tests.

We will be upgrading the roof vents in our mobile labs shortly. Currently there are 2 roof vents in each truck, each with a small 4" electric fan. These will be replaced with vents housing a 12" reversible fan. This should greatly improve the airflow inside the truck and help to remove fumes while running distillation and flash point tests. We have the vents at the central lab and will be doing the installation ourselves.

Allison Stockweather, Field Chemist in the Wilmington, NC area left our section after 2 weeks for another position outside of state government. We have been fortunate that another candidate that interviewed for the position was available. Shelby Sloan has replaced Allison in the Wilmington, Kinston, Morehead City area. Shelby was a lab supervisor at a county hospital for over 12 years and was looking for a change of scenery. She started on February 10th and is enjoying the position so far. Shelby and her husband have a couple of turkey houses, so outside work is nothing new to her. We look forward to getting somewhat caught up in the Jacksonville-Wilmington area.

We would also like to welcome James Milliam as our new General Utility Worker. In addition to maintaining the building, James duties include cleaning sample cans, filling the sample cases and other tasks that keep the day to day operations at the motor fuels lab running smoothly. James has spent the last few years in housekeeping positions and has the lab looking much better since he started at the end of January.

On the metrology side it's been a heck of a winter with two ice storms and a dusting of snow. The snow, however, was not heavy enough to test our new snow guards. Maybe next year

since it is now in the seventies here during the last week of March.

We have had only one applicant for our lab helper position so that's still vacant and has been since September 2002. We upgraded the position from a general utility worker to a maintenance mechanic II to help with service and maintenance of the laboratory environmental control equipment. During the time this position has been vacant we've all added many janitorial skills to our résumés. We're re-advertising.

We have been fortunate this year, even with the budget reductions, to replace our aging 10 kg and 2 kg comparators with a single 10 kg unit. Hopefully it will arrive soon.

Cliff, Van, and L.F. attended SEMAP and found the Florida metrologists to be excellent hosts. Training conducted by Georgia Harris was also very timely providing both needed review and new training. Georgia also covered many issues including standardization of procedures and ISO 17025 / NVLAP HB150 compliance requirements.

We are working with NVLAP to schedule our next audit in May or June. Hopefully NVLAP will find the deficiency corrections we completed adequate as this goes to print. If so, we will receive our accreditation and our audit will be for just accreditation maintenance. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

Looking forward to a visit from Kelley Larson from Arizona in April to demonstrate our 50-100 lb lifting setup. We've promised Kelly to show her a real Tarheel so we anticipate Kelly and L.F. will spend some time in Chapel Hill!

We'd like to remind everybody of the 2003 NCWM State Laboratory Workload survey. This is very important information that has been used to document the impact of the NIST WMD State Laboratory Program. This will be the fourth survey and we'll really be able to start looking at trends and specific impacts the system has on the US economy. If you haven't completed it yet, please do so and get it to Steve Summer of New Mexico. The information you provide will help all of us greatly.

The LP Gas Section is getting some experience with a new regulation concerning one propane company disconnecting another company's tank to take over that customer. Most companies seem to be following the rule, which requires advance written notification, but we are getting some complaints about failures to obey. We will be taking action against the offenders.

Our LP-Gas Engineer, Richard Fredenburg, participated in the UL Gas Products Council as a member in mid-March. Also, he presented part of a seminar at the NPGA Southeastern Convention concerning common propane installation violations. In late February he participated in the NPGA T&S Committee.

We interviewed to fill our open LP-Gas Site Inspector position in late March. We hope to be back at full strength in our propane inspections before too long.

We are beginning to see some problems between the recently adopted North Carolina version of the International Building Code and the LP-Gas Law, including NFPA 58, the *LP-Gas Code*. There is some overlap in jurisdiction that needs to be resolved, as the requirements differ causing some conflicting requirements. †

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee General Assembly is currently in session with budget concerns being the big issue. Governor Phil Bredesen recently presented his budget for next fiscal year which called for a 9% across the board reduction for the vast majority of departments. Only a very few departments were exempted from these reductions. The Department of Agriculture was able to abolish a number of vacant positions along with other targeted reductions in order to meet our mandated budget reduction. Hopefully, these reductions will suffice in order to avoid additional cuts.

Tom Smith, State Metrologist, will present opening remarks to the April meeting of the National Industrial Scale Association in Memphis, TN. Tom will welcome the members to Tennessee along with giving a status report of the Weights and Measures program in Tennessee.

