

TECHNOLOGY MEETS THE PACKAGED ICE INDUSTRY

SEPTEMBER 2005

“WE WERE BEING OVERWHELMED BY INVOICES! EACH ONE HAD TO BE ENTERED INTO QUICKBOOKS AND THE WORKLOAD WAS GROWING.” – GARY BLOODWORTH.

One of the leading ice producers in the East Tennessee area is Tennessee Valley Ice in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Bloodworth family purchased a small ice company on January 1, 1974 and has built the company into a major ice producer. Now, day to day operations are handled by Gary Bloodworth, Vice President and office duties are handled by his wife Judy. However, H. L. and Betty Bloodworth, Gary's parents are still active in the business. Tennessee Valley Ice is a member of the Southern Ice Exchange and a certified member of the International Packaged Ice Association (IPIA). Gary has served as a past member of the Board of Director of the Southern Ice Exchange.



Gary and Judy Bloodworth

In late 2003, Gary began to look for ways to streamline the operation of the office. “We were being overwhelmed by invoices! Each one had to be entered into QuickBooks and the workload was growing,” said Bloodworth. One of the ways they looked at

was to install handheld computers. At about that same time in late 2003, Tennessee Valley Ice became acquainted with a new route management system called RouteMan – Route Management System. “We felt that this system had the capability to reduce our office workload”

The RouteMan System uses handheld computers and mobile printers to capture invoice information and digital signatures as well as print customer receipts onsite. The handheld applies the correct price, tax rate and calculates the invoice correctly. These completed invoices are then downloaded to Accounts Receivable when the driver returns to the plant. This saves the office staff significant time and effort.

“We also got some unexpected benefits from RouteMan. I really like the driver reports. I can see just what each of my drivers is doing each day. We get totals by dollars and bag count,” said Bloodworth. “One feature we really like is that the system re-

ports the exact date and time my driver is at each stop. I can use this to make sure my routes are being run efficiently.”

The RouteMan – RMS contains reports by driver, route, customer and product. RouteMan reports provide both dollar totals and bag counts. All reports are date selectable and can be run for a day, a month or any period of time. These reports help the owner keep a handle on business and see just what each driver is doing on the route. If a company needs additional information, then Keet Consulting Services can easily write “custom reports” and add them to the system.

Tennessee Valley Ice decided to install RouteMan – RMS in late 2004 and completed the installation of the System in January 2005. A remote distribution location was added in June 2005. This site transfers invoices via the internet.

For more information on RouteMan, please contact Keet Consulting Services at (205) 620-9843, or visit their website at:

www.kcsgis.com



Tennessee Valley Ice Gets Ready For Another Delivery



Keet Consulting Services, LLC
www.kcsgis.com/routeman (205) 620-9843

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Tennessee Valley Ice
4116 South Creek Road
Chattanooga, TN 37406

Gary Bloodworth,
Vice President

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Saves Significant Office Time
- Invoices Automatically Downloaded
- Driver Reports For Accountability
- Date and Time of Each Delivery Captured
- Remote Sites via the Internet