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Turnkey precast concrete shelters support toll collection equipment

Oldcastle Precast of Newnan, Ga., provided more than 50 turnkey toll equipment shelters for the Florida Department of Transportation's expressway toll conversion projects. Courtesy of Oldcastle Precast.

Oldcastle Precast of Newnan, Ga., provided more than 50 turnkey toll equipment shelters for the Florida Department of Transportation's (DOT's) expressway toll conversion projects. The Florida DOT's plan is to convert all mainline plazas to all-electronic tolls (AETs), an all-electronic, no-cash tolling gantry system, along Florida's expressways.

Oldcastle Precast offered a turnkey precast concrete equipment shelter solution—a single-source vendor—for the AET equipment shelters that house the toll gantry equipment at each reconfigured toll point located between each interchange.

Oldcastle Precast manufactured and fully outfitted the toll equipment shelters with all specified equipment. The 21 ft (6.4 m) long × 12 ft 6 in. (3.8 m) wide × 11 ft (3.4 m) high, fully outfitted equipment shelters were shipped, installed, and made functional at each toll interchange site.

Turnkey work included the provision of insulated, bullet-resistant, and textured exterior walls with heavy-duty, 155 mph (250 km/hr) wind-impact-rated steel doors and hardware. Also, specified electric power and HVAC systems were installed.

In addition, Oldcastle Precast Stone Mountain, Ga., provided ConVault aboveground fuel storage tanks to several of the gantry toll shelter sites.

Florida DOT's projects comprise the fabrication and installation of new high-speed toll gantries at ramp locations to support the new toll collection equipment, the removal of various existing toll booths and structures, toll plaza building modifications, roadway improvements, grading, drainage, and signage. —Source: Oldcastle Precast

Gate names new managers at Kentucky and Texas plants

Steve Schweitzer

Jim Stini

Gate Precast Co. has named Steve Schweitzer vice president, operations manager, at its Winchester, Ky., plant and Jim Stini operations manager at its Pearland, Tex., hollow-core concrete plant.

Schweitzer's experience in the precast concrete industry spans 36 years, including most recently in the commercial sales and estimating departments at Prestress Services Industries. In addition to his work experience, he is a member of several PCI committees and active in PCI's Central Region.

In his new position, Schweitzer is responsible for all operational and administrative issues for Gate's Kentucky facilities. Schweitzer has a degree in architectural technology from Lexington Technical Institute in Kentucky and is a certified lean facilitator. He was also trained in project management at University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics in Lexington and in drafting through PCI.

Stini has worked for Gate since 1996, most recently as estimating and sales manager, and served in a variety of industry leadership positions.

As operations manager, Stini will handle all duties associated with operations in the Pearland office. Over the past 25 years, he has estimated and managed hundreds of projects, covering all market sectors. In addition, he has taken the AGC General Contractor Superintendent's course and is a PCI-certified field auditor and PCI-certified company auditor. He holds contracting licenses in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi and has received 30-hour OSHA training. Stini has served as chairman of the Spancrete Marketing Committee and held leadership positions with the Spancrete Manufacturers Association and the PCI Erectors Committee. —Source: Gate Precast Co.

Meadow Burke appoints Dawley director of manufacturing

Jeff Dawley has joined Meadow Burke's senior leadership team as the director of manufacturing.

Within this role, Dawley will be developing the strategic initiatives as well as managing the activities and resources necessary to cultivate safety, service, quality, and operations effectiveness across the manufacturing platform.

Dawley has more than 25 years of experience in developing and leading global multisite manufacturing organizations, with 14 of those years serving the concrete accessories industry. He received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology from Purdue University and his master's degree in business administration from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion.

—Source: Meadow Burke

Schipper becomes an owner of eConstruct

Bradley L. Schipper

Bradley L. Schipper has become an owner in eConstruct.USA LLC, a Premiere Partner of PCI. Its engineers have been strong contributors to PCI's technical activities.

