



MILAN BOX CELEBRATES 90TH YEAR OF MANUFACTURING By Steve Short

Arthur N. Dedmon was an industrious man, according to his family biography. Born in Gibson Co. in 1885, Arthur and his wife, Bertie settled in the Concord-Oak Grove area before moving to the town of Gibson. Arthur worked as a farmer, helped build the new county roads, and ran a saw mill and logging operation. He also started a business, making boxes and crates for shipping vegetables, such as sweet potatoes. In the early decades of the twentieth century, Gibson Co. was nationally known for its quantity and diversification of farm crops. "Truck farming flourished to great heights in the county, as many as one hundred railroad cars of tomatoes being loaded in one day at times," according to the history book, "Gibson County: Past and Present."

Aware of the market for shipping containers, Dedmon moved his box business from Gibson to Milan, "to be near Milan's two railroads." He founded the Milan Box Co. on May 1, 1927. Today, in 2017, Milan Box Corp. marks its 90th year of manufacturing in Milan, as a third generation, family-owned business managed by the Dedmon family. Arthur's grandson, Franklin Dedmon, is president-CEO and a third generation owner. His son, Andrew Dedmon joined Milan Box Corp. in 2011 and serves as Vice President and Treasurer. The Milan firm now specializes in plywood and wood packaging used by military and commercial industries in North America, the Middle East and Europe.

"Milan Box Corp. is a good place to work," said Keith Street, production manager at the firm for 31 years. "Everyone puts in a team effort and works by our motto: 'Make it Happen.' Also, Milan Box is one of, if not the longest, lasting plants in Milan. It is one of the longest lasting, wire-bound companies in the country."

While Milan Box served agricultural clients in its early years, the firm adapted to emerging markets. When the Milan Army Ammunition Plant was built in 1941, Milan boomed overnight, and thousands of employees worked day and night during World War II building ammunition for U.S. and Allied troops. Milan Box expanded and produced ammunition boxes to support the Milan arsenal and many other ammunition plants across the country.

Milan Box continued to produce wire-bound vegetable crates, wire-bound ammunition boxes and wooden boxes, up to and after the Vietnam War. During the Vietnam War, the company shifted production to focus primarily on military packaging instead of vegetable crates. After the war, Milan Box continued to conduct commercial business with several businesses.

However, during the 1991 Gulf War, Milan Box Corp. again changed its focus to military packaging. Milan Box, which today employs about 45 people at its 150,000 sq. ft. facility on W. Van Hook St., continues to provide superior wire-bound and wood packaging worldwide. How has Milan Box Corp. continued to be successful in a changing, global economy? "The people do the best job they can do," said manager Keith Street. "Putting out products efficiently and without many mistakes allows Milan Box to continue having a long-standing relationship with its customers." Retaining experienced workers has also been key, said Sam Wheat, a first year Quality Manager. "Milan Box Corporation's success is based on its skilled and long-term employee base, which brings a vast amount of knowledge to produce our products," said Mr. Wheat. Many Milan Box employees have been employed at the firm for more than ten years, said Wheat. "Milan Box is a good place to work, with a good team of skilled employees and management," added Wheat. "The employees put forth that extra effort to be a successful team and facility." *continued on page 2*



MILAN BOX CORP. LEADERS

41 years combined experience of Milan manufacturing plant. Pictured are (from left) Craig Nakutis, Sr. General Manager, 13 years; Janet Welch, Customer Service, 8 years; Autumn Minton, Office Manager, 13 years; and Andrew Dedmon, Vice President, 7 years. Not pictured is Franklin Dedmon, President/CEO.

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BOX PRODUCTION PROCESS

**Milan Box machine operator Brandi Cathey has been with the company for 7 years
Military market**

Milan Box Corp. products are featured on the Army Technology website, which has informative details about the use of ammunition container boxes made in Milan. According to the site, the Milan firm provides wire-bound, wooden containers and boxes for shipping ammunition, fuses, grenades, artillery munitions, rockets, explosives and missile components.

WOOD BOXES AND CONTAINERS



Milan Box Corporation manufactures a range of containers and military products made in compliance with U.S. Government and military specifications. The Milan firm marks its 90th anniversary this year, 2017.

Milan Box Corporation’s wire-bound containers “offer maximum protection, withstand rough handling, permit high stacking, occupy less cube, have a low tare weight, and keep packaging costs low,” the website says.

One container made at Milan Box earned kudos from the U.S. military as “one of the most popular types used by the U.S. Army and Marines.” The container can be made with special heat and preservative treatment.

Milan Box also manufactures nailed wood boxes designed to package reactive armor tiles for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and armor tiles for the new Stryker Amphibious Vehicle.



