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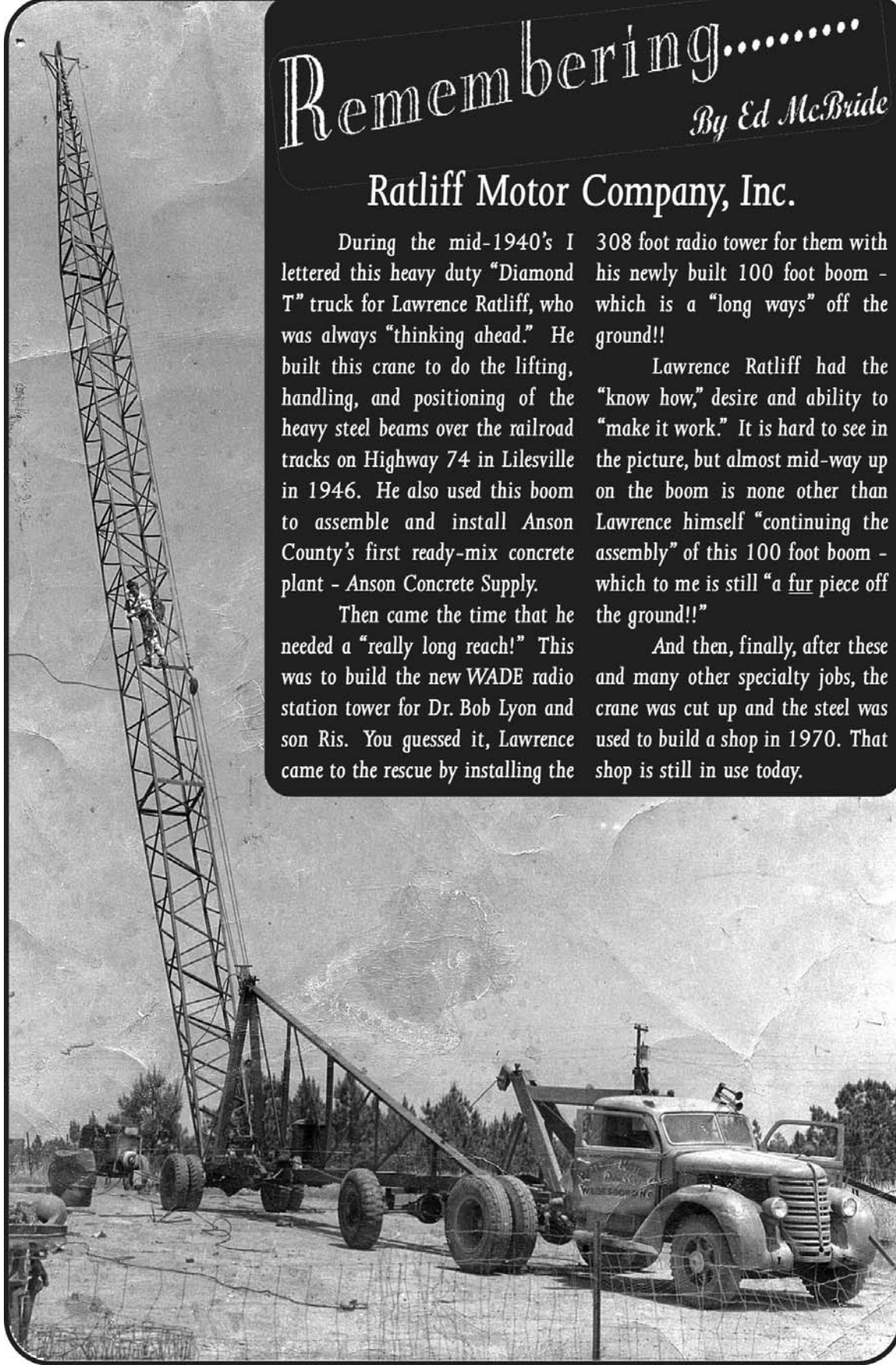
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Remembering.....
By Ed McBride

Ratliff Motor Company, Inc.



During the mid-1940's I lettered this heavy duty "Diamond T" truck for Lawrence Ratliff, who was always "thinking ahead." He built this crane to do the lifting, handling, and positioning of the heavy steel beams over the railroad tracks on Highway 74 in Lilesville in 1946. He also used this boom to assemble and install Anson County's first ready-mix concrete plant - Anson Concrete Supply.