Schipper has been the manager of the precast building division for the past five years and is a licensed professional engineer in a number of states. He graduated from Iowa State University in Ames and attended graduate school at the Omaha campus of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, where he studied under company cofounder and PCI Life Member Maher Tadros. Schipper has 10 years of experience at Wilson Concrete Co., now Coreslab Structures (Omaha), and eight years at Rick Berry Associates. He is an active member of the PCI Industry Handbook Committee and the Fire Protection Committee.

—Source: eConstruct

Thermomass names Nesset president

Brad Nesset

Thermomass has appointed Brad Nesset president. Nesset has been with Thermomass since 2005 and replaces Tom Stecker, who has led the growth of Thermomass since 2004. Stecker is stepping down to spend more time with family and pursue other interests but will continue to assist Thermomass on various development opportunities. As president, Nesset will report to Eoin Lehane, president of Meadow Burke.

—Source: Thermomass

Oldcastle Precast Newnan, Ga., plant achieves six years without recordable injury

Oldcastle Precast's Newnan, Ga., operation achieved six years without a recordable injury on July 31, 2015. In April 2015, the plant also reached its 13-year mark, 950,646 work hours, without a lost time incident.

These safety achievements are a direct result of Oldcastle Precast Newnan's employees' ongoing pledge to safety awareness and practices. "We maintain employee safety as a primary focus for our teams as well as our customers. Our operators and technical staff are committed to safety and play an active role in achieving and maintaining this record," says Gene Drake, regional general manager of Oldcastle Precast. Employees celebrated with a fish fry.

—Source: Oldcastle Precast

Johansen takes on president role at ACT

Erik Johansen

Erik Johansen, vice president of Advanced Concrete Technologies Inc. (ACT), will step into the role of company president while current president and founder Max Hoene focuses on the duties of chairman on key accounts and strategic planning. Johansen has more than 20 years of industrial expertise in the international state-of-the-art concrete mixing and batching plant industry.

—Source: Advanced Concrete Technologies Inc.

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Spancrete adds Herrin to business development team

Hal Herrin

Spancrete has added industry veteran Hal Herrin as a new business development manager. Herrin has more than 29 years of construction experience. Having worked in South Carolina and Florida, Herrin has a strong connection to the Southeast market. Herrin works out of the newly PCI-certified Newnan, Ga., plant.
—Source: Spancrete

Fabcon celebrates 15 years in Pennsylvania, 20 years in Ohio

Fabcon Precast is celebrating the 15th anniversary of its Mahanoy City, Pa., plant and the 20th anniversary of its Grove City, Ohio, plant. The company has supplied panels for 950 buildings, with a total project revenue of $765 million during that time.

The Pennsylvania plant opened in 2000 to serve East Coast customers. The plant has the capacity to produce 90,000 ft^2 (8000 m^2) of precast concrete wall panels each week. The beds in the facility produce 300 ft (90 m) long panels in widths up to 13 ft 6 in. (4.1 m).

The Ohio plant has supplied panels for 1500 buildings in the Eastern and Midwestern markets and has earned $665 million in revenue during that time. Fabcon entered the market after acquiring the former American Precast plant in 1995. The expansion roughly doubled the size of the company and allowed expanded service to new and existing customers. The plant has the capacity to produce 64,400 ft^2 (5980 m^2) of precast concrete wall panels each week. Currently, the beds produce panels up to 12 ft (3.7 m) wide.
—Source: Fabcon

Oldcastle Precast introduces precast concrete bridge and building construction at elementary career fair

On May 7, 2015, the Oldcastle Precast team of Peter Gay, plant manager; Scott Hersey, designer; Tina Fischer, project manager; Ken Turnbull, estimator; and Chuck Prussack, sales manager, represented the company at the Regal Elementary School Career Fair in Spokane, Wash. The goal was to inspire and educate kindergarten through sixth-grade students about careers available in engineering, drafting, production, construction, and precast concrete product development.