MANAGERS AT MILAN BOX

(from left) Keith Street: Plant Manger; Jerry Carter: Asst. Plant Manager; Sam Wheat: Quality Manager; Rudy Graves: Safety/Purchasing Manager; and Robert Fly: Asst. Quality Manager.



Arthur Noah Dedmon was born on December 01, 1886, at birth place, Tennessee, to George Washington Dedman and Mary K Dedman. Arthur had 4 sisters: Leona, Belle, Emma and Goldie and two brothers: Oscar and Emmett. He married Bertie Jones February 06, 1907, at age 21 in Gibson County, Tennessee. They had 5 children: George Arthur, Martha Frances, James Finis, Margaret Monell, and Frank Lynnwood Dedmon He passed away on December 24, 1959, at age 74., and was buried in the White Rose Cemetery; Gibson, Gibson County, TN. along with his wife and at least six other family members.

His father, George Washington Dedmon, was born in Madison County, Alabama on January 08, 1840. He married Mary Cazirak Howell on January 07, 1877 in Limestone County, Alabama. She was from Gibson County, Tennessee and I suppose that was the reason they ended up living in Gibson County. It appears at least two of their children were born in Alabama.

The father of George Washington Dedmon, was Henry William Dedman and of his ten children George was the only who spelled his surname Dedmon. I have no information as to the reason he changed the spelling. They descend from the Christopher Deadman Line, of which most of them spelled the surname, Dedman.

Christopher Deadman, has been the “brick wall” for almost all of the family researchers for many years. However, recently he has been showing up in several family trees as Christopher Willman Dedman, the son of William and Katherine Frances Jennings Dedman. His father, William, also shows up in several trees as Debnam. This would certainly account for the mystery that has surrounded Christopher all these decades. This also provides the link between the two major “Deadman” lines that we never actually connected. I have not done any research to provide the documentation for any of this..

It has been my privilege to know personally several of these family members, often referred to as the “West Tennessee Dedmons”. They have been very generous in their contribution to Freed Hardeman University, where my mother in law worked for many years. When I was preaching in Springfield, Tennessee one of our girls, Tish Winstead married John Dedmon, a grandson to Arthur and Margaret Dedmon, who was a granddaughter to Arthur, married Neal Penny a well known preacher in West Tennessee, with whom I was acquainted.



RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, It has pleased the Great Master in his mercy and goodness, to call from us our beloved brother, James Shelbourne Dedman:

And whereas, Brother Dedman died at Weiser Idaho, on Sunday morning July 13, A.D 1902 at the age of eighty -three years, one month and twenty-three days, having been born at Huntsville, Alabama, on May 20th A.D 1819:

And whereas, brother Dedman has been a member of the Masonic Order for more than sixty-two years, having been initiated in North Mount Pleasant, Mississippi, in the year 1840. and was a member of Weiser Lodge No. 23 A.F. & A.M. in good standing from the date of its organization until the time of his death:

Now therefore, be it resolved: That Weiser Lodge No. 23 A.F & A.M. do, and it does hereby, express its sincere and heartfelt appreciation of the life and labor of our deceased brother, admiration for his character and sorrow that an upright mason, worthy citizen and a good man has so suddenly been stricken from its membership by the relentless hand of death:

And be it further resolved: That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this lodge; that a copy of the same be published in the Weiser newspapers and that a copy also be presented to the widow of our deceased brother.

**Weiser Lodge No. 23 A.F & A.M.
G.M. Waterhouse, A.B. Anderson,
B.S. Varian - (Committee)
The Weiser signal; July 19, 1902,
(Weiser, Idaho)**

MISTOOK CARBOLIC ACID FOR WINE
Weiser, Ida., July 14. James S. Dedman, aged 84, died yesterday from drinking carbolic acid which he mistook for wine. Dedman had been a mason for 63 years and claimed to be the oldest member on the Pacific coast.

The Kinsley graphic. July 18,(Kinsley, Kan.)

This obituary was originally published in Volume 112, but we felt it would be good to repost it.

JAMES SHELBORN DEDMAN VETERAN MASON PASSES AWAY

J.S. Dedman, died in Weiser, Idaho, Sunday, July 13, 1902, aged 89 years, 1 month and 25 days. He was born at Huntsville, Alabama on May 20th, 1819, to Philip and Mary Polly Hawkins Dedman. He is survived by his present wife, Melinda Snell. He had two previous marriages: Thelia Black (1837 -1891) and Missouri Hilliard (1814 – 1854). He became a member of North Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 99, A.F. & A.M., in 1840 and had been an active Mason for 61 years and 7 months, and but for the unnatural manner of his death would undoubtedly have lived to become one of the oldest Masons in the world. At the time of the breaking out of the Civil war he was a very wealthy man. The confederate government took charge of his foundry paying him in confederate notes. He has always had a trunk full of the purchase of his establishment. He cast the first cannon for the Confederacy and has two or three comrades now living near Weiser. He became a charter member of the Weiser lodge in 1887.

