



# The Dashboard

## DECEMBER



### Time To Reflect 2014

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said: "I am blind, please help."

There were only a few coins in the hat. A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words. Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?" The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way. I wrote: "Today is a beautiful day but I cannot see it."

Both signs told people that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people that they were so lucky that they were not blind.

Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective?

As we leap forward to the close of 2014 I wanted to take a moment and reflect on what is really important, the health and love of family and friends. I will keep some names private and no doubt due to our close knit Phoenix family you might recognize the unnamed.

#### Deceased this year:

TJ Tudor's mother-in-law, Joe Turner's brother, Ron Puckett's father, Kevin Warren's father, Larry Barger's mother, Billy Works' father, Tim Ferguson (company driver), Tim Ryan (owner operator), Mike Thompson's aunt, Doug Clark's wife. If there is anyone that we have missed, please accept our sincere apologies.

#### Needing our Prayers:

Owner Operator with seriously ill wife, three Company Drivers seriously ill.

It is not a far stretch this time of the season to "change our sign" and consider all we have to be thankful for. We can be a people of woe or consider ourselves lucky as told in the short story above. I am thankful for each and every one of you that has helped nurture and care for the company and its family.

Go and tell someone that you are thankful for them. Go and tell you father and mother, brother or sister, son or daughter and yes, even someone you work with, that you are thankful for them. Don't be surprised when you end up changing their sign and how effective it will be! You may find your hat filling up.

**Have a great Thanksgiving season and a wonderful Christmas!**

Paul

# "Be Careful Out There."

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR CUSTOMER

## LINK-BELT CRANE



Phoenix Transportation is very proud of the relationship we have built with Link-Belt Crane over the last 15 years. Link-Belt's world headquarters are located on Palumbo Drive right here in Lexington, KY. Link-Belt is a big part of the economy in Lexington, KY with over 700 employees. Link-Belt Cranes may be manufactured here in Lexington but they are seen and used all over the world.

Link-Belt manufactures and markets rough terrain cranes, truck terrain cranes, crawlers and lattice trucks. Link-Belt cranes can range in cost from \$350,000 to 2.5 million depending on the needs of their customers. Link-Belt uses the concept of lean manufacturing, many times taking product right from our van or flatbed directly to the manufacturing lines. This manufacturing philosophy allows Link-Belt to build over 10 cranes per week which is quite an accomplishment.

Paul Campbell, Tad Asbury and Alan Pelfry work directly with Phoenix Transportation and have over 40 years of experience in transportation. Link-Belt is also involved in many community projects from Habitat for Humanity to supporting the fight against breast cancer in Digging for a Cure. Next time you are driving down the road and see a Link-Belt crane you can be proud that you were part of the process that helped in the manufacturing of that crane.

### KJV Luke 2: 8-11

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.



### DECEMBER DAYS TRIVIA

December 8<sup>th</sup> is National Brownie Day

December 12<sup>th</sup> is National Ding-a-Ling Day

December 15<sup>th</sup> is National Chocolate Covered Anything Day

December 18<sup>th</sup> is Bake Cookies Day

December 21<sup>st</sup> is Look on the Bright Side Day

December 27<sup>th</sup> is Make Cut-Out Snowflakes Day

December 31<sup>st</sup> is Unlucky Day



**KATHERINE MAINS**

### IN THE KNOW

How long have you been working for Phoenix Transportation?..1 year in January  
 What do you do at Phoenix Transportation?....Dispatcher – Logistics Coordinator  
 What is your favorite music?.....I love all music.  
 What is your favorite movie?.....At this time of year its "A Christmas Movie".  
 What is your favorite drink?.....Sweet Tea  
 If possible, who would you most like to meet whether they are living or not? . . .  
 Would like to meet mother's mother who passed away when my mother was three.  
 What is your favorite car?.....One that runs – or a Lexus.  
 What place would you dream of going to?.....I dream of going to Paris, France.