Bob Williams and Randy Jennings have recently been interviewed by a Performance Auditor with the Comptrollers Office regarding various inspection related programs we conduct. Rejection rates, civil penalties, etc. are some of the types of information requested. Speaking of auditors, we have recently employed an internal auditor for the department who will be examining our internal functions to insure proper documentation and other requirements are met.

Spring livestock scale inspections are currently being conducted with preliminary data looking positive.

With all eyes being on Homeland Security, our department has implemented its own security program. Photo ID's are now required for entrance to all buildings along with entrances to most buildings being limited. The building that houses our laboratories, excluding the metrology laboratory, has taken additional precautions including being patrolled by a commissioned law officer with our Agricultural Crime Unit.

Ed Coleman has been extremely busy in coordinating training for two (2) new LPG/Fuel Meter Inspectors. These new inspectors, Mr. Joe Fortner and Mr. Ken Wilmoth, are currently receiving intensive training from existing staff members. †

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Weights and Measures held it's annual meeting during the week of March 3 through 6 at the section headquarters in St. Albans. All area inspectors and specialists attended the meeting. A retirement ceremony was held for Emil Canterbury and Lowell Maynor, during which Jim Lewis, Commissioner of Labor, presented them with certificates of service and letters of appreciation from Bob Wise, Governor of West Virginia. Karl Angell, Director, presented them with plaques commemorating their service and gold retirement badges. The ceremony was followed by a buffet lunch and casual social interaction. We wish Lowell and Emil the best, and hope they have long enjoyable retirements.

Attending the retirement ceremony from her home in Myrtle Beach was Gypsie Dodson, her husband Phil, and Luther McCloud of Hurricane, West Virginia, both retired members of the section.

Much of the meeting concerned the realignment of areas. The state will be divided into Northern (Bill Cobb) and Southern (Steve Casto) Regions. They will supervise all inspection activities, inspectors, and specialists within their assigned regions. Dennis Harrison will be supervising the Fuel Quality Program and the Serviceman Registration Program.

The West Virginia Legislature has adjourned leaving us in a budgetary desert for at least the next fiscal year. The Weights and Measures budget for the next fiscal year has been cut by approximately one-third, leaving the Director crunching numbers in order to maintain our present inspection level. Several legislative bills were proposed, including charging for weight and volume calibrations, and receiving a minuscule amount of the tax on gasoline, which were shot down in flames in the legislative committees. The proposed bills would have funded the program from dedicated moneys instead of having to depend upon the general fund.

Karl Angell, Weights and Measures Director, explained the ramifications of the budget to all personnel and that during the near future will not be able to give raises, purchase new vehicles or equipment, must hold travel expenses to the bare necessity, and absolutely must perform our duties in the most economical and efficient manner possible.

Dennis Harrison, Victor Zamora and Philip Young drove our three gasoline test units to Seraphin in New Jersey for replacement of the storage tanks. Dennis is presently in the midst of reviewing the records of all servicemen and agencies that are registered under provisions of the Serviceman's Registration Program. His primary interest is in making sure that standards are currently calibrated, West Virginia requires yearly calibration, and that employee's listed by agencies are up to date. He will later be establishing a training program for service persons dealing with meeting the requirements of the West Virginia Serviceman's Registration Program.

Brian Preece, inspector for the Beckley area, a C-130 pilot with the West Virginia Air National Guard has been activated and sent to the Mideast for a tour of duty. All our thanks and prayers go with him, and all the other members of our armed forces.

Steve Casto is having knee replacement surgery on March 20 and expects to spend approximately six weeks in recuperation. †



WILLIAM V. GOODPASTER

William "Bill" Goodpaster passed away peacefully at home, after a short battle with cancer, on Friday, February 28, 2003. He was the beloved husband of Wanda M. Goodpaster for 57 years. He will also be greatly missed by his sons, Gary (Linda), David (Susie), Ronald (Monica), and his daughter Sally; 10 Grandchildren; and 8 Great Grandchildren. His brother, Glenn Maxwell Goodpaster, also survives him.

Born in Joplin, MO, on January 10, 1925, he spent his early life in and around the Joplin/Webb City, Missouri area. In WWII, at age 19, he served in the Army Corp of Engineers as a Tech Sgt. with a crew of 16 men. After the War, in 1952, he moved to Sacramento, CA, and continued his career in the industrial scale industry. A career that spanned 50 plus years, 49 of which were spent with Cardinal Scale Company, of Webb City, from which he retired in 2001. He retired as

Vice President of the Sacramento manufacturing facility. He was well known and revered by the entire scale industry. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the William V. Goodpaster Scholarship Fund, c/o Ron Langford, Webb City High School, Webb City R7 School District, 411 Madison, Webb City, MO 64870.

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