# Slippery Rock Gazette

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# A Community Built of Crab Orchard Stone

**by Joel Davis**

Photos Supplied Courtesy Vicki Vaden and Cumberland Homesteads

In the dark days of the Great Depression, the U.S. government laid the foundation for a new community in Cumberland County, Tennessee. That community was built on a foundation of Crab Orchard Stone.

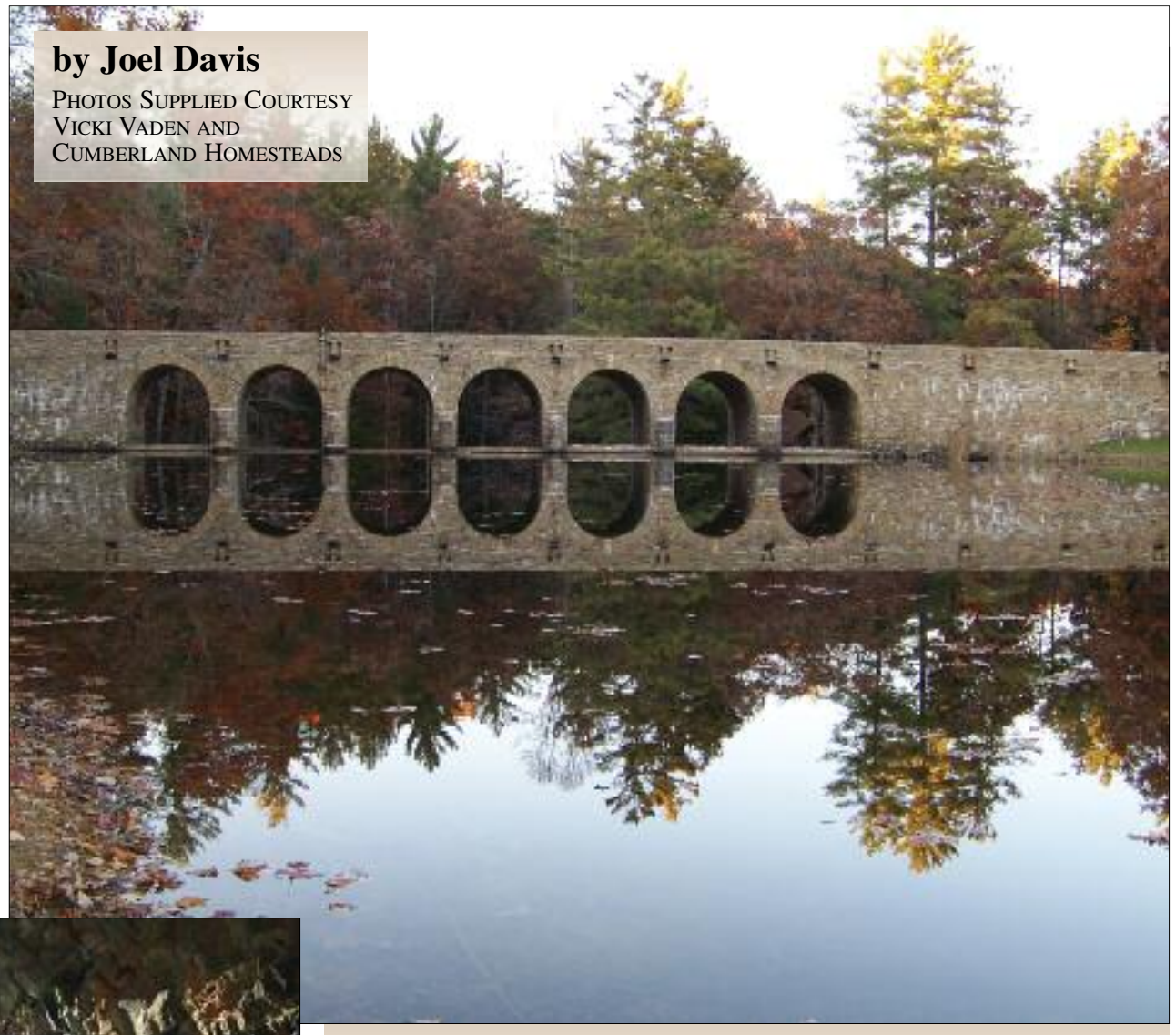
Located south of Crossville, the 10,000-acre Cumberland Homesteads Historic Site celebrates the legacy of the Subsistence Homestead Program, which was created through the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) of 1933.

The program literally built a working community of 250 homes from nothing, according to Vicki Vaden, a third generation homesteader who has been involved in promoting and preserving the history of the community.

"We wouldn't have a community without it," she said. "It was literally a community-building project. This was one of 100 similar projects that were built across the nation. We were one of the first and one of the largest. The government did a lot of experimental things here and evaluated them as they went along. Things they learned here, they were able to use in the other New Deal communities across the nation."

The historic homes are now privately owned, but the nonprofit Cumberland Homesteads Tower Association preserves the history of the area by operating the Homesteads Tower Museum and the Homesteads House Museum.

Preserving the history of the Cumberland Homesteads has a very personal meaning for Vaden, whose mother still lives in a Homestead house.



*The Cumberland Mountain State Park Bridge, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1935 and 1940, is faced with Crab Orchard Stone, a durable sandstone used in structures throughout Cumberland County. It serves both as a dam for Byrd's Lake and as a bridge for traffic moving through the park.*

"My grandparents on both sides of the family were original homesteaders," she said. "I'm a third generation. My mom and dad got the museum going."

The NIRA included $25 million in funding for the Subsistence Homestead Communities Program. The vision of the program was to create new, self-sustaining communities for people left unemployed by the Great Depression.

The centerpiece of the community is the eight-story Homesteads Tower, which was constructed with ubiquitous Crab Orchard Stone. It was built in 1937 to house the government administrative offices of the Cumberland Homesteads.

"The tower is a unique structure," Vaden said. "It was designed by the architect who designed the whole community. It was the crown jewel, the centerpiece of the community. The government offices were located at the base of the structure in four wings. The tower itself hid a 50,000 gallon water tank."

The tower is a work of beauty and craftsmanship. "The interior stonework you see as you go up the spiral staircase is just as beautiful as the exterior. Incredible, the skill the masons put into it."

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# A Community Built of Crab Orchard Stone

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The human touch of the artisans who built the tower are still evident if you look in the right places, Vaden said. "In the rotunda, you can actually see their fingerprints in the mortar between the stones in the floor."

Opened as a museum in 1984, the four large rooms at the base of the tower house a gift shop and historical displays. The museum's collection includes documentary photos and other items from the founding of the community in the 1930s and through its continuing development in the 1940s. The tower, the legacy of U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, is located 4 miles south of Crossville, TN at the junction of Highways 127S and 68.

In addition to the Tower Museum, the association operates the Homesteads House Museum at 2611 Pigeon Ridge Road in Crossville. The home has been restored to 1930s condition and is furnished with items provided by original homesteader families.

Architect William Macy Stanton designed the community and structures, which were built over a four-year period from 1934 to 1938. Stanton had a vision, Vaden said. "Our architect had just come from Norris, TN, where TVA was building their first dam. He had been asked to design the workers' houses up there. He was coming off that project, when the government asked him to design our community."

One of Stanton's goals was to use local materials that could be easily acquired, Vaden said. "He was a Quaker with a back-to-the-land philosophy. He looked at what materials were here on the ground that could be picked up and used. A lot of the stone used was fieldstone, but they also quarried a lot of stone. Everything he designed fit beautifully into the landscape."

Stanton was known as a collector of unique building materials particularly varieties of wood and stone. He appreciated the beauty of Crab Orchard Stone, Vaden said. "Some of our stone ended up in his fireplace in Pennsylvania."

The distinctive Crab Orchard Stone is marked by swirls and streaks. It ranges in color from pink to brown to bluish gray. It is a rare durable sandstone named after the eponymous town, Crab Orchard, TN, near which it is quarried. The stone gained fame after being used in building Scarritt College in Nashville. It was also used in buildings around Crossville such as the Cumberland County Courthouse.

The exteriors of the 250 Cumberland Homesteads houses were constructed of Crab Orchard stone. They were floored with hardwood and paneled with white pine and sometimes oak. Wired for electricity when built, the Cumberland Homesteads would have to wait three years to be hooked up as the Tennessee Valley Authority built its network of dams and power plants.

Stanton took his job very seriously and contributed greatly to the preservation of the community's history. "A lot of the historic photos we have in the museum archives were taken by Mr. Stanton during the building of the community. He was meticulous to record the date and subject of each photo and his collection is a priceless resource."

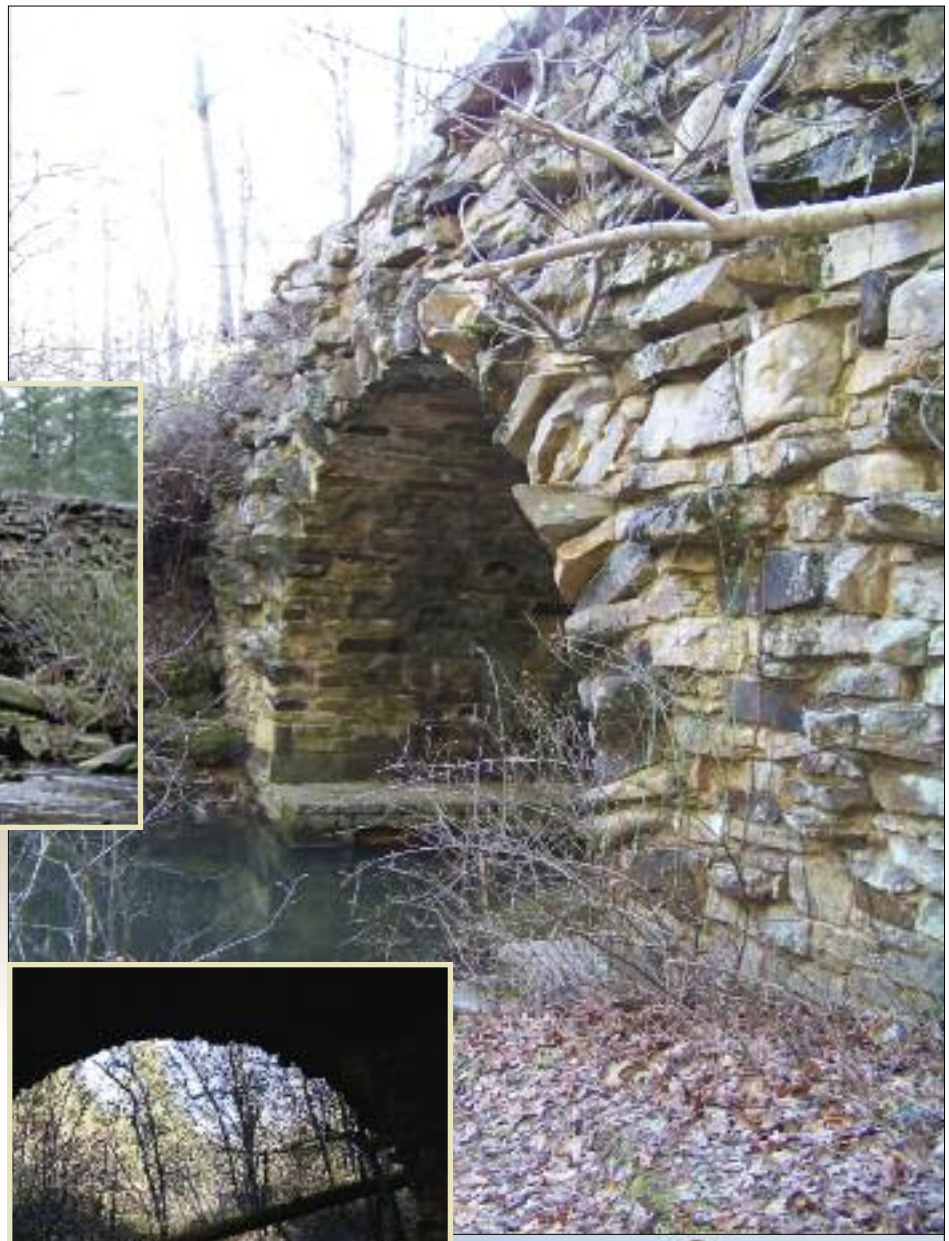
After the Cumberland Homesteads were built, the government began scaling its subsistence community projects back, Vaden said. "They actually got some complaints from some of the senators that this was way too nice for poor folks. But I think it was a chance of a lifetime for an architect like Stanton to be able to design a community from scratch. They gave him some flexibility. We are still getting the benefit from that."

The Cumberland Homesteads project created a community from whole cloth. It included buildings such as a trading post, cannery, loom house, mattress factory and hosiery mill. A school was built that is still in use today.

*Continued on page 3*

*Bottom Left: Located in Cumberland Mountain State Park, the Mill House was originally built to become a working grist mill. The government changed plans when local millers complained that a government-built mill would create unfair competition. Today, the Mill House can be rented as a group cabin.*

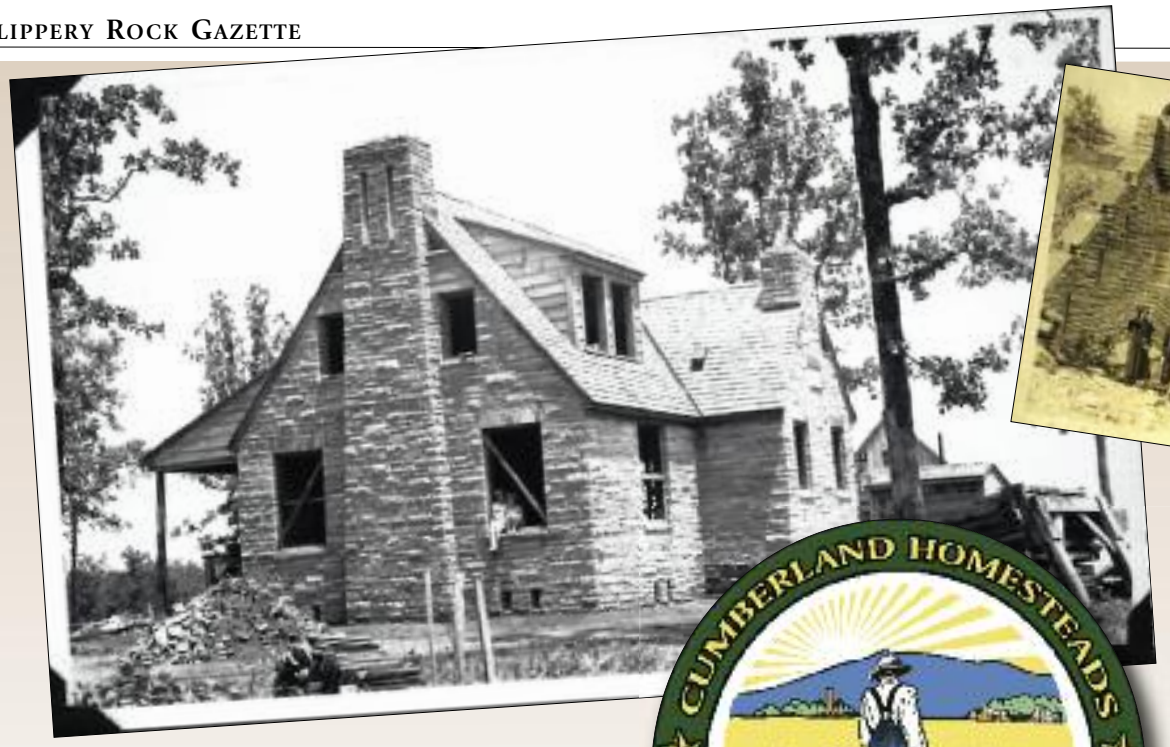
*Top Right and Inset: Three unique stone bridges were built, two using quarried stone and one using natural fieldstone. Cumberland Mountain State Park was built as a recreation area for the homesteaders' families and today is one of Tennessee's most popular state parks.*



*Above: Architect, William Macy Stanton told the stone masons to build the Old Mail Road bridge "as rustic as those bluffs," pointing to nearby stone outcroppings. When asked to explain further, he said, "I want it so an old cow can climb it."*

*Center: An historic marker stands nearby the 7-arch bridge at Cumberland Mountain State Park (see cover).*

*Bottom Right: This is a rare glimpse of stonework on one of the houses as interior wood paneling was being removed. There was no insulation between the stone and the paneling. There are wooden nailer boards embedded into the masonry, which the paneling was nailed to.*



*This stone cabin was one of the 250 homes that were built as part of the Cumberland Homesteads project. This picture was taken while the home was being built in June 1934.*

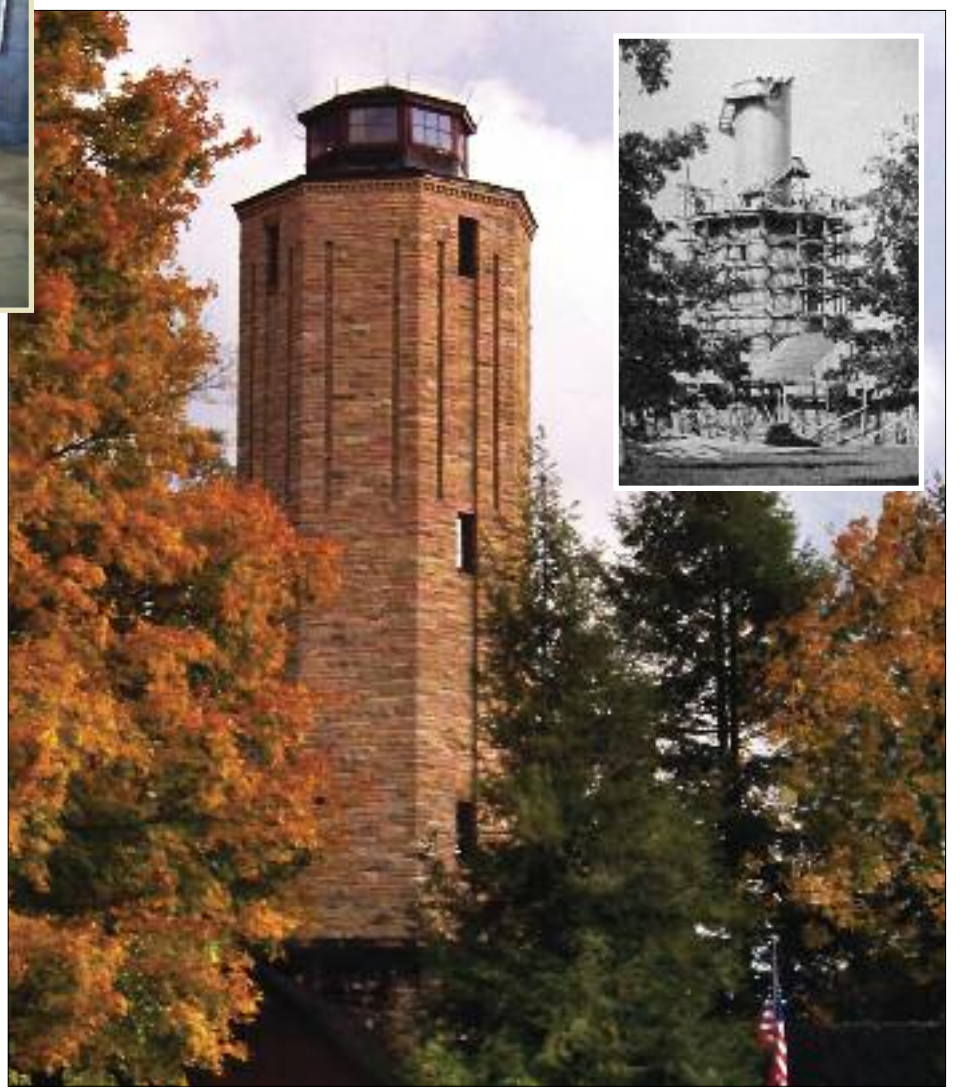
*Top Right: Before and after pictures illustrate the craftsmanship that went into the Byrds Creek bridge.*

*Center Right: Workers complete the bridge at Byrds Creek in Crossville, Tennessee. The bridge was constructed of the unique Crab Orchard Stone.*

*Above: The masons who built the Homesteads Tower, using tools such as these, put as much care into the interior walls of the tower as they did the outside.*

*Center: Interior of the Homestead Tower Museum with a poster about the 75th anniversary and logo.*

*Bottom Right and Inset: Homestead Tower Museum. This landmark structure was built in 1937-1938 to house the administrative offices of the Cumberland Homesteads, a project of FDR's New Deal.*



*Continued from page 2*

The first subsistence community built under the program was Arthurdale, W. Va. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt championed its construction. The Cumberland Homesteads came second.

