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The "Magic Box"

In 1879, Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, and the world suddenly changed. That simple light bulb was illuminated using direct current (DC). However, there were problems transmitting DC over long distances, so by the 1890s, Nikola Tesla's solution of using alternating current (AC) became the standard for transmitting electrical power.

This method of electrical transmission was humming along nicely (no pun intended) for over 90 years when in the 1980s a new phenomenon called the personal computer was born. The Information Age had begun and with it came a new buzzword: "dirty power." Dirty power is any deviation of the sine wave used in the transmission of AC power. These deviations had not been significant for the vast majority of electricity uses up to this time. Phone companies had known about the potential dirty power issues for years and were converting AC power to DC power in their switching centers to avoid transient spikes, or line surges, in their systems. However, dirty power and the surges it causes posed problems for computers and other electrical equipment.



During the past decade, these transients of the sinusoidal waveform, or spikes, have increasingly caused numerous problems for computerized solid state circuits. TVSSs (transient voltage surge suppressors, commonly referred to as surge protectors) and other surge suppressors have helped but not solved the

problem. Ninety percent of all power pollution is generated inside our own facilities and is often caused by these spikes. We can identify problems using voltage recorders,



but finding a solution to eliminate the problem and improve the overall power quality is a much more difficult challenge.

In 2006, we were fortunate enough to discover a solution that we refer to as the "Magic Box." Well, this solution is neither a box nor magic, but without a doubt it seems to solve the most challenging problems related to solid state equipment failure. The "magic" actually comes from an electrically complex device manufactured by Environmental Potentials, and it has cured the problems many of our customers have been experiencing. These devices can be used to solve problem transients in almost any environment, from homes to large automation plants. Currently, we are working with Honda on its plants across the country to solve production problems.

If you are experiencing equipment failures related to solid state controls, or being penalized by your energy provider for poor power factor, please contact Tadd Varney at (815) 873-4871 or by email at tvarney@kelso-burnett.com, and let us perform some "magic" for you!

—Brad Weir, President

1400 N. Lake Shore Drive

On November 13, 2006, a fire broke out at 1400 N. Lake Shore Drive, a vintage 22-story highrise building in Chicago’s Gold Coast neighborhood.

The building, which was undergoing renovations, had to be completely evacuated. As residents exited the building, they became upset because they didn’t hear any smoke detectors going off. “There were no alarms going off...no alarms went off to alert people that needed to get out of the building,” said one resident. People on the upper floors had to walk down smoke-filled stairways as they made their way out of the building.

Thankfully, the fire caused only minor injuries. However, the City of Chicago sent engineers to evaluate the building’s life safety systems. The engineers determined that the fire alarm system needed to be upgraded and instructed the building condo association to hire someone to do so.

The 1400 N. Lake Shore Association contracted Contech MSI Company, a subsidiary company of Kelso-Burnett, to overhaul the fire alarm system. All 22 floors of the building, which dates back to the early 1920s, needed to have their fire alarm systems upgraded. Rocky Bartucci with Contech Co. was the Project Manager along with Foreman Steve Sedlack led the Contech team through the large-scale installation.

