

Aren't We Grownups?!

Now you can visit us any time, day or night, at www.yeiworks.com. We're getting pretty modern around here!

Speaking of that—hey! You can even send your annual, or seasonal, donation by credit card. All you do is fill out this little form and then mail or fax it to YEI! Give it a try; it's really easy!

If you know someone who could benefit from YEI! services, please request a copy of our a Request for Services form. Or, if you know someone you believe should join the YEI! staff team, encourage them to ask us for an Employment Application.





We welcome anyone who would like to come and spend a day in the life of YEI! Start with our web site where you'll see

our two plants, some of our shop areas, the products we have for sale, pictures of our YEI!-Guys in full glory, and check out our "In the News" section. Then, call us to arrange a tour at 928-445-0991.

In the meantime, just use the handy form below to send a contribution of any amount. Just fill out and mail to the address on the front of the "Exceptional News," or fax to 928-445-0994.

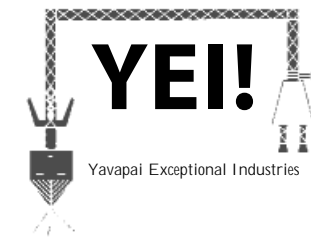
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**Photos in this issue by
 Brad Newman and
 Katie Baird**

					
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Exceptional News

Spring 2007

Mattera Enterprises and YEI! Sort it All Out

Dewey-based Mattera Enterprises Recycling and YEI! are a great example of the expression "what goes around comes around." Mattera receives recyclables dropped off by the public, collected at the curbside, and from business sites. Then, a hardworking squad of YEI! employees sorts the material before it is resold, or delivered elsewhere for reuse.

Owner Joe Mattera says that his operation is the only full-service recycling facility in the Tri-City area, in that they take material from residential, commercial, municipalities, and the public. The site offers shredding services and, along with the sorting done on site, helps to keep reusable material out of landfills.

You never know what you'll find in this business. An old edition of the children's classic "Heidi" was



spotted during sorting one day, and an early edition of Dickens was spared from the shredder as well. Justin, one of the YEI! employees on duty recently, shared that he likes working this job. But he has other work assignments as well, so he works one week at the Recycling Center and then the next week rotates on to a different job site.

In a business based on volume, the more material collected, the more successful the business will be. And the greater the volume, the more jobs for the YEI! team.

Brad observes, "It wasn't that long ago that people with disabilities were considered discardable, and such individuals were often relegated to institutions that were out of sight of the community, in much the

same way as all discarded material was hauled to a dump or landfill."

Brad goes on to say, "These days, thanks to modernized rehabilitation techniques and attitudes, and a community that has come together to welcome adults with disabilities into the workplace, projects like this one are becoming increasingly common. Recycling and rehabilitation have come full circle, so that where old material can be collected and put to new use, YEI! employees can learn new job skills in a workplace that values their contributions."



Mattera Enterprises in Dewey

Rusing Hills Update

When Mike Fann of Fann Contracting asked Ernie Feavel if he would supervise the construction of a new YEI! building project at the north end of Washington Avenue in Prescott, Feavel's response was an immediate "yes." "Mike has a long history of partnership with and support of YEI! and he was hoping to find a way to save them some money on this job. It's my policy to try to do one of these a year as a charitable contribution," Ernie continued. In working with the same contractors and subcontractors that he and Fann always use, the crew finds both greater efficiency and enthusiasm, since everyone is more than willing to band together on behalf of YEI!


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Yavapai Exceptional Industries



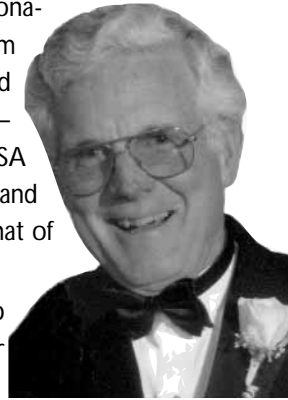
In Memorium: Dr. Larry Strom

Larry Strom presided over the YEI! Board for seven years, which spanned the years during the design and construction of Antelope Point Industries. Well before his board involvement, Larry consulted with us during our renaming, when we went from Yavapai Rehab Center to Yavapai Exceptional Industries. It was he who conceived of our YEI! acronym, which denotes Navajo holy people who provide healing and protection.

When Larry brought his Yavapai College manufacturing technology students our way, they gave our staff immeasurable assistance as we ramped up production on various projects, including the launch of our picnic tables and benches. Once we got into the furniture business, the idea for Antelope Point was born, and that program has flourished out at API.

Larry passed away quite suddenly last Fall while on a motorcycle trip to New Mexico. His family conveyed their wish that Larry's friends honor his life with donations to YEI! As a result, we heard from people throughout the country, and from all the worlds Larry inhabited—which included his career as a NASA engineer to later work as an educator and from his passion for motorcycles to that of Mexican food gourmet.

His legacy is felt by us in all we do here at YEI! everyday. We will never forget all he gave us. Farewell, Larry.



Rusing Hills, continued from page 1

Ernie jumped on board, waiving his management fees, and quickly assembling the team of subs that he has been working with



Ernie's crew onsite at Rusing Hills

regularly over the past seven years, on numerous other construction projects throughout the area. Because of donated time and materials at cost, the new Rusing Hills Home for Women should be ready for occupancy by the end of the year.

Brad commented, "As soon as we met 'Uncle Ernie,' as all the YEI! guys call him, we knew he was the right man to head up this project. His ability to 'put the pinch' on his colleagues in the construction industry, including Don Higgins of Higgins Surveying, is renowned.