The Division of Subsistence Homesteads purchased 10,000 acres of second-growth timberland from the Missouri Coal and Land Co. just south of Crossville, TN.

The homesteaders came from the Cumberland Plateau and surrounding communities. They included out-of-work coal miners and unemployed people who made their livings through factory or timber work. There were also bankrupt farmers who lost their farms during the Depression.

One of the important aspects of the project was the opportunity for men to learn new building trades that would elevate their prospects for finding employment after the community was built. "There were a lot of the homesteaders who learned to be stone masons," Vaden said. "Many followed that trade the rest of their lives." She believes the extensive use of Crab Orchard Stone in the buildings and bridges at the Homesteads helped to spur popularity for its use in other structures around the region.

"Those families were chosen to work together," Vaden said. "One of the things they agreed to do was look out for each other. That happens in all communities to some degree, but here it was actually talked about, and they encouraged neighbors to work together. They had a lot of opportunities to become close and they did."

The original homesteaders are nearly all gone, but Cumberland Homesteads remains as a 10,000-acre historic district. It's the largest in Tennessee.

The community itself is not trapped in the past, though, Vaden said. "We've managed to grow the community itself through the years," she said. "We've had a lot of newcomers, but we still retain our integrity as a historic community through the collective history of what happened here during the New Deal and the stone architecture that survives. It's just a really sweet place to live."

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IT never ceases to amaze what skilled craftsmen can do with a wedge, chisel and good stone. Our feature story profiles an amazing WPA-era project not an hour away from the *Slippery Rock*–the Cumberland Homestead Settlement. The houses, bridges and structures still in use today are a testament to the pride, hard work and determination of men and women seeking a life and living during hard times. Half-way around the globe, Torin Dixon visits and reports on the Xiamen Stone Fair, the Stone Detective concludes his investigation in Las Vegas, and our stalwart reporters bring you the latest industry news, good advice and our monthly measure of opinion. We welcome your feedback and suggestions–let us know what you think of our content online at www.slipperyrockgazette.net.


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# From the Publisher's Pen

## Slippery Rock Readers Have Higher Standards

I spent my fourth anniversary as publisher of the *Slippery Rock Gazette* at a stone fabricator's shop in Illinois. I had a wonderful time getting to know the people, learning how they did things and some of the challenges that they have faced over the last few years. This shop has survived and prospered by focusing on improving internal productivity and keeping a constant focus on the quality of the product. In other words, working smarter and not sacrificing standards out of fear.

Trying to make sense of the last four years has been a challenge for me, but here are a few observations:

**1.** The people who have survived the great recession (not that it is really over yet) are a tenacious bunch. Using government published figures, the housing industry is down almost 80% from 2006. Until now, I have not experienced or even read about an industry that survived this kind of downturn.

**2.** Adversity really causes the mind to work overtime. I have heard many stories over the last four years where people learned how to improve productivity and quality simultaneously. This activity has resulted in new products that save time and money.

**3.** Marginal products and marginal firms have been, and are being, squeezed out. I know that one of the presidential candidates has caught a lot of flack over the comment, "creative destruction of capitalism." Like it or not, there is evidence for the concept.

**4.** It is important to be an artist, to know how to create beauty, but it is not enough. You also need to be smart in running a business, knowing how to handle debt, serve customers and deal with burdensome government intrusions.

**5.** From my first trade show (Coverings 2008) till the present, I am simply awed by the beauty that is being created through the hard work of the readers of the *Slippery Rock Gazette*. Natural stone, porcelain tile, and decorative concrete help make the world that we live in a little better, and that is a very good thing.

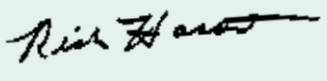
For those of you who are doubtful about the decline in the industry, I would suggest that one of the best indicators of the housing industry is the unadjusted, single family, new home completion numbers published monthly by the government. The latest numbers out at the time of this writing are January 2012. You might find the chart below illuminating.

**Housing Completions**
*Single family only, unadjusted monthly*

| January | Units |
|---|---|
| 2012 | **25,800** |
| 2011 | **28,400** |
| 2010 | **30,000** |
| 2009 | **39,000** |
| 2008 | **69,000** |
| 2007 | **103,900** |
| 2006 | **115,100** |

If you make it to Coverings 2012 in Orlando, stop by the Braxton-Bragg booth (#3496); I would love to meet you.

Hope you enjoy the read.



Rich Hassert

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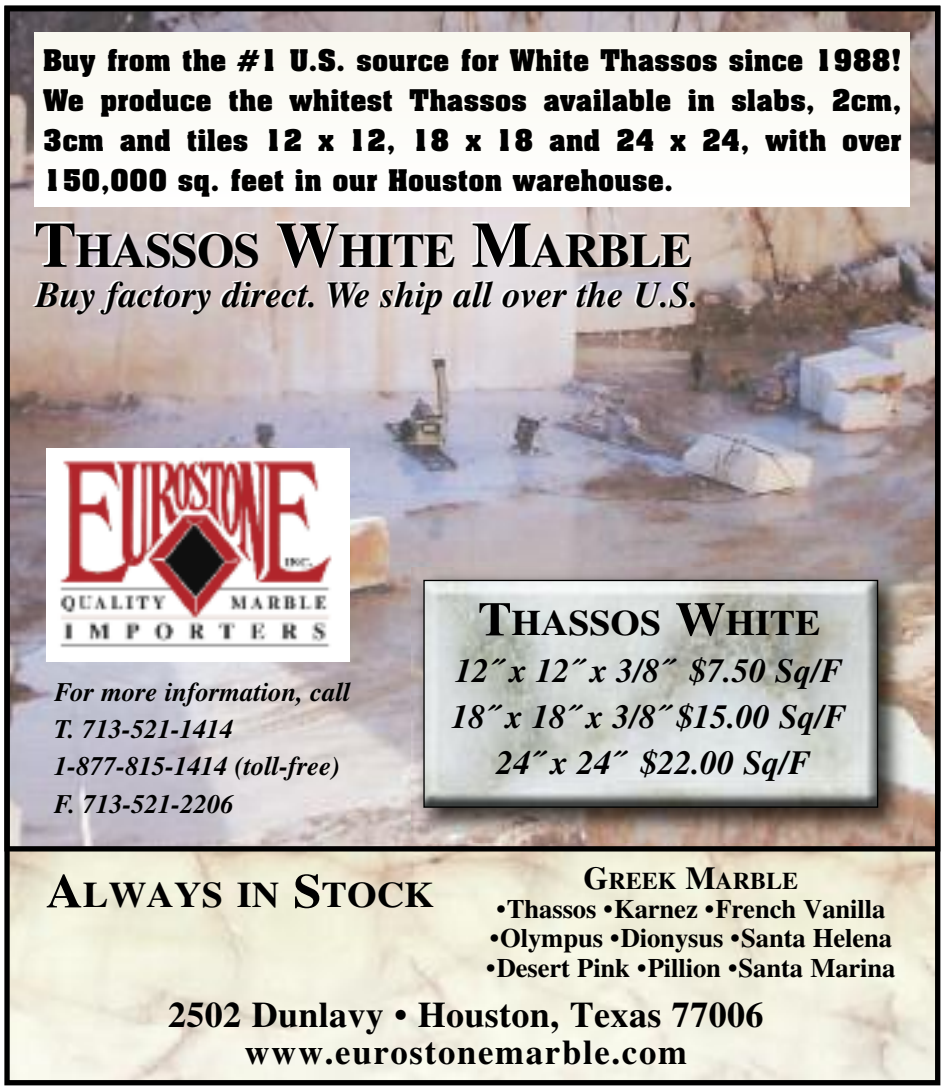



## The Two-Bit Terrorist

Authorities in Alaska say a man threatened to teach "crackheads" how to make "electromagnetic distortion devices" unless the state paid him $85,000.

Stanislaus Grzeskowiak, of North Pole, is charged with felony extortion and threatening harm. He was in jail on $2,500 bail.

Sgt. Jess Carson says the 36-year-old called state troopers and said he knew how to use discarded televisions to make devices that could block police radios, computer communication and cellphones. He also threatened to cut the communications of oil companies and credit card companies if he didn't get the money.

Authorities say Grzeskowiak blames the state and companies for his financial situation, lack of education and marital problems.

Grzeskowiak is represented by the public defender's office. Officials there didn't respond to requests for comment.

## Outlet Litter Box

One western Pennsylvania fire department learned that there's not necessarily fire wherever there's smoke.

New Castle's assistant fire chief Jim Donston told *The Associated Press* that firefighters were called when an electrical outlet on a floor was smoking, only to find that happened because the family's cat urinated into the outlet.

The *New Castle News* first reported the incident and Donston supplied more details.

The assistant chief said a Columbia Gas worker was at the house checking for a possible leak when he noticed the smoking outlet and called the fire department about 7:30 p.m.

Donston says firefighters "found the receptacle wet from cat urine" and shut off the electrical supply to that circuit.

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# Letters to the Publisher

THIS LETTER TO THE PUBLISHER IS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE ARTICLE, "FONT-CHECKER" AND OTHER ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENT JOBS THAT RAN IN THE 2012 MARCH ISSUE OF THE *SLIPPERY ROCK GAZETTE* (PG. 6), COMMENTING ON THE FINAL RULES THE SUMMARY OF BENEFITS AND COVERAGE PROVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES' CENTER FOR CONSUMER INFORMATION AND INSURANCE OVERSIGHT (CCIIO) ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 9, 2012.

Mr. Hassert,

Please accept this comment in reference to your comments about the format and font size required for the SBC from the CCIIO. I believe the reason could be that printing on both sides of the paper and using a 12-point font creates a document that conserves paper and is large enough to read easily, but is not so large as to waste ink. This is a very CONSERVATIVE way of printing. Judging from your usually conservative remarks, I would think you would be in complete agreement, even if it is somewhat imposed.

I believe our present administration is now wise to the tools that are used to thwart their ideas. The original Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) that was passed by Congress was no longer than the "No Child Left Behind" legislation that was passed by the previous administration. The Republican leadership had it printed in a large type edition so they could wave a 3˝ thick book in front of the cameras and decry its complexity.

This action, in my opinion, was anything but conservative. It was just more "smoke and mirrors" that has now gutted what could have been a good first step in tackling the enormous financial burden that is our health care system. I'm not telling you but I am asking you to keep an open mind about such things. We're going to be hearing a lot of disinformation for the next eight months.

Very sincerely,
Steve Carroll
Carroll Memorials, Inc.
King, North Carolina

---

Mr. Carroll,

First of all, thank you for your letter and thank you for reading the *Slippery Rock Gazette.* You make a great point in comparing "No Child Left Behind" with "Obama Care." I have long considered "No Child" as the Republican version of "Obama Care." It seems to me that both laws are intrusive, expensive and damaging to our country. While the quality of our K-12 public school system is certainly a concern, and taking care of those who cannot afford health care is a need, both solutions from both political parties seem to me to miss the mark.

I applaud the recent actions of the administration to grant some states waivers to "No Child Left Behind." I would urge the President to grant waivers to all states and then to challenge the leaders in congress to work together to repeal it. If the Republicans balked, it would probably help the President at election time.

Waste and inefficiency knows no political boundaries. I think it was President Reagan who said, "To compare Congress to drunken sailors is an insult to drunken sailors." Of course, I would suggest waivers and repeal regarding "Obama Care."

I also agree with you that we are hearing a great deal of disinformation coming from Washington. For example, not long ago, the individual mandate was a Republican idea before it became a Democrat idea.

As a side note, I enjoyed your video on the Carroll Memorials. website. Video can be a great educational tool and can take stress out of the buying process. I would urge our readers to check it out at www.carrollmemorials.com.

Best regards,

Rich Hassert

Rich Hassert

*Responses from our avid readers to any of the articles appearing in the* Slippery Rock Gazette *are always encouraged, and we will try to print as many as possible. If you would like to comment, please send an email to publisher@slipperyrockgazette.net or just simply go online to www.slipperyrockgazette.net, click on the "contact" button, then leave a comment with your contact information, in the boxes provided.*

# Crazy Little Thing Called Love

*Auntie Mae's Various Ramblings on Life in a Small Town*

**Ida Mae Nowes**
*Nubbins Special Correspondent*

WHEN LOVE IS NOT MADNESS, IT IS NOT LOVE," AN OLD POET ONCE SAID, AND I'M JUST CRAZY ENOUGH TO AGREE.

Last month I told how the invitation to my wedding to Merl Demonbreun at 4 o'clock on March 25th was accidentally printed in the *Nubbins Gazette*, opening up the event to the entire town. The fallout from that mistake not only annihilated the carefully thought-out wedding plans, it threatened the marriage itself. When I finally had the nerve to tell Merl about it, he wanted to simply print a retraction in the paper. But I couldn't bring myself to do it.

"You haven't lived in Nubbins your whole life like I have, Merl," I whined at him over the phone. "Half the people in this town think of me as their auntie. It was bad enough that I was planning to limit the original guest list to 60, but to open it up to the community and then change my mind – even if it was a mistake – that would seem like an incredible snub. I'd never live it down."

"Aren't you the one who said the wedding was not about pleasing other people?" Merl asked sarcastically. "Even if we were to go through with this, how could we possibly feed all these people?" Things were definitely not looking good.

"What about bagging the whole thing and eloping?" Merl asked.

"I can't imagine getting married without my close friends by my side," I sulked.

"And my mother would kill us," Merl sighed.

In the end, we decided to sleep on it before making a decision, but our goodbyes that night were a bit frosty.

The next day, my young friend Johnny Mac stopped by with Mae the dog.

"I'm sorry, Johnny Mac, I don't have time to chat right now," I said, distracted, as I stood at the kitchen door. But Mae began nuzzling my hand, so I took a moment to pet her.

"That's okay," Johnny Mac said. "My mom just wanted me to give you this dish you left at the church potluck supper on Wednesday." He handed me my glass casserole dish, then added, "Pretty cool you having that big party for your wedding. I was hoping Mae might be in it, but that'll be fun, too. Will there be balloons?"

I stopped for a moment and stared at him. "Johnny Mac, you're a genius!" I said.

"What is it?" he asked.

"You've given me an idea …"

You never know what kind of weather March will bring, but March 25th this year dawned about as perfectly as a spring day can – blue skies, birds singing, and a promise of temperatures in the low 70s. In the open lot next to my house was a big white tent, with bunches of yellow and white balloons tied to its poles. Beneath the tent were the tables and chairs we had borrowed from the church.

At 4:00, Merl and I smiled broadly as we calmly greeted our many guests, each one bearing a potluck dish.

"Great idea you had about putting that 'correction' in the newspaper reminding everyone to bring a potluck dish," my friend Roberta said to me as she carried a carafe of coffee out to the tent. "I'm sure that cut out about half your guests," she added with a snicker.

The string quartet played softly in the corner of the yard, with plans to ramp up the tempo in an hour or so. People were laughing and sharing conversations, and I must say I looked fabulous in the lemon yellow dress my friend Myrtle helped me pick out. About 4:20 I got the question I knew people would eventually start asking.

"Ida Mae, hon, when is the wedding ceremony going to start?" Martha Crabtree asked.

"Oh, I thought everyone had heard," I responded with a very sweet smile. "The invitation in the paper was actually for the reception. The ceremony was this afternoon at 2:00."

"What? Oh, my goodness," Martha stammered. "I'm so sorry I missed it. Was it just lovely?"

"Yes, it was," responded Merl, who had just walked up and taken my hand. "Especially the part when Johnny Mac and Mae came in carrying the wedding rings."

"You mean that dog with the bow around her neck?" asked Martha, looking over at Mae, who was sniffing under a table looking for fallen crumbs. "Oh, I wish I had been here," she moaned. "Am I the only one who missed it?"

"Unfortunately, there were a few others who didn't make it, but don't worry," I assured her. "This is the fun part. There will be dancing soon, you know."

Martha's face perked up and she headed back to the food table. I saw her talking to others and hoped she was spreading the word to everyone who might be expecting a wedding ceremony – the one that was held two hours earlier with just our closest friends and family. Merl whispered in my ear, "Ida Mae, you're a little bit crazy."

"I know," I whispered back. "That's why you married me."

Mae barked in agreement.

# Waterjet Manufacturer Jet Edge Cuts Logo for National Geographic Channel's "Diggers"

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TV'S NEW SHOW "DIGGERS" FEATURES A METAL "DIGGERS" LOGO CUT BY WATERJET MANUFACTURER JET EDGE, INC. THE WATERJET-CUT LOGO IS FEATURED PROMINENTLY AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH EPISODE.

Diggers, which piloted with two episodes on Feb. 28, features the zany treasure hunting adventures of Tim Saylor and George Wyant, extreme metal detecting experts and founders of AnacondaTreasure.com. During the opening of each episode, "Team ATC's," "King George" and "Ringmaster Tim" dig up the Diggers logo cut by Jet Edge.

Jet Edge cut the ¼″ steel Diggers logo with a 90KSI X-Stream-powered Jet Edge High Rail Gantry waterjet cutting system. To distress the part and encourage faster rusting, Jet Edge's test lab crew ran a fan-tipped waterjet head over the finished part to rough up the surface, then raised the water level in the tank and let the part soak overnight under water on top of metal slats. The part was then sprinkled with sidewalk salt and left on the slats for a day to continue rusting. Within two days, Jet Edge had a part that looked like it had been in the ground for years waiting for Diggers to find it.

