



Lutheran "J.D." Smith
U.S. Army
1987-90

Today's Veteran sponsored by
Nix's Auto & Tire Service
1510 25th Street 573-3567

Snyder Events!
February 8th

- The Piatigorsky Foundation Concert, Scurry County Museum 7 p.m.

RENEGADE HONORS GUNSET LEGACY OF SUCCESS IN SNYDER BY PRIORITIZING EMPLOYEES

Opportunities don't happen, they're created. Every player at Renegade in Snyder is aware of this and because of their many years of experience, the flood gates of opportunity remain open for the district to continue growing in the region.

The first opportunity was created 13 years ago in January 2011 when Jerry Gunset and Gary Gunset, current district manager at Renegade in Snyder, made a deal with Renegade to merge Production Logging into the Renegade family.

Jerry Gunset had a long history in the wireline business, beginning his career in the late 60s. In the earlier days of his career, Jerry crossed paths with Steve Gray. After that initial encounter, the two went separate ways but brought the story full circle 32 years later.

"They were very excited and happy to get back with each other," Gary Gunset, Jerry's son, recounted. "They made the deal and my parents retired."

Steve Gray remembers when he first met Jerry Gunset in 1971. Steve was a rigger while Jerry was breaking out as an engineer in wireline. Steve said both he and Jerry were riggers when they met, but Jerry was chosen to move up and Steve had the privilege of learning alongside Jerry at that



Contributed Photo

Pictured (l-r) are Eloise Gunset, Gary Gunset and Jerry Gunset

time. "He was learning a lot and I was too," Steve said. "We were friends and eventually we went to work for different companies."

Through the years, both Steve and Jerry went on to start their own wireline businesses and eventually became competitors, Steve at Gray Wireline and Jerry at Production Log-

ging. "Well, I always thought I would rather compete with the other guys," Steve said. "You don't want to compete with someone who is as good as or better than you. I always had it in the back of my mind that a merger would be a great idea."

When the door opened, Steve was determined to make the possibility a

reality by acquiring Production Logging under the Renegade umbrella.

"I would rather work with them than against them," Steve said.

He said to this day, it is still the most unique deal he has ever seen occur throughout the Permian Basin, and the most unique deal he has ever been involved with.

"I put our two accountants together to see what was best for them and best for us," Steve said.

Steve said it was important to him that those at Production Logging were taken care of. He knew that the business was family-oriented, much like Renegade and Gray Wireline had been. He was determined to take care of the family.

At the time, Jerry and Eloise's three sons were working at Production Logging. And, while Steve remembers that Jerry was the front man of the business, Eloise was a pillar who made the business as successful as it was.

"Everyone knew that Eloise was running the business," Steve said. "It was a family business, and I knew what that was all about. We made a 20-year deal, that's why it's so unique. They had faith we could make it last that long."

See Renegade, Page 10

FILING FOR MAY ELECTIONS HAS BEGUN

City council and local boards are now taking applications for applicants to be listed on the March 4 ballot until February 16.

City council has four positions up for election. District's one through four will be voted on at the March elections. Positions available are: District one, held by Vernon Clay. Ralph Hernandez has filed for to run; District two, held by Jerry Webb. Webb has filed to run; District three, held by Julian Dominguez; District four, held by Thomas Strayhorn. Bill Robertson has filed to run in this district.

Snyder Independent School District has two places that will be on the ballot.

Place two, held by Brad Hinton and Place three, held by Ralph Ramon. Both

Hinton and Ramon have filed to run.

These are two-year elected terms.

Those interested in filing for the Snyder ISD board of trustees may file at the Snyder ISD Administration Building before February 16.

Western Texas College will have three places on the ballot.

Eddie Peterson, Amy Hargrove and Jason West are up for election. Peterson and Hargrove have applied to put their name on the ballot.

This is a six-year elected term.

Those interested in filing for the Western Texas College may put in their applications at the Visitor Center located on the WTC campus.

