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INDUSTRY INSIDER

THE SCOOP ON THE ALL INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

THE INSIDER spent considerable time at the Western-English Trade Association's (WETA) All Industry Conference in Austin, Texas, in May. Nearly 100 members of the organization were part of the festivities, which included lots of fun, frolic and fundamentals.

THE GLUE THAT HOLDS IT ALL TOGETHER

GLENDA CHIPPS, the executive director of WETA, was honored for 20 years of service to industry, having worked for the organizations that preceded WETA, WAEMA and WERA. She was presented with a check and a big hug from incoming WETA president Gary Mandelbaum. Glenda has seen her share of comings and goings in the equine industry, and has often shared humorous stories with THE INSIDER. Along with a planning committee of six industry volunteers, Glenda also recruits her daughter, Lori, to help out with the conference, and runs in high gear for several weeks before and after.

HIGHER EDUCATION

LINDA KENNEDY was one of the speakers for the Saturday seminar on preparing your business to survive a disaster, such as a hurricane, flood or earthquake. When she appeared for her presentation Saturday morning, THE INSIDER was informed she was operating on six hours of sleep over the previous three days. In addition to being an excellent speaker on the topic, Linda is also the emergency management coordinator with Austin Utilities. Thursday night, the city was hit with a major thunderstorm, knocking out power to several thousand customers. Friday night, the storms returned and caused more problems for the utility. Despite her sleep-deprived condition, she offered much useful information for the handful of businesses that attended.

IN WITH THE NEW

MOST PEOPLE don't know that Gary Mandelbaum, incoming WETA president, made his debut in the industry as a child model for the catalog his family's business operated, Karman. His smiling face was featured in its pages, as he modeled one of the company's boy's Western shirts. Gary shared some of his background with the organization at Friday's general membership luncheon during the conference. He is fond of saying that he's a graduate of SMU—no, not Southern Methodist University—Sam Mandelbaum University, referring to his father. Other images of Gary featured him in full '70s regalia, including lots of facial hair. Karman is better known today as Roper Apparel and Footwear. The company recently marked its 58th year of operation. Gary extended an invitation to those present at the luncheon to stop in any time and see the company's plant in Colorado.

A FOND FAREWELL

OUTGOING WETA president Ron Schmitz waxed nostalgic in his farewell to the organization. He said his two years went by really quickly. "It was like five minutes ... under water." Incoming president Gary Mandelbaum made sure that ties were not completely severed by naming Schmitz "president emeritus" for the duration of his own two-year term.