# A pro trucker's guide to winter driving

## **Relax:**

Breathe and stay calm. Panic causes people to overreact. You need to focus.

## **Slow Down:**

Drive only as fast as your abilities and the capabilities of the vehicle permit for the road conditions. If you're out of practice on snow and ice, slow down. If your tires are bad, slow down. If your car has a low ride height, it won't handle accumulating snow well. Again, just slow down.

## **Be Smooth:**

Your actions need to be controlled and deliberate. Hard acceleration, hard braking, and sharp curves all decrease traction. Maintain a consistent speed, open up the distance between you and the car ahead, and be easy on the brakes. Steer gently, and remember that inertia will be a factor.

## **Let There Be Light:**

In inclement weather, turn on your headlights. This is so other drivers can see you. Your taillights will be brighter too.

## **Use Your Signals:**

Here's a trucker's rule of thumb for lane change: Dry or rainy (not freezing) weather: three blinks, then move over for three blinks. Winter weather: four or five blinks, then move over slowly. Signal for turns before you start slowing down.

If you're going significantly slower than the traffic around you, turn on your four-way hazards, take the rightmost lane, and just let everyone pass you. The hazards let other drivers know you're going slower than they are, and this can help prevent a pileup.

## **Observe Tire Spray:**

Pay attention to the water coming off of other vehicles' tires. If there's a lot of spray, the roads are wet. If there's less spray and the road's wet, take extra caution; the roadway is starting to freeze. If the road looks wet with little or no spray, you're on black ice. Be extremely cautious.

## **Watch the Truckers:**

When the weather goes south, if the big trucks are slowing down, you should too. If they're pulling off, perhaps you'd better take a break as well. By no means do I recommend keeping pace with them. (We're kind of a crazy breed with the advantage of more weight, higher road clearance, more tires, and bigger tires.)

## **Do Not Stop:**

If visibility is zero (i.e., you can't see beyond your hood), do not stop where you are! You WILL be hit. Creep along until you can safely get your vehicle off and away from the road.

## **Waiting it Out:**

Exit ramps are typically plowed after the main highways. Rest areas are cleared after that. If you need to get off the road, wait it out in the parking lot of a gas station, 24-hour restaurant, or hotel. You stand a better chance of not being snowed in.

## **Traction is Everything:**

Loss of traction in snowy/icy conditions doesn't happen because you're on ice. It means you're hydroplaning on an almost microscopic film of fluid water (in a transitional state) between the ice and the surface of your tires. The lack of cohesion in the fluid gravely reduces friction, which results in less traction.

Make sure you have snow tires or all-weather radials with wide and deep tread valleys. Siping (small cuts that look like squiggly lines) on the tread studs will help with grip on packed snow and ice.

## **When is Cold-Weather Driving Riskiest?**

You face the greatest risk of losing traction on snowy, wet roads when temperatures are between 22 and 35 degrees Fahrenheit. At colder temperatures (10 to 20 degrees or less) snow-covered and icy roads afford more traction than at those warmer (22 to 35 degree) temperatures.

## **Don't believe it? Try this:**

Take two ice cubes. Place one in a deep freezer for 30 minutes. Drop the other in a glass of water. Try picking it in up with your fingertips. Notice how slippery it is? After 30 minutes, get the other ice cube from the freezer. My bet is it practically sticks to your fingers for a bit.

The same principle applies to driving. The ice is almost sticky in more extreme cold. But during heavy and slower traffic, more heat is applied to its surface, and traction will be commensurately reduced.