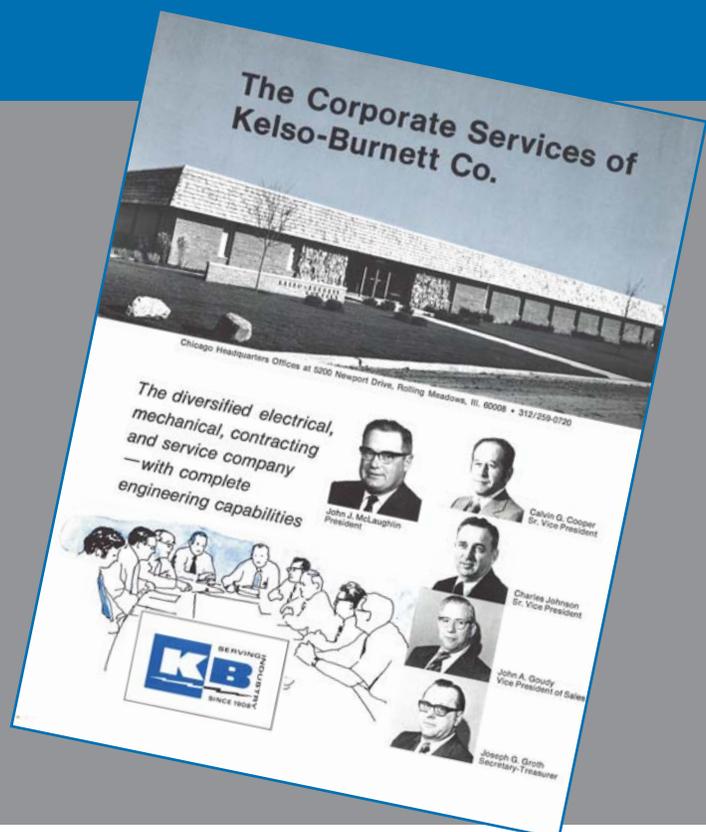


Contech Co. completed the fire alarm system upgrade, contracted for \$400,000, in June 2008. The building now meets all City of Chicago life safety requirements and offers residents a much higher degree of security and peace of mind.

K-B Milestones

In November 1970, Kelso-Burnett Co. (then called Kelso-Burnett Electric Company) moved its corporate office from Chicago to its location at 5200 Newport Drive, Rolling Meadows, Ill.

Presently, Kelso-Burnett’s headquarters remains in this “spacious” building, and in case you were wondering, we no longer have dirt roads!



Around Chicago

This regular feature showcases unique entertainment and exciting things to do in the Chicago area.

National Sports Collectors Convention

The Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Ill., will host the National Sports Collectors Convention from July 16 through July 20. If you are a sports fanatic, this is one event you won't want to miss. The convention will feature over 700 dealers and distributors of sports collectibles and also boasts an Autograph Pavilion with over 60 athletes, such as MLB Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg, member of the 3000 hit-club Craig Biggio and former Chicago Blackhawk and NHL Hall of Famer Bobby Hull. Tickets are available for purchase, and a VIP Admission Package that includes free autographs, gifts and a kid's pass is available. Collectibles that will be showcased at the show include entertainment and gaming cards, toys, used sports equipment, photographs and more.



Celtic Fest Chicago

The 12th Annual Celtic Fest Chicago is a two-day festival held in Grant Park from September 13 through September 14. This family friendly festival celebrates the music, dance and traditions of the original Celtic nations; Ireland; Scotland; Wales; Isle of Man; Cornwall; Galicia, Spain; and Brittany, France. Come to learn how to Celtic dance, see over 150 live performances, sample various Celtic foods, watch the Celtic strongmen compete in the Scottish Heavy Athletics Competition, and much more. Admission is free, so make sure to attend for a unique Chicago experience.

K-B Sparks—Congratulations to all Kelso-Burnett team members!



Brittany Hoste

Brittany Hoste, daughter of our own Nan Hoste, will be interning this summer for the Loop (Chicago) office. Brittany recently completed her freshman year at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz., where she studies construction management.



John Ryder

Congratulations to John Ryder, Special Projects Manager of the Rolling Meadows office, for being crowned as Kelso-Burnett's "Contract Manager of the Year" for 2007. John's notable projects include Dominican University, Lawrence Hall and W.W. Grainger's UPS Replacement with his number one Foreman, Pete Formosa.



Colleen Lopata

Colleen Lopata, daughter of our very own Stefan Lopata, will be completing an internship over the summer, performing various duties with Contech. Colleen recently completed her freshman year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Mark Nordlund

Mark Nordlund, son of Bryan Nordlund of Contech, was recently hired as CAD Operator in the Rolling Meadows office.

K-B's Reader Review

The Footprints of God

by Greg Iles

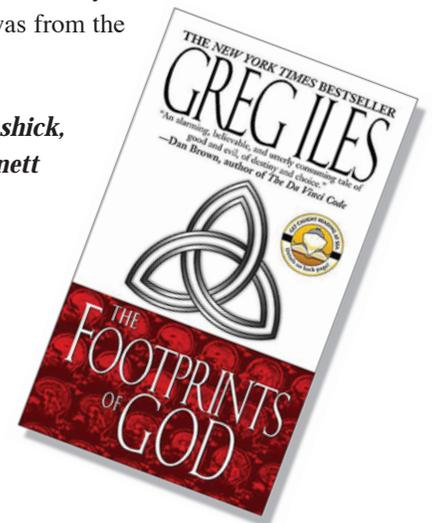
One of the most intriguing and attention-grabbing books I have ever come across is *The Footprints of God* by Greg Iles. If you are a person who doesn't normally like to read, or if you're just seeking an adrenaline rush, I highly recommend picking up this book. In fact, I have never been the kind of person who has been inspired to read during my spare time, but I honestly didn't want to put this book down for a second! Not only did I read the 500-plus-page book in four days, it has motivated me to continue reading, even though I still haven't found a book as remarkable as this one.

