

The 90's brought me back to the USA..



In early 1990, I was assigned to manage the food and beverage warehouse that was having a lot of inventory issues. Being in Germany, alcohol and cigarettes were highly monitored inventory. The warehouse was also having a lot of issues with deliveries. I started by having the person that was managing, do an inventory of the alcohol and cigarettes. Then when he finished, I went back and did the inventory again and found that he was missing a lot of alcohol and cigarettes that he had just inventoried and said he had. The MP's came and he was charged with several charges. The next issue was the clubs receiving orders were complaining about the trucks making several deliveries a day, one for dairy, one for bakery, one for meats and one for dry goods. I put an immediate stop to all deliveries and told drivers they were to pickup all items and return to warehouse where they would sort and put all items, dairy, bakery, meats and dry goods together on one truck and make one

Terry McPherson

delivery to each club each day. One driver said he was not doing that. It was too much work to load and then bring to warehouse unload and then load for club and unload. I told him he would do that or he could go up and see my boss and collect his final check. He headed up to see my boss and I never saw him again. This helped change the attitude of the other drivers. But this put me two employees down at the start of taking over the warehouse. We also did not have a very good inventory program so I wrote a program in Lotus to handle inventory, par stocks and reorder. That helped a lot. Next problem was that the inventory in warehouse was so mixed up it took a long time to get everything for each clubs order. I put in request for new shelving and it was approved. When it came in, I closed the warehouse for Friday and only 2 of my workers would stay to work on weekend as well. We took everything on one half of warehouse and set it outside in parking lot. Then built new shelves and started putting things back on shelves in order as to the group of foods for items they were. Then took the other half of products and shelves out to parking lot and built the rest of the shelves. Then got everything put back in warehouse in an order that it would be easy to pull items. We completed this from Friday afternoon to Sunday night. I got a service award for the work done and not impacting the club's requiring items from the warehouse. The warehouse had one German employed and 5 Americans hired to work there. The German always insisted on

Terry McPherson

him going to the butcher to all the meat products. But when he returned he would show on his inventory that some items not received. I did not believe this so I started following and it turned out he was picking up everything but then he would stop by his daughters restaurant and give her some of the meats. When I confronted him it turned out the German Union would not let us fire him, but we made it clear this would not continue. After that, he got to be one of my best driver warehouseman. I got promoted a rank for being there and cleaning it all up. It was fun.

For summer of 1990 my wife and I decided to go to Reno again for vacation and see about buying a house. My contract was up in Jan 1991 and I had decided not to renew it. The US was getting ready to go do things in the desert and I did not want to be overseas when the fighting started. So that meant we would be going back to Reno with no jobs and starting a new life. While on vacation wife started looking at house up on Lake Tahoe!! I told her that was no way we could afford that. I finally got her to looking down in the valley between Reno and Carson City, but told her those were pretty pricey too. She said no problem her mother was giving her the down payment. So, we bought a nice house in the Virginia City Foothills. We also went to a garden and home show and bought a hot tub to be delivered next year but at their sale price. Then we found a casino selling an old Cadillac Limo and we bought that. We made sure the limo fit in the

Terry McPherson

garage of the house. We were not able to stay for the closing on the house, so the realtor was going to look after limo and then put it in the garage after closing. However, it ended up being towed because he did not watchout for it where he parked on the street in front of his house. Anyway, house closed and we made plans to finish up our jobs in Germany and come to Reno to live.

Moving to Reno in 1991, I was turning 40 and could count 40 jobs I had prior and 40 places I had lived.

I had gotten a side business going supplying computer accessories for the retail store there in Wiesbaden and was hoping that would grow and give me business but had issues after getting back to USA. They were so slow paying invoices that caused me to be slow in future shipments. My buddy was not still working there at that time, so they quit ordering from me and cancelled the second half of a shipment I had not done yet.

I had made arrangements with a company that supplies the clubs in Germany to be a salesman for them in Nevada and Northern California. Never made much money there. I then was a purchasing manager for Atlantis Hotel and they were becoming a big casino/hotel from a little motel. I had several other jobs the first 2-3 years in Reno. For a while working multiple jobs. For me a day off was that I only worked one shift that day. I had two full time jobs and a part-time job. It was rough making money and

Terry McPherson

keeping up payments and such going on house the first 2-3 years. Then in late 1993, I found a job with Fitzgerald's as a computer operator for the AS400. Then things improved. In a couple years, I was learning to program it and went to the Eldorado Casino as an Apprentice programmer.