Both pilot episodes of Diggers were scheduled to run again at 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. CST March 3 and 10 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. CST March 4.

For more information about Jet Edge, visit www.jetedge.com, e-mail sales@jetedge.com or call 1-800-JET-EDGE (538-3343). Follow us on Twitter @jetedge.

For information about Diggers, visit http://channel.nationalgeographic.com.

### *About Jet Edge*

Established in 1984, Jet Edge is a global designer and manufacturer of waterjet systems for precision cutting, surface preparation and coating removal. Jet Edge systems are used around the world in a broad range of industries, from the world's leading airlines to automotive, aerospace, industrial manufacturers, machine and job shops. Jet Edge waterjets are proudly made in the USA.

# The Power Wedge Slab Separator Saves Lives, Saves Fingers

Braxton-Bragg now offers a simple, low-cost slab safety device to help prevent employee injuries.

The Power Wedge Slab Separator increases the distance between slabs so clamps are more easily inserted. It helps eliminates the common and hazardous practice of workers trying to manhandle the slabs, which can lead to injured fingers or even worse injuries, said Steve Bussell, Braxton-Bragg product manager.

"This is for separating slabs – making it easier for the lifter to be able to get to the stone and remove a slab," he said. "This helps to separate them."

There are two wedges include in the separator kit, Bussell said. "The smaller orange one can get you started. You can put the larger green one in, and it locks in place. It's convenient because one fits inside the other, so you don't have two of them floating around."

Selling for only $19.95, the Power Wedge provides value far beyond the price, Bussell said. "Even though it's a very inexpensive product, it's one that's a must. Every shop should have this product."

Any step to increase safety on the job pays dividends, he said. "You just need to take every precaution you can."

For additional information on these products, contact the sales reps at Braxton-Bragg. Call toll free, 1-800-575-4401.

Braxton-Bragg offers a full range of fabrication tooling and installation accessories including sinks, installation hardware, and every tool and piece of equipment needed to run a professional stone, tile, and polished concrete shop.

For more information about Braxton-Bragg and its publications and products, contact them toll-free at 800-575-4401 or visit the website www.braxton-bragg.com for current sales and new products.

# Tile Redi® Appoints Steven Desher as Regional Sales Manager

Tile Redi®, world-leading manufacturer and marketer of pre-formed, one-piece, innovative, Tile Ready® shower products, has appointed Steven Desher to the position of Regional Sales Manager.

Desher has been appointed to handle commercial jobs which include hospitality, health care facilities, senior living and dormitories for Tile Redi's patented line of leak-proof, shower pans and related items. He will be working out of the company's Coral Springs headquarters.

Desher has previously sold to distributors and contractors and feels that his experience selling to consumers is going to help him in his new position at Tile Redi®, "I am excited about selling a unique product, that is not a 'me too' product," says Desher.

Desher sees being awarded the RSM position is a great opportunity, however does not intend to be content with resting on his laurels, "My goal is to exceed the sales goals Tile Redi has set for me."

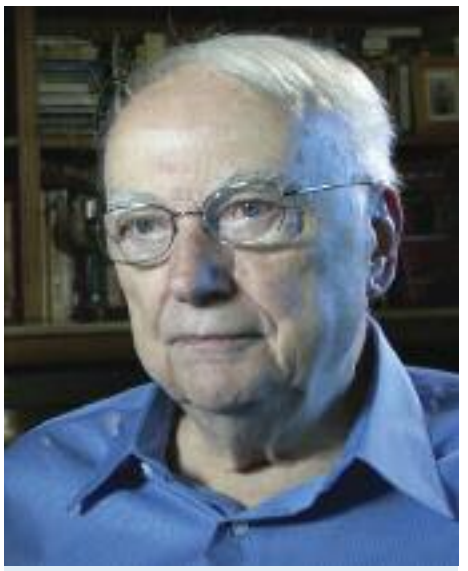
Tile Redi's patented and UL-listed shower pans and other innovative tile ready products are manufactured as pre-formed, one-piece shower modules. Complete with fully integrated drains, curbs and splash walls, each leak-proof and mold free unit is pre-pitched for easy drainage and immediately ready for tile.

*Steven Desher has been appointed to the position of Regional Sales Manager by Tile Redi®.*

By solving water intrusion problems, Tile Redi® shower pans inhibit the growth of mold and mildew. For more information, please contact Tile Redi®, 4450 NW 126th Avenue, Suite 101, Coral Springs, FL 33065, call 800-232-6156, or go online at www.tileredi.com.

# Ronald Allen Busse Receives 2011 MIA Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement

Ronald Allen Busse, who spent over 50 years in the natural stone industry, has been awarded the 2011 Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Marble Institute of America (MIA).



*Ronald Allen Busse, who spent over 50 years in the natural stone industry, has been awarded the 2011 Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Marble Institute of America (MIA).*

Busse accepted the award at the annual MIA Awards Luncheon held during StonExpo/Marmomacc Americas 2012 in Las Vegas, NV.

Busse began his career in the stone industry in 1951 when he started working for Tennessee Marble. Busse recalls his first days in our industry, "When I started at Tennessee Marble, I was about as low as you can get in the business; I did a little janitorial work. I was what they called a mill clerk. I was mainly a runner from the main office to the mill office. And, then as things progressed, I got into shipping and a lot of other things."

Wherever they sent Busse, he had tremendous eagerness, curiosity, and a large capacity for learning. He learned the rudiments of drafting, which he more fully developed when Tennessee Marble sent him to night school at the University of Tennessee to learn architectural drafting.

Eventually promoted to plant superintendent, Busse stayed with Tennessee Marble, which had been acquired by the Georgia Marble Company until 1962. He then joined the Ultra Marble Company (now New Mexico Travertine, Inc.) which is just outside of Albuquerque, NM.

From 1967 to 1970 he worked for Vermont Marble in Texas, as well as Vermont, and in 1970 he joined McHarg Tile and Marble; a Fort Worth fabricator. In 1975, Busse started his own fabricating company, Busse Marble Company, in Smithfield, Texas. Beginning with just two guys in the shop, Busse Marble eventually grew into a firm of 75 fabricators and installers.

Ron Busse first became involved in MIA in 1960, and later in his career put the same passion into his work for the association as he did learning the business itself. Ron first became a member of the MIA Board of Directors in 1979, and served as secretary in 1980. In 1986, he was elected treasurer and in 1987 moved up to vice president. He assumed the position of MIA President in 1988.

Busse was very involved in the creation and publication of both volumes of MIA's *Dimension Stones of the World*, a major association undertaking to organize, secure, test, photograph and then publish examples of available dimension stones.

The reference books were made available to the stone industry, to architects, and others in the design community. The "color plate books" as they became known, are still being sold through the MIA bookstore. By serving as an author and technical advisor, he played an important role in the updating of MIA's *Dimension Stone Design Manual, Volume IV*.

He served the MIA in the additional capacity of Technical Director from 1990 to 1995, and when Vince Migliore, for whom MIA's lifetime achievement award is named, passed away suddenly in 2003, Ron Busse was pressed into service in January 2004 until a permanent replacement was hired.

In looking back at a career that spanned more than sixty years in the stone business, Busse, simply says, "I wanted to be better all the time." The MIA Board of Directors, over 1,600 members from around the world, and executive staff salute Ronald Allen Busse for his tremendous career and thank him for his years of service to the natural stone industry and the MIA.

**About the Marble Institute of America**

For over 65 years the Marble Institute of America (MIA) has been the world's leading information resource and advocate for the natural dimension stone industry. MIA members include marble, granite, limestone, sandstone, and other natural stone producers and quarriers, fabricators, installers, distributors, and contractors around the world.

## Quote of the Month

"Achievement results from work realizing ambition."

**— Adam Ant (1954-)**
**English Musician**

# How to Create a Marketing Plan

**Sean McCool**
*Direct Marketing Strategist*

IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT DEVELOPING A MARKETING PROGRAM, YOU NEED TO BEGIN WITH A MARKETING PLAN.

Having been in marketing for most of my working life, I have seen my share of marketing plans. Some are short and to the point, others are hundreds of pages thick and cost thousands of dollars to produce.

The irony is that many of the expensive marketing plans end up on a shelf and rarely get implemented. However, the simple plans, if researched and implemented effectively, still have tremendous impact.

Best of all, it's never too late to create a marketing plan. There are a few things you need to know. For instance:

Regardless of the scope of your marketing plan, you must keep in mind that it is a fluid document. Every business needs to begin with a well-structured plan that is based on thorough research, competitive positioning and ideas you can actually pull off.

Your plan should be the basis for your activities over the coming months. However, you should always be willing to enhance or redirect your plan based on what proves to be most successful.

With that said, here is my *10 Steps to Profits Marketing Plan Formula™*.

### *1. Market Research*

Collect, organize, and write down data about the market that is currently buying the product(s) or service(s) you sell. Some areas to consider:

- Market dynamics, patterns including seasonality
- Customers–demographics, market segment, target markets, needs, buying decisions
- Product–what's out there now, what's the competition offering
- Current sales in the industry
- Benchmarks in the industry
- Suppliers–vendors that you will need to rely on

### *2. Target Market*

Find niche or target markets for your product and describe them. Look for a certain kind of business or person to send your message to. The more specific you can be the better your marketing can be.

### *3. Product*

Describe your product. How does your product relate to the market? What does your market need; what do they currently use; what do they need above and beyond current use? What do they really want? What do they want to feel after getting your product?

### *4. Competition*

Describe your competition. Develop your "unique selling proposition." In other words, what makes you stand apart from your competition? What is your competition doing about branding?

### *5. Marketing Statement*

Write a few sentences that state:

- "Key market" – who you're selling to
- "Contribution" – what you're selling
- "Distinction" – your unique selling proposition

### *6. Market Strategies*

Write down the marketing and promotion strategies that you want to use or at least consider using. Strategies to consider:

- Networking – go where your market is
- Direct marketing – sales letters, brochures, flyers
- Advertising – print media, directories
- Training programs – to increase awareness
- Write articles, give advice, become known as an expert
- Direct/personal selling
- Publicity/press releases
- Trade shows
- Web site

### *7. Pricing, Positioning and Branding*

From the information you've collected, establish strategies for determining the price of your product, where your product will be positioned in the market and how you will achieve brand awareness. Remember, there's a reason we have both Walmart and Macy's. Different customers buy for different reasons.

### *8. Budget*

Budget your dollars. What strategies can you afford? What can you do in house, what do you need to outsource to a professional?

### *9. Marketing Goals*

Establish quantifiable marketing goals. This means goals that you can turn into numbers. For instance, your goals might be to gain at least 30 new clients or to sell 10 products per month, or to increase your income by 30% this year. Your goals might include sales, profits, or customer satisfaction. If you can measure it, you can and will improve it.

### *10. Monitor Your Results*

Test and analyze. Identify the strategies that are working.

How? You can: survey customers, track sales, leads, visitors to your web site, upsells on the jobsite, referrals, etc.

Let me say it again: If you can measure it, you can and will improve it.

By researching your markets, your competition, and determining your unique positioning, you are in a much better position to promote and sell your product or service. By establishing goals for your marketing campaign, you can better understand whether or not your efforts are generating results through ongoing review and evaluation of results.

As mentioned earlier in this article, be sure to use your plan as a living document. Successful marketers continually review the status of their campaigns against their set objectives. This ensures ongoing improvements to your marketing initiatives and helps with future planning.

*Sean McCool is a an award-winning marketer and success coach. He can help you create marketing materials or just talk with you about what's possible for your business. You can contact or leave a message for him through his website www.SeanMcCool.com.*

# Arley's "Eye Candy" Offers Great Visuals and Great Profit Potential

Arley introduces its "Eye Candy Collection," an amazingly comprehensive range of stone, glass, metal, porcelain and metal mosaics mounted on sturdy 6˝ x 12˝ display boards.

"The color palette of Eye Candy runs the complete range from beige to burgundy, from green to blue," stated David Lowe, Arley's Vice President/Sales, who was the person that created/spearheaded this innovative project. "We have invested in a gas-aided wrapping program, which helps pack and seal the deliveries incredibly securely so they won't break in transit. Because of this," continued Lowe, "Eye Candy is available to ship nationally with no worries and no display assembly required… showroom people can set up the examples themselves, in any type of combination they come up with… right after receiving their delivery!"

Currently, Arley already has an extensive range of standard Eye Candy designs and according to Lowe, "many more will be coming out very soon.

"We did our homework prior to launching this series," he added. "We know this product line will sell in a big way. For example, samples and tiles are not shipped in boxes ending on the showroom floor. The boards are pre-assembled and are available to immediately show the customer exactly what they will get."

Family-owned for three generations, Arley Wholesale remains the tile and stone supplier of choice by providing exceptional customer service, reliability and value to its customers. Arley Wholesale, Inc. 700 North South Road, Scranton, PA 18504. Call 800-233-4107 or go online at www.arleywholesale.com.

# Lakeside Solid Surface Inc. Joins Elite Artisan Group

Lakeside Solid Surface Inc. has been selected as a member of the Artisan Group, a national organization of 35 independent countertop fabricators who joined together to offer their own brands of premium countertops including: Artisan Stone Collection™ granite and marble, Saratoga Soapstone and Heritage Wood.

The Artisan Stone Collection is the first and only granite countertop with a residential limited lifetime warranty, available in Michigan, exclusively through Lakeside Solid Surface Inc.

The exclusive deal brings another first-class product to Lakeside Solid Surface's premium lineup. As a company renowned for its customer service, craftsmanship, and pursuit of quality products, the partnership was an obvious win for both companies. "Joining the Artisan Group is a great way for us to differentiate ourselves from our competition," says Rob Riegler, Lakeside Solid Surface president. "We know that our dealers will appreciate Lakeside bringing a comprehensive granite package into Western Michigan. As an Artisan Group member and fabricator, our customers will have the assurance they are receiving the highest quality of stone, fabrication and installation available."

The introduction of this new inventory to the region will simplify the process of choosing granite, while the limited life time warranty will put customers at ease.

**About Lakeside Solid Surface**

Established in 1992, Lakeside Solid Surface Inc. is one of the largest fabricators of quartz, solid surface, and natural stone in the Midwest. The company was founded by current President, Rob Riegler, who began as a certified Corian fabricator. The deal represents the second exclusive product now offered by Lakeside Solid Surface.

Recently, industry leading quartz manufacturer, Cambria honored the company's focus and commitment by recognizing Lakeside Solid Surface Inc. as the 14th Lexus Partner in North America. For more information, call 231-798-8872.

**About Artisan Group**

With 35 members and growing, Artisan Group covers most major markets in the U.S. and Canada, and it can handle a variety of fabrication needs from a local to national scale. Its members average more than 20 years of fabrication experience in the countertop industry, and all Artisan Group members have achieved, or have begun the process to achieve, full accreditation with the Marble Institute of America.

The group is among the first granite fabricators in the world to be working towards this distinction. Brands of the Artisan Stone Collection include Exotic & Classic Granite, Modesto Granite and Saratoga Soapstone. It also offers a marble collection as well as Heritage Wood surfacing products.

Apart from countertops, the Artisan Group supplies the Firstline collection of granite care products as well as Kohler sinks and faucets through an exclusive specialty dealer program with the Kohler Company. For more information, visit www.artisan-counters.com.

## Spring Quote of the Month

"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want —oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"

**— Mark Twain (1835-1910)**
**American author and humorist**

# FloForm Countertops Ltd. First in Its Industry to Achieve Coveted 50 Best Managed Companies in Canada Award

*Ted Sherritt (center), owner of FloForm Countertops, accepts the 50 Best Award.*

SURFACE FABRICATOR, FLOFORM COUNTERTOPS LTD., IS THE FIRST FABRICATOR IN CANADA TO ACHIEVE THE PRESTIGIOUS STATUS OF ONE OF THE 50 BEST MANAGED COMPANIES IN CANADA.

This award celebrates Canadian business excellence and is one of the country's leading business awards program, recognizing excellence in Canadian-owned and managed companies with revenues over $10 million.

"We will now be able to proudly display the '50 Best' logo, which for us symbolizes that we are among the best entrepreneurial companies that compete for this designation and look forward to the future in meeting this standard year after year" says Britt Karlson, Chief Operating Officer of FloForm.

FloForm goes above and beyond to be the best. The company is a member of Artisan Group, an elite group of fabricators that owns their own brands and backs up their products. The group is striving to be the first to achieve 100% Marble Institute of America (MIA) Accreditation. FloForm was the first fabricator in Canada to earn this MIA standard. This, combined with the 50 Best Managed Companies in Canada Award makes them virtually unstoppable.

"FloForm is very proud to be the first countertop fabricator in Canada to reach this distinction," says Ted Sherritt, President and CEO of FloForm. "Our great employees strive everyday to be the best in the industry with respect to customer service, product offering, safety, and innovation and this process is a strong indication that their hard work and dedication is a testament to this achievement."

### *About FloForm Countertops*

Established in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1961, FloForm Countertops is Western Canada's and the Northwestern United States leading manufacturer of quality countertops. The company's started out with post-form laminate countertops over 50 years ago giving it the experience to expand into products such as Corian® solid surface, Cambria, Artisan Stone Collection and Heritage Wood countertops.

From the FloForm showroom to your home, our craftspeople and installation professionals are committed to ensuring that your countertop is a feature you'll be proud of for years to come. For more information regarding FloForm Countertops, visit them online at http://www.floform.com. Floform has locations in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria and Kelowna in Canada, as well as Seattle, Spokane and Portland in the United States.

### *About Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies*

To become a candidate for the 50 best, a company must apply based on four unique criteria:

- Must be a Canadian-owned and managed company
- Recognized overall business performance and sustainable growth
- Recognition of efforts of the entire organization
- Measures beyond the company's financial performance.

The application is evaluated by an independent and rigorous process that evaluates the caliber of a company's management abilities and practices.

After an independent panel of judges selects the final 50 annual award winners, these special companies are honored with the hallmark of excellence at a Gala Awards ceremony held in Toronto, Canada. Additional information about the program can be found at https://www.canadas50best.com.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All Braxton-Bragg products carry a 30-day, risk-free, money back guarantee. If you are not satisfied with your purchase, simply return it for a prompt and courteous refund.

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BETTER! FASTER! CHEAPER!

# Jet Edge International Sales Manager David Anderson Appointed to Minnesota District Export Council

Jet Edge, Inc., a St. Michael-based manufacturer of industrial waterjet cutting and surface preparation equipment, is pleased to announce that Jet Edge International Sales Manager David Anderson has been appointed by US Secretary of Commerce John Bryson to serve a four-year term on the Minnesota District Export Council (DEC).