Ultimately, you're responsible for exercising your best judgment. If the weather is bad, stay put and let road crews do their jobs. ***"Be careful out there"***

## December Birthdays

Jon Bassitt	02
Ben Henson	02
Larry Gray	03
Steven Edwards	04
Jack Fryman	06
Damon Houchell	06
Mitchell Collinsworth	08
Alberto Irizarry	10
Michael Powell	12
Michael Moyer	13
George Ballard	16
Jeffrey Jackson	18
Richard Fifield	20
Timothy Duning	21
ZB Brock	22
Deron Henry	29



Several new employees were hired during the month of November. Please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

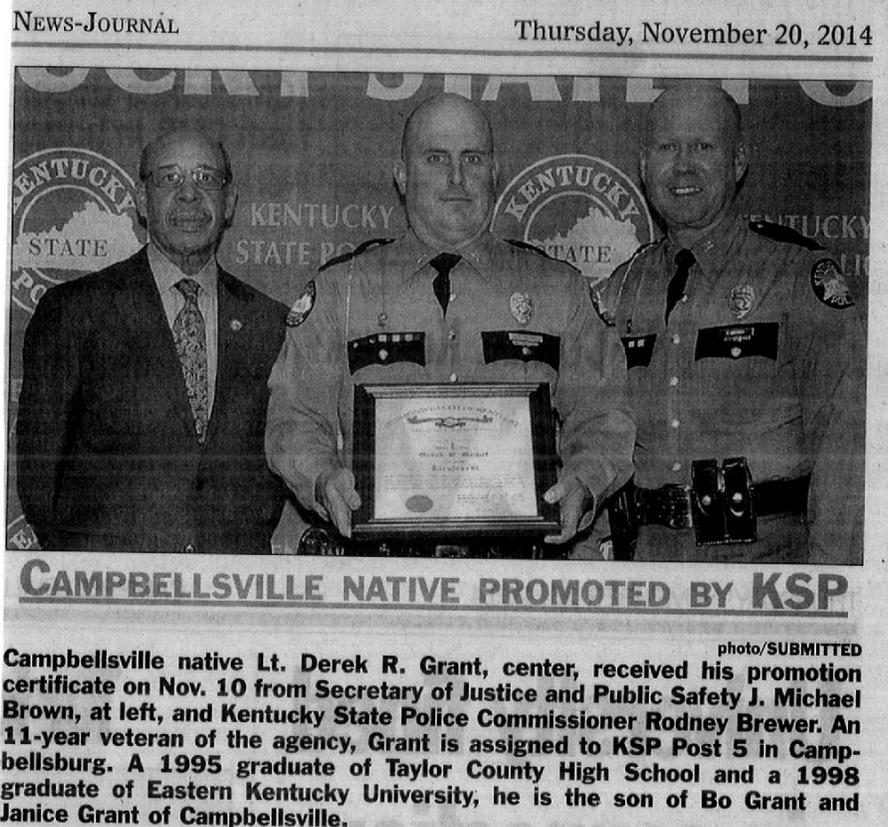
Holly Milburn  
Vernelle Wells  
Clyde Smalls  
Jason Guilles

## Monthly Health Tip

### HANGOVERS

- Hangovers are easier to prevent than they are to cure.
- Choose wisely. White wines and clear liquors are safer than red wines and colored liquors, which are loaded with headache-causing congeners. Choose draft beer over canned or bottles.
- Have a glass of water after each drink.
- Eat cheese and fruit to slow absorption and speed metabolism.
- Before calling it a night, have some crackers and water (salt and rehydration) and a multivitamin.
- Pop a pill. Besides easing pain, aspirin or ibuprofen eases inflammation around your poor tired brain.

Our own Bo Grant's son pictured below.



ANNE SLONE

## IN THE KNOW

How long have you been working for Phoenix Transportation? .....11 Years.  
 What do you do at Phoenix Transportation?.....Whatever needs to be done.  
 What is your favorite music?.....Everything – metal, rock, country.  
 What is your favorite movie?.....The Replacements  
 What is your favorite drink?.....Something cold and wet.  
 If possible, who would you most like to meet whether they are living or not?..  
 .....John Wayne  
 What is your favorite car?.....Mach 1 Mustang or 60's Corvette  
 What place would you dream of going to?.....Someplace else.