

Comments by Ginny Coutts in a letter to Marshal Loring dated June 8, 2007 sent along with a 8x10" photo of Heintz and Kaufman's staff.



"Irv never said anything in particular about working at H&K. Know he enjoyed the work and that they made or invented something new but that's all. He was at Eimac when I met him in 1942. I didn't know there was any writing on the picture. Irv just had it and I never paid any attention to it."

Following is inscribed on the photo of the Heintz and Kaufman team:

"Best Wishes to Mr. I. M. Coutts from Henry Guccuhagen (sp?) 6/7/1935"

with added notes by Ginny Coutts: "South City before Eimac. First row 2nd O.P. Taylor, 3rd Irv Coutts, 2nd row 4th George Wunderlich"

NB. Front row 6th is Ralph Heintz (white shirt with tie) - Reid Brandon

[Note: Bill Eitel joined H&K in 1929 and Jack McCullough followed in 1930¹. Both men left H&K in 1934, the year before this photo was taken].

The Ginny Coutts Letter

In a letter by Ginny Coutts to Marshall Loring are insights into one man's life working for Heintz and Kaufman then Eitel-Mc Cullough, over a span of 50 years:

"Irv went to work in the (Eimac) pump dept. as (employee) #22 in July 1940.

I went to work in the pump dept as #1158 in 1942. I was the first woman in the dept... we were married in November 1942.

Irv kept getting promoted and they kept moving me out of the way to make it possible, I couldn't work under him. I worked testing (photo).

When the war was over they started laying off so Irv asked them to let me go rather than someone who needed the job. There were girls who really needed to work. We bought a store in Belmont and I ran that.

We went to Grass Valley in 1946. We bought a truck and Irv hauled logs and lumber. When it slowed down he went to work as a journeyman electrician in the mines. He came home many times and said he had eaten lunch miles under our house. Our son was born in Nevada City.

When the Korean war started they started closing down the mines. Irv left so the people born and raised there wouldn't be laid off, that's all (the work) they knew.

We came down to San Carlos and he went to see Roberta (Eimac HR?) one day and he went to work the next, on swing shift. We didn't have a place to live so stayed with friends in Sunnyvale and Irv took the train to work for 3 months until we found a house in San Bruno...

Irv ran Graveyard shift for 8 years, I believe it was that long. When graveyard closed down he became head of shipping. Our phone# was in many pockets of military, especially the Dew Line. It was our son's job to answer the phone. Many a time there came a yell that General so and so was on the line and off Irv would go to the plant to ship a tube while the plant was closed.

There is much more to tell about the times we had when he was running the plant at night. Like when he had to take a sick woman home to a jealous husband. He used to have a guard follow him for safety. We had our house watched, phone calls (came) and he was usually in bed at those times. We couldn't have our number changed because of the Generals. It got quite harassing at times.

I went back to work as a technician in Belmont and worked there and he developed several patents held under the Eimac name. He retired in 1985. He died in May of 1995."

References: 1. <http://perhamcollection.historysanjose.org/people-companies/eitel-mccullough-inc-eimac/>

Irv went to work in the Pump Dept. as # 22 in July 1940.

I went to work in the Pump Dept as # 1158 in 1942. I was the first woman in the dept. and on the Bell Jar carbonizers. We were married in November 1942.

Irv kept getting promoted and they kept moving me out of the way to make it possible. I couldn't work under him. I worked testing, (you have pictures) reclamation (I was docked 5¢ an hour because I was making as much as the supervisor) and finally across the tracks to work for Irwin Isgitt (spelled right?) You have his name and picture in the Hams Gallery.

When the war was over they started laying off so Irv asked them to let me go rather than someone who needed the job. There were girls who really needed to work.

We bought a store in Belmont and I ran that.

We went to Grass Valley in 1946. We bought a truck and Irv hauled logs and lumber.

When it slowed down he went to work as a Journeyman electrician in the mines. He came home many times and said he had eaten lunch many miles under our house. Our son was born in Nevada City.

When the Korean War started they started closing down the mines. Irv left so that the people born and raised there wouldn't be laid off. That's all they knew.

We came down to San Carlos and he went to see Roberta one day and went to work the next. Swing shift. We didn't have a place to live so stayed with friends in Sunnyvale and Irv took the train to work for 3 months until we found a house in San Bruno. He was still working swing so we walked him to work nearly every day. We went on to town and I often gave Irvie a dime to buy a toy! We so enjoyed being in town. In Grass Valley we were in the Boondocks!

He ran Graveyard shift and the plant for 8 years, I believe it was that long. He had a meeting every Sunday night. I baked 3 large pies to take to each meeting. I also went to doings they had after work as Chaperone? Anyway it looked to have the Boss's wife there even at 8 in the morning! I also got all the troubles they had and didn't want to tell him about.

When graveyard closed down he became head of Shipping. Our phone # was in many pocket of the military. Particulary the Dew Line.

Anyway it was our son's job to answer the phone. Many a time there came a yell that General so and So was on the line and off he'd go to the plant to ship a tube when the plant was closed.

There is so much more I could tell about the times we had when he was running the plant at night. The times he had to take a sick woman home and a jealous husband. He used to have a guard follow him at times for safety. We had our house watched, phone calls (where is your husband) He was usually in bed at those times. We couldn't have our number change because of the Generals. Got quite harrasing at times.

Irv went to Belmont as a Tech and worked there until he retired. He developed several patents that are held under the Eimac name. I believe he retired in 1985. I am not sure of the date.

Didn't seem important to remember the year at the time.

He died in May of 1995.