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### MY MOST INTERESTING ASSIGNMENT

By  
Don Johnson

I envy the columnists preceding me in this space who are able to select one assignment as the most interesting and who were then able to write about it so well. During my reflections on the subject, some hasty research revealed that, at least 38 different clients have been billed; work for many of these occurred at different times, on different projects and/or in different plants and cities; this work has been for clients in 14 states, as well as stateside planning and layout work for one South American client--mail order engineering KDV called it; coincidentally, these involved 14 moves, with most of them taking place during my first five years of marriage; I have been privileged to work on various projects with no less than 42 KSA men.

These reflections made me recall some of the contrasting assignments such as:

Work in plants that made receiving blankets, diapers and baby panties to one that made casket linings; and from so-called style shops to those manufacturing only a half dozen SKU's....

Plants where starting times ranged from 6:15 to 8:15 a.m. Also, those with lunch breaks which ranged from zero minutes to those with an hour off. (The 6:15 a.m. plant would be the least interesting because I can't even see at that time of day.)....

Plants with straight lines to those with the latest mobile bundle system; and with throughput times ranging from a few hours to months....

Those with seven sewing machine opera-

### ANNIVERSARIES

Since our last issue, we had the pleasure of marking the 20th anniversary of Abbie Jean Quick's appearance on the KSA scene.

Everyone has met her, as she has "discovered and employed" most of us. So, we are sure that all will agree with us, when we characterize her as the gal who exploded the myth about the exclusive hold which Southerners are reputed to have on charm. For, though every inch a Yankee (and a Connecticut one at that!), hers is undoubtedly the most charming personality on our professional staff. However, we did not hire her for that, although we feel certain it has stood her in good stead in the pursuit of her activities.

Abbie Jean's other outstanding quality is her excellent judgment. Any man who "gets by her" in an interview can almost surely count on succeeding, if he but applies the talents she has discovered in him.

It's been a short 20 years, Abbie, and it's been mighty good having you aboard. Many happy returns.

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Ed Owen's tenth--another anniversary recently celebrated--is almost a misnomer; for, we first discovered him as a graduate student at North Carolina State in 1939 and recommended him to our client as an engineer-trainee. (Our one supervisor, KS, had all the men he could handle at that time!)

Well, we worked hand in hand with Ed for three and a half years on that job and, intermittently thereafter for many years. The client was eventually gobbled up by

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tors to those with over 500; and from the smallest contractor to the world's largest manufacturer of one particular item....

Those plants with 40 square feet per operator to one with over 200....

Plants where everyone was on time work to those with complete incentive coverage....

One plant with a 35-hour week to those with three shifts....

Those with all facilities under one roof to those with five separate buildings in the same small town....

One hour garment analysis assignments to jobs lasting a year and a half. This includes new plant planning down to sighting a transit and holding the range pole. Can you imagine this at \$35 per hour?....

Plants that employed all Mexican operators to those with all Negroes to the completely internationalized ones....

Plants located in cities of over a million to communities with a population of only 916....

Working in the most modern facilities (including one plant with a false teeth washing device in the ladies room) to those buildings which were literally falling apart....

Being alone (except for telephone) on a job to working with six other KSA-ites on the same project....

Jobs from South Georgia in the summer to the mountains of Colorado in the winter; with side trips from Florida to California to Massachusetts....

Starting out with one car; gradually moving up to two cars with rented trailers; and finally graduating to "let the movers do it"....

The union shop where the members disliked

and distrusted their business agent so much they wouldn't talk to him unless a lawyer were present; to the shops where I'm certain no one will ever consider a union....

"One night stands" in a motel to three straight months of motel living--including the San Quinton; to owning a home and living in Atlanta for two years....

Working in plants where management insisted that the operators call you "Mr." to those in which the names I was called must be censored....

Working for clients who rounded off in their own favor when a half cent was involved to those you must fight with in order to avoid setting loose rates....