The above positions will appear on the ballot if contested.

The last day to register to vote for this election will be April 4 and early voting will begin April 22 at WTC's College on the Square.



THE PIATIGORSKY FOUNDATION TO PLAY CONCERT THURSDAY AT SCURRY COUNTY MUSEUM

The program will feature masterpieces performed by an outstanding Piatigorsky Foundation artist Jack Sanders, solo guitarist

For over 33 years, The Piatigorsky Foundation's commitment to artistic excellence and public outreach has fascinated many avid concert goers as well as curious first-timers. It is this combination of complimentary access, flamboyant performances, and human warmth that makes Piatigorsky Foundation concerts so appealing to diverse audiences. Last year, The Foundation presented a tour of West Texas consisting of 6 concerts that reached over 250 people in Abilene, Mason, San Angelo and Junction. Likewise, this year The Piatigorsky Foundation aims to reach hundreds of people across West Texas to increase awareness and appreciation of classical music in communities throughout the state.

Honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Guitar Society in 2013, Jack Sanders' performances have included the Sitka, Kapalua, Oregon Bach Festival, IM Festival of Costa Rica, and Chamber Music Sedona. Additionally, he has performed with the St. Petersburg, Colorado, and Angeles String Quartets. He has toured extensively for The Piatigorsky Foundation since 2005, this season's concerts will take him to Ohio, Kentucky, Texas and Idaho.

With violinist Clayton Haslop, Sanders performed in China as well as throughout the US and recorded two albums for Centaur and Townhall Records. His solo recording, Just Preludes, was released by Townhall Records. Mr. Sanders has also recorded with violist James Dunham and Anthony Plog, trumpet on Crystal Records and recently with flutist Rachel Rudich on Bridge Records.

Teaching at Pomona and CGU from 1980-2022, Sanders also builds guitars and historic instruments which have been commissioned by Yale, UCLA, USC, SF Conservatory, Cal State Univ. Dominguez Hills, Concordia University and professional guitarists worldwide. A graduate of Cal Arts, his primary teacher was Stuart Fox and he also studied with Oscar Ghiglia at the Banff Centre.

About The Piatigorsky Foundation: Evan Drachman established The Piatigorsky Foundation in 1990 in honor of his grandfather Gregor Piatigorsky. Piatigorsky deeply believed in the healing and inspiration power of classical music. He once said, "Music makes life better. Music is a necessity. It is rich. It is imaginative. It is magnificent. And it is for everyone." The Piatigorsky Foundation is committed to carrying on Piatigorsky's mission by evoking cultural curiosity through educational and accessible live performances.

The Piatigorsky Foundation concert will be Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Museum.

CLOSET 31 DONATES FOR NIGHT TO SHINE



Contributed Photo

Girls attending Colonial Hill Baptist Church's Night to Shine this Friday were able to 'Say Yes to the Dress' at Closet 31 this past weekend. Donated dresses were given to the girls for free through donations by the public.

www.MITCHHALLSNYDER.com



Together let's drive™

Mitch Hall

325-515-7810 | 4004 SPUR 84, SNYDER TX



WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

1.9% APR FOR 72 MONTHS

on All New Chevy Silverado 1500s & Select New GMC Sierra 1500s!

*excludes 6.2L GMC Sierra Engines, 72 monthly payments of \$14.71 per thousand financed, all financing with approved credit, offer ends 3/4/24. **LIMITED TIME ONLY!**



Renegade

Continued from Page 1



Pictured (l-r) are Gary Gunset, Judy Atkins, Brett Douglas, JP Smith, Chuck Barbee, Joe Stewart, Tommy Davis, Adam Webster, Drew Bane, Keith Manlief, Amanda Steelman, Mariah Carrasco and Kyle Gunset.

Jerry and Eloise Gunset were focused on building a business that could be respected. With that, they were able to acquire many connections in the area due to the Gunsets' continued dedication to quality and customer service.