Mr. Dedman went through a severe attack of spotted fever a year ago and on recovery entered upon a period of hearty old age, bidding fair to live ten or fifteen years yet -- his father died at 98. Saturday he was around town attending the primaries and telling his friends how fine he felt. Sunday morning he arose and built the fire; a few moments later he came in and sank on the sofa calling to his wife "I am a dead man, I drank the carbolic acid instead of the wine." those were his last words. Mrs. Dedman ran to a neighbor's and telephoned for Dr. Waterhouse who arrived in fifteen minutes to find the old man dead. He was in the habit of taking a glass of wine in the morning and the bottle in some way had become misplaced and he had taken instead a glass of a wash containing a large amount of carbolic acid, the concoction having much the appearance of the wine. He was buried under the Masonic auspices, the ceremonies being in charge of D.C. Chace, Worshipful Grand Master of Idaho.

**The Weiser Signal, Weiser, Idaho,
Wednesday, July 16, 1902
Find A Grave Memorial# 143109025**



BOBBYE GRISWOLD DEDMAN SCHROEDER

Bobbye Griswold Dedman Schroeder, a retired teacher at Red Bank High School, died on July 3, 2020, in Chattanooga at age 91.

An enthusiastic spinner of tales, last fall Bobbye sat in her wheelchair in front of the courthouse in Jonesborough, Tennessee, a 90-year-old great-grandmother telling a ribald tale at the National Storytelling Festival for an appreciative audience.

Although formally she taught typing, shorthand, and accounting at Red Bank from 1961 until she retired in 1990, her lessons were quilted from stories of her childhood on a farm in Middle Tennessee. The main thread in Mrs. Dedman's classroom was persistence. How, when she was 10, a mule fell on her father, breaking his back. How, although her father was paralyzed from the waist down, with a wife and three young daughters, he ran a farm, started a grocery store, and rigged up the family car so he could drive. She said, "My Daddy was my inspiration."

And always there was humor. One day during the 1940s her mother steered the car off the new high concrete highway to Tullahoma, turning over in a farmer's field. Bobbye's first concern wasn't that the car was upside down, or that it might catch fire, but, considering the World War II-era rationing, "Mother, be careful, don't tear my nylon hose!"

In retirement she received dozens of messages, cards, and letters from former students, recalling her mixture of pep talks and ironclad rules for professionalism, meaning to get things exactly right. "I wouldn't be anywhere without this lady and her fierce way of teaching typing," one student wrote. "Love her!" wrote another. "She was the real deal, cared for all her students."

A relentless grader of student homework, Bobbye put those skills to work in retirement, editing the draft of a book by one of her sons. When the manuscript arrived in a large box, thousands of pages printed in huge type for her to be able to see, she spotted on the first page a pair of sentences separated by only one space. In her day, the style manuals insisted on two spaces. She marked the error with a proofreading mark, adding a second space. Then she marked it between every pair of sentences for 3,000 more pages.

She was born Robbye Jeannette Griswold outside Morrison, Tn., in Warren County, on November 13, 1928, daughter of Winfred Anderson Griswold and Thelma Snipes Griswold.

After receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees from George Peabody College in Nashville, she taught for two years in Davidson County, then at Chattanooga's Northside Junior High School from 1954 to 1960. Starting at Red Bank High in 1961, with three children of her own, she also taught night classes at Kirkman Technical High School, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and Chattanooga State Community College.

In 1948, she married Harold C. Dedman, who became a Chattanooga attorney. He died in January 1994. She married William E. "Bill" Schroeder, a retired Bell South electrical engineer and scoutmaster, in December 1995. He died in 2007. Mr. Dedman and Mr. Schroeder were decorated veterans of the U.S. Army in World War II.

At Red Bank High she advised the student council, chaperoned students at state conventions, organized a state Junior Miss pageant, and often invited students to her home across the street from the school for refreshments.

She was state president from 1976 to 1978 of Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary sorority for educators, overlapping with her term as president of the Tennessee Business Education Association. Working to keep the state's teachers in touch with one another, she told a newspaper interviewer that her family described her main hobby as "talking on the telephone."