Plants where labor was only 5% of the total manufacturing costs to those where material costs were relatively insignificant; and from those where it cost only \$.018 per dozen to cut (ironing board covers) to those where the total cost was over \$50.00 per unit on many styles (ladies coats)....

Working for clients who went out of business in the middle of the program to one where several of us helped effect annual savings of a quarter million dollars. And being made sadly aware of the fact that results achieved are not always in direct proportion to efforts expended....

Clients whose every other sentence was "when do you finish?"--when we really should extend; to those who refuse to let our staff man go even after being told that continuation might not be in his best interests....

Working for clients who ask "What else can you do?" to those who tell you that your help is required for only a specific project because they know everything there is to know about everything else. Or those whose problem is so unique that they're quite certain you can't help them as opposed to those who expect you to do a complete engineering

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job in a week just because you have had experience with this type garment.

Obviously, I have worked with some of the nicest people in the world (including a few who were predictable) to some of the most impossible. Each job has had its challenges, problems, interesting aspects and frustrating moments. Success was met with joy, failure with grief, and each job was left with a memory of pleasant associations or other memories that I would prefer to forget.

When these and many other contrasts are considered in retrospect, I think you'll agree that Mary's request for my most interesting assignment is an impossible task. If pinned down, however, it would be a combination of three: McRae, Georgia, where I met and later married the girl who has stuck through all the above with me; Atlanta, Georgia, where the assignments have been so varied and--as in McRae--where I've been able to work with so many others in the company--and, too, I have a soft spot in my heart for Atlanta for this is where we became parents; finally, Texas must be included because it's next.

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another client who, however, had committed the (fatal) error of becoming inactive with KSA for 13 years. This enabled us to ask Ed to Join us, when he became disenchanted with the new management and it has been like "old home week" ever since. Congratulations, Ed, and many other anniversaries.

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W. T. CAGNON, 1/30/03 - 8/12/64

Bill Cagnon passed away August 12 in Panama City, Florida, his home, after an illness of several months.

Bill has served the garment industry for many, many years--19 of which were with KSA--and enjoyed an industry-wide repu-

tation in the manufacture of dress shirts. In KSA, he was known as Mr. Dress Shirt, the pro who disseminated his skill to far more trainees over the years than we could possibly recall here.

Bill and his wife, Al, traversed this country many times in our behalf--their assignments also took them to Canada and Brazil--easily making friends wherever they went. He will indeed be missed by all who knew him and we wish to extend our deep-felt sympathy to his family.

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We should also like to express our sympathy to Jarnette Wood in the recent loss of her father.

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NEW EMPLOYEES

Lucille Ragon and Richard (Ric) Cobb were the first new employees since our last issue. They joined KSA on the same day--July 6.

Mrs. Ragon assumed her duties in the Atlanta office when Sue Williams moved to another city. As indicated in Jack Ullman's report, she has proven to be a very capable asset to that office.

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Ric Cobb is a 1962 Georgia Tech grad, associated with our Systems Division. The Cobbs (wife and baby daughter) were relocated in the New York area where Ric has been receiving Systems indoctrination. They have recently been returned to their home town, Atlanta, for a short period, where he is also receiving training in AAMT.

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On August 10 Linwood (Lin) Briggs was added to our Engineering staff. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina, with a couple of years experience in our industry. He was trained by HHH to do AAMT while at Chatham Manufac-

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turing Company and is, therefore, already familiar with methods and procedures of this segment of our work. At the present time he is working under Robin Hitchcock and Bob Solomon in AAMT at Koury.

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Mrs. Jane Chacon reported for work at our New York office on September 21. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama, with a degree in Journalism. Although she did part-time secretarial work while in college, this is her first full-time job. Besides some switchboard work, she lends her assistance wherever it is needed most in the office. We understand she is kept busy, quietly and efficiently discharging her duties.

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The Personnel Division claimed our next new employee on September 28 when Robert Messinger joined us. He graduated from the City College of New York with an M.S. degree in Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology. Of course, he is located at our New York office and is learning the KSA-ropes under Abbie Jean's guidance.