The Minnesota DEC is a private, non-profit organization under direction from the U.S. Department of Commerce that brings together experienced international business people from the private sector who provide guidance and assistance in international markets. The council works alongside the U.S. Commercial Service to promote exports through business counseling, networking, education, and community outreach.

Anderson brings to the DEC more than 20 years of experience in international sales management to share with other small and medium sized businesses in Minnesota who are just beginning or thinking about exports as a way to grow their companies' revenues.

During his career, he has travelled extensively throughout the world and has established OEMs, dealers and distributors in approximately 35 countries on six continents. His accomplishments at Jet Edge include opening a sales, service and training office in China, establishing an R&D partnership with waterjet manufacturer Tecnocut S.p.A. in Italy and establishing new export sales for Jet Edge in Japan, China, South Korea, Poland, Italy, and the Middle East.

Anderson also has established a rigorous training program for all international distributors to ensure they are equipped to provide optimum service and support to Jet Edge's overseas customers.

For more information about Jet Edge, visit www.jetedge.com, e-mail sales@jetedge.com or call 1-800-JET-EDGE (538-3343). Follow them on Twitter @jetedge.

***About Jet Edge***

Established in 1984, Jet Edge is a global designer and manufacturer of waterjet systems for precision cutting, surface preparation and coating removal. Jet Edge systems are used around the world in a broad range of industries, from the world's leading airlines to automotive, aerospace, industrial manufacturers, machine and job shops. Jet Edge waterjets are proudly made in the USA.

*Jet Edge's David Anderson (left) is recognized by U.S. Secretary of Commerce John Bryson. Photo courtesy Jet Edge.*

## A Leap of "Fate"

A New Jersey mother born on February 29 beat 2 million-to-1 odds when she had her daughter — who was also born on Leap Day.

Michelle Birnbaum of Saddle River tells *The New York Post* that she'll use the occasion to teach her 4-year-old daughter Rose about science and the earth's cycles around the sun.

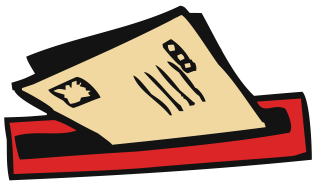
Birnbaum turned 32 this past Leap Day, but celebrated for only the eighth time on the actual date. It comes once every four years as the result of a system intended to keep the seasons, years, months and days in working order.

Birnbaum went into labor on Feb. 28, 2008, but Rose was born the following day.

She tells the newspaper she's delighted to have a "built-in party partner."

## Stuck on an Idiotic Idea

Police say it wasn't too hard to nab one would-be Belfast burglar — he managed to get his arm stuck while trying to reach through a front door letterbox.



Northern Ireland police say a passing patrol spotted the 17-year-old wrestling to free himself from a house's front door before sunrise. They say he had tried to reach the door's inner lock via the letterbox flap but his arm became hopelessly trapped.

Firefighters dismantled the door but left the letterbox clamped to the boy's arm until they reached a police station, where it was safely removed.

Police declined to identify the boy because he has yet to be charged.

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# The Big Why

**Richard Pierce Thomas**
*Leadership and Small Business Consultant*

THE BUCKET OF COLD WATER GOT MY ATTENTION, TAKING MY BREATH AWAY AS IT RAN DOWN MY BACK.

"What am I doing here?" I exclaimed, though no one could hear me. And even if they had, they wouldn't have understood a word I said.

It was day one of my recent mission trip to Les Anglais, Haiti. I had been anticipating the trip for months since my friend Jim had convinced me to tag along. Arriving in Les Anglais, the reality quickly sunk in as to how primitive our living conditions would be. No running water, electricity only for a few hours at night by generator and ninety-degree heat outmatched by the humidity.

"Welcome to Haiti," Jim said with a smile.

Thus, as I poured another bucket of water over my head, I began questioning my sanity in having made the trip. Venturing into town later that morning, we walked through narrow alleyways and street markets, passing one grass hut after another while children poured out of the darkened doorways in droves.

"Blanc, blanc," they exclaimed with wide eyes and pointed fingers as they followed us through town. Eventually the bold ones were hanging on anything they could grab hold of, inspecting our white skin with forensic curios-

ity. We made our way back to the compound and settled into the sanctuary where we opened our English/Creole phrase books and spent the rest of the day teaching each other words, laughing at the pronunciations. Through the broken translations and with the help of our interpreters, we learned about life in Haiti and the daily struggles they encounter. To say it was humbling would be an understatement of a lifetime.

Hunger is ubiquitous; access to basic healthcare virtually non-existent and education is a pipe dream for most. It's a seemingly impossible situation and it left me overwhelmed, the hopelessness of it draining me of what little energy I could muster in the heat. How could I possibly make a difference? resounded in my head without a satisfying reply.

As it were, the answer would come sooner than I expected as the third day in Les Anglais began with the Children's Program. We spent the morning building benches for the classrooms and afterward brought the kids together to present the supplies and gifts we had packed along for the trip. The students applauded politely as we handed the boxes of pencils, erasers and writing tablets to the teachers. It was the last gift however that was the game changer, though it had begun as no more than an afterthought. Just before leaving for Haiti, I'd asked the president of my local soccer club if he had any equipment the club could donate, explaining the trip.

"Of course," he said enthusiastically and offered some balls, cones and a few dozen old uniforms. Thus, as Jim hoisted a soccer ball up for all to see, sheer pandemonium broke out with shouts of "baloo, baloo" (Creole for soccer ball) echoing across the campground. It was in that moment that I realized why I was in Haiti—that for the rest of the day, as the kids chased each other around the rock-strewn field—they forgot about their hunger.

The experience of this has stuck with me as I've adjusted to being back home. I find myself viewing my problems from a different perspective. On my worst day, my issues aren't half as bad as what those kids face. And yet, they still found reason to laugh and express joy.

All of which has brought me back to reflecting on why I do what I do in my business. I am called to serve. Whether it is the clients in my business, the people in my community, or bringing some joy to children in Haiti, even if for just an afternoon. My trip to Les Anglais not only confirmed this, but also demonstrated when something meaningful transcends our own desires, then our business takes on a greater purpose. It has a Big Why.

If you find yourself consumed with challenges and worry, get out and serve someone. Perhaps you'll even learn what your Big Why is. I guarantee it'll be a game changer.

*Rick P. Thomas is President of Activate Leadership, a leadership development consultancy in Washington State. He consults and speaks to organizations across the country, focusing on individual and organizational achievement.*

# Stoneyard.com Launches New Design Tool: Online Project Visualizer

NATURAL NEW ENGLAND STONE VENEER PRODUCER STONEYARD.COM RELEASED A NEW ONLINE VISUALIZATION TOOL FOR CONTRACTORS, RETAILERS, HOMEOWNERS, ARCHITECTS AND OTHER STONE PROFESSIONALS.

The online Project Visualizer is a tool that will easily show potential stone consumers what their project will look like with their choice of stone before they buy.

"One of the hardest things for stone purchasers to figure out is whether a color and shape will look good on their fireplace, on their house, on their wall, etc. Now they can see how it will look in their space before placing even one stone!" says David Croteau, vice president of sales at Stoneyard.com.

"Just upload a picture of your potential stone project, select the location, choose from the many different New England Stone Veneer product options, save and view your before-and-after picture. It's that easy!" says Mr. Croteau.

This virtual mock-up can help narrow the choices for buyers, making the stone purchasing process less complicated.

This tool will not only show buyers different colors and shapes but also which stone will look best on their project.

For more information, to see an example of how this tool works or to try the new Project Visualizer, visit www.stoneyard.com/visualizer.

***About Stoneyard.com***

Stoneyard.com is the leading manufacturer of all-natural New England Stone Veneer. The company reclaims stone from New England farms and fields to craft a signature blend of colors called the Boston Blend into six shapes of stone siding for interior and exterior projects. Four additional colors complete the family of veneer products: Greenwich Gray, Colonial Tan, Vineyard Granite and Yorkshire Granite.

Stoneyard.com's natural stone has been used on commercial and residential projects and featured on This Old House, HGTV and the DIY Network, as well as in Stone Business magazine. It is available through building and masonry supply locations nationwide. Product photos, videos, specs, and free samples are available at www.stoneyard.com.

# MultiCam® Robot Slider Facilitates Welding Applications

MULTICAM® INC., A GLOBAL CNC CUTTING SYSTEM MANUFACTURER, DESIGNED ITS ROBOT SLIDER FOR THE ROUGH ENVIRONMENT OF ROBOTIC WELDING. IT'S ALSO IDEAL FOR HIGH-SPEED, HIGH-VELOCITY, MEDIUM-DUTY PICK-AND-PLACE APPLICATIONS, PAINTING AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES.

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MultiCam used state-of-the-art 3-D modeling software to design the Robot Slider and tested it with Finite Element Analysis (FEA) before releasing it to production. The frame is a stress-relieved, precision-machined weldment featuring only the best components. MultiCam assembles it with a hypoid beveled-gear precision planetary gearbox, automatic lubrication, integrated over-travel-limit switches, integrated lifting eyes, heavy-duty mechanical hard safety stops and leveling feet that anchor to the floor easily.

Optional tread plate covers protect precision components from splatter during welding operations. Modular design allows for extended lengths. The Robot Slider is available with quiet e-chain or conduit rail (bus bar) connectivity to extend the robot track by 1-meter increments. Inner dimensions are 9.84 inches wide by 2.2 inches high.

*MultiCam used state-of-the-art 3-D modeling software to design the Robot Slider and tested it with Finite Element Analysis (FEA). The frame is a stress-relieved, precision-machined weldment featuring only the best components.*

The MultiCam Robot Slider offers a new level of functionality and affordability

***About MultiCam***

Since 1989, MultiCam Inc. has manufactured thousands of CNC (computer numerical control) cutting solutions for various industries around the world. The innovative company integrates advanced technology and value in highly productive systems that are easy to use and built to last.

MultiCam manufactures CNC router, laser, plasma, waterjet and knife cutting machines at its 135,000-square-foot facility in North Texas. The global network of experts includes 70 MultiCam Technology Centers worldwide with 20 across North America.

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# Eddie Mendoza Awarded with 2011 MIA Natural Stone Scholarship Award

*Eddie Mendoza (left), a service technician with All American Stone and Tile Care in Victorville, CA, is awarded the 2011 MIA Natural Stone Scholarship Award.*

EDDIE MENDOZA, A SERVICE TECHNICIAN WITH ALL AMERICAN STONE AND TILE CARE IN VICTORVILLE, CA, HAS BEEN AWARDED THE 2011 MIA NATURAL STONE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD. THE SELECTION WAS MADE BY A PANEL OF 5 JUDGES, CONSISTING OF MIA BOARD DIRECTORS AND PAST PRESIDENTS.

Mendoza submitted a 500 word essay explaining his commitment to the natural stone industry. In his introductory paragraph, Mendoza wrote, "The lyrics from the classic Queen Song, 'We Will, We Will, Rock You,' now have a new meaning in my life. I had no idea coming into the stone industry the unlimited design and installation possibilities natural stone provides.

"After just one year in the industry, my intent is to be a valuable craftsman. One of the greatest things about working with stone are the challenges I face everyday, which require patience and intuition."

He continued, "Attending StonExpo would give me an opportunity to excel to the next level of my career. The potential knowledge I could receive from an event like this would maximize my skill and value to my employer.

"It would be my honor to be the first person to receive this award, representing the renovation/restoration segment of this industry. I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity."

In a letter of recommendation from the president of his company, David B. Walton said, "Eddie has shown a good mechanical aptitude and is self-motivated. He has been a steady learner and enjoys the craft he is developing.

"He is entering the phase of his development where he understands what the project at hand should look like in the end and has a good feel for varying techniques to achieve that result.

"We look forward to him continuing his development into the craftsman he has the ability to become."

MIA Executive Vice President, Garen Distelhorst, agreed with Walton, "Eddie is a fantastic representative of the younger workers in the natural stone industry. It was inspiring watching him soak up every piece of information he could find at StonExpo.

"Eddie was at education seminars first thing in the morning…he took full advantage of this opportunity and I sincerely hope the knowledge he gained at StonExpo helps him in his career."

This scholarship was established in 2004 to provide educational opportunities for aspiring fabricators, installers, or administrative apprentices interested in furthering their careers within the natural stone industry. Funds are made available through the generous donations of MIA members worldwide.

**About the Marble Institute of America**

For over 65 years the Marble Institute of America (MIA) has been the world's leading information resource and advocate for the natural dimension stone industry. MIA members include marble, granite, limestone, sandstone, and other natural stone producers and quarriers, fabricators, installers, distributors, and contractors around the world.

# The Lost Trade of Stone Cutting

*An Essay Describing Stone Construction Before Gang Saws or Compressed Air, 1800 to 1900*

**Joseph Conrad**
*Special Contributor*

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW THOSE OLD STONE CHURCHES, SO MUCH A PART OF PORTLAND'S IDENTITY, WERE BUILT? WALKING WITH MY FATHER, THE STONECUTTER, GAVE ME AN INTERESTING INSIGHT BACK IN 1965.

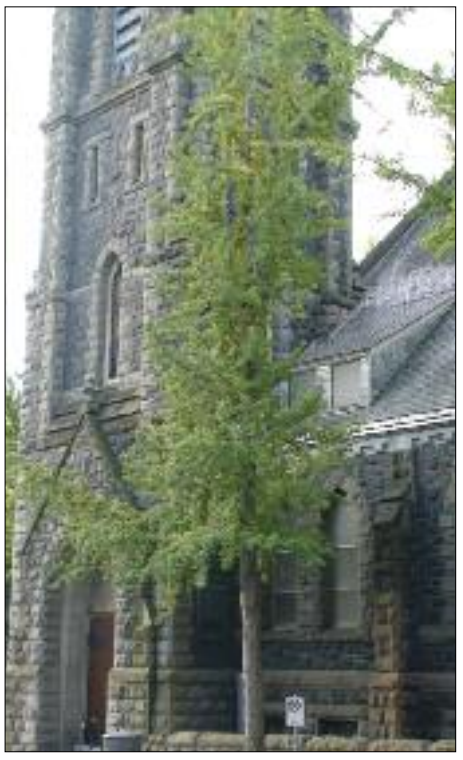
Thirty years ago when I was designing our company logo, I sketched a derrick lifting a mill block from a granite batholith and titled the company, "Joseph Conrad, Stonecutter," doubting that anyone would understand what the logo was or what the title "stonecutter" means. The quarry and the trade had both been long forgotten.

Back in 1917, Portland had a significant stone cutting industry, with 17 to 20 companies that supported hundreds of people. The times and technology changed over the years. By 1980, about the time I was designing my company logo, Portland had only one stone company, which probably supported 10 to 15 people.

Styles and tastes changed, and today, Portland may have around 30 stone companies supporting perhaps 500 people. But during these changes much has been lost, for few of the people in the current stone industry have any sense of history or an interest in stones other than as a means to make a living—although all of them demonstrate a healthy sense of romance towards stone, since that is an integral part of the stone business.

People who work with stone can leave permanent marks on the urban landscape. However, since for the most part, the urban landscape is defined by dimension stone–sandstone, limestone, marble, and granite– for this, we need to look at the sources of these materials to understand how these materials shape our city.

The urban landscape I call "stone footprints" for the most part is defined by technologies at stone saw mills, which are far from local stone



workers. But here I will focus on the small but important part of our past. The stonecutter, a long forgotten trade.

This is my personal understanding of the stonecutter. I have for most of my life lived on the West Coast, so I can speak little of the great body of stone history mostly located on the East Coast. So, my knowledge is somewhat local and does not include the work of marble cutters, again the result of geography. And of course, it excludes the monumental efforts of European stone workers of the 13th through 15th centuries.

A stonecutter by definition is one who cuts a stone by hand to a specific size to fit in a specific location among other cut stone pieces, making the whole, most often for a building.

I donated a book to the stone museum some years ago outlining the work of the stonecutter. It was about 45 pages, 5″ x 7″ pocket manual, filled with geometry, math equations of shapes describing solutions to architectural problems.

I think these sorts of working manuals existed for many trades, then. It was very complex reading, so I couldn't understand much. Imagine cutting a circular stair casing complete with step, facing, outside, and inside walls, with a circular base, the handrail and banisters in granite or marble.

For columns that fit, cutting the flutes in columns, arches, doorframes, windows frames, sloped sill coping, floors and ceiling radial patterns, or grades that wrap around a city block and align perfectly. A lot of three-dimensional math is required.

The first job I had in this industry was laying out large complex shapes full-size on the floor of a pattern room, then making zinc templates of each piece for stonecutters to apply to individual stone while shaping it, in 1959.

I don't know if early stone cutters had the luxury of such pattern making, but developing complex shapes in three planes with stone was part of their job. I presume to know a little, but my father and my two older brothers could calculate what dad called ramp and twist. My younger brother who was an artist in stone also could, but I could not.

The modern era of the stonecutters in the United States was from 1800 to 1920, when they were replaced by the gang saw (for the most part) although they still exist in large architectural and Memorial fabrication facilities is in the Midwest, East and Southeast, with the help of sawn slabs. I read once that there may be 300 stonecutters left in the United States.

I briefly apprenticed in a fabrication facility cutting dies, slants, hickeys and bases for monumental dealers. They mostly used 6 inch and eight inch sawn or polished slabs of granite.

Stonecutters talk of the subtleties of each type of granite amongst themselves. They all pitch differently. These Memorial cutters are offended by point marks or ill-defined corner lines, a sign of failure in stone cutting.

You won't survive as a memorial cutter if you can't drive a clean pitched face on a 10″ slab of granite, cutting from two sides with the handset and a specialized stonecutter's hammer. Stonecutters would stun a modern stone worker or government ergonomics inspector. No stonecutter could work with bent elbows. Swinging a 1-1/2 to 3 pound hammer 8 hours a day requires the work to be at hip level.

*Continued on page 20*

# The Lost Trade of Stone Cutting

*Continued from page 19*

**Here are some examples of local stone that gave rise to urban identities back then:**

- Portland, Oregon basalt and sandstone churches
- Vancouver, B.C. granite waterfront and public buildings
- San Francisco & Sierra Nevada white granite public buildings
- New York City brownstones
- Austin, Texas pink granite capital, historic public buildings
- Moriello, Mexico, city of pink limestone
- Jerusalem yellow limestone
- Minneapolis & Canadian shield granite and Kasota stone

Apprentice cutters were called lumpers whose job was to shovel up spalls for the stonecutters. I think there were many extra labor jobs back then. I met a stone polisher in Portland in 1968 who told me he knew my uncle Ted, a bricklayer and stonemason when he was a teenager working as a water boy for masons. Back then marble setters (installers) wore white shirts and ties in Portland in the 1920s and '30s.

Even though I worked in the stone trade for 15 years and had four years of college, I needed to attend a year-long Saturday brick layer school and serve a three-year apprenticeship before I was given a marble masons union card in 1975. Standards for craftsmen then were much more rigid, but today almost anyone can call himself a stone artisan.