She was selected in 1985 for the state's first class of "master teachers." Her peers chose her the state's outstanding business educator in 1990. She served as president of civic organizations, including the Red Bank Jaycee Women and Red Bank Lioness Club. She was an active member of Red Bank United Methodist Church and its Carver-Tarwater Sunday school class.

She played bridge for many years with a group of couples in Red Bank. In retirement she traveled to China, the Middle East, and Europe, and rode a mule into the Grand Canyon. When her eyesight began to fail, she turned to storytelling, participating in the Cleveland Storytelling Guild and the Chattanooga Storytelling Circle.

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She was preceded in death by her eldest son, James C. Dedman, in 1998. Survivors include two sisters, Catherine Foreman of Manchester, Tennessee, and Nancy Ware of Morrison, Tennessee; two sons, Scott Dedman (Karen Ledwith) of Asheville, North Carolina, and Bill Dedman (Pam Belluck) of Weston, Connecticut; two stepchildren, Linda Schroeder Johnston (James Johnston) of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and William E. "Bill" Schroeder Jr. (Shi Yi Schroeder) of Norcross, Georgia; eight grandchildren, Jamie Dedman, Jesse Dedman, Justin Dedman, Ben Dedman, David Dedman, Matthew "Matt" Dedman, Arielle Belluck and Jillian Belluck; seven stepgrandchildren, Chrissy Olson, Nancy Johnston Isaac, Robert Johnston, William "Will" Johnston, Amy Johnston, Margaret "Meg" Johnston, and Reesa Schroeder; six great-grandchildren: Andrew, Juliana, Marcos, Nicolas, Norah, and Maddux; and five stepgreat-grandchildren, Mary, Edie, Emma, Omega, and Cornelius.

A memorial service will be scheduled. Honoring her request, her body was donated to Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Later she will be buried at Chattanooga Memorial Park in Red Bank.

The family thanks her caregivers at her family home and at The Terrace at Mountain Creek, Elmcroft of Shallowford, and Hearth Hospice.

Memorial donations may be made to Red Bank High School Student Council, rbh.hcde.org; Public Education Foundation, which supports local schools and teachers, www.pefchattanooga.org; and Red Bank United Methodist Church, www.rbumc.org.

Please share your memories at www.lanefh.com.

**Arrangements are by Lane Funeral Home
601 Ashland Terrace, Chattanooga, Tn. 37415
423 877-3524, Lanefh.com.
Find a Grave Memorial 212776631**

WILLIAM E. "BILLY" DEDMAN

Mr. William E. "Billy" Dedman age 87 of Lebanon passed away October 4, 2018, at his home. A native of Wilson County, he was one of eleven children born to the late Seldon and Mary Elizabeth Woodall Dedman. A life-long farmer, he was a cattleman and in the Tennessee walking horse business for thirty-years. He was a past member of the Board of Directors of the Wilson Farmer's Co-Op and was a member of the Wilson County Farm Bureau. He was a member of Barton's Creek Baptist Church since 1948 where he served as an usher. He was preceded in death by a brother, James Dedman.



He is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, Earnestine Barnes Dedman; nine siblings: Mildred Petty, Raymond Dedman, Betty Coleman, Charles (Betty) Dedman, Shirley Robinson, Rosa (Danny) Durham, Gary (Brenda) Dedman, Jane (Eddie) Vaught, Lane (Eddie) Reed; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, October 7, 2018, at 2 p.m. from the Ligon & Bobo Funeral Home with Bro. Charles McKnight officiating. Interment: Barton's Creek Cemetery. Honorary Pallbearers- Deacons of Barton's Creek Baptist Church; Active Pallbearers: Jimmy and Mike Denning, Allen Barnes, Charles, Gary and David Dedman. Visitation Saturday 3-7 p.m. and Sunday after 12 noon.

**LIGON & BOBO FUNERAL HOME
in charge of arrangements.
www.ligonbobo.com
Find A Grave Memorial 193758894**



WESLEY "ED" LACY

Wesley "Ed" Lacy, 86, of Fort Smith, Arkansas passed away on Saturday December 17, 2011 in a Fort Smith hospital. He was the son of Hubert Grundy and Mae Bell McDaniel LacyWesley. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a brother, Harold Bean Lacy and two sisters, Ellen Roberta Lacy Cheek Lois Marie Lacy **Dedmon**. He is survived by four children; Edmon "Bud" Lacy, Ginger (Lacy) White, James "Rock" Lacy, Shannon Lacy-Ryan and one brother Halton G. Lacy.

Funeral services will be at 2:00 p.m. Friday, December 30, 2011 at the Martin Funeral Home Chapel in Mansfield with interment in the Cedar Grove cemetery under the direction of Martin Funeral Home of Mansfield, Arkansas.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Wesley Edmon Lacy, please visit our Tribute Store.

