

Surveyor helps African engineering student

Local surveyor, **Keith Jimenez, SurveySA**, and his wife **Nancy Parker**, have been shipping books to a small school on a farm outside of Ciocolan, South Africa, since Parker's sister visited the school in 1994, the year *apartheid* ended and Nelson Mandela became president. As a result of their efforts, the school qualified its first student, **Teko Stephen Hlapho**, for college, or tertiary school as it is referred to in South Africa.

Teko was in the fourth grade when Parker's sister visited his school. It's one teacher possessed one book.

"My sister was appalled by the conditions of the Wallop School," Parker said. "It didn't have chalk, pencils, pens, paper, electricity, running water or bathrooms. We have been collecting and shipping books to the school since she returned and told us about its conditions."

Thanks in part to a local fundraising effort, "SA to SA," a festival produced by local PrimaDonna Productions, the Jimenez-Parker family sorted, packed and shipped 24 boxes of books in May 2003. The family also started raising funds for Teko's college education. After testing among the top 15 percent of students in South Africa, including both black and white students, Teko now attends Technikon of the Free State. He is majoring in electrical engineering.

From the original effort benefiting one school in 1995, the Jimenez-Parker family now regularly ships books to over 70 schools and three township libraries in the region.

"Education shouldn't have to be a gift," said Jimenez. "But in farm communities and other rural parts of South Africa, it is. I hope that others will follow in Teko's footsteps, which is why we spend so much time on this project. It's not just for Teko, it's for anyone else who will be encouraged to continue their education."

Teko will be meeting his San Antonio mentors this summer when he arrives in the Alamo City on June 22nd, courtesy of the Jimenez's company, SurveySA, ad agency owner **Kenneth Thompson, Thompson Agency**, and the San Antonio Northeast Rotary.

"Seeing what my wife's family has been able to do for this area of Africa, and for Teko, is remarkable," Jimenez added. "According to the Ministry of Education, our book mobile project has 'shone a spotlight' on the school. The government can't believe how high the school's test scores have risen. I don't think it's that difficult to figure out; you teach a child to read and he or she can achieve any goal, even becoming an engineer. Deny him the opportunity and ability to read, and he can't become anything."

2003 OSHA inspection plan

In a release dated June 10, 2003, the **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)** announced a new site-specific targeting (SST) plan that will target approximately 3,200 high-hazard worksites for unannounced comprehensive safety and health inspections over the coming year.

"The purpose of our targeted inspection program is to more effectively allocate our inspection resources to those workplaces of highest safety and health risk," said OSHA Administrator **John Henshaw**. "This program gives us the opportunity to focus our enforcement where it will have the most benefit to workers and employers."

According to an OSHA release, this year's program became effective on June 16th and will initially cover about 3,200 individual worksites on the primary list that reported 14.0 or more injuries or illnesses resulting in lost work days or restricted activity for every 100 full-time workers (known as the LWDII rate).

For the first time, sites will also be targeted based on a "Days Away from Work Injury and Illness" (DAFWII) rate of

nine or higher (nine or more cases that involve days away from work per 100 full-time employees). Employers who reported LWDII rates of between 8.0 and 14.0, or DAFWII rates of between 4.0 and 9.0, will be placed on a secondary list for possible inspection. The average LWDII rate in 2001 for private industry in the nation was 2.8; the average DAFWII rate was 1.7.

OSHA will not inspect nursing homes or personal care facilities under this program. Those inspections will continue to be covered under a separate National Emphasis Program that addresses specific hazards for the industry, including ergonomics (primarily back injuries from resident handling), bloodborne pathogens/tuberculosis and slips, trips and falls.

The agency will also, again, randomly select and inspect about 200 workplaces across the nation that reported low injury and illness rates for the purpose of reviewing the actual degree of compliance with OSHA requirements. The establishments are selected from those industries with above average LWDII and DAFWII rates.

IEC honors 2003 apprenticeship graduates

The **Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)** of San Antonio held its Apprenticeship and Training Committee's graduation ceremony on June 18th, at the Barn Door Restaurant.

The Apprenticeship & Training Committee scheduled the evening celebration to recognize the accomplishments of both its 4th-year regular and 2nd-year residential apprentices.

Dallas-based electrical contractor **Keith Bell, INTEX Electrical Contractors, Inc.**, past-president of the **IEC of Texas** and current chairman of the IEC of Texas Legislative Committee, delivered the commencement address. He reminded the apprentices of the meaning of their commitment to the apprenticeship program.

On the eve of the passage of the Texas Electrical Licensing Bill, which would enable licensed electricians to work in any municipality in Texas, Keith recalled that the struggle to establish state licensing began in 1959.

"This is the first time we've been able to get the electrical licensing bill through the legislature in the State of Texas. Passed on May 28th, it went to the Governor on June 2nd, who has the power to veto any bill that's passed. Over the last

two weeks we've been trying to prevent it from being vetoed and I think our efforts have worked. At 5 pm today, I found out that the Governor committed to the legislative sponsor that he would sign the Bill. The wait is over! It's a great time for our industry and our association."

Following the commencement speech, IEC president **Bud Wilkins** and Thomas Monaco presented each apprentice a Certificate of Graduation. The President's Awards for Excellence were presented to **Joseph Rudd** and **Ernest Ricketts** for having the highest four-year grade point averages.

Journeyman Electrician Graduates: **Eric Benites, Ismael Esparza, Jacob Esquivel, Elisa Galbreath, Vanheet Galbreath, Neal Kennemer, Ryan Landacre, Antonio Reyna, Ernest Ricketts, Rudy Rios, Joseph Rudd, Shane Squires, Barry Vallery, Wesley Wieding, and Walter Wilson.**

Residential Electrical Specialist Graduates: **John Alvarado, Manuel Gonzalez, Trinidad Leon, Javier Palencia, Robert Perez, and Raul Urrabazo.**



2003 IEC Apprenticeship Graduates.

Challenger MT 255



ATTENTION: Landscapers, ranchers and farmers. These Challenger tractors are ready to take on the toughest projects whether it be on the farm or on the jobsite.

- 4 wheel drive
- powerful deisel engines
- cast iron/steel undercarriage
- solid steel fenders and hoods
- standard category 1 hydraulics
- 3 point hitch
- full line of mowers and attachments available

210-648-1111
San Antonio

512-282-2011
Austin



MORRISON SUPPLY COMPANY

Sinks & Faucets

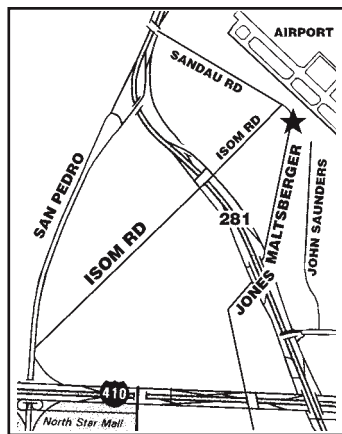
Kitchen & Bath Fixtures

Designer Whirlpools & Baths

Visit our unique designer showroom for your kitchen and bath needs.

210 344-4436

10130 Jones Maltzberger at Isom Rd.



We also offer an 8,000 sf Self Service Plumbing and Pipe, Valves and Fittings Counter to serve our customers better.