My father told me that there were 2,000 stone workers living in the Knowles, California granite quarry in 1920 when he worked there. They were building San Francisco's city, state and federal buildings, post offices, courthouses, City Hall and the Customs house.

To me, these buildings are the most beautiful parts of San Francisco, all of which were built out of Sierra Nevada granite. We walked around several abandoned quarries looking at granite foundations of stone bunk houses in the lonely foothills of Madera County California. All gone now, flowers, live oak, and abandoned quarry holes full of water. They are on private property ranch land, with no easy access. These old quarries exist all over the country, a remnant of another time.

Back then the stonecutter traveled from job to job, city to city, following the work. They worked with local materials, giving rise to the urban identities we can still recognize. This was well before modern day mass production steel frame, stone skin buildings.

In fact, I often visit the Central Montana town of Lewistown. Croatian immigrant stonecutters, who settled there in the 1800s, built it out of local sandstone. When I first visited, no one seemed to know the source of the stone. After making inquiries, I found my daughter-in-law's great aunt Mary, who was ready and willing to help me. Two years later she took me to the town's old quarry. We took some pictures. There is a strong sense of local pride in Lewistown where the old stonework has not been painted over or covered by trendy designs.

I have spent five working vacations attempting to reopen old marble quarries in Southeastern Alaska (once owned by the Vermont Marble Company). These quarries provided much of the stone used on buildings throughout the West, where 60,000 blocks remain in the rain forest there on Marble Island. A pile of white marble, 40 feet long, 40 feet high and 3 miles long still lies on the ground covered by thick layers of moss (see photo above).

I have only found four places in the world where traditional stone cutters are still celebrated, by showing their tools in display cases. There may be others. The first is the State Historical Center in Helena, Montana and, second, a state building in Vienna, Austria. Both honor stone craftsmen.

The third is the Stearns County Museum in Minnesota, where I grew up. This building is located next to a granite quarry that is now used as a nature park. It has a sunken man-made exhibition quarry in it, showing the tools of the trade. It is a shame that Tenino, Washington does not have an exhibition since its community pool is an old quarry.

The Vermont marble company has a museum that recalls when their company once controlled almost all the marble work in the USA. However, it's more gratifying when noncommercial individuals provide the history lesson. It seems to suggest a more sincere interest.

As my father and I continued walking around the abandoned quarry, he told me stonecutters of his era were paid a dollar per hour and train fare to and from their home state. Great wages.

By comparison, electricians received 60 cents per hour at the same time. No wonder the stonecutters strutted the streets of San Francisco with their wooden, foldup tape measures in their back pockets on Sundays.

I don't know the exact delineation of jobs, but stonecutters worked at both the quarry and the actual jobsite at this time. In 1965, I was visiting with a 75-year-old memorial dealer from the bay area. He joked that so much stone dust came from a job shack that the insurance rates were so high, they reached up to the business across the street in to San Francisco. In that era, some lived, some died. My father told me he never expected to see 40 years. His three stonecutter brothers didn't live beyond 45.

Later, Dad and I came across a piece of granite, five feet wide, five feet long and six inches thick, lying among the wildflowers. All the edges were rough split, top and bottom, broken face.

Interestingly, there was a perimeter of 3 to 4 inches of point marks all around it. I asked my father what this was. I can still see him 50 years later. "You don't know? That's a level seat! The stonecutter prepared this stone for the surface drifter to hammer-point the top flat to his marks."

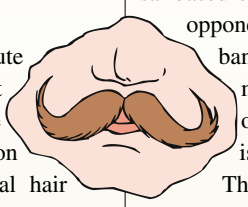
Years later it dawned on me, this is the fundamental beginning of every building stone ever cut. The stonecutter from 1900 to present had the advantage of compressed air to help them shape the stone, but it still all begins with a level seat, the stonecutters first step.

So, for the sake of experimentation, let's think of the process stonecutters must have used before Ingersoll's book, "The Uses of Compressed Air," was published around 1895. I can only speculate the work of the stonecutter before compressed air.

*Joseph Conrad has fifty years experience working in the stone fabrication industry. He is the founder of Conrad Stonecutter in Portland, Oregon (www.conradstonecutter.com) and a 15-year member of Northwest Stone Sculptors Association, www.nwssa.org.*

# Politician in a Hairy Situation

A Republican congressman from Maryland is in a hairy situation over a proposal to give tax breaks to Americans with mustaches.



The American Mustache Institute claimed that Rep. Roscoe Bartlett had lent his support to the 'Stache Act, which calls for a tax deduction of up to $250 a year for facial hair grooming.

But Bartlett's office said he never supported the measure. Staffers said that they only forwarded a copy of the proposal to the House Ways & Means Committee, without the congressman's knowledge, after receiving a media inquiry about it. That led the institute to believe Bartlett, who has long had a mustache, supported the measure.

"For the record: Roscoe is pro-stache, but he does not believe Americans should pay for people's personal grooming decisions," Bartlett's chief of staff, Deborah Burrell, said in a statement.

So far, no other representatives have supported the mustache proposal.

At least one of Bartlett's Republican primary opponents is criticizing him over the facial hair flap. The longtime incumbent faces several challengers in the 6th District, which was redrawn to include more Democratic voters.

The American Mustache Institute, meanwhile, issued a statement faulting Burrell for what it called a "shameful reversal."

"We are highly disappointed by their reversal based on the fact that the congressman's opponents in the race are jumping on the bandwagon to criticize him," chairman Aaron Perlut said. "They obviously don't understand what it is to be a mustached American."

The institute plans to send Burrell an autographed photo of Burt Reynolds as a goodwill gesture, Perlut said.

State Delegate Kathy Azfali, who is challenging Bartlett in next month's primary, said the 'Stache Act situation was a sign that the 10-term incumbent had lost control of his staff and "is out of touch with voters."

Bartlett told WTOP-FM last fall that he grew his mustache in the 1950s as an affront to the clean-shaven.

"For someone who was kind of a nonconformist, it was kind of a symbol of rebellion," he said.

Bartlett supports the Movember campaign, which encourages men to grow mustaches in the month of November to raise money and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer. The mustache institute has contributed to that campaign and other charities.

"I looked at it, and I knew it was a joke," said Lisa Wright, Bartlett's press secretary, of the 'Stache Act.

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# THREE-FOURTHS OF HOMEOWNERS PLANNING A KITCHEN REMODEL WANT GRANITE

*New Survey Finds Homeowners Believe "Nothing Beats Value, Beauty of Granite Countertops"*

A NEW SURVEY OF AMERICAN HOMEOWNERS SHOWS THEY OVERWHELMINGLY RECOGNIZE THE VALUE, BEAUTY, DURABILITY AND SAFETY OF GRANITE COUNTERTOPS.

The survey of 1,588 homeowners, conducted online by Harris Interactive on behalf of The Marble Institute of America found that 75 percent of homeowners who intend to remodel their kitchens in the next two years indicated they want granite countertops, and 76 percent of homeowners agreed with the statement "nothing beats the beauty and value of granite countertops."

"The survey shows what our customers tell us: no matter what the economy looks like, homeowners recognize that granite countertops enhance the value of their homes," said Marble Institute member, G. K. Naquin, of Stone Interiors in Loxley, Alabama, whose company sells granite and other countertops. "Consumers who are remodeling their kitchens see granite countertops as a safe investment in their homes. They prefer this natural stone to other materials because they understand it pays for itself in terms of higher resale value."

When asked to rate which countertop material most enhances the value of their homes, homeowners favored granite by more than a three-to-one margin over the second choice: solid surface materials, such as Corian®. Synthetic or manufactured stone products, such as Silestone, were rated a more distant third by the homeowners.

By overwhelming margins, homeowners agreed with the following statements about the natural stone:

- 93 percent said granite countertops are beautiful
- 91 percent said granite countertops are durable
- 89 percent said granite countertops are safe

And 93 percent of homeowners who intend to remodel their kitchens in the next two years agreed that granite countertops are safe, reflecting the findings of several comprehensive scientific studies conducted during the past several years.

The latest scientific study, conducted by Environmental Health & Engineering Inc. (EH&E), an independent laboratory, definitively shows that granite countertops are an insignificant source of radon in the home and that 99.95 percent of countertops produce lower radon concentrations than are typically found outdoors in the US. The study also concluded that in normal applications, there is no risk granite countertops will produce radon concentrations even close to levels the US Environmental Protection Agency says require remediation (4 picocuries/liter).

"The most typical granite countertop installations would produce radon concentrations in the home that are 10,000 times lower than the EPA action level, and are so low they are not even measurable," said Dr. Joseph Allen, who heads EH&E. He said the study's statistical model predicts there is only a one-in-a-million chance of a granite countertop producing radon concentrations in the home that approached the EPA action level and that case would require that 13 percent of the home's surface be covered with granite countertop material.

*A 2012 survey of 1,588 homeowners, on behalf of The Marble Institute of America, found that 75 percent of homeowners who intend to remodel their kitchens in the next two years indicated they want granite countertops.*

"Natural stone like granite has been used in homes for thousands of years, and now that new technology has reduced the cost of producing and shipping it around the world, more homeowners are embracing the beauty, durability and safety of granite countertops," said Gary Distelhorst, CEO of the Marble Institute of America, which commissioned the survey. "Independent consumer surveys have consistently shown that Americans love the natural look of granite and value it above other countertop products."

The study also showed consistent support for granite across regions of the country. Homeowners with college degrees and higher incomes voiced slightly higher preference for granite countertops. Homeowners with households of five people or larger were especially supportive of granite. Eighty-seven percent of these respondents agreed with the statement, "The next time I remodel my kitchen, I want granite countertops."

This is the second national consumer survey to show consumers prefer granite. A 2008 study showed 55 percent of consumers wanted granite countertops in their dream kitchens. That survey was conducted via Harris' QuickQuerySM online omnibus service between Oct. 7-9, 2008 of 2,021 US adults aged 18 years and older.

***Methodology***

The new homeowner survey was conducted online within the United States by Harris Interactive on behalf of the Marble Institute of America from January 5-9, 2012 among 2,541 adults ages 18 and older, 1,588 of which were homeowners.

For complete survey methodology, including weighting variables, please contact Marble Institute of America Executive Vice President Garen Distelhorst at gpdistelhorst@marble-institute.com.

***About the Marble Institute of America***

For over 65 years the Marble Institute of America (MIA) has been the world's leading information resource and advocate for the natural dimension stone industry. MIA members include marble, granite, limestone, sandstone, and other natural stone producers and quarriers, fabricators, installers, distributors, and contractors around the world.


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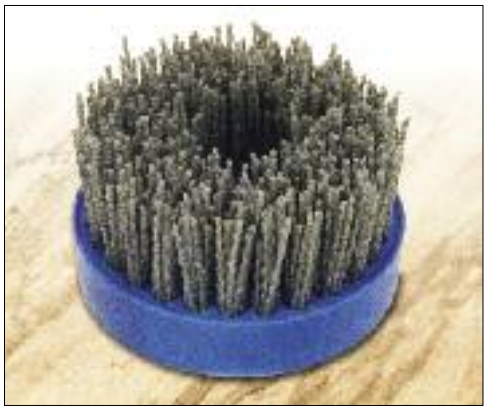

Silicone Carbide Antiquing Brushes for Marble and Soft Stones

Diamond Antiquing Brushes for Granite and Hard Stones

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**Silicone Carbide Antiquing Brushes for Marble and Soft Stones**

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|---|---|---|---|
| 34012 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 24 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |
| 34013 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 36 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |
| 34014 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 46 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |
| 34015 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 60 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |
| 34016 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 80 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |
| 34017 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 120 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |
| 34018 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 180 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |
| 34019 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 220 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |
| 34020 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 240 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |
| 34021 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 320 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |
| 34022 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 400 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |
| 34023 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 500 Grit | $20.95 | $15.95 |

**Diamond Antiquing Brushes for Granite and Hard Stones**

| Item # | Description | Reg. Price | Sale Price |
|---|---|---|---|
| 34041 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 24 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34042 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 36 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34043 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 46 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34044 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 60 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34045 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 80 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34046 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 120 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34047 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 180 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34048 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 220 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34049 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 240 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34050 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 320 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34051 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 400 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34052 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 500 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34053 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 600 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34054 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 800 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
| 34055 | 5″ Antiquing Brush, Snail Lock, 5/8-11 Thread, 1,000 Grit | $72.95 | $67.95 |
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# The 12th Xiamen International Stone Fair Just Keeps Getting Bigger

**Torin Dixon**
*Special Correspondent*

ARRIVING at the Xiamen International Conference & Exhibition Center in China's Fujian Provence on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, the most noticeable change from last year, is a mammoth building that has seemingly arisen out of no where.

What was a vast parking lot only one year ago, now stands a four story building boasting 30,000 square meters (323,000 square feet) of conference and exhibit space and scheduled to be completed this August, adding to what is already one of the largest exhibition centers in Asia.

Shortly after arriving, I met with Xiamen Stone Fair Project Manager, Ms. Christabel Zhang and the General Manager for Xiamen Jinhongxin Exhibition Co., Ltd, a Holding Company of XICEC., Mr. Guoxiang Lai to learn more about the growth of the Xiamen International Stone Fair. "The new building was urgently needed due to the increasing demand from exhibitors who last year needed to be housed in temporary structures," noted Mr. Lai. "With the help of the local Xiamen City government, this new building was fast-tracked and will be completed in only eighteen months."

This new investment is a glowing testimony not only to the success of the Xiamen International Stone Fair, but of this International city for many different industries.

With this additional new area, the complex will soon house a massive 160,000 square meters (1.722 million square feet) of Conference and Exhibition space. For 2012, the show has added nearly 150 new exhibitors over 2011, for a total of 1,500 exhibitors from fifty-two countries.

This year the show has added twelve new representative countries. The Show Management office had such demand that they had a lengthy waiting list of exhibitors, hoping that someone would cancel and allow them the opportunity to exhibit.

Before we entered the doors of the Conference Center, it was apparent that the outside exhibitor area had grown as well. With twelve new exhibitors outside, this space grew by nearly 33 percent. Arriving at the registration area, the press of hundreds of people quickly and efficiently picked up their entry badges and proceeded into the Conference Center.

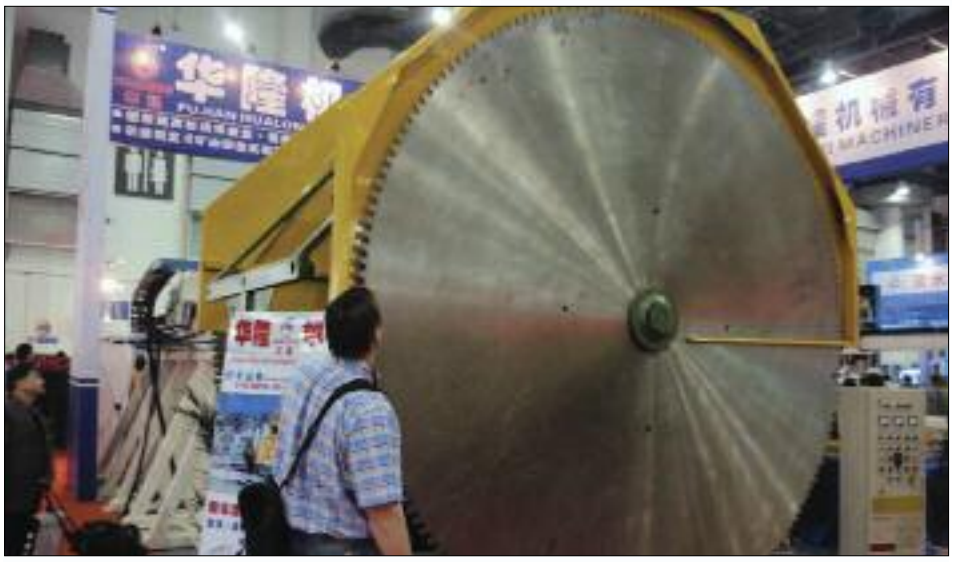
Having been to many stone fairs and shows around the world, this show simply defies the senses. With nearly 1,500 exhibitors, it quickly becomes hard to comprehend that so many stone companies, and stone related products can be represented in one venue.

In just one year, the covered exhibition area has grown by nearly twenty percent, adding three new pavilions. What last year was a near-

*Torin Dixon stands outside the Xiamen International Stone Fair.*

*One Chinese company's booth featured live music from a string quartet.*

*An exhibitor inside the new building still under construction.*


*A large circular saw for cutting granite blocks used for vanity tops was on display during the 12th Annual Xiamen International Stone Fair in China's Fujian Provence, March 6, 2012.*

ly empty area with a few fast food vendors, the third floor Hall Q now boasts seventy new vendor-exhibitors, plus the VIP area with Wi-Fi and computer access.

For 2012, the Xiamen International Stone Fair boasts exhibit halls A through O, a nearly impossible area to visit in just three and a half days. Pavillion O was interestingly, set up inside the first floor of the new building, yet still under construction, adding nearly 62 exhibitors in this new space.

Not only has the 12th Xiamen International Stone Fair grown in both exhibitors and attendees, the average size of booth space has grown as well by an estimated 20 percent over 2011. The machinery and tool pavilions added dozens more vendors over last year and the area covered by just machinery and tooling is more than 24,000 square meters (260,000 square feet).

Talking with colleagues and friends attending the show, each were quite overwhelmed by the sheer mass of area to view. Each was forced to stop short each of the three days to take a break from the show to try to absorb it all.

For 2012 the Xiamen International Stone Fair added more to the conference schedule as well. This year, five sessions were very well attended and featured presenters from Switzerland, Japan and the United States.

I met with one of Xiamen's premier stone factories, Xiamen Stone Enterprise Group, and spoke with Director, Ms. Rita Han about the 2012 Xiamen Stone Show. Ms. Han noted that certainly, this show represents one of the best venues in the world to showcase their company profile and to meet clients from more than twenty countries, including the United States. She also noted there were more visitors from the US and Europe than in years past.

I also spoke with Mr. Rick Dilts, CEO of Dakota Granite, who has been a long-term exhibitor at the Xiamen Stone Fair. Mr. Dilts indicated that this year's show was a great success for Dakota Granite, reaching many Asian stone companies and factories. With completion of the new building, Xiamen Stone Fair organizers plan to move the International Pavilions to the new venue, and plan to add an American pavilion for the first time. Now is the time for American companies to begin making plans for 2013.

For stone importers and distributors in attendance, there are hundreds of similar stone suppliers at your service all jockeying for business, and eager to make an introduction. Representing nearly 150 countries, 2012 has certainly seen an even larger global audience than in years past. The rough estimate is that more than 130,000 visitors attended.

The Xiamen Stone Fair Management is hoping to make a larger presence in the United States by sending a delegation of XICEC representatives to Coverings 2012 and KBIS 2012 to promote the 2013 Xiamen International Stone Show.

