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NEIGHBORS

A SERVICE OF ASH GROVE CEMENT COMPANY – LEAMINGTON PLANT | FALL 2011

Ash Grove Hits \$20 Million Energy Reduction Goal

This August Ash Grove plants throughout the country achieved an ambitious goal to reduce energy costs by \$20 million – 15 months early, another Ash Grove energy management (AGem) success.

“Chuck Wiedenhoft always described the goal in terms of a three legged stool – reduce emissions, improve efficiency and reduce costs,” said Andy Lippert, Ash Grove corporate energy director, of the company’s then president and chief operating officer who died in 2010. “He got this started in 2007 and we set a five-year time horizon to make it happen.” *(continued on page 3)*



Leamington plant

Namesake Visits His Quarry

He may be in his 90s, but Hank Allen hasn’t lost a step. “He doesn’t hesitate to tell you if you are mining the way you should be,” said Ron Daniels, corporate reliability officer for Ash Grove who offices in Leamington. “He is as sharp as a tack.”

A NOTE FROM RON SMITH, PLANT MANAGER



Ron Smith, plant manager

As recent retiree Dean Bailey says in this issue’s employee spotlight story, Ash Grove Cement Leamington has a great group of dedicated employees, a well-knit crew of smart and talented people who work together to problem solve, come up with the best ideas and enjoy each other while doing it.

The economy may not have yet done its part to get things back on a healthy path, but our employees are doing theirs and not just at the plant. It takes a bit of effort on everyone’s part to make a strong

community and there are a lot of really great things going on in the Leamington area.

For example, we’re excited about working on a bi-county effort to develop technical training that will give local young people a head start at good jobs by giving them skills that they otherwise might not have acquired. This will really benefit companies like ours by developing strong entry-level employees. This is especially important when you have long-time employees like Dean retire. He and other employees like him who have been with the plant since it opened in 1981 not only have great skills, but they have the kind of experience you can only get after years on the job. It is essential that Ash Grove Cement Leamington invests in our community’s young people to maintain the high quality of our work force. And with the 30th anniversary of our making our first clinker coming up on November 14, 2011, we will celebrate three decades of great work and great employees.

You may have heard that new federal regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require cement plants to meet higher emissions and monitoring standards by September 2013. Ash Grove Cement Leamington continues to invest in its plant operations and will meet all the 2013 requirements. We all look forward to a long and bright future here in our two-county area. ■



Left to right: Ron Daniels, corporate reliability manager; former plant employee Hank W. Allen; Gordon Jarrett, quarry supervisor.

The quarry eventually was named after Allen, who has maintained an interest in the plant, and visits every year or so. ■

Ash Grove Works With Counties, Technical Schools to Develop Training

Linda Clark Gillmor, economic development director of the Millard County Economic Development Association said she was reading the most recent issue of Ash Grove Cement Leamington's *Neighbors* newsletter and realized she needed to include the plant in one of her BEAR visits.

"BEAR stands for business expansion and retention, and we've been meeting with businesses to learn about their employment, the skill sets they need and how we can help them recruit and retain," Gillmore said. "We appreciate Ash Grove wanting to have a strong relationship with both Juab and Millard counties. This is a unique quality about Ash Grove, wanting to work with the community this way. They're exceptional."

The meeting with Ash Grove's Ron Smith, Bart Walker, Craig Southworth, Danette Houston, Dan Peters and Alan Bufton included representatives from Snow College Richfield campus, Delta Technical Center and Juab County Economic Development. Gillmor and

Teresa Thompson, president of Delta Technical Center, recently joined Ash Grove's Community Advisory Committee.

Gillmor said this effort's goal is to advance the development of education and training in areas such as machining, welding, electrical and mining with degree or certificate programs serving businesses in the six-county region.

"It's a great idea, and we are pleased to participate," said Bart Walker, Ash Grove's production manager. "The initiative can help Ash Grove meet its training needs while helping young people in the area develop skills so they qualify for the good jobs available here in our community. What we also like about it is that if Ash Grove didn't have enough students to justify a certain class, we could coordinate with other businesses in the area to get there."

As Gillmor said, "When you network with the community, there is strength." ■



Photos left to right: At left, Ken Gould, assistant manager-marketing services, flips burgers at the Leamington plant's Trucker Appreciation Day. In the blue hard hat is Roger Weber, traffic manager (now retired), and at right is Doug Johnson, sales representative; Ken Gould, assistant manager-marketing services, and Bill Jex, senior salesman, cooked the hamburgers and hot dogs; The Leamington plant celebrated seven years without a lost time accident with a steak dinner on April 20.

Trucker Appreciation Day

Ed Cooper knows that Ash Grove's truckers are often the first and only point of contact between the cement company and our customers. Cooper, regional sales manager for Utah, Nevada and the Four Corners, said that taking the opportunity once or twice a year to do a barbecue for the truckers is not only a fun thing to do, but the down time together often yields ideas that improve service.

"We had an instance recently on a big job with a tight schedule

The barbecues are a good time and we want our truckers to know we appreciate them.

where, between our sales guys, the guys at the plant and the drivers, we figured out a way to make fairly significant improvements on load time that assured we would do well in servicing this roadway project," Cooper said. "The barbecues are a good time, and we want our truckers to know we appreciate them. The load time improvement we worked on together for that one project will help us on all our other jobs over the long term, too." ■

April Marked Seven Years of Safe Operations

Steve Minshall, Ash Grove corporate director of health and safety, has said, "Safety is equal (in importance) to production, cost, quality, morale and environmental compliance."