"We had so many contracts and were able to work for just about all the oil companies," Gary said.

The history between Steve and Jerry also helped the deal move forward. Jerry knew that his values would be represented at Renegade and that the Gray family would do well to take on Production Logging.

"We always were dedicated to being honest and doing the best you can do, nothing more, nothing less," Gary said. "Provide a good job and they'll call you back."

Towards the end of Production Logging, Gary said his parents were ready to retire and were not interested in trying to grow the company past what had already been built. However, Gary aspired to see the business thrive in the Snyder area.

"The industry was changing so much with more safety and computers, and they were just ready to retire," Gary said. "The Grays were always our main competition at the time, and I knew from my dad that Steve was a successful businessman and that they had plans to grow Renegade to what it is today."

ASSEMBLING THE TEAM

After the district in Snyder was established, the real work began. The first step to success was creating a team that could fulfill the long legacy of excellence that had been set by the Gray and Gunset families combined.

"We started from scratch at Renegade and built it to what it is today," Gary said.

One of the first calls made was to Tommy Davis, sales manager at Renegade in Snyder.

"He's the leading sales manager for this area and he has a long history in wireline," Gary said.

"We were able to secure a lot of experience here and that's what made this team work so well."

Davis said it was a phone call from Jerry that encouraged him to seriously consider a future position at Renegade 13 years ago.

"I told him as long as he thought it would be a good match, it was good enough for me," Davis remembers. "I brought the majority of operators and a lot of riggers with us when we came over." Johnny Sutter (Pipe Recovery Specialist) and Joe Stewart (Operations Manager) were equally important in Renegade's success in Snyder.

The proposition at Renegade was appealing to Davis because of the opportunity it offered.

"It appealed to me to go somewhere where I could get better trucks and somewhere that valued growth," Davis said.

Chuck Barbee, account manager at Renegade, said he was drawn to the position due to his own history with the Gunset family and promise it offered for his future.

Barbee worked for Jerry and his wife Eloise in the 90s, long before Production Logging sold to Renegade.

"Eloise had broken her wrist and they needed help," Barbee remembers. I came out here doing profiles just me and Jerry."

After that, he went on to work for another family-owned business for 17 years but was ready for a change, so he created an opportunity.

"I talked to Gary and he told me, 'Just come out here, we'll take care of you,'" Barbee remembers. "It's home, it's family."

The management team at Renegade in Snyder give credit to the Gray family for creating the opportunities all of them have been given, and by continuing to provide the support needed to make it successful.

"In this industry, there are good times and there are bad

times. Through the bad times, they've taken care of all of us and there were some really rough times. A lot of people gave up, but we just kept on going," Gary said.

DEDICATION TO QUALITY

The secret to success for Renegade is the reputation they leave in their wake, which all depends on the quality of work that is provided by the workers in the field.

"We have a customer base that calls us and our guys do an incredibly good job for them and they continue to call us back," Davis said. "That's how we're able to survive over here."

The Snyder district specializes in all services related to wireline, down hole logging, perforating, pipe recovery, injection profiles and slick line/braided line services.

"You can call Snyder and it's pretty much a one stop shop," Barbee said.

Regardless of the services available, it depends on how well the job is done whether customers call back.

"Management wouldn't even be here if it weren't for the employee's," Gary said. "We rely on them and they're the ones who keep us employed, it's their dedication to the services they provide."

Barbee reiterated that point. No matter how many phone calls he or any account managers make, or how many clients they have, it's up to the guys in the field to make it all happen.

"It's customer service, safety, and quality of work," Barbee said. "We can sell our service and sell everything we have but if the guys we have in the field don't do a good job, they won't call us back."

Gary insists that's why it's imperative for Renegade to prioritize quality employees over quantity and instill a dedication to excellence.

"We're blessed with the employees we have, Gary said. "They're the cream of the crop."