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P. McNeer (Mac) Dillon, Jr., is a graduate of the University of North Carolina who became one of our engineers on October 5. Mac is not new to the industry, having spent ten years in a garment factory, of which he was plant manager for the last six years. Because of this experience, his indoctrination in Washington and training at Roydon Wear were shortened considerably and he is now learning AAMT at Koury's also.

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Mrs. Sylvia Dixon took over the duties of secretary in the Nashville office on October 12, after Marion Youree's departure. She is adept at shorthand and typing and possesses the other attributes of a good secretary. While she was in college, she worked one summer in Wash-

ington at the Navy Department, however, most of her secretarial experience has been with the Methodist Publishing Company in Nashville, where she had worked for some four or five years. Sylvia appears to have gotten off to an excellent start with her new duties.

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Our next new employee was Giacomo Ronco. Giacomo, an Italian, is a recent addition to the staff of KSA-France, and a graduate of the University of Torino. He reported for his stateside training on October 26 and has progressed quite well with his indoctrination and training. He is expected to remain in the States for a minimum of one year, so your paths will undoubtedly cross somewhere along the line.

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After Jim Trautman's six month stint with Uncle Sam, he reported in Washington November 9 for his refresher course in reading. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois and is assigned to the Engineering Division.

Giacomo was still in Washington, so it was he who welcomed Jim and familiarized him with such things as boarding house, buses, office location, etc. As a foreigner, he probably got a kick out of being able to act as guide to an American in his own country! Of course, Jim was able to reciprocate quickly in many ways, such as explaining what certain foods are like--not easy to do, and the how's and why's of everyday life in America.

Both of these fellows are down at McRae at present, learning how to make pants.

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On January 1, James C. Fry will join KSA's Engineering Division. He is a Georgia Tech graduate and will work out of the Atlanta office. Jim was in the consulting business for five years, but his most recent work has been with the

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TRANSCONTINENTAL CHANGES

American Textile Manufacturers Institute in Washington. It is expected that his talents will be devoted primarily to our Management Information Systems work in the Textile Industry.

We should like to welcome all of you and wish you many years of health, happiness and success in the KSA family.

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MISHAPS

We are sorry to report that again a couple of our staff have had the misfortune of being involved in accidents.

Charlie Brown's was an automobile accident caused by another car passing on a hill (of all things!). Fortunately, Charlie was not seriously injured and credits this to the use of his seat belts. He did end up in the hospital in traction for several days but is OK now. We are all very thankful it was no worse, Charlie.

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We feel that Mahlon Saibel--currently known as Mr. Hathaway--is vying with Stuart Hollander and Ross Runnels for the most unusual accident.

Mahlon was rushing down the hall of the Empire State Building one day, rounded a corner and smashed into another fellow approaching from the opposite direction.

This was really a "head on collision." Mahlon's glasses were broken, cutting and bruising his brow and face. He immediately went to an eye specialist where bits of glass were removed from the cornea and he received treatment for the other damaged areas.

We are sorry to say that Mahlon's vision has not been completely restored in that eye and indeed he does wear a black patch at least part of the time to relieve the eye of strain from light. Hope the eye is soon back to normal, Mahlon.

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On December 8, the Ted Theodorsens returned to the States after two years in England, where Ted has been lending his weight to our KS-PEA supervisory staff since Freddie Wood's return to the States.

Welcome home folks! We know you must be very happy to introduce your young son on this side of the ocean. (He was born shortly after they went to England.)

The Theodorsens have been replaced in England by Clara and Roy Engman, whose stay is expected to be from six to nine months.

Clara and Roy had been married 25 years on December 7. We understand, however, that the Ullmans feared that the time between their arrival in London on December 1 and their anniversary was so short that the Palace might not be able to give them the sort of a party they should have, so they had one for them in Atlanta before they left.

First of all, our congratulations to a wonderful couple on their Silver Wedding Anniversary and secondly, we hope sincerely that your stay in Merry Ole England will be one you will recall with fond memories when you celebrate your Golden Anniversary.

