

# SHOP: Advancing age influencing his future plans

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Curwen's role in the business grew in his teenage years.

"John built a car wash (on the site) when he was in high school," Simmons said.

Curwen said he was 16 when he began to focus on body work.

"It turned out that I liked body more than mechanical work," he said.

Military service briefly interrupted Curwen's career.

"I was in Vietnam in 1968-69," he said.

"Other than that, I've been here my whole life," he said.

Curwen returned to the business following his military discharge.

"I started John's Body Shop in the 1970s," he said.

That business was housed at the same site as his father's business, which was known as Curwen's Garage.

"We had two businesses — dad had his and I had mine," Curwen said. "As the years went on, we became more of a body shop, although we still do some mechanical work today. We do brakes and stuff like that."

John Curwen raced stock cars in his spare time.

"When I raced, we raced in Dubuque, Darlington, Lancaster, Farley, Iowa, and Freeport, Ill.," he said. "When I quit racing, my son decided he would start racing. He raced the same local tracks that I did."

Barney Curwen followed the racing exploits of his son and grandson. He dealt with health problems in his later years, but kept working.

"He was always here," Curwen said. "He had a blood problem, kind of like leukemia. He lived longer than they thought. He would be out here and did what he could. The day he died, he was here (working). He went home that night and had a stroke."

Barney Curwen died in 1996. He was 72.

## 'ON THE ROAD A LOT'

John's Body Shop once bustled with more activity than it does now.

"At one time we had four (employees) here," Curwen said.

Curwen is the shop's lone employee now —



DAVE KETTERING • Telegraph Herald

John Curwen, 75, is the owner of John's Body Shop, which is located in Hazel Green, Wis. Curwen says he still enjoys his work, decades after he began his career, but he has the business for sale now because "my body is telling me I have to." He would like to see someone buy the business "and I could still help them build on it. It's hard to leave it," he says.

well, almost.

"I have an employee who doesn't get paid," Curwen said. "My oldest daughter, Julie Uthe, does all of my bookwork. She's a very important part of the organization."

Simmons said Curwen had a successful strategy to maintain steady work at a small-town business.

"He was on the road a lot buying cars," he said. "He was buying cars (to rebuild) to keep the business going besides the fender benders that would come in off the street."

Curwen would routinely travel to Chicago, Detroit and other locations to purchase vehicles.

"I would go out of town every week (to buy cars) and it was always nice to come back and pull into my little town," he said.

Curwen said he still enjoys his work, decades after he began his career.

"It's a good feeling when you can help somebody out," he said. "I do work for people in Dubuque, Galena and the whole surrounding area. I've met a lot of people traveling that I've helped out. Then, they stop back a year or two later and thank you for what you did."

Advancing age is influencing Curwen's future plans for the body shop.

"I have the business for sale now," he said. "In a way, I hate to do it, because it's been a part of my life for my whole life. I hate to let it go, but my body is telling me I have to. I would like to see somebody buy it and I could still help them build on it. It's hard to leave it."

## people

**Medical Associates**, of Dubuque, announced the following new providers:

**Shelby Beyer** to the urology department.

**Juan Arjona** to the psychiatry and psychology department.



Shelby Beyer



Juan Arjona



Quincy Howard



Kevin Meyers



Rob Reinert

**Opening Doors**, of Dubuque, announced the following additions to its board of directors:

**Quincy Howard**, of Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa.

**Kevin Meyers**, of Kunkel & Associates.

**Rob Reinert**, of Northwestern Mutual.

**MedOne**, of Dubuque, announced the following new hires:

**Irmak Erdem**, **Wilbert White** and **Hector Morales** as developers.

**Kiara Neal** as a patient care coordinator.

**Norman Westervelt** as a clinical review pharmacist.

**Colleen Nguyen** as a clinical

account manager.

**Shannon Saunders** as a plan administration specialist.

**Joel Orr** as an IT Manager.

**Sara Spiegelhalter** as director of plan administration.

**MedOne** also announced the following promotions:

**Jenny Nelson** to plan administration lead.

**Alayna Knox** to business analyst.

**Baylie Heppner** to senior account manager.

**Mary Jo Harris** to patient care coordinator II.

**Kim Hitzler** to member advocate training & quality lead.

**Cottingham & Butler**, of Dubuque, announced the fol-

lowing new hires:

**Peyton Tegeler** as a client service representative.

**Aimee Robinson** as an accounting specialist.

**The American Heart Association** recognized **UnityPoint Health-Finley Hospital** of Dubuque with its **Get With The Guidelines — Stroke GoldPlus** quality achievement award. The award is given to institutions which ensure that stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines.

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Irmak Erdem Wilbert White Hector Morales Kiara Neal Norman Westervelt Colleen Nguyen Shannon Saunders Joel Orr



Sara Spiegelhalter Jenny Nelson Alayna Knox Baylie Heppner Mary Jo Harris Kim Hitzler Peyton Tegeler Aimee Robinson

## briefs

• A company has announced an expansion at its Dubuque facility with a new department.

**IBI Scientific**, a lab equipment manufacturer, last week announced the launch of a specialty and custom blending department at its facility at 7445 Chavenelle Road. With the expansion, the company will provide customers private-labeled, custom-blending chemicals to match exact specifications and blend a variety of life science reagents and chemicals.

A press release states that the new department features a pure water system, sterile suite, anteroom and a quality control lab.

"IBI Scientific has expanded our facility with a state-of-the-art ultrapure water system and cleanroom, therefore greatly expanding our capabilities to better serve our state and private life science researchers and our commercial biotech companies dealing with plant, animal and human research and product production," John Stork, co-owner of IBI Scientific, said in the release. "IBI Scientific is expanding and meeting the needs of Iowa companies requiring specialty custom reagent blending product."

As part of the expansion, IBI Scientific officials said a lab manager position was added to their team.

• A national chimney-supply company has acquired a Dyersville, Iowa, business.

The recently announced sale means **New Energy Distributing Inc.** will operate under the auspices of **Copperfield Chimney Supply**, according to a press release.

New Energy Distributing supplies products for wood and gas fireplaces, stoves and other hearth products. Since its founding in 1978, the company has grown in Dyersville to be a major supplier of hearth products to several hundred dealers, builders and service providers throughout the Midwest.

Officials with both companies lauded the sale.

"Having New Energy become part of Copperfield is the right decision for our business," Rick Audaley, New Energy founder and CEO, said in the press release. "Copperfield will be a great partner for us and those we serve."

"We see synergy with our product lines and service offerings," Bryan Yourdon, CEO of Copperfield, said in a written statement. "The combined offering will be a great benefit to Copperfield's new and existing customers."

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