

Forrest Movers of Saluda

Has earned a PhD on how to move portable school units

by N. Eugene Brymer

In 1968 George Forrest, a native of South Carolina believed there was an economic future for him in the auto body repair business. So he enrolled in the Nashville, Tennessee Auto Diesel College to learn his chosen trade. One and a half years later after arriving in Nashville however, an event occurred that broadened his horizon far greater than any body parts of a motor vehicle. He met Evelyn Sheffield of Mammoth, Arizona who had moved to Nashville in her job as a telephone operator. Smitten with the beauty of this lovely lady George realized he could not let her get away. He proposed. She accepted. With certificates in hand (marriage and Diesel College) the couple returned to South Carolina.

Back home in Saluda George was working primarily as a carpenter with his brother Eugene, both



*George Forrest, Sr., Owner
Don't let the hat fool you.*

following in the footsteps of their father, Grady. Eugene had a successful business constructing portable school classrooms for school districts in South Carolina. Eugene built the module components and George erected them. Recognizing a golden opportunity George decided to form a company to transport these and other classrooms across the state.

In 1978 George incorporated his company and named it "George Forrest Used Portable Classroom Mover and simply moved the portables from one school to another but within the same School Districts. In 1980, when Forrest attempted to obtain a Statewide license other movers of the State immediately chal-

lenged his application to the State Public Utilities Commission. At the Commission hearing, according to Forrest, eight or nine movers from around



Proud father with only daughter, Debra Jones.



Checking directions to the next appointment are George Jr., George Sr. and Bobby.



Future generation of Forrest Movers, George Jr., Debra and Bobby.



This house built in 1846 in St. Matthews (south of the State Capitol Columbia) was moved in 1990.

the State attempted to convince members of the Commission “no need for another mover existed since existing companies could provide the service.” They had not anticipated representatives from 10 or 11 school districts being present to testify otherwise. Not only did Forrest receive a license, he was granted “State-wide” authorization. In 1982 the company changed its name to Forrest Movers and received authorization to move “wooden and/or metal frame buildings” State-wide.

At first George and his company employees moved 30-40 units a year. From 1995 until 2001 the company moved from 200-250 units each year. 2002 saw a record 290 units moved. In 2003 150 units were moved and the same number is expected in 2004. The decrease in units has been brought due to the State embarking on an aggressive school construction program. “The company’s success,” said Forrest, “are due primarily to four things. First his employees consisting of sons George Jr., and Bobby, daughter Debra, son-in-law James Jones and four additional



A standard size house is the bread and butter business of the company after school modules.



This structure, 40'W' x 60'L was moved three blocks for the City of Wallhalla, SC.

employees Arthur Gonzales Jose Alvarez, Abraham Reyes and Nick Horn. Secondly, special equipment obtained and designed specifically for the movement of portable units. Thirdly, the fact the State of South Carolina, because of an

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A tight squeeze



This restaurant was elevated seven feet while situated on five feet of sand and 34' of muck in South Carolina near the Georgia border at Savannah. The road had to be reinforced for passage.



The structure, 32W' x 68L', was moved 40 miles.



Methods and equipment for moving school modules works as easily with nursery hot houses.