

Buell Baclesse

Buell Baclesse was a Jefferson City businessman who owned a lumber business. He was self made -- grew up poor and to make a living hauling grain to the barges on the Mississippi in St. Louis. Soon he learned he could pick up lumber and building supplies for local contractors and earn money for the backhaul; better than returning empty. From that meager beginning he started a highly successful lumber company. He only went through the fifth grade. Buell was a central participant in an anti-union movement called "Right to Work" which was turned down by voters. Likewise, later he was turned down on a bid for the Missouri Senate.

In the early mornings I'd go to the Medical Arts Coffee Shop and sit at a table of businessmen that included Buell. One day he told of a franchise he had recently purchased to sell and "put down" asphalt sealer. A few days later I had quit my radio job and started pitching "Perma-Bind". I was back in the sales game and it felt good. Yet my dream remained and while selling and watching the installation of the product --I didn't want to get my suit dirty-- I thought about this statewide network idea. And, Buell put the financing together.

September 19, 2007