Seven years of safe operations is quite a milestone. Ash Grove Cement Leamington's people talk about training and safety programs all the time, but what it means day in and day out is that the plant sends its people home in good shape every day, keeps its operations running, has its priorities straight.

So, how does a plant get to seven years of safe operation? The employees do it. They learn safe work procedures, believe in them, practice them and encourage them in others until it is so folded into the work atmosphere it is like air. And, then everyone looks to what else they could do, what new there is to learn to be more safe.

"Our plant has always had a tight focus on safety," said Alan Bufton, Leamington plant safety manager. "We have been recognized many times through the years as an example of a plant committed to safety. Even with this great accomplishment we always remind our people to be vigilant because complacency leads to accidents." ■

DEAN BAILEY PAYS IT FORWARD



Dean Bailey

When Dean Bailey retired as plant machinist for Ash Grove, he could pretty much make anything to fix anything anytime.

"It takes

years of experience to build the kind of knowledge that Dean has," said Roy McPherson, maintenance planner and one of Dean's supervisors. "He always knew just what to do to fix whatever was broken."

Dean's the first to admit, however, he didn't know everything. "I remember the time a few years ago when the company decided it was going to eliminate all the chain drive equipment and replace it with serpentine belts," he said. "Those chains were gigantic and so heavy some needed a crane to move them and the sprockets could be four or five feet across. How could a belt replace that? I laughed out loud."

However, he took all the measurements, worked to remake all the shafts. "Turns out the belts are really efficient, don't wear out as often and saved the company a lot of money. I was a machinist a long time and was learning every step of the way."

Bailey says he was used to always being the youngest guy on the team in his career, until he finished out with Ash Grove. "Those old guys used to really razz me, but it just toughened me up. I probably razzed our guys, but they are a sharp crew. They have so many different skills there isn't anything they can't figure out. Same goes for the shift bosses, so smart and talented. It is a well-knit, hard working team that can do anything."

Today, Bailey is spending more time with his cattle and horses and spoiling his three grandsons. Before he retired, McPherson said, Bailey spent time with the guy stepping up and made a particular point of emphasizing safety. "I do miss those guys, working with them," he said. "Ash Grove was a good place to work. We knew what to expect, what everyone's capabilities were. It was just a good bunch of people." ■

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Leamington-Made Cement | Builds Strong Transportation Future in Utah County

Since 2010, a 24-mile stretch of Interstate 15 between Lehi and Spanish Fork in Utah County has been the site of a major widening and reconstruction project. The I-15 CORE project will rebuild the existing roadway, add two travel lanes in each direction, rebuild or reconfigure 10 interchanges, and rebuild or rehabilitate 63 bridges.

A project of that magnitude uses a lot of concrete, and all of it is being made with high-quality Ash Grove cement manufactured in Leamington.

Through the end of August, Ash Grove has supplied enough cement for the I-15 project to make 600,000 cubic yards of concrete. To put that in perspective, that's enough concrete to pave a sidewalk from the Leamington plant to Ash Grove's headquarters in Kansas City... and still have some left over.

The Utah Department of Transportation recently celebrated the halfway point in construction, and the project remains on track to be complete in December 2012. ■



Interstate 15 between Lehi and Spanish Fork in Utah County.

Ash Grove Hits \$20 Million Energy Reduction Goal

(continued from front cover)

To prepare, Lippert said that a team went through all the plants, five years of operating data and did some benchmarking. Then he joined Chuck, Ash Grove Chairman Charlie Sunderland, Vice President of Manufacturing Services Fran Streitman in meeting with senior staff and plant managers to design the program. In early 2008, the team held meetings at every plant with supervisors and hourly staff to talk it through and roll out the program.

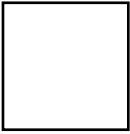
"Employee suggestions have been gratifying," Lippert said. "Everything from turning on a conveyor belt only when it is moving material to putting motion detectors on lighting to installing heat exchangers and reclaiming heat off the clinker cooling process. We still are receiving ideas good enough to implement companywide."

The company already has begun writing goals and procedures for 2013 and beyond to continue to conserve energy and natural resources by improving the efficiency and performance of the plants. ■



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The Sunderland Foundation donated money for a School/Community Fitness Path at the Red Cliffs Elementary School in Nephi, Utah.

FOUNDATION SUPPORTS SCHOOL AND FITNESS PATH

If you are so inclined to walk, do push ups, chin ups, sit ups and something involving running and seeing how high you can touch a bar, the Juab School District / Ash Grove Cement School and Community Fitness Path is the place to be. If all that makes you tired in advance, there is a nice bench to rest on where you can watch your friends and family get their exercise.

The bench and equipment along the fitness trail was made possible by a \$20,000 donation from the Sunderland Family Foundation, said Janet Ware, principal of Red Cliffs Elementary School in Nephi. Ware’s husband, Ken, retired as maintenance manager from Ash Grove.

“Ash Grove is my hero for helping out with this project,” said Ware. “All summer and before and after school, this fitness trail belongs to the community. We’ve seen families and retired folks using it and, of course, our school uses it for our physical education classes. The equipment is in two sizes, to suit both children and adults.”

The elementary school, located in the south end of Nephi where there is little infrastructure and where the closest park is more than a mile away, needed something that would make good use of some of the 13 acres of the school property, Ware said. The walking / fitness path has exercise stations and is six-foot wide to accommodate groups and families with dogs and strollers, which complements the playground located nearby.

“It’s like a park for our community,” Ware added. “It’s nestled in a grassy area and so attractive. Everyone is so excited to have it. We had about 200 people at the May ribbon cutting and more and more people are using it every day.” ■

“Ash Grove is my hero for helping us out with this project. All summer and before and after school, this fitness trail belongs to the community.”