308 foot radio tower for them with his newly built 100 foot boom - which is a "long ways" off the ground!!

Lawrence Ratliff had the "know how," desire and ability to "make it work." It is hard to see in the picture, but almost mid-way up on the boom is none other than Lawrence himself "continuing the assembly" of this 100 foot boom - which to me is still "a fur piece off the ground!!"

Then came the time that he needed a "really long reach!" This was to build the new WADE radio station tower for Dr. Bob Lyon and son Ris. You guessed it, Lawrence came to the rescue by installing the

And then, finally, after these and many other specialty jobs, the crane was cut up and the steel was used to build a shop in 1970. That shop is still in use today.

Be Wary of Medicare Scams

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey warns Medicare recipients to be on alert for scams. In the last few days, NCDOI has had reports of phone calls with the Caller ID listed as "Senior Center" but the number is unavailable. The callers are saying they are conducting a Medicare survey and are asking for personal information or asking if those they have called if they have received their new 2020 Medicare card.

"If someone is calling, claiming to be from Medicare and asking for your Social Security number or bank information, hang up, it's a scam," said Commissioner Causey. "First, Medicare won't call you. Second, Medicare will never ask for your Social Security number or bank information," he added.

If someone is threatening to cancel your benefits if you don't give up information or money, report it to the Department's Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program or SHIIP or the N.C. Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-855-408-1212.

SHIIP counselors are not licensed insurance agents, and they do not sell, endorse, or oppose any product, plan, or company. If you have questions about your specific plan, we encourage you to contact your insurance agent or the insurance company.

In Anson County Grace Senior Center is a SHIIP office. The telephone number is 704-694-6616.

South Piedmont Community College to Open Food Pantry

Although it has been in the works for some time now, the new year will usher in the opening of the South Piedmont Food Pantry: Feeding Student Success. The campus in Polkton and the main campus in Monroe will each house a pantry students and employees can utilize beginning the last week of January.

The idea for a food pantry started with Amanda Winfrey, a library circulation assistant at SPCC. Being surrounded by books - of all types - her inspiration came from "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

A team of people across campus helped Winfrey bring her idea to reality. The SPCC Foundation donated the first \$1000 and the Student Government Association followed with an additional \$500. An employee food drive ended during the holiday party where many employees opted to give food and supplies to the pantry rather than gifts to each other.

"This initiative is important because poverty doesn't have a look," said Winfrey, "you never know what someone is going through."

According to the Pew Research Center, 31% of all college students in the United States live in poverty.

"The truth is, hard times can fall on anyone at any time; making your way through school is a daunting task, and if we can make it easier for our students then that is what we are going to do," said Winfrey. "This is just one more step toward showing our students that we support them in every way."

Any current SPCC student or employee may use the pantry twice a month by visiting the pantry and filling out a short intake form. Library personnel and volunteers will staff the pantries.

The Monroe campus pantry will be located in the Braswell Building, room 2406 with hours of 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays. In Polkton, the pantry will be located in Horne Library, room 124 with hours of 1 to 3 p.m. on Mondays and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays.

For more information about donating or volunteering contact Dana Glauner at 704-272-5387 or dglauner@spcc.edu.



Free Radon Test Kits Available During January

In conjunction with National Radon Action Month, the North Carolina Radon Program is distributing 3,000 radon test kits at no charge this month.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is invisible, odorless and tasteless. It is released from the ground into outdoor air but can accumulate and reach harmful levels when trapped in homes and other buildings. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is responsible for more than 22,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the United States.

The kits are available at no charge through a grant received from the EPA and can be requested by visiting nc.radon.com.

Other radon awareness activities during January include four webinars hosted by the NC Cooperative Extension Service. The webinars are open to the public and target the following groups to increase their knowledge of radon: medical providers, physicians, homebuilders and real estate brokers. To register for the webinars, go to Upcoming Events at www.ncradon.org.

The NC Radon Program, part of the NC Department of Health and Human Services, provides information to families and homeowners about radon gas including how to test for radon gas and how to lower radon levels within a home. For more information on radon, visit www.ncradon.org.