

MEET MILLARD BARNEY

Making record-breaking girders

William Atkinson



Millard Barney has had a long, interesting, and illustrious career. Born in Mt. Pleasant, Utah, and graduating from Bellingham High School in Bellingham, Wash., Barney played multiple sports in high school, along with earning the rank of Eagle Scout. “I also worked part-time as a

drafter at International Good Music drawing computer circuit boards, and I later worked for Georgia Pacific drawing prefabricated houses that were shipped by barge to Alaska,” he says.

In 1978, Barney received a bachelor of science degree in business management from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where he also had taken some civil engineering classes.

The summer before graduating, Barney returned to western Washington and interviewed with different companies, focused on his business degree. He ended up taking a job at Concrete Technology Corp. (CTC), based in Tacoma, Wash., because it was a good fit for his interests in construction and engineering.

Hired by the company in January 1979, he has not only stayed with the profession but also the company for his whole career. “I loved reading about the pioneering history and the family culture of the company, and I have worked at CTC since graduating from college,” he says.

Over the years, Barney has held numerous positions at CTC. After starting his career in marketing, he moved into the role of sales engineer and soon became sales manager. For many years he served as the company’s vice president and director of marketing, then executive vice president. Early in 2021, Barney was named president of CTC.

His interest in the precast and prestressed concrete industry extended beyond just working for CTC, however. “I joined PCI to learn more about the prestressed concrete industry through committee participation and peer interactions, which I felt would benefit not only me, but also Concrete Technology,” he says. “I also saw the benefits that PCI provided my coworkers who were also members.”

After several years of being a member of PCI, Barney decided that he wanted to participate at a higher level in the areas for which he had responsibility at CTC. These included promoting and estimating bridges, piers, and floating concrete structures. “I enjoy working with people who are like-mind-

ed individuals, people who have an interest in advancing the industry,” he says.

Some of his roles as a PCI member have included serving three terms on the PCI Board of Directors, being the chair of the Journal Advisory Committee for seven years, and being a member of the Bridge Producers Committee, Pile Producers Committee, Fellows Nominating Committee, and Pavement Subcommittee. He was named a PCI Fellow in 2011.

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“I like working with and promoting a product that can be molded and shaped into almost any application that may be required for a project,” he says. “I also enjoy professionally and personally sharing with people the products that CTC produced, which were incorporated into a final structure.”

For most of Barney’s career, his main responsibility was promoting and estimating bridge girders. “My favorite project produced by CTC was the 223 ft long single-piece, record-breaking girder,” he says. “It still holds the record for the longest girder hauled over a roadway in one piece in North America.”

Barney says his greatest source of pride is learning the profession on the job, “knowing nothing about prestressed concrete when I first started at CTC to the point where I can share the knowledge gained with others, whether that be at the company I work for, the local community, or members of PCI.”

Barney’s words of advice for people who are new to the profession, the industry, or PCI are clear and simple. “Participating in PCI offers opportunities to grow as part of a large organization both personally and professionally through committee involvement,” he says. “It is important when starting a career in our industry to observe products being fabricated in the plant, going to jobsites to see products installed, and interacting with your peers both at your company and PCI.” 