In the meantime, I had gotten divorced again. I had been working my butt off and she was trying to sell real estate but only made 1-2 sales in 2 years. Also her idea was there was her money and our money. I was expected to take care of house and everything out of our money which was actually just money I made working 100 hrs a week to get. Her mother sent her money all the time too but that was HER money. Well of course it was not an issue while we lived in Germany, I made lots of money. But it became a real issue in Reno.

Then less than a year later found a great gal and started living with her. When I got ready to buy another house using my VA Loan benefit, she could not be on the loan application unless we were married. We were living together for a while anyway so we got married. in Sept of that year. We started our life with it all being OUR money, one joint account.

Also I started trying to get into racing. There was a small paved track in Carson City. My first race car in the PC Class which meant basically you rolled down side glass or removed it,

Terry McPherson

removed headlights, wore your seat belt and had a helmet. It was fun, I got a 76 Monte Carlo for \$300 with no title. I did not have a trailer, so I would drive it to from the valley to the south side of Carson City to get to the race track. I had TJ follow me in the truck going down, so no one would notice no license plate and then I would follow him home because I had no headlights. Then I got a sponsor that had room in his back parking lot for me to leave car on south side of Carson City so I did not have to drive it far to get to Race track. I had fun but never won anything. Then I stopped for while. I ended up donating the Monte Carlo to the high school shop class and took \$1000 tax credit. In the late 90's, after I had my house in Horizon Hills I started again. This time you had to get a car, take everything out of interior and lights and side glass. I had a lot of help from friends and I had a friend that was a welder and he helped me install a cage in car. In this class I was running, there was no engine size limit, so I went to the junk yard and got a Pontiac 403 and was trying to use it for my car. All I did was take the intake off and clean up there and then bolted it all back together and fired it up. It ran fine, but was hard to keep it from over heating during the race. I don't think I ever did any better than finishing heat races. Then during main event it usually blew radiator. Until one night when coming around turns 3-4 I was in second place and the guy behind locked into my bumper somehow and then as we straightened out our bumpers un locked but in doing so, it had me facing the

Terry McPherson

flag stand wall. I hit hard and they had to stop race and all the race cars were on back stretch while they waited for a tow truck for me. It was funny, Mom and Dad in the stands. Mom says she did not see me on the back stretch with the others. Dad pointed out I was plastered to the front wall. I had the tow truck put car on my trailer. Then when I got home, I put it up on jack stands while still on the trailer. Pulled engine and transmission out of car and cut out the cage. Then went up to the junk yard and they fork lifted it off the trailer for me. I traded the engine and transmission to a guy that had a Pontiac Ventura that his brother had left on his property. No title, just gave me the keys and I gave him the engine. I welded the cage from first car into this one. It had been crash tested I figured. I made this a much nicer looking car and during the winter built a 350 to put in it. Everyone told me I needed a rev limiter on the engine but I did not want to spend that much. I tested car a couple times but then on first race, as I was round turns 1-2, I was leading the race and pulling away when the engine exploded. I was a little distraught and disgusted with things so I never rebuilt it. I just sold the car as a roller to someone else to start over.

Terry McPherson



TJ and I after we got the car built. Did not paint, just painted on “Area 51” It was out of this world.



This was a good night of racing during a main event. Was ahead for a while, till radiator blew.

Results of the last race for “Area 51”.

Terry McPherson



It was time to get it beamed up. It was a great car right up to when it hit the front wall!!



The new "Area 51" was built over the winter with lots of time spent on it and a buddy painting it.

Terry McPherson



The car looked great and ran real good. I was pretty proud of the result because I did not have as much help building this one as I did the first one. I had also started a website for “Nevada Racing”

By December of 1999 with all the worries about the year 2000, I was a junior programmer for the Eldorado Hotel Casino and we were having fun getting all our programs ready for Midnight. Turns out that either everyone around the world working on programs had either done a great job fixing everything, or it was just a to do over nothing....