LEADERSHIP WITH SUPPORT

The team at Renegade in Snyder believes in their employees and trusts them to get the job done without too much oversight or interference.

"They know what they're going to do, it's not like we have to micromanage," Gary said. "Because of the good people we have working for us, we don't have to worry."

Gary believes it's the responsibility of management to support the workers and their needs to get the job done right.

"We all trust each other, if there's a problem out in the field, I'll be out there with them. It's what we do," Gary said. "Management is going to support them as long as I'm here. It's that way throughout Renegade."

The support from management and the board at Renegade is what instills loyalty in its employees.

"No matter what, we take care of them," Gary said.

That support extends beyond the walls of Renegade, out into the field where safety is the top priority for everyone.

"The guys are family, they're all brothers and each person out there is looking after each other to make sure everything is right," Barbee said.

Operators attest to that fact. Whatever job is happening or underway is not nearly as important as the lives of those who want to go home as good as they came in.

"The oilfield is big on safety, but most companies just want to get it done. But at Renegade, if there's something not right, they're not worried about the job. They'll shut it down any time to make sure it's safe without any repercussions," said Keith Manlief, operator.

Support for the employees begins once they're accepted into

the Renegade family but doesn't stop once they leave.

"We take care of them when they are sick or a family member is sick, whatever issues they may be facing in their personal life, no matter what, we take care of them," Gary said.

Barbee remembers when his father was put on hospice with days to live. Renegade didn't allow Barbee but encouraged him to stay with his father during that time.

"I spent the last 30 days of my dad's life with him and was there when he passed away without any questions," Barbee said. "That meant a lot to me."

Gary said that Renegade recognizes that while jobs come and go, family is forever. "The oilfield is always going to be there, but family is more important," Gary said.

Manlief said he had a similar experience with Renegade when his brother fell into a coma shortly after he became an employee at the company.

"Gary told my sister to not worry about anything, they would have paid for a hotel, anything she needed," Manlief remembers. "That's when I told myself this is a company I want to work at for life. As long as they're here, I want to work for them. You can tell they actually care about their employees."

BUILDING OPPORTUNITY

Everyone has an opportunity for advancement at Renegade, but it is solely up to the employees to show the initiative to learn and want too. Renegade pushes every employee to write their own story and open their own doors to create the best future they can for themselves and their families. It's up to them to make it happen.

"As long as you're willing, there are all kinds of opportunity to move up," Manlief said. "Anything you want to grow in, there is room to grow here. As long as you're willing to work, they're willing to train you."

Renegade implemented the Employee Stock Ownership Program last year as an additional way to allow employees to take control of their futures and play a bigger role in the company.

"We're pretty unique in that we're the only company in the wireline industry that I know of that offer that," Gary said. "We keep telling the guys, the younger you are, the better you're going to be off if you make this a career."

The fact that wireline jobs aren't easy helps to ensure those who stick around with the company are in it for the right reasons.

"It's something to adjust from a normal job or a scheduled, work shift type job," said JP Smith, engineer. "In wireline, when the phone rings, it's time to go. If you're not dedicated to the work, it's going to weed you out. If you're devoted and enjoy your job and love what we do, there's always a way to move up."

Employees at Renegade can take ownership and pride in their work and know that it will all add up to more if they keep going on the right track and stay loyal to the company as it remains loyal to them.

"You come to Renegade, and you treat Renegade as your own company and Renegade will treat you right back," Barbee said. "Now that it's an ESOP, everybody has a part of it, everybody owns it now. It's turned wireline into a career, not just a job."

At the end of the day, Gary said his goal for Renegade in Snyder is to continue to grow and remain as safe as possible.

"My goal for Snyder is to be the best we can be every day and the guys get to go home safely," Gary said. "We want to continue to grow and train the younger guys. That's how you survive."



**2268 Texas 208
Snyder, TX 79549**

**(325) 573-4441
(325) 207-0779**