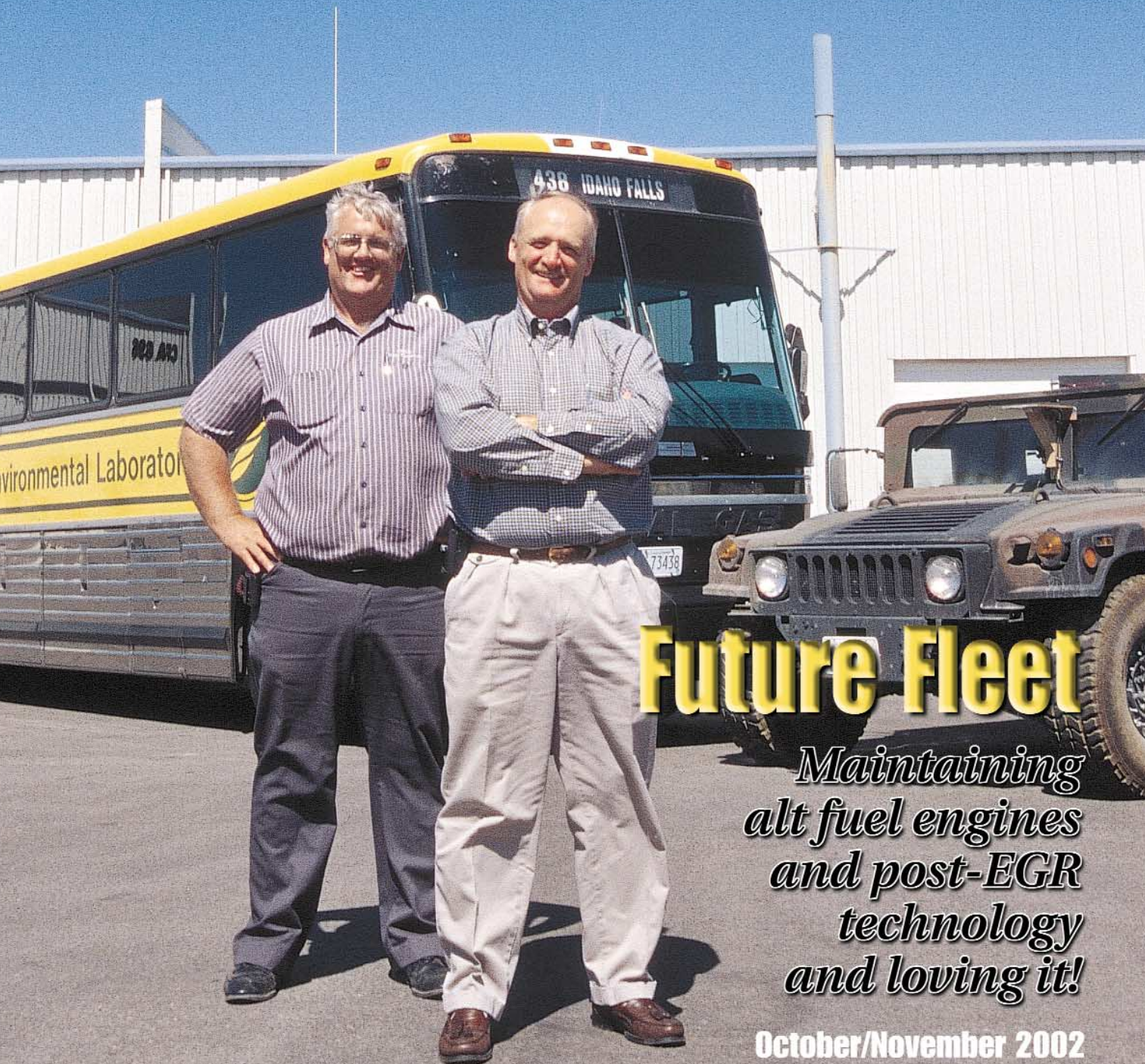


**FLEET**

A Cygnus Publication

# MAINTENANCE

*Managing for Safety, Reliability, and Productivity*



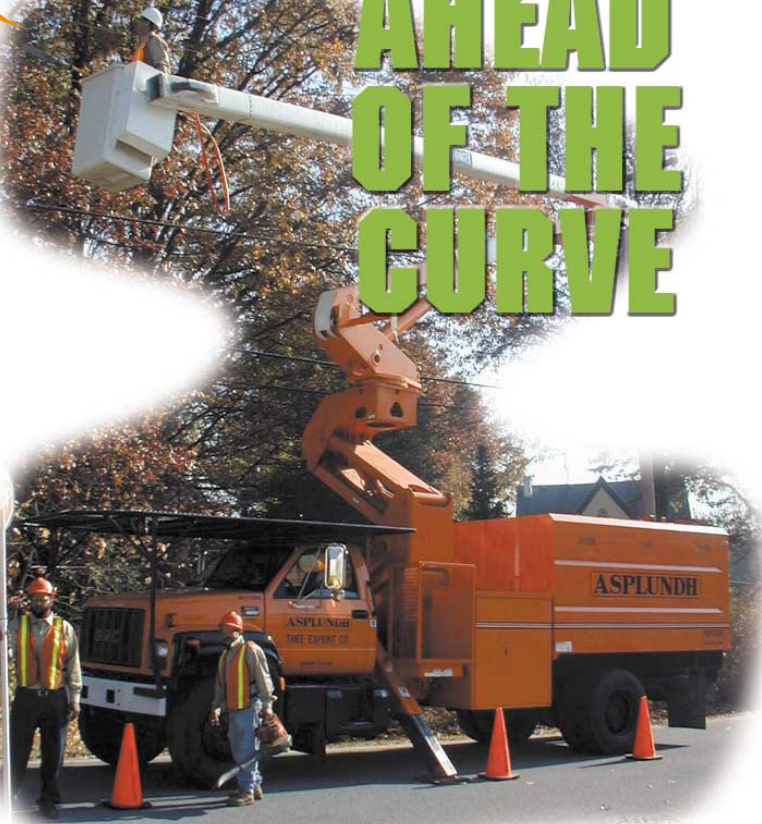
## **Future Fleet**

*Maintaining  
alt fuel engines  
and post-EGR  
technology  
and loving it!*

**October/November 2002**

**MEDIUM DUTY**

# AHEAD OF THE CURVE



*Want to go a year between oil changes? Bypass filtration may be the answer.*

**By Mark Gehred-O'Connell**

whole new perspective.

"There are two things that happen with oil," he goes on. "The oil gets dirty, and the additives get burned out of it. If you keep your oil clean with a good filtration system, you're halfway home. If you're constantly replacing the additives, like the puraDYN filter does, you're keeping the oil in as good a condition as you can."

## **Annual Service**

The type of bypass system puraDYN offers consists of two parts. While the engine is running, approximately six gallons of engine oil per hour are diverted through the bypass filter. As the oil passes through the filter, its additives are replenished from an additive packet attached to the filter.

The system isn't maintenance-free, but the annual servicing is so simple that Asplundh gets by without a single maintenance shop to its name.

"After the year cycle is up, what we do is take an oil sample, and we replace the filter," Bramble explains. "Then we'll add a quart or so of oil, because that's what it takes to top it off. Then we'll check the oil level, run the engine, let it set for ten minutes then check the oil level and make sure it's right where it should be. Sometimes you may have to add a little bit of oil. That's all we do."

## **Wider Availability**

Soon this technology will be more readily available to fleets of all sizes. puraDYN has recently entered into an agreement whereby its bypass filtration systems will be distributed by Honeywell/FRAM.

Your medium-duty fleet may not be able to save "millions of dollars" on oil, but with bypass filtration systems, you may be able to extend your oil drains, and help the environment.

"It's just a needless expense, if you're not using these filter systems," Bramble says. "Constantly changing engine oil is a cost that you don't need to have." **FM**