Within the first few months of '65--the exact departure date is unknown at this time--the Larry Kalluses will be leaving for a few years to work with KSA-France. We will have to fill you in a little later on just where they will be living. We do know that the Kalluses are excitedly making plans and very much looking forward to the experience of living and working in a foreign country.

And last, but not least, Freddie Wood and his new bride will be leaving around January 9 for Paris, where Freddie will be doubling up with Stig for several months, preparatory to Stig's return to

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America, at which time Freddie will be guiding the efforts of our French and German affiliates for a couple of years.

Bon voyage to the Kalluses and Woods.

MOST INTERESTING MOVE

By  
Nancy Millberg

When Dick and I married, I hardly knew anything about KSA, except that you move a lot and the town people call you "efficiency experts." After four years, I've learned that you do move a lot and the town people still call you "efficiency experts."

We had made a couple of moves before, but the one to Moultrie, Georgia will long be remembered. We were living in Andalusia, Alabama, Dick was scheduled to finish his assignment the first of January, and we were expecting our first baby in January.

Two weeks before the move Jack Johnson called and told us we were going to Moultrie--maybe--and that as soon as the assignment was definite he would let us know. Three days before the movers were to come, Jack had not called. I was frantic. The night before the moving company was to arrive, Jack called and told us we were going to Moultrie, Ga.

While the movers packed, I visited my doctor. He was very reassuring--if you can call it that--as he told me "there are a lot of good hospitals between Andalusia and Moultrie. I was still not sure whether our baby would be born in a hospital (like most babies) or in a U-Haul Trailer.

With many misgivings, we set out for our new home. The trip was uneventful, thank goodness. There wasn't much time left for apartment or house hunting, so we took the first apartment we found. Fortunately, it was very nice.

Really, the thing uppermost in our minds

was finding another doctor. I talked with several neighbors and the girls in the factory office. Everyone was very sympathetic and wanted to help. Before I knew it, I had appointments to see two doctors at the same hour. A choice was made and it turned out to be a wise and timely one, as our daughter was born two weeks later.

Presently, we are finishing our assignment in Moultrie. In a month we will have been here two years. Maybe that's close to a record for KSA. This time, there's no little one on the way, so we are looking for a smooth, uncomplicated move--but who can tell us where to??

WEDDINGS

Gwen and John Wilcox were married on July 4 in Nashville, North Carolina. Since their honeymoon, they have been on an assignment in Georgia, but have recently been sent to Asheville, North Carolina, Gwen's home state.

Freddie Wood's "Most Interesting Assignment" appeared in the last issue of the News. Since then he has signed up for a lifetime one. He and Jarnette were married in Milledgeville, Georgia--the home of both of them--on October 2, and are presently residing in New York.

Our very best wishes to our newlyweds for many happy years together.

77 YEARS WITH KSA!

Sounds impossible, doesn't it; particularly inasmuch as KSA will only be 30 years old come January 1965. When we total the years of service of three of our senior employees, it is a fact and not an impossibility.

At the recent Bobbin show, Roy Engman, Russ Lewis and Warner Civitts were pho-

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tographed together and in spite of their 77 years, they all appeared hale and hearty enough to be around for a long, long time--our sincere hope.

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SUPERVISORS MEETING

The annual supervisors meeting was held in New York at the St. Moritz Hotel October 14-17.

It was an excellent meeting attended not only by USA supervisors but also Richard Clarke and Stuart Hollander from London, who so ably represented our brothers across the sea. We regret that because of pressing matters in Germany that Stig Kry could not be with us. Also, because of Ted Theodorsen's imminent return to the States, it was decided he would forego the meeting this time.

The agenda was quite full, containing such topics for discussion as Permacrease Processes, FORSCOR, Work Place Engineering, Supervisory Techniques, Retail Engineering, Material Utilization and AAMT.

