

Kathryn Rae Towing Christens Volvo-Powered Towboat

BY H. NELSON SPENCER

Kathryn Rae Towing Inc. christened two towboats during the WorkBoat Show at New Orleans in December: the new mv. Ted Kayser and the renamed mv. Robin R. The ceremony was held at the builder's yard on the Harvey Canal.

Kathryn Rae Towing is an affiliate of Marine Centre Inc., along with L.S.K. Towing Inc. and Upper St. Rose Fleeting, all located in Destrehan, La.

The Kayser was built by Eymard Marine Construction & Repair on the design of Frank Basile of Entech & Associates. It measures 60 by 26 by 9-1/2 feet with a seven-foot draft and a pilot eye level of 27 feet.

What makes it unique is the fact that it is the first vessel in the New Orleans harbor to be powered by Volvo Penta engines, which was due to the efforts of Allemand Industries in Harvey, La. and David LeBlanc, Allemand's product manager, who started working on the project over a year ago.

Allemand Industries, established in 1981 by the Allemand family, has served the commercial marine engine sales and service business for 31 years, thus building many longtime relationships with its customers, LeBlanc said.

LeBlanc, who has been in the engine business from the time he was 15 working at his father's shipyard in Louisiana, first became aware of Volvo heavy-duty displacement commercial engines after a meeting with the engine manufacturer's representatives at the WorkBoat Show in 2011. Looking for an alternative to the traditional power packages on the river, he sought their input and was eventually invited to Sweden in June last year to tour the Volvo production and testing facilities.

"We took a group of 12 business associates and customers with us to Sweden to view the product, one of whom was Keith Savoie of Kathryn Rae Towing," he said. Savoie has been an Allemand customer for more than 20 years, LeBlanc said. "We were overwhelmed by the cleanliness of the facilities, the production and quality process from



—Photo courtesy of Allemand Industries

Mv. Ted Kayser was built by Eymard Marine Construction & Repair.

start to finish, and the dedication of the Volvo personnel to their product," he said. "After several months of visiting and speaking with Volvo customers, who are running these engines elsewhere in the pushboat market, we knew Volvo was the right fit for us."

The end result was that Allemand became a Volvo Penta Engine Power Center for the Gulf Coast states in September, and Kathryn Rae Towing decided to power the mv. Ted Kayser with Volvo engines, becoming the first to do so in the mid-Gulf Coast region.

"The trust we built over the years from servicing Savoie's boats, together with how immaculate Volvo's production process is, the quality of the product, technical support and parts distribution here in the United States, clinched the

deal," said LeBlanc, adding, "It was a remarkable trip."

Volvo Penta of the Americas is based out of Chesapeake, Va. All product support, including technical, engineering, parts distribution, service and warranty are from Allemand, LeBlanc said. "The group out of Chesapeake has really supported us during the project; their customer support is superior."

The Ted Kayser

The Ted Kayser has twin Volvo D16MH Tier II diesels that develop a total of 1,300 hp. at 1,800 rpm. The engine is an in-line six concept with a robust block design, ladder frame and a one-piece cylinder head. It has an overhead camshaft, high pressure unit injectors, twin entry turbocharg-

er and four-valve technology, LeBlanc said. "This contributes to high reliability and long-term durability," he added. "The engine has a compact and clean design, and is very easy to service and maintain."

Further, the Volvo Engine Management System, along with the EVC electronics, improves performance and drivability, while meeting future emission requirements, he said. "These engines are ideally suited for towboats because of their unique low-end torque, which enables the vessel to have plenty of power at low rpm."

And, importantly, it is fuel-efficient, said LeBlanc. "After about 300 hours on the engines, initial reports are that the Kayser, at 1,800 rpm., is using four to six gallons less fuel than the other boats. And the feedback from the crews is that it has plenty of power to spare."

The engines turn 62- by 40-inch, four-blade Rolls Royce propellers on six-inch shafts through Twin Disc 5:1 reduction gears from Sewart Supply. They are cooled by Duraweld keel coolers from East Park Radiator. C & W Air supplied the engines' control system. Kirk Foret set up the engine alarms.

Hydra Force furnished the full-fol-low-up, electric-over-hydraulic steering system. Two 40 kw. John Deere power plants, with Marathon Mariner generators, also from Allemand, run the vessel's auxiliary equipment.

The vessel can hold 15,000 gallons of fuel, 3,400 gallons of potable water and 440 gallons of lube oil.

The new boat has quarters for four crewmen, plus a galley and lounge finished in Spanish cedar and outfitted with stainless steel appliances. The interior carpentry work was done by Eddie Vicknair. A-Mar Interiors provided the flooring; Air It Up, the air conditioning system; Dale's Welding, the aluminum doors; and Donovan, the marine sanitation system and two Patterson 40-ton electric winches.