With the dramatically larger venue, and with plans to add factory and quarry tours to next years agenda, along with a more robust conference schedule of leading American Architects, the management will certainly meet their goal of becoming the largest stone fair in the world. An accomplishment surely not unnoticed by Marmomacc organizers.

From my perspective as an American stone professional, China continues to be a force to be reckoned with, and may easily be misunderstood. However, the Xiamen International Stone Fair is certainly a "must see" event on any stone professional's conference calendar.

For more than a dozen years, the Xiamen Stone Show has been a vital trade show to most of the world. Americans are slowly catching on to this important venue, and next year will certainly see many more American visitors with perhaps a learning tour organized by the MIA or other US-based stone associations. The management of the Xiamen International Stone Fair is actively pursuing this possible tour arrangement for 2013.

It will be very interesting, indeed, to see just how many attendees officially made the trek to Asia this year to attend this significant stone event when the final attendance numbers are released. With the new building ready for The 13th Xiamen International Stone Fair next March, it is hard to believe that this event could continue to grow, but it most certainly will.

*Torin Dixon is a 34-year stone industry veteran and consultant on natural stone importing and stone care products. He may be reached at info@stonecareonline.org.*

# Another Bunny with a Purpose

CHAMPIS THE BUNNY DOESN'T ONLY HOP — HE ALSO KNOWS HOW TO HERD HIS MASTERS' FLOCK OF SHEEP, POSSIBLY HAVING PICKED UP THE SKILL AFTER WATCHING TRAINED DOGS DO THE JOB.

**Rufus Leakin**
*Guru of Folklore*

The 5-year old pet rabbit from the small village of Kal in northern Sweden shot to online fame last week, garnering more than 700,000 YouTube hits, after a clip of his sheepherding skills surfaced on a blog.

The June video shows a persistent Champis running back and forth on the farm, trying to keep Nils-Erik and Greta Vigren's sheep together.

Greta Vigren said she first noted his talent last spring when they let out the sheep to graze for the first time after the long Swedish winter.

"He just started to behave like a sheepdog," she recalled, adding that while he likes to round up the sheep, he is consistent about leaving the farm's hens alone, treating them more gently.

"He's like a king for the whole group. He thinks he rules over both the sheep and the hens. He has a very big ego."

Dan Westman, a sheepdog breeder who shot and posted the video of his friends' remarkable bunny, said he was in awe when he first witnessed the phenomenon, noting Champis does the job even better than most dogs would.

"It's really incredible, it's a herding rabbit," he said. "He rounds them up, and if they get close to escaping through the gate he sometimes stops them," he said. "I mean I work with sheepdogs and know how hard this is. There are very few dogs that could do what this rabbit does."

Westman, who's known both Champis and its owners for years, said the beige little mix-breed bunny had never been trained for the job but seemed to have learned the ropes all on his own.

"He's probably picked some of it up from watching the dogs," he said.

Despite his tiny size, Westman said the sheep seem to pay their minder a world of respect, letting him herd them around when he feels they need some moving.

*What a befitting name for such an industrious rabbit! His heroic "feet" could almost put Peter Cottontail to shame. This reminds me of the movie "Babe," about a piglet who took on the role of herding sheep and came to be valued as more than just a hearty meal. Sounds like Champis may be on to something!*

*If you would like to see this "sheep bunny" in action, log on to YouTube at http://bit.ly/Aixo8I and marvel at his discipline and devotion. My mouth is still open.*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# International Stoneworks Celebrates 30 Years in Business

*International Stoneworks, Inc. Marks Its 30th Anniversary with a Big Bash*

*Owners Rawi and Jacqueline Tabbah (center) stand with other International Stoneworks employees during their 30th year anniversary celebration bash held March 2, 2012.*

INTERNATIONAL STONEWORKS, HOUSTON'S PREMIER NATURAL STONE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE BUSINESS, OPENED ITS DOORS IN 1982, AND AFTER 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS, PRESIDENT RAWI TABBAH WANTS TO THANK HIS DEDICATED EMPLOYEES AND CLIENTELE.

International Stoneworks organized an anniversary party at The Tasting Room at Uptown Park in March. It was an occasion to celebrate the company and its loyal commercial and residential customers.

Tabbah began his business by introducing one product to maintain natural stone without wax (the prevalent technique at the time). After he was given the opportunity to restore one marble bathroom floor with this new technique in a major Houston hotel, Tabbah expanded his business by performing stone restoration, maintenance work and selling various stone care products. International Stoneworks has grown over the years into a family-run business that has developed various non-wax restoration systems for both natural stone and tile, including a unique high speed grinding system.

International Stoneworks now sells its products nationally and internationally and while typically it performs stone and tile restoration in residences and major buildings in Texas, it has traveled as far as California, Florida and New Jersey.

"It is quite an accomplishment for any company to successfully stay in business for 30 years and I am very proud of International Stoneworks and its employees. I am always looking for ways for our business to improve and grow and I enjoy teaching my daughter, who joined us in 2009, about the services provided by our company. I look forward to celebrating another 30 years!" said Tabbah.

***About International Stoneworks, Inc.***

International Stoneworks, established in 1982 by Rawi Tabbah, is Houston's premier natural stone restoration and maintenance business. Many prominent Texas buildings and homes have used International Stoneworks to clean, restore, protect, and maintain natural stones such as marble, travertine, granite (polished or flamed), slate, limestone (honed or polished), onyx, flagstone, terrazzo and other natural stones.

International Stoneworks has been an active member of the Marble Institute of America (MIA) since 1986 and has done work for commercial and residential customers in Houston and its surrounding cities, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio and Austin for 30 years. Not only does it perform stone restoration services, it also sells safe and efficient products in order for clients to maintain their stone investments.

For more information on International Stoneworks, please visit http://www.intl-stoneworks.com or call 713-956-8291.

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- Greatly reduces worker fatigue on large refinishing jobs
- Free-floating disc acts as a "built-in" roller guide (allows fast and precise cut patterns)
- Clean, consistent polish line against edges

The No-Spin Backer Pad saved about 1 hour on this marble shower refinishing job!

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# Getting a Treasured Necklace Back

**Carmen Ghia**
*Resident Hopeless Romantic*

A California woman's treasured gold necklace survived an incredible journey when it was accidentally flushed down the toilet in October. Sanitation department workers found it and have returned it to the woman.

Ann Aulakh had worn the Italian gold Byzantine chain every day — "basically all the time except when getting X-rays," she said — since her husband Jeet gave it to her during their first Christmas together in 1993. But one sleepless night in October it fell off her neck, into the toilet, and was flushed down the drain. She thought she'd never wear it again.

But her friend and neighbor Lynn Kemmeter, a former elementary school teacher, called the San Rafael sanitation district and reported the necklace missing in the sewer pipes. Kemmeter, whose civic-minded attitude inspires friends to call her "Citizen Lynn," hoped that the necklace might somehow be recovered.

And she was right: The department found the necklace and told Kemmeter, who had hoped to wrap it up and deliver it to Aulakh, also a former teacher.

But sanitation worker Bill LeNoue beat her to it and knocked on Aulakh's door early February 1.

"He asked, 'Did Lynn lose a necklace?'" Aulakh said. "I said, 'No, but I did.' He held it up, and I was in shock. I mean, the kindness was incredible."

The necklace is a bit worse for the wear after the months it spent away. The clasp is broken, and though Aulakh soaked it in hydrogen peroxide, she's still planning to get it professionally cleaned. But she said she was excited to have it back in time for her 19th wedding anniversary which was Feb. 13, 2012.

*I hope that losing something very special, and then finding it again, is not an emotion that only a woman can understand. I would really like to believe that this is a universal feeling.*

*That necklace symbolized a moment in her marriage that meant so much to Mrs. Aulakh that she wore it around her neck every waking day (and apparently, night). So, regardless of its actual worth, losing it would be the equivalent of losing a piece of yourself.*

*When something that treasured gets returned to you, wherever it's been, it's priceless. Even if it's been somewhat damaged, any amount of repair gets trumped by what it means to you.*

# Waterjet Manufacturer Jet Edge Appoints North Central Regional Sales Manager

Jet Edge, Inc., a leading manufacturer of ultra-high pressure waterjet and abrasivejet systems for precision cutting, coating removal and surface preparation, announced today that it has appointed Ben Callahan as its new North Central regional sales manager.

*Ben Callahan has been appointed by Jet Edge, Inc. as its new North Central regional sales manager. Callahan is responsible for Jet Edge waterjet equipment sales and application support in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.*

Callahan is responsible for Jet Edge waterjet equipment sales and application support in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. A waterjet industry veteran, Callahan has been with Jet Edge since 2001, where he has held positions directly supporting customers as a service engineer and waterjet applications lab engineer. Jet Edge customers will benefit from his extensive product and applications knowledge. He studied Machine Trades at Dunwoody Technical College in Minneapolis.

Callahan is based at Jet Edge Headquarters in St. Michael, Minn. He can be contacted at 612-963-0933 or sales@jetedge.com.

***About Jet Edge***

Established in 1984, Jet Edge is a global designer and manufacturer of waterjet systems for precision cutting, surface preparation and coating removal. Jet Edge systems are used around the world in a broad range of industries, from the world's leading airlines to automotive, aerospace, industrial manufacturers, machine and job shops. Jet Edge waterjet systems are proudly made in the U.S.A.

For more information about Jet Edge, visit www.jetedge.com, e-mail sales@jetedge.com or call 1-800-JET-EDGE (538-3343). Follow us on Twitter @jetedge.

# Artisan Group Member, Jon Lancto, aka Big Fish Jon, Elected to MIA Board of Directors

Artisan Member Jon Lancto has been elected to the MIA Board of Directors and is Chairman of the MIA Accreditation Committee.

*Jon Lancto is the Owner and CEO of Surface Products and has been in the residential and commercial countertop fabrication and installation business for 24 years.*

Lancto is the Owner and CEO of Surface Products, located in Cornelius (Charlotte), North Carolina. He has been in the residential and commercial countertop fabrication and installation business for 24 years.

Lancto is a very active participant in the home improvement industry.

He has been an Artisan Group Board member since the group's inception four years ago and just finished his term. He also was a founding member and five-year president of (International Surface Fabricators Association) ISFA.

# The Stone Detective

## *The Case of the Strange Pink Stains, Part 2*

**Frederick M. Hueston, PhD**
*Stone Care Consultant*

I was waiting outside the hotel for the valet to bring my ole Woody around to head over to Mrs. Pink Stain's condo.

I couldn't help but notice all the drunks, gamblers, and tourists who were stumbling around. It reminded me of a pack of ants running franticly around on the ground. You gotta love Las Vegas. It's better than a lot of those reality shows now on the tube.

The valet pulled up with my ride, threw me the keys, and sneered at me as if to say, here ya go, grandpa. The kid probably had no idea how much these classic Woodys cost.

I left the strip and headed up the highway to Henderson. I arrived at a tall gate that reminded me of Graceland. I wondered if this was Elvis's old pad. Just as I was ready to press the intercom button, the gates opened. I guess Mrs. Pink Stain saw me pull up.

I pulled up to a very large estate. Everything looked oversized. The columns, the windows, and especially the front door, looked like it could have been built for a giant. I parked the Woody and headed for the door.

Before I could ring the doorbell, the door opened and there she stood. She was wearing a long, black dress as if she was going to some kind of formal event. She invited me in and led me directly to the dining room, pointing at the floor as she said, "There they are."

At first I didn't see anything wrong, and then upon closer inspection, I noticed a light pink stain. The stain was about 12 inches across. I asked her all the standard questions: What type of cleaner she was using? Had anybody spilled anything on it? I still couldn't find anything unusual that would have caused the stain.

I took another look and noticed that the stain was not only in the stone but also in the grout joints. This led me to believe that it wasn't something in the stone but that somehow something was spilled on it.

I took out my test kit and started performing some tests while Mrs. Pink Stain stood there looking. She started pacing back and forth as if she was in a rush and had to get somewhere, so I asked her if was keeping her from anything.

She looked at me and said, "No, I always dress up like this for company." She than started laughing. She said to take my time since she had to find out what was causing this pink stain.

I asked, "Are there any other areas where this stain's occurred?" She said just a few places in the bathroom, but that she had replaced that stone a few weeks ago.

"Can I look around the rest of the house?"

She said, "Look wherever you like."

I walked down the hall and noticed that the house was pretty cluttered. There were kids' toys scattered all over the place. As I was tripping over all the toys, I spotted two cats staring at me from one of those tall cat posts. They were two of those hairless type that looked like someone took a razor to them. Boy, were they ugly.

I continued my inspection in all the rooms in the house and was about to open one of the bedroom doors when Mrs. Pink Stain stopped me and said, "That room is very messy." I told her that wouldn't bother me and opened the door. She was right; this room looked like my garage. Clutter all over the place. There was so much clutter that I could hardly see the floor.

I moved a carpet that was rolled up on the floor and noticed the floor was covered with this red-colored paper. I took out my knife and took a piece of the paper. Now I had a good idea of where that stain came from.

I asked if the floor throughout the house was covered with this paper and she said, "Yes." Bingo, I thought, but the mystery continues. I took some water and wet the paper and placed it on the floor. I expected the dye from the paper to transfer to the stone, but it didn't. Now I was puzzled. Just when I thought I had this case solved, too.

I told Mrs. Pink Stain that I would like to have a piece of the stone removed for testing but I would have to come back another day to remove it. She agreed. Just as I was about to leave, I saw one of the cats using the litter box, and all of a sudden, a light went on over my head.

I asked if I could perform one more test before I left and again, she agreed. I took a piece of the red paper and placed it on the floor, then reached in my test kit and pulled out some vinegar. I placed several drops of vinegar on the paper and waited a minute or two. This time the dye in the paper transferred to the stone.

Now I knew exactly what happened. The cat's urine is acidic, and my guess was that the cats had done their business on the paper, causing the stain. Finally, I could return to my hotel, get a drink and lose some of my hard-earned money in a game or two of poker.

*The Stone Detective is a fictional character created by Fred Hueston, written to be entertaining and educational. He has written over 33 books on stone and tile installations, fabrication and restoration and also serves as an expert for many legal cases across the world. You can send any email comments to him at fhueston@stoneforensics.com*

# The Slippery Rock Classifieds

## Classified Ad Guidelines

*Ads not meeting guidelines will not be published.*

•$30.00 per print ad, per month. Ads may be renewed by contacting the *Slippery Rock Gazette*. Free ads online!
•Maximum of 70 words or less per ad
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•All faxed ads must be typed–No hand written ads–No exceptions.
•Please review all your ad info before submitting– NO refunds will be given for ads that are submitted with the wrong contact info or content and then published.
•Best way to submit an ad is by going online at www.slipperyrockgazette.net for a free ad, or use the online form for a print ad, then fax payment to 800-915-5501, (Attn: Stacie Wingo).

## 2012 Classified Ad Deadlines

| Issue | Ad Submission Deadline |
|---|---|
| May 2012 | Wednesday, April 4, 2012 |
| June 2012 | Tuesday, May 1, 2012 |
| July 2012 | Tuesday, June 5, 2012 |

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**FOR SALE: Sawing System 5HP Model 5 Radial Arm Polisher,** $4,500, 2 ton jib crane with electric trolley, $4,500. Call Rick 301-921-4643. Located in Maryland.

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**FOR SALE: Montresor 740 Luna w/ 7 polisher heads.** Has low hours & been well maintained. Great condition needs minor repairs. Retail price $100,000 asking $24,000. Call 714-696-5449 for more info. Available for inspection in Anaheim, CA.

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**FOR SALE: 2 Gantry Saws-** 6′ 6″ Gantry Bridge Saw / Wilson 8′ 4″ Gantry Saw - all brand new electronics & wiring & significant upgrades. Recently rebuilt & outfitted w/ brand new, fully programable electronic system. All electronics & wiring are brand new, as are many mechanical parts. Saw is 230 volt, equipped w/VFD so it can be used w/ single phase electrical supply. Selling saws to make way for new equipment. Call 607-655-2600 or reply to info@devonianstone.com.

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# The Slippery Rock Classifieds

## For Sale

**FOR SALE: 2004 Brembana Concept CNC** w/ assorted tools, $65,000; 2002 Park Pro Edge III- new touchscreen w/ air compressor, $16,500; 2005 Hyster Forklift, $16,500. Call 956-428-1876 for more info or email rcaloe@aol.com

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**Granite Shop For Sale:** Everything needed for granite fabrication. New state of the art building, not a retro-fit. 1-1/2 acres on heavy volume, 4 lane commuting to & from Pittsburgh, PA location. Turn Key operation. Call for details 412-527-5705.

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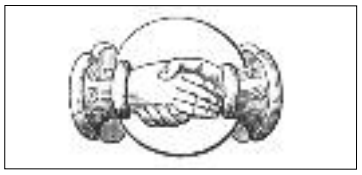

**Fabrication Shop for Sale** in rented property, Brunswick County, NC. 2005 Park Industries Sierra Saw w/ tilt turntable, Oma profile machine, Toyota Forklift, Atlas Copco compressor, A-frames, transport racks, showroom cabinetry w/ tops, office furniture & equipment, all inventory, installation tools, 2006 Ford F250 pickup. Owner retiring due to illness. Want to sell as package but will sell saw separately. Serious inquiries only. Call 910-367-1416.

## Services

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**Buddy Rhodes Advanced GFRC Class:** Braxton-Bragg is offering a class in Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete (GFRC) casting techniques. The class will be taught by Zachary Coletti, certified Buddy Rhodes trainer and a Master Concrete Artisan. Space is limited for the classes and the slots go fast, so reserve your slot now. Payment of $899 and registration is required to secure a reservation. Three nights lodging and lunches will be included with the tuition. Join us in Knoxville on July 18-20, 2012 to find out why using GFRC as a material gives artisans even more ability to express themselves and create unique objects for their customers. The class will be focusing on making form-functional things instead of just the basics. Class size is limited to 12, first come, first served. Call Kurt at 877-493-0205 now to reserve your place.

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# Laticrete President Ed Metcalf Inducted Into the Ceramic Tile Distributor Association's Hall of Fame

LATICRETE, a global manufacturer and leader of premium installation and finishing systems for the building industry, announced that its President, North America Division, Ed Metcalf, was inducted into the Ceramic Tile Distributor Association's Hall of Fame.

The award was given to and accepted by Metcalf at the Total Solutions Plus convention November 7 - 11 in Chandler, Arizona. The event was attended by over 450 leading tile industry professionals. It was presented jointly by the Ceramic Tile Distributors Association (CTDA), National Tile Contractors Association (NTCA) and the Tile Council of North America (TCNA).

According to CTDA Executive Director, Rick Church, "The CTDA Hall of Fame award is given to those individuals who have demonstrated significant contributions to the Ceramic Tile Distributors Association and the industry through invention and/or dedication of service. Ed has been a true partner to distributors throughout North America for many years."

Metcalf stated, "It is an honor to have been recognized by the membership of the CTDA, and to share this honor with the others who have been named to its Hall of Fame. I have long recognized the importance of the independent ceramic tile distributor to the overall health and growth of our industry, and am fortunate to be in a position where I can meet and work together with so many high quality family-owned businesses all across North America."