"Previously we adopted Regal Elementary School as a community project. We committed to purchase and deliver weekly 'bite 2 go' bags of food to help hungry children on the weekends. We expressed our desire to help in other ways, if possible, and the principal invited us to attend the Career Fair event," Prussack says.

Oldcastle Precast does not usually talk to elementary-school-aged children about a career at a precast concrete manufacturing plant, but after discussing what they might talk about, Oldcastle employees decided to make wooden models of items that they build.

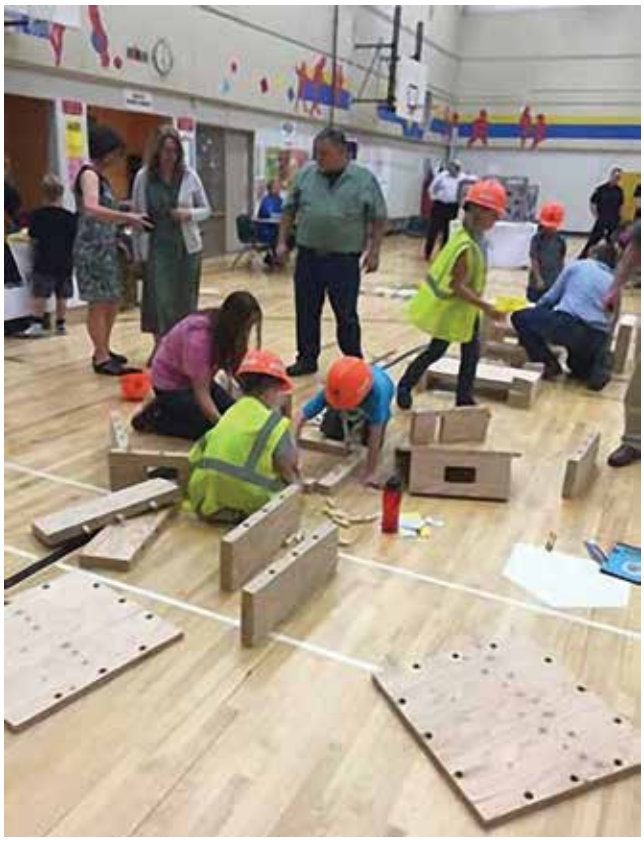
"We thought it would be fun for the children to assemble buildings and bridges using models (puzzles)," Gay says.

The Oldcastle Precast carpentry shop built four models in all: a simple-span bridge, a multiple-span bridge, a posttensioned bridge, and a three-story building model. The bridge and building model pieces were made to resemble precast concrete components that are used today.

The model concept helped the children visualize what Oldcastle Precast makes and how the precast concrete components are put together at a jobsite.

The engineering department made drawings to illustrate how the pieces fit together and showed a computer presentation, with dialogue, to explain how a posttensioned, segmented bridge would work.

"During our presentation, as the children were building the models, we explained what our jobs entailed and what part each of us played in the precast process. We began our conversation by asking the children what they wanted to do when they grew up. Depending on the answer, we tried to weave in some of the above career opportunities," Prussack says. "We even brought hard hats and safety vests to wear as they built the bridge models to show how safety is very important."



Oldcastle Precast made wooden models of the types of structures that it builds to use with students at the Regal Elementary School Career Fair in Spokane, Wash. Courtesy of Oldcastle Precast.

"The children loved working on the building and bridge models. There were broad smiles all around," Gay says. "I am looking forward to next year."

Oldcastle Precast's objective was to show children that engineering, drafting, production, and management careers are attainable and that there are other jobs besides those they see every day.

After the career fair, Regal Elementary School asked Oldcastle Precast to lend it two of the models to use with the school's sixth-grade programs.

—Source: Oldcastle Precast

Compiled by K. Michelle Burgess (mburgess@pci.org)