



OPENING SHOT

Jack Champaigne | Editor | *The Shot Peener*

Remembering Ronald John

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I don't remember the first time I met Ron John but our records indicate his company, Tealgate, was mentioned in a 1990 Shot Peener magazine. By the end of the decade, we became distributors of each other's products.

As I recall, Ron worked at VacuBlast when a media flow monitor was needed. Professor Maurice Beck, a VacuBlast consultant, developed a series of sensors for various concentrations of media used in abrasive cleaning operations. At some point, Ron created Tealgate to manufacture and sell the devices; first to VacuBlast and then to other companies including Electronics Inc.

Ron received an order for his Precifeed system from an American company headquartered in Seattle and they needed his help with implementation. I agreed to meet Ron in Seattle. I collected him early one morning at the airport and took him to breakfast at a Denny's restaurant. Ron was so impressed with the photos in the menu that the manager let him keep it. Ron was also amazed at the unending coffee supply, explaining to me that in England each additional cup of coffee incurred a charge.

The reason for the trip was to help a customer feed plastic media for the purpose of stripping paint from aircraft. Ron quickly spotted the difficulty and solved the customer's issue.

His efforts to sell his Precifeed system always included extensive drawings of how everything would fit into the customer's application. He was very diligent and made sure the customer could clearly see the benefits.

I made several trips to England and Ron proved to be an expert travel guide. I was fascinated by his stories of watching American films while he worked as a projectionist in the movie theater when he was a teenager. He also had a love for stories about the Lewis and Clark expedition and the exploration of the American Northwest.

My daughter, Amy, and I visited England in 1996 and Amy kept a diary about her experiences. There are several mentions of Ron and how he took such good care of us on our trip.

On another trip to England with Pete Bailey, we visited Ron at Stoke on Trent and we had Fish & Chips. We had a picnic with the newspaper-wrapped delicacy and watched the swans swimming so gracefully in the river.

I can still imagine Ron's smile and great humor. He was such a good friend. I have so many fond memories of Ronald John. I feel blessed that I had the privilege to know him. Rest in peace, Ron. ●



This caricature of Ron captured his love of photography. Ron photographed many beautiful scenes in England, Wales and France.

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