Find a Grave Memorial 75306906



MARY ELIZABETH HUTCHINS

Brandon, MS: Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Hutchins 85, of Brandon, MS was called home to be with the Lord on August 21, 2017. Visitation will be Thursday, August 24, 2017 at Natchez Trace Funeral Home from 10-11:00 A.M. with a Celebration of Life Services following at 11:00 A.M. Burial will be at Natchez Trace Memorial Park Cemetery located at 759 Hwy 51, Madison, MS

Mary Elizabeth was born December 26, 1931 to Louie and Ola Evans McLemore in Philadelphia, MS, where she grew up and attended school. She went on to cosmetology school and became a license cosmologist. She owned and operated Stevens Barber Shop in Philadelphia, MS with her late husband, Norman Stevens. Mary Elizabeth loved people and she never met a stranger. She was an avid reader and she also was a sales manager for many years at a bookstore. She was such a wonderful lady who had a nurturing persona about herself. After retirement, she spent her days surrounded by her family and was absolutely adored by her grandchildren, great grands and great-great grands. More than anything else, Mary Elizabeth was a good woman who knew and loved the Lord and her family.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband of 28 years, Milton Hutchins, her parents, James Louie and Ola McLemore, sons, David Sisson and Richard Sisson, daughter in law, Nina Sisson, sisters, Linda Rush, Beatrice Muth, and Edith Breedlove, brothers J.L. McLemore Jr. and Rudolph Valentino McLemore.

She is survived by her daughter, Delores Jean Stevens of Brandon, MS, sons, Rayburn Sisson of Pearl, MS, Keith Stevens and his wife Debbie of Pearl, MS, sisters, Alice Bradshaw of Pearl, MS, Evelyn Gibbs of Raymond, MS., thirteen grandchildren, Anthony Sisson and his wife Jackie of Monroe, LA, Jennifer Roberson of Pearl, MS, Neil Franklin and his wife Doll of Brandon, MS, Jason Franklin of Pelahatchie, MS, Joshua Moore of Mobile, AL, Cassie **Dedmon** and her husband Christian of Brandon, MS, Cheyenne Harris of Brandon, MS, Jill McCool and her husband Mark of Pearl, MS, Brent Stevens and his wife Kim of Brandon, MS, Blake Stevens and his wife Cassidy of Brandon, MS, Tobi Fulcher and her husband Thomas of Madison, MS, Jesika Stuart of Statesboro, GA, and J.T. Sisson of Braxton, MS, twenty four great- grandchildren, Emma Sisson, Michael and Brandon Roberson, Michael Franklin, Dalton and Dillion Lara, Drew, Kori, Jordan, and Lindsay Franklin, Mylee Mangum and **Peyton Elizabeth Dedmon**, Landon Gregory, Anna Grace, Brayden, and Brody McCool, Dawson and Sawyer Stevens, Cash Laxer, Colton and Stone Stevens, Drew Miller, Edie and Jackson Stuart and two great great grandchildren, Cooper and Maverick Robertson.

In Lieu of flowers the family wishes all donations be made to the American Lung Association, (**Find a Grave Memorial 39617632**)

HALTON C. LACY



Halton Christopher Lacy, 59, of Fayetteville, Arkansas passed away June 23, 2016. He was born September 23, 1956 in Castro Valley, California to Halton and Bobbie (Glass) Lacy. Christopher was a first class musician and published numerous operas. He was a professor of music and an opera coach at the University of Arkansas and also taught piano and voice lessons for several years. Christopher was fluent in Italian and other languages and taught Italian. He was also an avid gardener.

He is survived by his mother Bobbie Lacy of Fayetteville, Arkansas, his Aunt Norma (Oochie) Glass, and numerous cousins, Keith and Dorie Glass, Daryl, Lisa, Ellie Grace, Chloe and Ben Glass, B. A., Stephanie, Eliza and Wheeler Glass, Janis, Luke and Micah Taylor, David Cheek, Edmund and James Lacy, **Todd Dedmon** and his close friend Anna Caterina Antonacci. He was preceded in death by his father Halton Lacy and brother Harold G. Lacy.

Visitation will be Monday June 27, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Martin Funeral Home Chapel in Mansfield, Arkansas. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday June 28, 2016 at the Church of Christ in Mansfield, Arkansas burial will follow the service at Cedar Grove Cemetery under the direction of Martin Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Keith Glass, Daryl Glass, B. A. Glass, Luke Taylor, Micah Taylor and Mark Schmidt.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Halton Christopher Lacy, please visit our Tribute Store.

Find A Grave Memorial 165954352