Laticrete International, Inc. is a US-based family-owned global manufacturer and leader of premium installation and finishing systems for the building industry. Laticrete® products are produced and distributed worldwide in the commercial and consumer channels. The company's philosophy of innovation and technical expertise has led to an unparalleled reputation and commitment to superior quality, performance and customer service.

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Laticrete®, Latapoxy®, SpectraLOCK®, Hydro Ban® and Drytek® are registered brands of Laticrete International, Inc. Corporate Website at www.laticrete.com.

# Why Dogs Rule

A stray dog is getting credit for thwarting a prison breakout in Paraguay and a yellow labrador helps to sniff out stolen money in Argentina.

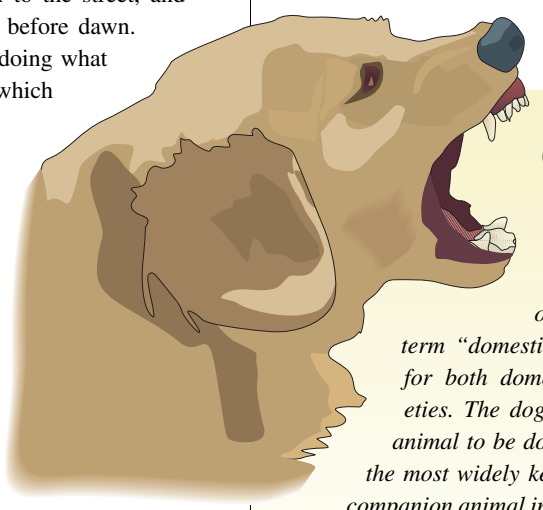
Officials say three dangerous inmates dug a 26-foot tunnel leading from their cell to the street, and were about to break free just before dawn. That's when the stray started doing what comes naturally – barking – which put an end to the escape.

Authorities at the Tacumbu prison on the southern edge of the capital, Asuncion, dragged the unlucky prisoners before the media to tell the tale.

"Because of a stray dog we couldn't escape," complained Hilario Villalba. "When I reached the street, sticking my head out, the stupid dog barked and alerted a guard."

Villalba, who is serving a 30-year double-murder sentence, vowed in his native Guarani language that he'll keep trying to escape because he said his sentence isn't fair.

Meanwhile in neighboring Argentina, a yellow labrador named Tiza alerted border guards to a motorist trying to smuggle $110,000 in $100 bills into Uruguay. The driver denied carrying any money, but the dog sniffed out the bills hidden in the glove compartment, another compartment and inside the rear seats, Argentina's tax collection agency announced.



*The domestic dog (Canis lupus familiaris), is a subspecies of the gray wolf (Canis lupus), a member of the Canidae family of the mammalian order "Carnivora." The term "domestic dog" is generally used for both domesticated and feral varieties. The dog may have been the first animal to be domesticated, and has been the most widely kept working, hunting, and companion animal in human history. The present lineage of dogs was domesticated from gray wolves about 15,000 years ago. Remains of domesticated dogs have been found in Siberia and Belgium from about 33,000 years ago.*

# The Varmint County Chronicles

**"Boomer" Winfrey**
*Varmint County Correspondent*

## *Highway Boss Stretches Limited Tax Dollars – The Varmint County Way*

WE DON'T GET MANY SCANDALS IN THE COURTHOUSE HERE IN VARMINT COUNTY, POSSIBLY BECAUSE WHAT FOLKS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WOULD CALL SCANDALOUS, WE JUST TAKE AS ROUTINE MONKEY BUSINESS.

Such things as the time that Sheriff Smoky forced a dozen of his jailhouse trusties to dress up as Yankee soldiers during a re-enactment of the Battle of McCracken's Nose were simply swept under the rug.

The trusties, as you might recall, were forced to form a battle line out where some charges had been planted to simulate cannon fire exploding, but Cleo McQue used too much dynamite, McCracken's Nose cracked and tumbled off the side of the mountain and the trusties vanished.

The Sheriff reported that they had all escaped in the confusion, but nobody ever had the heart to remove the large boulder that rolled down the mountain and remains planted in that field to this day. Locals simply re-named the mountain "McCracken's Neck" and let it go at that.

Road Superintendent J. T. "Pothole" Perkins lost his bid for re-election some years back because of some scandalous goings-on involving his son, Peavy. The younger Perkins was stealing cars over in Burrville when it appeared the law was closing in on his operation. He hauled several stripped-down chassis up to his pop's rock quarry one night and tried to run them through the crusher to obliterate the evidence.

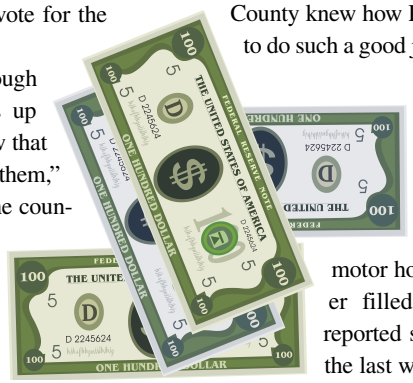
Unfortunately, Peavy forgot to drain the gas tanks. The resulting explosion could be heard in the next state and the county's rock crusher was vaporized, but Peavy did a good job of destroying evidence. He was never charged in the car theft investigation. Voters, however, convicted the father of incompetence during the next election, which Pothole lost to Poagie Stonecipher by a vote of 3,217 to 43.

Proving that voters' memories are short, fast forward nearly 20 years to our last election, where Varmint Countians elected Peavy Perkins as their new Road Superintendent. Coming as a surprise to some, Peavy has not only done a decent job of running the Highway Department, but has managed to pave roads that had never been paved before.

Peavy appeared before the county commission two years ago and informed the squires that he only had enough money in his budget to re-pave about five miles of county roads each year. "We got 400 miles of county roads. At that rate, you can expect the road outside your front door to get paved once every 80 years," Peavy announced.

The squires were not impressed. They refused to raise property taxes to give the Highway Department more asphalt and instead placed a sales tax increase on the ballot for a public referendum.

As you are probably aware, the public seldom votes to tax itself. Typical of the public reaction to this referendum was the comment from Gomer Tibbs, who has been to every county commission meeting over the past year, pestering squires to pave Stinking Creek Road. A reporter from the *War Whoop & Exterminator* asked Gomer if he would vote for the sales tax.



"No way. We're taxed enough already. Hail, the potholes up on my road are so deep now that they's got people living in them," Gomer quipped. "Maybe the county should charge 'em rent to pay for the paving."

Predictably, the sales tax was voted down 3-1 and Peavy was left wondering how he could improve enough roads to get re-elected.

"I guess I'll just have to cut a few corners here and there and find a way to pay for asphalt," Peavy told County Mayor Clyde Filstrup Junior.

During the next year, Peavy Perkins managed to perform miracles with his limited road budget. He paved the whole 23-mile stretch of Stinking Creek Road, nine miles of Whistle Creek Road, up far enough to take care of two-thirds of Whistle Creek's voters, and even paved the first four miles leading into Haig Hollow.

He would have paved more of Haig Hollow Road, but a group of heavily-armed Haigs blocked his road crew, warning that they had come far enough. "We've got our own equipment and take care of our own roads from this point on," Elijah Haig told Peavy. "Only Haigs are allowed up this way unless you're invited."

Peavy also managed to pave a few driveways here and there, usually belonging to clan patriarchs or other individuals with influence over how their kin vote. Everyone was talking about what a good job Peavy Perkins was doing with such limited resources.

"Usually, when something's too good to be true, it is," Doc Filstrup sagely remarked when the subject of the Highway Department came up at his weekly poker game. "Has anyone wondered how Peavy has managed to pay the bills on all this paving that's going on?"

"I suspect he's getting the asphalt from somebody on credit. Probably figures he'll worry about paying the bills after he's re-elected and if he's not re-elected, it won't be his problem," retired County Judge Hugh Ray Jass laughed.

"No, I asked around. Peavy paid Burrville Construction Company a hundred thousand bucks for that load of blacktop that went on Whistle Creek Road and Caleb Hockmeyer's driveway. How could he afford that and still make his payroll?" Doc replied.

Well, you might get your answer sooner than you think. I just got a call this afternoon from the state Bureau of Investigation. They are requesting a search warrant for the county garage, going to come up in the morning to execute the warrant," Judge Hard Time Harwell added.

By the next afternoon, everyone in Varmint County knew how Peavy Perkins had managed to do such a good job of paving roads and running his department on limited resources. Inside the county garage, agents found seven pick-up trucks, a 2011 BMW, a road grader, a Winnebago motor home and an eighteen-wheeler filled with x-rated DVDs, all reported stolen across three states in the last week.

Peavy Perkins is currently residing, along with his garage foreman and six road department employees, in Sheriff Hiram Potts' jail, waiting for Judge Harwell to set bail. The Varmint County Highway Department, it appears, was operating a car theft ring and using the county garage as a chop shop.

"Look's like the end of Peavy Perkins' short political career, gentlemen. Between this fiasco and the affair years ago involving the rock crusher explosion, he will never be able to show his face in Varmint County again," Judge Harwell proclaimed.

"Don't be so sure about that, Judge. Peavy shared some of the profits with his employees, but instead of pocketing the rest, he put it in the Highway Department budget to pay for asphalt. A lot of voters might think that he had the public's interest at heart, if he ever gets out of jail and runs for office again," Doc added with a grin.

"Yeah, I heard some of the wags down at Smiley's Tobacco Emporium & Pool Hall talking about it this afternoon," Archie Aslinger cut in. "My cousin Stanley says it looks like Varmint County was runnin' an officially-sanctioned criminal enterprise to pave the roads and he suspects everybody from the Sheriff to the County Mayor was in on it."

"That's ridiculous," Clyde Junior, who happens to be the County Mayor, protested. "I had no idea what was going on at the county garage."

"You'll have your chance to convince voters of that come the next election, Junior," Doc observed. "Shoot, since none of the stolen vehicles belonged to Varmint County voters, you might be better off taking credit for it."

## When Reading is Not Fundamental

AN UNUSUAL SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMIT SIGN IN SUBURBAN DETROIT HAS DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF AN IRKED DRIVER.

Greg Smith tells *The Oakland Press of Pontiac* that he noticed the sign recently in Oakland County's White Lake Township that lists six separate times when drivers should slow down to 25 mph on school days.

Smith says drivers "practically have to come to a stop to read it." An elementary, middle and high school all are nearby.

Police Chief Ed Harris says a meeting is being called with the White Lake Township supervisor, the school district and the county road commission about the sign. Harris says the township didn't put it up but is trying to resolve the matter.

# GRANITE BUSINESS FOR SALE

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1 x F.lli Zambon
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# The Polished Perspective

*It's a Jungle Out There*

**Tom McNall**
*Floor Restoration Contributor*

As the stone business continues to thrive, there'll be some growing pains – and, along with the growth, we'll see those who can damage the industry by using unprofessional methods and products.

*Tom McNall and his contractor Bernie*

How can we protect our customers, our friends, and ourselves? As the saying goes, "it's a jungle out there." So, let's look at the jungle.

You may know the story of the crocodile bird, the Egyptian plover that gets its name because of the close association with the Nile crocodile. As a crocodile opens its mouth, this bold bird flies in and eats the scraps of food left in the crocodile's teeth. Is this just a trick for the crocodile to gain a meal? No; this is a symbiotic relationship, where two organisms are helping each other.

The plover gains a free meal and the crocodile gets clean teeth. Because of their close relationship, the crocodile also receives early warning of approaching danger, as the bird cries out well in advance. Crocodiles are known to eat birds – but they don't eat crocodile birds.

Symbiotic relationships can exist and can be beneficial to both parties. And, it's not much of a stretch to make the same case for natural-stone restoration contractors and stone fabricators.

Restoration contractors benefit from a close relationship with fabricators with referrals to the fabricators' best customers – the ones who shop for quality and like to deal with people they trust. Restoration contractors require no sales force and they have access to a network of customers who will need their countertops and flooring restored, cleaned and maintained.

Let's not forget though, that a relationship like the one between the crocodile and the crocodile bird means that the restoration contractor must provide benefit for the tile store/fabricator. And, the answer is… clean teeth! Yes, a good relationship with a qualified educated contractor will make you look good to your customers.

In business, the way our customers perceive us is everything. Having a healthy relationship with a good restoration contractor will ensure your customers are happy with their purchases by helping them see how easy it is to care, clean and maintain their natural-stone investment.

The trick is to get the restoration contractor involved early. Perhaps by sealing the stone following installation, the contractor can encourage the homeowner to use the specialty cleaning products available from the fabricator. Or, by providing care and cleaning tips in the form of a brochure for fabricators to give a customer upon installation, customers see that both parties care about their cleaning and maintenance concerns.

There's a great business saying that, "the customer doesn't care what we know until they know how much we care." When a customer sees this, they trust us and will do business with us again. More than that, when they see how easy it is to care for their natural stone and enjoy its beauty in their homes or business, they'll want to buy more. They'll want to pull up carpet and rip out their veneer and plastic countertops to buy more stone.

And, they'll buy that stone from someone who solved their problems and showed that they cared more for the customer than just making a sale.

A good relationship between the restoration contractor and the fabricator is more than customer contact, however. A good contractor will warn fabricators of problems that they see, such as quick fix and bogus maintenance techniques. With plenty of experience fixing problems, a restoration contractor can alert their friends in the industry ahead of time.

Also, if a fabricator happens to run into problems on a job, having a good relationship will ensure quick and professional service to fix it. The restorer can also minimize the problem in the eyes of the customer if an honest mistake is handled promptly.

Aside from the referrals, what else does the restorer gain? If a restoration contractor can keep fabricators looking good after the installation, it protects their territory. Fabricators will steer their customers away from lowball competitors using unprofessional techniques and products that can actually ruin the stone and turn customers away from this beautiful covering medium in the future.

Of course, all of this only works if fabricators and restorers are professionals, and if the restoration contractor is committed to staying in top form.

So, how can a fabricator size up a restoration contractor? One quick way is the use of crystallization techniques; perceived at one time as the quick fix, results from over the years proved that it actually harms the stone. At one time, this practice was not endorsed by the Marble Institute of America (MIA). If so-called quick-fix methods such as these end up damaging stone in only a few years, customers no longer see longevity as motivation to buy more stone.

Another way to tell if you are working with a good restorer is to go with your gut feeling. Is there a good presentation to you and your customers? How does the restorer talk about stone? Is there knowledge and passion about the work?

And, when you talk, is this one of the first questions: "Why haven't you called me in a while?" Or do you get something useful (like information or help) every time you meet?

Restorers, of course, need to seek out fabricators with a good solid reputation – not the lowball companies that mostly care nothing about quality and usually have a hard time paying outside people.

This relationship works beautifully and seamlessly in the customer's eyes when no money is exchanged between contractor and store. Each party deals direct with the homeowner.

For this to work, it must be a win/win situation. After all, the crocodile could just eat the bird, but then the teeth will rot. If the crocodile bird offers no value to the crocodile, it ends up as lunch.

Fabricators must provide sustenance to the restorers, and the restorers must make fabricators continue to look good. It doesn't just benefit these two parties, however; this is a situation where the whole stone industry succeeds. When the end users are happy with the product, they buy more. When they buy more, fabricators sell more. When they sell more, the quarries and processing yards produce more. The more stone that's installed, the more restoring that will be needed down the road.

It is a TEAM approach: Together Everyone Achieves More! So until next time my friends, keep your stick on the ice.

## This is a (Refrigerator) Raid!

A sting operation by a suburban Houston police department netted one of their own when surveillance cameras caught an officer repeatedly stealing colleagues' food and drinks from the refrigerator in the station's break room.

Deer Park Police Officer Kevin Yang was charged with misdemeanor theft and suspended for 30 days without pay. Deer Park Police Chief Greg Griggs told KTRK-TV of Houston that a class C misdemeanor conviction would not keep Yang from returning to duty.

Griggs says he authorized the video sting because the thefts have been going on for too long. Even though the items being stolen may be of trivial value, Griggs says theft is theft.

Yang explained to KTRK that he was merely taking it upon himself to keep the shared refrigerator clean.

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# The Beauty of The Beast:

## *Is the Hand-Held, Two-Stroke Doomed?*

**Peter J. Marcucci**
*Special Contributor*

THE FLEXIBLE AND SIMPLISTIC BEAUTY OF THE TWO-STROKE ENGINE HAS ENABLED BOATERS, MOTORCYCLISTS, SNOWMOBILERS AND LUMBERJACKS, TO NAME A FEW, TO ACCOMPLISH MANY NOTABLE TASKS OVER THE LAST CENTURY.

Patented in 1881 by Scottish engineer Dugland Clerk, the ever-evolving two-stroke has prevailed year after year as the power of choice for day-to-day work, play and competition. Having close ties to snowmobiling, motocross and MotoGP for many years, I've witnessed some of this evolution firsthand.

In the late 1960s, I watched this lightweight, air-cooled power plant dominate motocross and road racing by producing respectable power levels with only an expansion chamber exhaust.

The 70s then saw the use of more radical porting combined with the reed-valve or in some instances, the rotary-valve. These innovations turned the simple two-stroke into a slightly more complicated, definitely more aggressive weapon—not for the timid or faint at heart.

The quest for power didn't end here, however, and eventually innovative research and development engineers designed the servo-controlled power-valve, turning a still relatively simple beauty into a vehement beast.

These power-valve, liquid-cooled, two-strokes churned out horsepower at levels previously unattainable, allowing top riders to attain blistering record speeds and scorching their way into the American and European road racing history books. These engines continued to dominate for many years, until eventually giving way to the formidable four-stroke.

Over the last few years, many of us have heard the rumors that all two-strokes will be falling by the wayside because of the four-stroke. If you've browsed your local motorcycle or snowmobile shop lately, it's easy to see how this thinking has gained credibility. More and more manufacturers are migrating to the four-stroke engine in search of a high performance, cleaner burning and higher mileage power plant that can keep both sales and adrenaline flowing. Regrettably, it does appear that the two-stroke will be facing extinction in these venues in the near future.

To find out if this migration to the four-stroke is also indicative that the trusty two-stroke concrete saw's fate is also on the path to extinction, I met with Sarasota, FL local, Ki Mollison.

While sitting comfortably in his showroom one morning, I asked Ki one simple question: What's going on in the industry? He began by saying, "A lot of people are rumoring that small two-strokes are going to go away, but I don't believe this. It's true that the EPA has gotten a lot more stringent on emissions for all two-stroke powered equipment including construction saws. For homeowners and commercial units alike, all manufacturers are being required to cut emissions.

"It's important to note that when the EPA evaluates the emissions of a manufacturer's line of gas powered products, these products are looked at as a group, not individually. Emissions do differ between products, such as the emissions of a weed eater compared to a concrete saw.