According to Dan Brown, the author of *The Da Vinci Code*, this book is an "alarming, believable, and utterly consuming tale of good and evil, of destiny of choice." The wholly believable story has numerous twists, forcing your mind to concentrate intensely on every aspect of the story. The story switches back and forth between the perspectives of good and evil and continuously jumps from crisis to crisis from beginning to end.

The plot surrounds Trinity, a massive supercomputer with the ability to surpass the human mind. Ever since computers have existed, people have questioned whether technology could ever surpass the complexity of the human brain. This novel dives deep into the issues and realistically portrays character tribulations in a way that's sure to stimulate your imagination.

Once again, I highly recommend this book. This *New York Times* bestseller is a must read for people of all ages and interests, and I am confident that you will be as engaged as I was from the first page to the last.

—Matt Nemshick,
Kelso-Burnett



Nate Spears

We welcome back Nate Spears, who began his career with Kelso-Burnett after college and was recently re-hired as a Division Manager for Kelso-Burnett's Loop (Chicago) office.



Pablo Albuja

Pablo Albuja, who works out of the Rolling Meadows office, recently left the CAD Department to take on the role of Project Manager for Contech.



Bryan Nordlund

Congratulations to Bryan Nordlund, Branch Manager of Contech MSI Co. in Kelso's Rolling Meadows office, for receiving a Private Alarm Agency License issued by the State of Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. This license is necessary to sell or provide service, installation, inspections, monitoring and fire alarm panel programming for any fire alarm or security system in the state of Illinois.

7 Questions About Tom Wallace

Each member of the Kelso-Burnett staff is a dedicated and hard-working individual. But what else do you know about us? Below are seven questions we asked Tom Wallace. Tom is a Contract Manager at Kelso-Burnett.

Tom Wallace started with Kelso-Burnett in 1999 as a low-voltage project manager and is responsible for maintaining good work relationships with general contractors, direct customers, consultants, architects, vendors and everyone else involved in a given project. Daily duties include bidding, running projects, staffing each job with manpower, supplying materials, customer relations and working with fellow Kelso-Burnett employees to reach a common goal of success.



What one thing do you like most about your job?

Being like an independent contractor and having the freedom to run jobs, and taking care of customers.

How do you like to spend your free time lately?

Golfing with my son.

If you could have dinner with any famous person, who would it be?

Jack Nicklaus.

If you could live anywhere on earth, where would it be?

Hawaii.

What three words would others use to describe you?

Outgoing, personable, trustworthy.

If you won the lottery, what would you do?

Retire and move my family to Hawaii where I would golf every day.

What is your favorite line from a movie?

“Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn.” — *Gone with the Wind*



“100-Year Anniversary Celebration”

The 100-Year Anniversary Employee Gala will be held at the Schaumburg Convention Center on September 27, 2008.

Employees with one year of service or more with Kelso-Burnett are invited to attend.



KELSO-BURNETT CO.

Chicago ☿ Rolling Meadows
Rockford ☿ Gurnee

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KELSO-BURNETT CO.

Electrical Construction ☿ Voice & Data Communication ☿ Life Safety

We are an employee-owned company that combines advanced technologies with superior workmanship to provide the highest-quality design, construction and project management available in the electrical contracting industry.

Since 1908



The safety department at Kelso-Burnett offers OSHA 10-

and 30-hour classes. For more information or to schedule a class, contact Scott Johnson at (847) 483-3826 or Cathy Kay at (847) 483-3827.



NFPA 70E Training

Kelso-Burnett continues to train employees and clients on the NFPA 70E requirements. Only an employee who is certified as an “Electrically Qualified Worker” may approach and work on live systems. He or she must also utilize an Energized Work Permit. Contact Cathy Kay at (847) 483-3827 if you would like to schedule a training session.