Engineroom noise is muffled by insulation from Marine & Industrial Insulation. Fire Extinguisher Company

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—Photos by Nelson Spencer Jr. (except where noted)

Elsie Kayser christens the mv. Ted Kayser.



One of the mv. Ted Kayser's twin Volvo D16MH diesels.

Kathryn Rae
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of Louisiana provided the firefighting equipment.

50th Year In Industry

The vessel's namesake, Ted Kayser, 75, is celebrating his 50th year in the river industry, having begun in 1963 as an accountant with Nilo Barge Line in St. Louis, Mo., his hometown. "I was working for a CPA firm in St. Louis, when I got a call from Nilo saying they needed an accountant," Kayser said. "I interviewed with George Godding, who was secretary-treasurer, and then worked as an accountant for about a year, before transferring to the traffic department under George Hale."

In 1965, when Hale died of a heart attack at the Ohio Valley Improvement Association convention in Cincinnati, Kayser was named director of traffic and sales, he said. He moved to New Orleans eight years later, after the flood of 1973, to help Nilo re-establish a fleet area.

In 1977, he was about to return to St. Louis, when he got a call from Angus Cooper of Cooper T. Smith Corporation, one of the largest stevedoring firms in the nation. "He asked me what I was going to do, and when I told him I was going back to St. Louis, he said, 'No, you're not. I want you to manage a fleet for me.' And, I've been here ever since."

The fleet is known as Upper St. Rose Fleeting, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cooper T. Smith. Located at Mile 127, it has a 205- by 40-foot drydock and offers dry barge cleaning and repairs, in addition to fleeting. Kayser, president, hired Alan Savoie, who was a dispatcher at South Stream Marine,



The Rev. Damian Hinajosa officiated at the christening ceremony.

and his brother, Keith, to help run the operation.

In 1979, to serve other fleets in the area, mainly those handling the barges of Cargo Carriers, Kayser and the Savoies founded Marine Centre Inc., which, along with affiliates Kathryn Rae Towing Inc. and L.S.K Towing Inc., provide boats for shifting and fleeting. The mv. Ted Kayser is working the Waggaman, La. fleet. The other boats are the Claire Ellen, Fourth Quarter, Robin R, St. Paul and TAK 1.

Today, the former football and ice hockey player, who weighed over 300 pounds when he played but is now a svelte 170, says he is "still going strong" and has no intention of slowing down. After a half-century of working in the river industry, he now has a namesake



Robin Rogers christens namesake vessel.

vessel to carry on his name, even if some day he decides to retire.

The Robin R

The mv. Robin R was built in 1972 as the mv. C. Ilan for Taylor Towing Company Inc. of Bayou la Batre, Ala. It was most recently owned by Chem Carriers LLC and named Sandy B. Marine Centre bought it last year. The 1,000 hp. boat is 60 by 22 feet, and is powered by twin GM 16V-71N diesels with Twin Disc 4:1 gears.

It is named for Robin Rogers, who is Marine Centre's long-serving office manager. "We hired her a year after we started the company," Alan Savoie, vice president, said, "and she's been with us ever since, for 33 years."

He presented her with an etched crys-

tal memento at the christening ceremony that had an outline of the boat and said: "Your years of unselfish service to Marine Centre will be remembered and hailed by all." He also gave her a framed photo of the vessel.

His wife painted a likeness of the mv. Ted Kayser that he presented to Kayser at the ceremony. Etched into the crystal gift he gave him were the words: "You have made a significant impact on the entire river industry. Your name implies integrity and determination."

Ted Kayser's wife, Elsie, served as the vessel sponsor for the mv. Ted Kayser; Rogers broke the champagne for the Robin R.

(Note: For more pictures from the christening ceremony, see the WJ Photo Page on the inside back cover.)

BARGE GRAIN MOVEMENTS (1,000 tons)

River/Lock	Week Ending 1-12-13					Week Ending 1-14-12				
	Corn	Wht.	Soy.	Other	Total	Corn	Wht.	Soy.	Other	Total
Miss./15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miss./25	0	0	25	0	25	28	0	9	0	37
Miss./MP	29	13	161	0	204	268	2	106	0	376
Miss./27	29	13	179	0	221	200	0	81	0	282
Ill./8	65	13	117	0	195	188	2	80	0	269
Ohio/52	19	33	163	2	218	139	5	137	0	281
Ark./1	0	8	14	0	22	0	20	17	0	36

Cumulative to date for Miss./27, Ohio/52 and Ark./1:

Year	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other grains	Total
2013	109	76	658	5	849
2012	593	46	468	0	1,107

*Other grains include barley, sorghum and oats. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, Transportation & Marketing Division/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SOUTHBOUND BARGE FREIGHT RATES

Rate	Date	M/SP	MM	Ill. R	StL	Cinc	L. Ohio	C/M
(actual)	1-15-13	---	---	348	283	248	248	195
	1-8-13	---	---	373	340	275	275	193
(future)	February	---	---	345	275	250	250	195
	April	405	350	338	275	250	250	195
\$/Ton	1-15-13	---	---	16.15	11.29	11.63	10.02	6.12
	1-8-13	---	---	17.31	13.57	12.90	11.11	6.06

Current week percentage change from same week:

Last year	---	---	-4	-5	-27	-27	-19
3-yr. avg.	---	---	-12	-5	-30	-30	-27

Notes: M/SP: Minneapolis/St. Paul MM: Middle Mississippi C/M: Cairo/Memphis Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index.

Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/U.S. Department of Agriculture

Forthcoming Events

The Waterways Journal will be glad to list the city, date and place of your meeting in this column, provided it is of interest to the barge and towing industry or allied businesses, is national or regional in scope, and is received at least three weeks prior to the meeting date. Address your announcement to Forthcoming Events Editor.

February 8, 2013. Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri Rivers Association, 2013 annual conference, Par-A-Dice Hotel, East Peoria, Ill. Contact: Meagan Kaiser, 573, 489-9173; e-mail Meagan@umimra.org.

February 16-19, 2013. Passenger Vessel Association, PVA Annual Convention at MariTrends 2013, Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact: Internet www.passengervessel.com.

February 20-22, 2013. Red River Valley Association Annual Convention, Sam's Town Hotel and Convention Center, Shreveport, La. Contact: Richard Brontoli, executive director, P.O. Box 709, Shreveport, La. 71162-0709; phone 318, 221-5233; fax 318, 425-0516; e-mail redrivera@hotmail.com.

March 3-5, 2013. National Association of Marine Surveyors, 51st NAMSGlobal National Marine Conference, Cayamaran Resort & Hotel, San Diego, Calif. Contact: Internet www.namsglobal.org/events.

March 4, 2013. Mid-America REC Workgroup, annual meeting, 1-5 p.m., Hyatt Regency Hotel, Louisville, Ky. Contact: Capt. Greg Menke, e-mail gmenke@seamenschurch.org.

March 5-7, 2013. Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, American Waterways Operators and Passenger Vessel Association, 2013 Inland Waterways Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Louisville, Ky. Visit: www.inlandwaterwaysconference.com.

March 6-8, 2013. Ports Association of Louisiana, 30th annual conference, Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Houma, La. Contact: PAL, phone 225, 334-9040; Internet www.portsoflouisiana.org

March 19-21, 2013. Waterways Council Inc., annual Washington meetings, Madison Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact: Medina Moran, 703, 373-2261; Internet www.waterwayscouncil.org.

March 19-22, 2013. Inland Rivers Ports & Terminals, 2013 Annual Conference, Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans, La. Contact: Internet www.irpt.net.

April 1-4, 2013. Work Boats Exchange, Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island, Fla. Contact: Karen Kelly, 978, 263-1334; e-mail kkelly@exchangeevents.com; Internet www.exchangeevents.net/workboat.

April 9-11, 2013. Port of New Orleans and the American Institute for International Steel, fifth annual Critical Commodities Conference, Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, La. Visit: www.criticalcommoditiesconference.com.

April 24-26, 2013. Greater New Orleans Barge Fleeting Association, Annual River and Marine Industry Seminar, Hotel InterContinental, New Orleans, La. Contact: Alan Savoie, 985, 783-6605; Internet www.gnobfa.net.

WJ Photo Page:

Marine Centre Christens Two Towboats In New Orleans



Ted Kaiser and Robin Rogers with etched crystal mementos.



Elsie Kayser, Kathy Savoie and Shauna Savoie.



Kim Allemand and David LeBlanc.



Keith Savoie, Capt. Calvin Millet Sr., Thomas Hudgins, relief Capt. Randy Terrebonne, Gerald Katicich, Ted Kayser and Alan Savoie.



Lisa Eymard, Gary Eymard, Gary Eymard Jr., Eddie Vickair and Danny Howell.



Robin Rogers receives christening gift.



Ted Kayser and Capt. Calvin Millet Sr.



Elsie and Ted Kayser.



Keith Savoie, Ted Kayser and Alan Savoie.



Alan Savoie, Kathy Savoie, Elsie Kayser and Ted Kayser.