

Payne adds new technology

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Payne Precision Graphics in Dallas Township is basically the story of the little printing company that could.

Founded in 1943 in Plymouth by John Robert Moore, the company moved to Lake Street in Dallas Township in the early 1950's.

Payne prints color brochures for many large customers from New York City to Washington, DC, including Mack truck calendars distributed by area dealers, the annual report for Moses Taylor Hospital and catalogues for Mont Blanc pens, Crayola crayons, DayTimers executive supplies, Corning glass and Sharp Electronics.

"We have 100 employees, mostly from the Back Mountain, and contribute about \$3/4 million in wages alone to the local economy," said president Tom Gauntlett.

He attributes the company's success to its keeping abreast of the latest in printing technology and the company's excellent workers.

"The Back Mountain is well-known for its stable work force - conscientious, hard-working people dedicated to quality," he said.

Workers at Payne - all members of the International Print and Graphics Communication Union - begin five to seven years of on-the-job training their first day at work.

Additional graphics courses are available at Luzerne County Community College, where Gauntlett helped set up the graphics program.

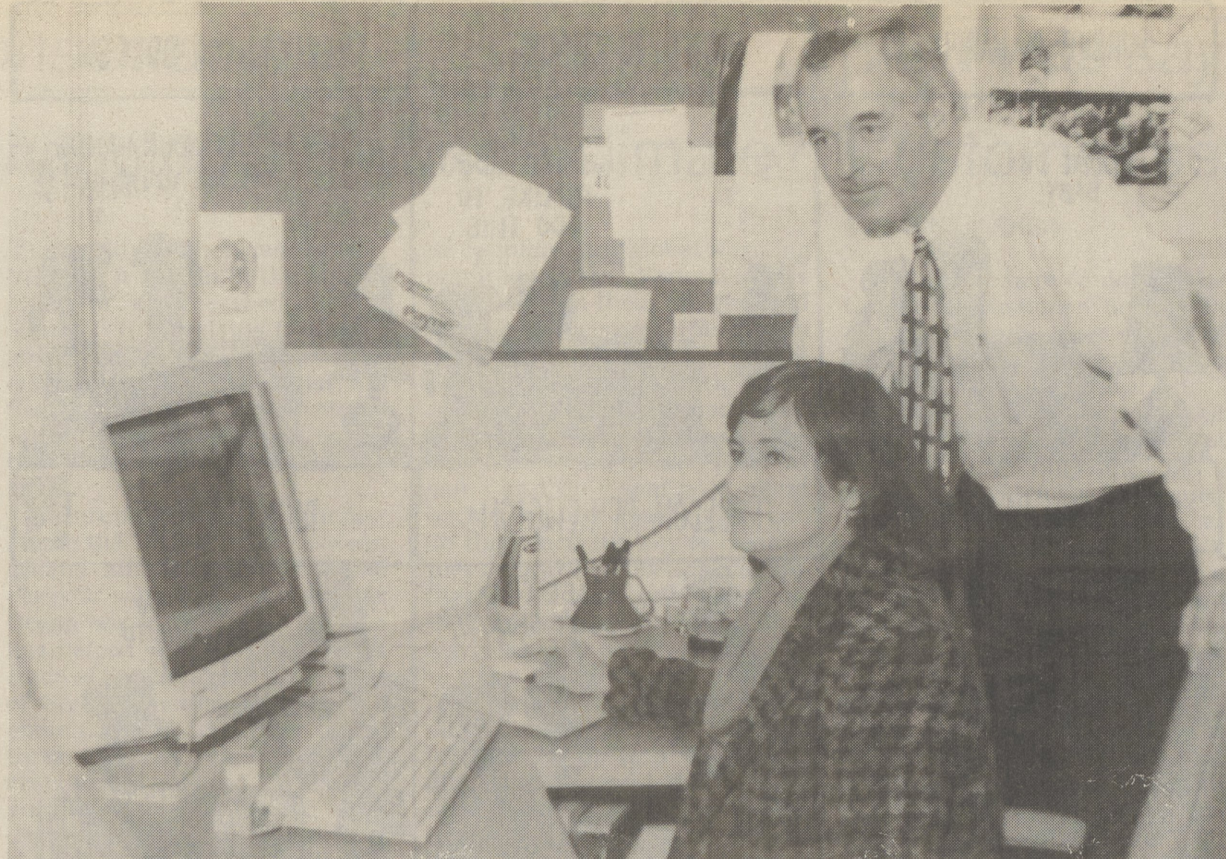
Gauntlett has spent 28 years with the company, starting in college as a part-time delivery person.

