

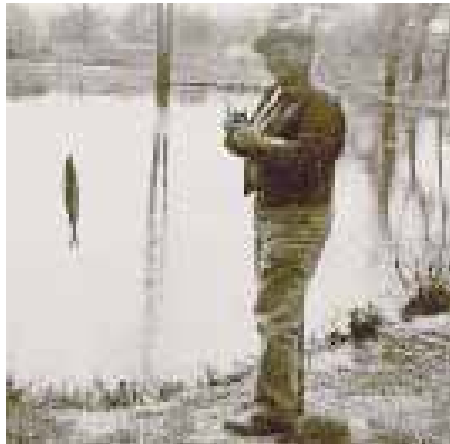
Cox House Moving Co., Inc.

If I had known then what I know now, I never would have done it," recalls James (Jim) Cox of his first house moving job. Although big for his age, Jim was only 12 years old at the time. The building was a smoke house, about 12 feet by 12 feet, which he moved about 100 yards for \$25. "Come to think about, I don't think I ever got my money," he said.

The move, however, was under the watchful eye of his father, G.M.Cox, who had founded Cox House Moving Co. Inc. in 1936 in Spartanburg, South Carolina, where the company is located today. The elder Cox had been working with the State Highway Department, which moved houses from time to time off the right-of-way, when he started his own company. He retired at age 60, turned the company over to his son in 1976, and traveled all over the world until his death in 1995

Although quite successful from the beginning, the company hit pay dirt big time in the early 1960's

with the construction of the Greenville-Anderson Jetport on the outskirts of Spartanburg. Jim had been in business school a couple of years but left it to help his father. "We probably moved 200 – 250 buildings for the job," he said.



G.M. Cox, first generation.

Like his father, Jim has brought his family into the business as well. His son, James, Jr. (Bruno), a graduate of Clemson, is vice president of the corporation and in sales and manages the office. His son-in-law, Brian Norman, is in sales. His former wife, Ann, is secretary. Daughter Jill is an associate for special projects. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina. "Bruno basically runs the company now," he explained.

The company specializes in moving ranch-type houses, the most common structure in the region. According to Jim, these are basically wood frame, brick veneer built in the 1960s with low roofs, which helps in moving down the road under wires. "We don't move really large ones," he said, defining large as requiring more than six jack dollies.

Additionally, the company has a contract to move refab 24' x 32' classrooms, sometimes as many as eight to 10 buildings a day, for a school district.



James "Bruno" Cox, Jr., third generation, with wife Jodi, daughter Calli, age eight and son Carson, age seven. Son Brody was born October 31. See page 12.



James "Jim" Cox, Sr., second generation



Jill Cox Norman, third generation, with husband Brian and sons Brian, Jr., age eight and Alex, age four.

BY JACK E. BRYMER. SR., CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Upstate South Carolina and southern North Carolina, a radius of about 100 miles, is the primary area of operation, with two to three crews and three to six persons in each.

Jim sees the economic climate for the company as about the same or somewhat improved in the future. He cited growth in the area and building costs as two reasons. "Land is expensive and is going to be used for something, such as shopping malls, a lake or industrial park." Also, he suggested that as the costs for materials and building continue to increase, people are trying more and more to salvage what they have.

Cox utilizes the Internet to attract customers, as well as educate them to the industries. One such site provides frequently asked questions about moving a building, along with information about

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A Cox House Moving crew in the 1940's. Founder G.M. Cox, left and foreman Aaron Self is second from the left.



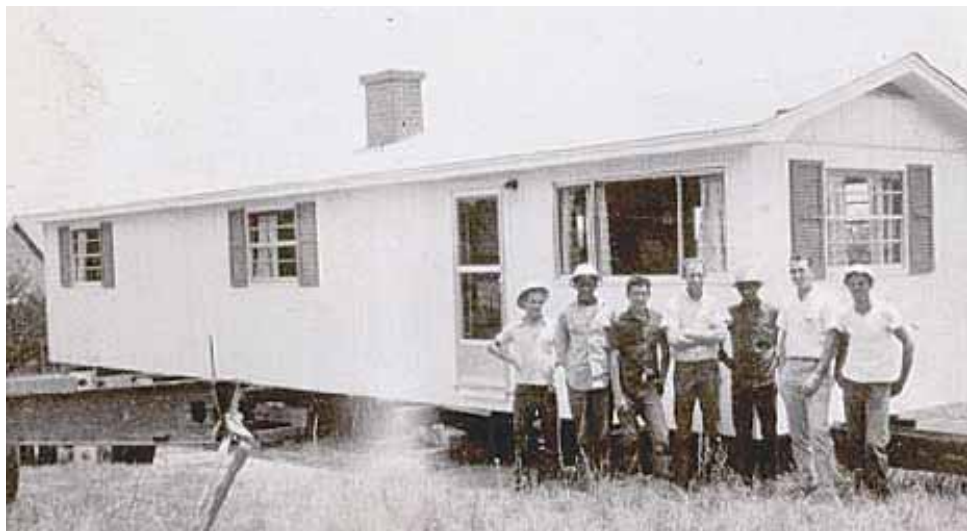
Cox hired a Victor McDowell, second from the left, in 1953.



A truck from the 1940's at a move in 1960. Foreman Aaron Self is standing in front of the building.



Victor McDowell, shown here in 2007, has been an employee of Cox for 54 years. His son, Dwayne, became an employee of Cox in 2001 and is foreman of a crew.



Jim Cox, second from the right, with a crew in 1960.



Moving a house on rolling poles circa 1930.

the company's "70 years history of happy customers." Another highlights the company's equipment and ability to build whatever is needed to complete the job. "Bruno does a good job with that," Jim said.

A major problem Cox struggles with is....

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Moving a two-story Victorian structure.



A 30-foot x 70-foot apartment building was moved in 1990