We had three guests for different segments of the meeting. Tom Newberry of MSA discussed the activities of KSA/MSA; Robin Hitchcock of HIH gave a stimulating talk and presented an AAMT movie which should be a very powerful selling tool; our good client, Coach Thompson of Alabama Textile Products Corporation was a luncheon guest one day and addressed the group, giving KSA plenty of good-natured ribbing as well as some good advice.

It appears that the major impression gained was that of tremendous, dynamic growth. This is two-pronged in that the Engineering Division is expanding rapidly and the new techniques which are being developed are opening up new avenues. Because of this situation, you will not be surprised that our recruiting program calls for 18 more men this year.

Lest you think it was all work and no

play, let us add that Dean Vought did a masterful job in arranging the social activities. This was the year to add a generous portion of feminine pulchritude to the soirees; the wives accompanied their husbands to "do New York." There were some scheduled tours for them, including the Fair, United Nations, Lincoln Center, etc., etc., and also a breakfast seminar at which KS discussed KSA in general and their husbands' work in particular.

The social activities were delightfully topped off by a dinner dance on Friday night. It was held on the 34th floor of the St. Moritz with a commanding view of Central Park on one side and the beautifully lighted skyline of Manhattan on the other. It was a lovely party, consisting of those essential successful party ingredients--good friends, good food, good drinks.

We knew we had a talented bunch, however, we didn't know it included Show Biz. Would you have thought Supervisor X, Y, or Z were lyricists....that Supervisor X was an M.C....or that we had a darn good vocal group--which has been dubbed the Bobbsey Quintet. There are even rumors that a couple of the lyricists are considering the song-writing game when they retire from this business of "rags."

As a tribute to the ladies and our guests, Mr. & Mrs. Thompson, this Quintet composed, produced, and presented "Hello Ladies." It was done so well we know Dolly herself could not have objected.

The show was so well received that Coach Thompson requested an encore. Also, because it was Abbie Jean's 20th anniversary with KSA, a different rendition was presented just for the occasion.

The orchestra had stopped playing and like all good things, the party was about to come to an end, when the ladies responded with a "Hello Fellows" number--sans music--to show their appreciation.

Dean, the arrangements for the entire meeting were excellent.

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GOOD MEMORY?!

Carroll McDuffie of the Washington office was slightly embarrassed recently when KS buzzed her and rapidly began telling her how many coffees, teas, some with sugar, some with cream, etc., etc., she should order for four or five of our fellows who were visiting us. She was not at her desk and asked him to wait a moment until she could get a pencil to jot down the order. In response, KS said rather amazedly "You mean you can't remember that?!" Carroll replied, "Mr. S. I don't have as good a memory as some people!"

She got her pencil and when she got back on the phone she heard him laughing and telling the fellows about it. Well, in this case, Carroll had the last laugh because when she said she was now ready to take the order, KS began laughing and admitted he had forgotten it also and had to get it again!

The next morning when the fellows came in, instead of greeting Carroll with the usual "Good Morning", they began speling off a long order and ended it with "Got it?"

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NEW OFFICES

The New York Office had to move into temporary quarters--on the same floor of the Empire State Building--while our offices were being enlarged, rearranged, and redecorated. We know they must be

happy to be back in their clean and spacious "home."

By the time this is received, the Atlanta office will have moved into the new building next door (1422). The move was scheduled for December 1, although we understand there is a possibility for a slight delay for last minute finishing touches. They will have considerably larger offices to help house their constantly expanding staff.

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DIAPER LINE

First of all, our sincere apologies for having overlooked a couple of important events under this heading in our June issue. We shall try hard not to let this happen again, however, if we should slip up, we hope someone will call it to our attention.

The first omission was the arrival of Doris and Ken Osborne's first child, Douglas Ray, on January 9. The other was the birth of Victoria (Vickie) Lynne Vought on January 28. She is Susan and Dean's second child--a little playmate for Laurie.

The Greg Murphys and Paul Floods are each the proud parents of a son. Kevin Lee Murphy was born July 26 and Paul Flood, Jr., on November 11--the first child in each family.

Congratulations to all of you.

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M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

And Best Wishes For A

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R