Prior to moving to the Prescott area, Ernie's construction undertakings in the Phoenix are included

extreme makeovers for elderly and poor homeowners well before projects of that nature inspired popular TV shows. Feavel would simply round up his buddies from the Arizona State University Construction Management Program and just fix up somebody's house that badly needed it.

Ernie's work in the Prescott area is legion as well, where he's particularly known for work in the Prescott Lakes subdivision where his unique touch is felt throughout.

"We are extremely lucky to have Ernie on our team. He follows in the footsteps of Henry Dahlberg who headed up the construction of YEI!'s Washington Avenue site; the late, great Jim Lewis, who built Antelope Point Industries; Neil Klein, who took the lead on the Washington Hills men's home; and Roscoe Duncan, who pulled the original Blind Center out of the ground as a structure built adjacent to YEI!" said Brad.

This tradition of community leadership and charitable services

by expertly skilled craftsmen (including Burton Paint and Yavapai Block) has enabled YEI! to grow and flourish with capital building projects that would have been well beyond the skill level and budget of the program, were it not for the contributions of these people.

Another cost-saving aspect of this undertaking is the fact that Rusing Hills is the mirror image of Washington Hills. Despite having a solid blueprint in hand at the outset, Feavel acknowledges that the project has faced its share of typical challenges, such as the site condition prior to beginning excavation, the task of reorienting the plans



One of the great views from Rusing Hills

used for Washington Hills in order to create the new footprint, and the usual weather-related interrup-

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New at YEI!: Spice 'n Slice

We're excited to share that we have acquired Grandma LaMure's Spice 'n Slice Mixes for Ground Meats®. Originally a family-owned enterprise, the product line includes six different spice mixes intended to add flavor to game and other meats. The company is perfectly placed here in Prescott, where so many sportsmen and their families enjoy hunting. The six spice mixes that make up the Spice 'n Slice line are easy to use for home-production of salami, pepperoni, jerky and other sausages.

Tom LaMure used his mother's recipes and launched Grandma LaMure's Spice 'n Slice almost 30 years ago. When LaMure started out, one of his goals was to use the warehousing, packaging and shipping operations of Spice 'n Slice to provide jobs for individuals with a disability. The Centers for Habilitation (TCH) in Tempe, Arizona, carried on that tradition for 16 years and is now pleased to announce the transfer of Grandma LaMure's Spice 'n Slice to YEI!

TCH staff has been working with the YEI! staff during the transition to ensure our success with this new venture. On our first day of operation, we received an order from Cabela's, World's Foremost Outfitters, for over \$12,000 worth of Spice 'n Slice product! What a way to start a new business.

The spice mixes are blended at a food production facility in Maryland. They are then delivered in large quantities to the west coast, where they are sealed in

individual polymer packets. At that point, the packets are shipped here to YEI!, where employees package the product and ready it for shipment. We now fill orders for large companies such as Cabela's, and also ships to smaller chains, "Mom & Pop" sporting goods stores, and individuals all over the country who have enjoyed the products for many years.

As the former manufacturer and distributor of this product, TCH was delighted at the the prospect of YEI! assuming the reins. "This product line is a logical extension of Grandma LaMure's vision of not only spicing up America's game meats, but creating employment for the hard to employ," said Vicki Kringen, Vice President and CFO of TCH. "After working with the YEI! team, we're assured that this great product, the production process, and the range of its distribution is going to just get bigger and better."

Kringen added, "As a post script, I can't think of anyone better than Brad and his team to take over the tradition of Spice n Slice. It's a great product that is fun to market. YEI!'s creative flair will help solidify Spice 'n Slice's share of the market and continue to provide much needed jobs for individuals with a disability."

Call to order from Grandma LaMure herself, at 800-310-4094. Or, you can visit the Spice 'n Slice web site to learn more: www.spicenslice.com



Other News Flashes:

- ☉ In our quest for excellence (even though we know that in Arizona programs like ours are not required to participate in national certification processes), we eagerly undergo a periodic evaluation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (C.A.R.F). Through this process, we are able to demonstrate that we meet a nationally developed set of standards, which assures our clients' families and the community of the quality programming that is available at YEI! That time has come (and gone!) again, and we'll share the process and outcomes with you next time.
- ☉ Wow! Wedding bells at both plants! Rob and Anna were hitched under the Christmas lights at the courthouse plaza, and Cody and Melissa are planning their wedding on the beach at Goldwater Lake.
- ☉ Cody Clarke out of our wood shop reports that even when area weather took its annual seasonal dip this winter, our line of picnic furniture (as featured at the Yavapai County Fair) continue to fly right out the door. If you want some to dress up your outdoor spaces this Spring and Summer, give Cody a call at 772-6235 (and congratulate him on his wedding plans!) or email us at mail@yeiworks.com.

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tions. YEI!'s position, however, is that the project is moving along well ahead of schedule. In characteristically optimistic fashion, the YEI! team expects moving day for the first residents to fall somewhere between Thanksgiving and Christmas 2007. "The list of qualified women is long," says Brad, "so the first occupants may well be selected by lottery."

Since Washington Hills was completed and during the first year of its occupancy, YEI! received input from group home mom-in-residence, Jean. As a result, new amenities have been added to the second project include a slightly modified attractive and utilitarian floor plan, a small upstairs laundry area, a pantry in the kitchen and additional guest use spaces for weekend visitors and relief workers.

Beautifully positioned on a hilltop, the site overlooks the VA hospital, the rolling hills of the Prescott Yavapai Reservation, Granite Mountain, the Bill Vallely Little League complex, and the Prescott Resort. Being in such close proximity to the Washington Avenue YEI! site, the building's 360 view makes for a wonderful place for its future residents to call home.