After college, he started full-time as a sales representative, a position which he held until eight years ago, when the president, Robert Moore, died suddenly.

"Bob was an excellent business manager," Gauntlett, recalled. "He was a very fair person. He had groomed me to take eventually over his position, but neither of us had planned it to happen this early."

He met his wife in the business, executive vice-president Susan Gauntlett, whose grandfather founded the company.

"Executive vice-president is



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY - Tom and Susan Gauntlett review a full-color print job on Payne Precision Color's newest computer.

only a title," she said. "I just drive the biggest desktop computer in the company."

Susan had studied art at Syracuse College, but later changed her major to advertising. "It was a natural choice for the business," she said.

She began working as Payne's art director, designing layouts for customers, some who already had

their own photos and type designs and others who needed to start almost from scratch.

Three years ago her department bought a Scitex pre-press system and became completely computerized, making it necessary for her to travel to Philadelphia for several months to take college-credited courses in computerized graphics.

With the new state-of-the-art computer programs, scanners and a special printer, Gauntlett can now print a full-color brochure with quality high-resolution photos in one step.

"But learning to use the computers means learning a whole new language - the computer doesn't understand graphics terms, we had to learn how to translate them into computer language."

Another veteran, press foreman Ed Janosik, started 25 years ago as a press operator. He knows every inch of the company's five different presses, which run three shifts, 24 hours a day.

He supervises 30 people, mostly men. "The women are qualified to do the work, but not too many want to get dirty," he joked.

Pre-press manager Doug Ehret, a Dallas Township resident and Lake-Lehman graduate, started at Payne 22 years ago as a photo lithographer (stripper), setting up color printing and layouts.

Now he supervises all aspects of preparing the print jobs before they go to the press.

"I received all of my training through the union, first as an assistant, then an apprentice, then a journeyman," he said. "I also took courses at Luzerne County Community College."

Three years ago Payne expanded its operations, moving five of its six presses into a \$2 million building on a 10-acre site on Route 415 in Dallas Township, opposite Native Textiles.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

QUALITY IS JOB #1 - Assistant press foreman Herb Searfoss and press foreman Ed Janosik inspect a spreadsheet printed at Payne Precision Color in Dallas Township.

L-L Taxpayers to meet Feb. 3

Lake-Lehman Taxpayers Association will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lehman Township Municipal Building.

Fire destroys storage barn

Firefighters battled deep snow to tap out a fire January 31, shortly after 9 p.m., which partially destroyed a storage barn owned by Jane Pushkar of Crispin Road, Kingston Township.

According to Trucksville fire chief Brian Johnson, 60 firefighters from Trucksville and Shavertown were hampered by the deep snow, which made it difficult to reach the barn, located 700 feet away from the road.

The center part of the barn, used to store tools, welders, a boat and lawn equipment, was destroyed, although some items inside were saved, Johnson said.

Johnson planned to meet with the fire marshal February 1 to determine the cause of the fire.

Trucksville firefighter Craig Hardick sprained his knee after falling on the ice at the scene, Johnson said.

Tankers from Jackson and Franklin townships, the Kingston Township ambulance, Kingston Township rescue unit and the Dallas ambulance assisted at the scene.

Firefighters set up fund for Roans

When the Roan family's Harveys Lake home burned January 12, his fellow firefighters rallied to help out, battling the blaze for five hours.

Their assistance hasn't ended with tapping out the fire. Andy Roan has been a member of the Kunkle Fire Company for the past 17 years and was assistant chief for a decade.

His wife, Julie, was Kunkle's ambulance captain for eight years. Since the Roans and their daughter, Becky, lost everything in the fire, their fellow firefighters at Kunkle have set up a fund to raise money to help them get back on their feet.

"The Roans never hesitated to respond to a fire, accident or ambulance call - often on a moment's notice," said Kunkle fire chief Jack Dodson. "It's now our turn to assist them, as they have helped so many other families in the past. Firefighters are all brothers. We stick together."

The Kunkle Fire Company has set up a fund at the Grange National Bank and is soliciting donations, Dodson said.

Checks or money orders should be made out to the Andrew Roan Fire Fund and sent to the Kunkle Fire Company at RR 1 Box 301A, Dallas, PA 18612. Dodson has asked that people send checks or money orders, not cash.

Anyone wishing to donate household items may call the fire company at 675-3334 and leave a message. Dodson has asked that people not leave any donated items at the fire hall, as they could get in the firefighters' way or be damaged by the weather.

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