



The Parting Shot Jack Champaigne

Why a Picnic?

"How's business?" It's a question that is asked and answered with friends and colleagues everyday. From my viewpoint at EI, the answer is positive. As the world gets smaller due to leaps in technology and communication, quality products and responsible processes are more visible. We have found ourselves in a niche industry that is being refined, rediscovered and applied with new energy.

But it hasn't always been so easy for me. I ran my new business from my dining table in the early 1970s. My first significant client was Wheelabrator. Initially, I supplied their Air Pollution Control Division with controls for bag house and electrostatic precipitator dust collectors. It was 1978 before I was able to move into a small building and hire engineers and a production staff. At that point, I was building flow rate controls for Wheelabrator's 16-wheel peen forming machine for Boeing. That's how I discovered a unique and fascinating niche in the industry and the MagnaValve was born.

Wheelabrator has continued to be a significant contributor to our success and to many, many other companies and individuals. In employment opportunities alone, Wheelabrator provided jobs for 32 years in Mishawaka, Indiana. The Wheelabrator retirees club is still going strong in our community and we keep in touch with many of its members.

I'm at the point in my life where I have the time and inclination to reflect and I'm blessed to find myself having so much fun doing what I love. So why a picnic? EI is located on a beautiful property on the St. Joseph river and I saw a great opportunity to invite everyone that has ever worked at Wheelabrator to a picnic to celebrate and enjoy each other's company. Over 400 people joined us and we had a great time.

Everyone has a story like mine about a client or mentor that made a significant contribution to their success.

This picnic was my way to thank Wheelabrator for all they did for me and Electronics Inc. ●



Long-time friend Roger Johnson and me.



These are only a few of the picnic pictures; many more are online at www.electronics-inc.com. If you couldn't attend the picnic, visit the web site. You may spot old friends that you haven't seen in years.