**W**hile some fleets are grappling with pulling back their oil drain intervals, others are extending them out to a year or more with the aid of a device that's been on the market for years. In the age of EGR diesels, the oil bypass filtration system may be the knight in shining armor the commercial vehicle industry has been waiting for.

Asplundh Tree Service, a global company headquartered in Willow Grove, PA, first tested bypass filtration systems from puraDYN on 14 trucks in Florida back in 1999. Today the company has puraDYN filters installed (by a third party upfitter) on all their new trucks and equipment, and the fleet's oil use has plummeted.

"We're hoping to save millions of dollars worth of oil," explains Dan Bramble, Asplundh's equipment maintenance supervisor. "We have approximately 38,000 pieces of equipment; try to imagine how much money it costs to change the oil on these things."

According to Bramble, the fleet consists of medium-duty GMC work trucks (most of which have more than one engine), light pickups and "chipper" trailers. There are a few diesels in the fleet, but 90 percent of the power units are gasoline-powered, proving

that bypass filtration is a versatile technology.

## **14 Months**

In that first test in 1999, the trucks went 14 months without an oil drain. "We took oil samples every month," Bramble recalls. "I even had one of my people go down there and pull an oil sample on one of those trucks, and we sent it to an independent lab, just to make sure everything was matching up, and by God it was.

"I also paid a visit to the Dade County bus system in Florida and talked to them," he continues. "They had been installing these on their buses for five years. They were telling me that they were saving a quarter of a million dollars a year in oil, and they told me that they had not had a major engine breakdown since they started putting these filter systems on. So the information I got from them and our own testing pretty much sold me on the fact that this is something we need to get involved in."

## **A Whole New Perspective**

"We went to the puraDYN filtration system because they have a system that replaces the additives in the oil," he says. "Having a bypass filter to keep the oil clean is one thing. The act of replacing the additives is another thing, and brings in a