

The End of an Era

Barrett says goodbye to Methuen

BY ARTHUR BARRETT, PRESIDENT

It is with mixed feelings that we are closing our operation in Methuen. This is a positive step for the company, as we vacate a building that has presented many challenges to us in the past decade, in terms of infrastructure cost and operating inefficiencies. However, this decision also means we are saying *goodbye* to four longstanding, loyal and high achieving employees.

From 1960 to 1994, Methuen was our main distribution center and served as our company headquarters. This building was instrumental in establishing a firm foundation which Barrett Distribution has built upon over the past 13 years. So while we are growing the company to greater levels of revenues and profits year over year, it is important to me that we recognize what a strong foundation we are leaving behind in Methuen.

And that foundation starts with the people we are going to miss dearly. Since **Kevin Rich** joined our company in 1995, he has

played a key role in a number of accomplishments:

- ▶ Kevin drafted our original ISO documentation, and spearheaded our first registration to the ISO 9001:1994 standard.
- ▶ Kevin kept his staff motivated to meet the unique challenges of operating in a multi-story turn of the (19th!) century mill building.
- ▶ Kevin is a manager we always counted on to step in and help us meet a challenge presented to us by any client, in any location.

Our rich history of world-class service now spans seven decades. It is in the last decade that we have enjoyed breakthrough results in terms of revenue, profit, and customer satisfaction. **Rose Anne Morris** has been instrumental in helping us achieve these remarkable results:

- ▶ Rose Anne's unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction helped her build strong and lasting relationships with our customers.
- ▶ Rose Anne became the most experienced user of our legacy WMS, and she was instrumental in converting our Methuen warehouse to the Synapse WMS.
- ▶ Rose Anne's attention to detail and adherence to processes enabled us to maintain our ISO 9001:2000 registration.
- ▶ Rose Anne was greatly deserving of the Richard J. Barrett employee of the year award for 2004.

We hired **Ken Getsick** to manage the

7-Eleven contract in Norwood from 1998-2001. Ken then transferred to the Methuen operation, accomplishing the following:

- ▶ Ken was instrumental in establishing a high volume pick-n-pack operation for the 1803 footwear brand, where he increased efficiencies while maintaining world class shipping accuracy.
- ▶ Ken transitioned nicely from a dedicated operation managing the 7-Eleven account, to a multi-client 3PL operation.
- ▶ Ken worked extremely hard to complete the WMS conversion to Synapse at the end of 2005, and ensure that the implementation team met its deadline.

Jose Soto was originally hired as a laborer in 1999 to help out on projects in the warehouse. He soon proved himself to be a valuable contributor to our high standards for accuracy in receiving and order selection:

- ▶ Jose was our lead picker on the 1803 footwear account.
- ▶ Jose worked hard in our ESL classes to improve his English, and this paid big dividends for Jose when he mastered the RF picking routines.
- ▶ Jose became our go-to person for leading teams of spanish speaking temporary workers on projects.

Each of these four individuals stands out among their peers. We extend best wishes to each of you in your new endeavors, and a heartfelt *thank you* for all you did for this company in the past decade. 🙏

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