"So, when a manufacturer is asked to lower its emissions, that manufacturer does have the option to lower it in one tool and not in the other, thereby obtaining a combined reduction of emissions within the complete product line."

In addition to being the owner of Morse Equipment Company, Ki is also a longtime manufacturing-trend heavyweight in the gasoline powered equipment industry. He continued by sharing a few important facts with me: that Stihl and Husqvarna are the two major industrial concrete saw manufacturers, controlling about 70% of the market share in the industry, and that both manufacturers have to date, been very successful at creating a cleaner burning engine.

Ki then went on to explain how the industry has conformed to the latest EPA emission goals. "Stihl has come out with a design called the 'Four-Mix,' a two-stroke engine with a valve train. It's a good design that burns very efficiently and is currently offered in some applications. It is not available in industrial equipment yet, but may be introduced into more of their products in the future.

"Husqvarna has gone a different way. They've created an optimized, scavenging combustion chamber that burns clean while still keeping the two-stroke engine simple. In my opinion, this is the direction I believe most manufacturers are going to take.

"Husqvarna has also introduced a servo-controlled-electronic carburator that can adjust the air-to-fuel mixture 3,000 times per second. To my knowledge, this is the most advanced technology to date. It is already available on their chainsaws, and I fully expect to see it on their concrete saws in the near future. Combine this with their scavenging system and you have a very clean burning engine. It's really a neat technology! You may also see some manufacturers adding catalytic converters, like on cars, to catch the carbon."

Ki then went on to explain that the four-stroke is gaining in popularity, but as far as being efficient in smaller industrial applications, its use is just not feasible at this point.

When asked why, he said, "You cannot get the power to weight ratio needed in a handheld, four-stroke work tool at this point. A power tool like a chainsaw or concrete saw needs to be both powerful and light.

"Weight is very important. Motorcycles and snowmobiles aren't that critical for weight, and these engines have a different set of design dynamics that come into play. A concrete saw is spinning at 10,000 to 25,000 RPM at the blade, and it's very hard to achieve this level of performance.

"No one has figured out how to develop a four-stroke that is equal in weight with the same amount of torque as a two-stroke for this application. You would have to almost double the weight of the tool!"

He continues, "I don't see four-strokes coming anytime soon to the industrial tool market. I do believe, however, that you will see leading manufacturers continue to develop new technology that will keep the two-stroke viable for many years to come. New standards come out about every four years, and manufacturers will continue to keep up with those EPA standards for the foreseeable future by developing cleaner burning engines."

When asked if OSHA has requested the reduction of dB levels in gas powered industrial tools, Ki said, "I don't know of any dB restrictions from OSHA—two-strokes need to breathe! If they can't breathe, they can't burn clean!

"What I have seen that may pertain to OSHA is that Stihl has come out with a variable water flow system that lets water flow proportionately to the blade RPM when you're cutting concrete or blocks with a diamond blade. When used, this feature should help reduce dust at a job site."

When asked for the down-side of these innovations, he simply remarked, "These new technologies are going to make it more difficult on the service side. Some service shops are going to have a hard time keeping up with these designs, and this will definitely increase the servicing costs to the user. It will also make the initial purchase of these power units more expensive."

So, with the ever-developing four-stroke looming on the horizon, is our beloved two-stroke construction saw doomed to extinction? I think not—at least not anytime soon. The flexible and versatile two-stroke has always risen to the occasion.

Today's two strokes, pound for pound, are still a handful of simple, lightweight, reliable power. I am, however, reminded of the lightweight, heart-stopping power that manufacturers have achieved every time I twist-the-wrist on my four-stroke motocross or sport bike.

*Peter Marcucci is a 25-year senior fabricator at European Marble Co., Inc. Sarasota, FL. Send any comments to pjmgsxr@aol.com.*

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# Mediterranea Releases Complete Product Catalog to General Public

MEDITERRANEA, a leading manufacturer and designer of high-end porcelain tile, is for the first time making its entire product line available to the general public in a unique reference catalog.

Printed exclusively for distribution at Surfaces 2012 in Las Vegas, Mediterranea's catalog contains 36 pages of vivid product photographs, stunning room scenes and product specifications. The size of a small booklet, it's an ideal resource to showcase the company's 16 distinct product lines, including Mediterranea's latest collection, Tuscan Stone.

"We received an overwhelming response to the catalog from our customers at Surfaces," said Don Mariutto, Director of Marketing for Mediterranea. "As a result, we decided to make this reference guide available to the general public on a limited-time basis. The catalog is also available to our distribution partners."

Supplies of the Mediterranea catalog are limited, and orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To request a complimentary copy, simply email info@mediterranea-usa.com, and provide your name, company, and mailing address.

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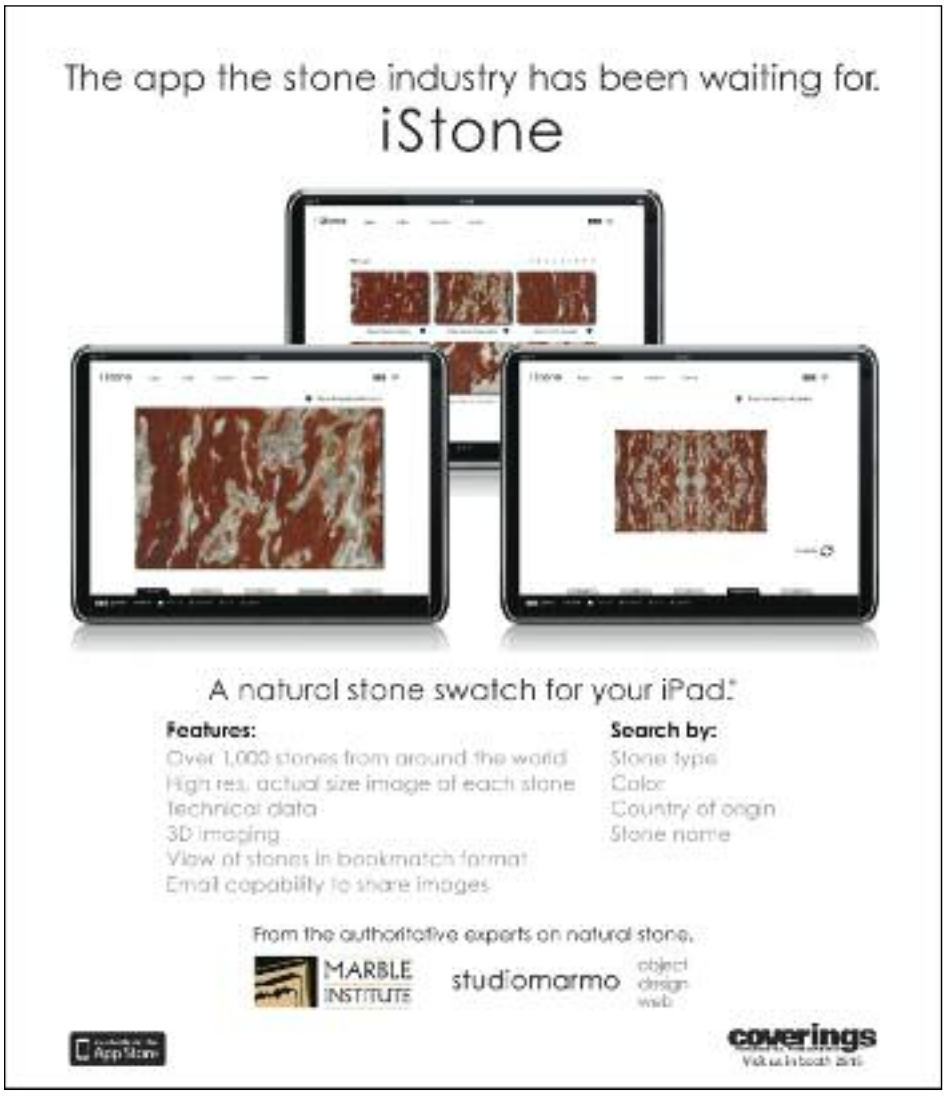


# Laticrete Supercap Receives "Expert's Choice Award" At World of Concrete 2012

*At the event, Laticrete Supercap actually had in its exhibit the "Next Generation Pump Truck," a state-of-the-art, Mobile Blending Unit (MBU) which optimizes finishing new concrete or capping existing slabs by mixing material onsite at the ground level and then delivering it as high as 50 stories, significantly increasing productivity in every possible aspect.*

LATICRETE Supercap, LLC, manufacturer of the revolutionary self-leveling Laticrete® Supercap® System, was awarded this year's "Expert's Choice Award" for the category of "Onsite Mixing, Pumping and Placement of Underlayment Material" at the World of Concrete 2012 exposition, held in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 24-27.

As in each year at this event, show management conducted the Most Innovative Products (MIP) Award Program, which offered show attendees and readers of key concrete industry media the opportunity to vote for products they discerned to be the most innovative. A panel of industry experts ultimately reviewed and selected MIP award winners.

At the event, Laticrete Supercap actually had in its exhibit the "Next Generation Pump Truck," a state-of-the-art, Mobile Blending Unit (MBU) which optimizes finishing new concrete or capping existing slabs by mixing material onsite at the ground level and then delivering it as high as 50 stories, significantly increasing productivity in every possible aspect.

"We are honored to win this award," stated Maria Oliveira, Laticrete Corporate Marketing Manager. "Having our MBU right on the show floor at World of Concrete proved to be a major draw. And, having the focused and energetic Laticrete Supercap team right there to answer questions and explain specifics about the program to interested attendees, was equally as important."

Roughly 15 years ago, Stephen DeGaray had a vision of capping concrete using an onsite "Pump Truck." After a great deal of strategic Research & Development, his vision became a reality which ultimately has added countless benefits to the concrete construction sector. According to DeGaray, "The process has clearly put capping concrete on the table. More and more, it is being specified for key projects across the country."

DeGaray further added, "With the Laticrete Supercap System, no unmixed materials ever enter the building, and the output can be up to 30,000 pounds per hour. This translates into faster turnover of each perfectly finished slab… and, that results in respective construction trades being back on the floor the following day to work on the next phase. Time and time again, those who specify Laticrete Supercap reap the benefits of a perfectly flat, deflection-free "Next Generation Slab."

The Laticrete Supercap System is a time-saving, cost-effective method for finishing new concrete or capping existing slabs that meet or exceed finished flooring tolerances. The system is a LEED-qualified, low alkali, self-leveling, cement-based technology that is installed using a patented computer-controlled mobile blending unit.

Laticrete International, Inc. is a US-based, family-owned global manufacturer and leader of premium installation and finishing systems for the building industry.

For more information, visit the corporate website: www.laticretesupercap.com.

# Sax Stonecarving Workshop Celebrates 12 Years of Stonecarving Instruction

As he prepares for the 12th Annual Sax* Stonecarving Workshops, Mark Saxe, resident instructor and director of the workshops reminisces about all the classes that have taken place at Southwest Stoneworks over the past 11 years – about the participants who have come and gone (and many who have returned again and again) and about the talented guest instructors who have taught during the seven-day intensive sessions.

What will this year be like? Saxe says every workshop is distinctive. Although the subject material covered is fairly stable, there are always adjustments made to accommodate the experience and wishes of the specific participants. Some years the emphasis is on figurative work, and in other years the emphasis is on the abstract. Resident and guest instructors are chosen based on their ability to address the two approaches well.

The goal over the years has been to bring together world-class carvers and sculptors with those who wish to learn both the basic and advanced techniques necessary to complete a carving or sculpture.

The workshops are kept small to assure that everyone gets as much help as they need. Instruction is ongoing, every day all day, for the entire duration of the workshop. There is plenty of time for camaraderie and the sharing of knowledge. Conversations, both formal and informal, about techniques and aesthetic considerations are integral to the daily flow of information.

Morning coffee and sweets get everybody into high gear. Lunches, lovingly prepared by family and staff, get rave reviews every year (and some participants call it the "all you can eat stonecarving workshop").

On a serious note, the sharing of a meal every day does impact the workshop atmosphere clearly in a positive way.

The subjects covered in detail during the seven-day workshop are:

1. Stone selection / geology
2. Use and care of tools
3. Squaring up a block
4. Layout
5. Measuring techniques using compass, calipers, and a pointing machine
6. Form development and aesthetic considerations
7. Lettering
8. Texturing

*Top and Bottom: Two stonecarving examples of Frank Haufe's work for the NY state capitol.*

*Guest artist Benjamin Lopez stands next to his work in progress (limestone) from our 2010 workshop. Mr. Lopez will once again be joining the rest of the instructors at this year's workshop.*

9. Mounting and pinning
10. Splitting
11. Rigging
12. Polishing

Slide presentations and videos are shown as well. Beginners and professionals, some of whom are involved in other aspects of the stone industry, come to learn and partake of the voluminous information, leaving with a greater appreciation of what it takes to create a carving or inscribe an epitaph.

Guest instructors this year are Nick Fairplay, Frank Haufe, and Kazutaka Uchida. They each bring their special talents to the class.

Nicholas Fairplay, the guest instructor returning for the fifth year to teach Session One (June 11-17, 2012) has been carving stone for almost 40 years. He started his career at the age of 16 as an apprentice stonecarver at Chichester Cathedral in England. He graduated from the City and Guilds of London Art College and went on scholarship to Rome to study Renaissance and Baroque sculpture.

He was the lead stonecarver at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, before establishing his current business, Fairplay Stonecarvers in Oberlin, Ohio. Visiting his website (www.fairplaystonecarvers.com) will give readers an idea of the breadth of his knowledge and talent. Nick is known for his teaching skills, humor, patience, and encyclopedic knowledge of everything to do with stonecarving.

The guest instructors for Session Two (August 13-19, 2012) are Frank Haufe from Germany, and Kazutaka Uchida, from Japan.

Frank was born and raised in Dresden and started carving in 1971. He worked for Eduard Schnell Company as a stonecarver and stonecarving instructor for 19 years, and was the stonecarving technician at the world-famous Wunsiedel Technical College in Bavaria for three years before being recruited by Quarra Stone in Madison, Wisconsin as their master resident stonecarver and mentor to the approximately 20 stonecarvers that work for Quarra.

(For more information on Frank Haufe's carving artistry, see the *Slippery Rock* cover article on Quarra Stone from September 2010 in our achives at http://www.slipperyrockgazette.net/index.cfm/pageId/71/September_2010_Archive/ ).

*Continued on page 40*

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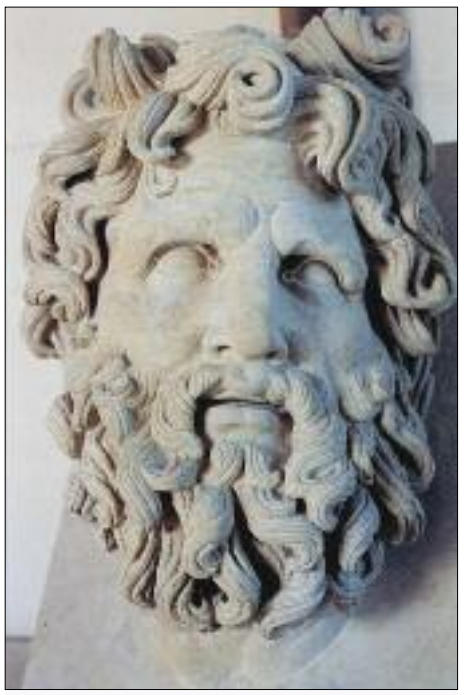
# Sax Stonecarving Workshop Celebrates 12 Years

*Continued from page 39*



*Nicholas Fairplay's "Klytius Head" is made of Limestone.*

Frank has worked on the state capitol building in Albany, New York and the Yale University Library, and is currently finishing up a five-year project at the state capitol building in Kansas. During his career, he has worked on some of Europe's most famous projects.

In addition to his considerable carving skills, Frank has considerable engineering talents and unbridled enthusiasm to share with participants.

Kazutaka Uchida from Tokyo, Japan returns as guest instructor for the ninth year. His presence attracts carvers and sculptors from around the world drawn by his unique visual language. His techniques for working stone are always a high point in the workshop, some being specific to Japanese stone sculpture traditions.

Uchida's work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art in Paris, the Kyoto Museum of Art, and the Toyota Museum of Modern Art. Some consider Uchida a direct descendant of the Brancusi / Noguchi lineage. Director Mark Saxe says, "To spend time with Uchida is a great honor for students and staff alike."

Mark Saxe, the director of the workshops, has been working in stone for 38 years. After receiving his MFA, he became a stonemason's apprentice in order to understand stonework from a basic vantage point: stone upon stone, with little or no intervention. That background influences his sculpture to this day.

He learned his skills through years of hard work, watching and working with great mentors and making many mistakes. He says, after over 35 years of owning and operating his own stone business, "There are still so many avenues to explore."

Saxe invites students of all levels of experience to the workshop. It is through shared knowledge, camaraderie, and common purpose that the workshop has gained a loyal following, with many of the participants returning year after year.

For more information about the workshops, visit www.saxstonecarving.com or call Mark Saxe at 505-579-9179.

**The workshops are named after the Latin term sax meaning stone.*

*Mark Saxe's sculpture titled "Once Removed" is made of Belgian black marble and gold leaf.*

*Kazutaka Uchida's stone artwork from the "Orion" series consists of Japanese basalt.*

# A Little Dose of Kid Wisdom

**Anne Tenna**
*Grandmother*

Children are often the epitome of innocence, and sometimes we tend to forget just how refreshing that can be. Here are some quotes that demonstrate that charming quality on various subjects.

**1) NUDITY**

I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5-year-old shout from the back seat, "Mom, that lady isn't wearing a seat belt!"

**2) OPINIONS**

On the first day of school, a first-grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. The note read, "The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents."

**3) KETCHUP**

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. "Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."

**4) MORE NUDITY**

A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, "What's the matter, haven't you ever seen a little boy before?"

**5) POLICE # 1**

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, "Are you a cop?"

"Yes," I answered and continued writing the report.

"My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?"

"Yes, that's right," I told her.

"Well, then," she said as she extended her foot toward me, "would you please tie my shoe?"

**6) POLICE # 2**

It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. "Is that a dog you got back there?" he asked.

"It sure is," I replied.

Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, "What'd he do?"

**7) ELDERLY**

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

**8) DRESS-UP**

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, "Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit."

"And why not, darling?"

"You know that it always gives you a headache the next morning."

**9) DEATH**

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cottonwool, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: "Glory be unto the Faaather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he goooes." (I want this line used at my funeral!)

**10) SCHOOL**

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"

**11) BIBLE**

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?"

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

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## Weha T900 Air Vacuum Lifter

- Load Capacity: 1984lbs
- Max adjustable width 53”
- 3-21” x 6” Vacuum Cups
- Pnuematic Power Tilt option
- Manual Tilt Option
- Rough and polished Surfaces
- Cups Swivel

## Weha T1500 Air Vacuum Lifter

- Load Capacity: 3307 lbs
- Max adjustable width 53”
- 5-21” x 6” Vacuum Cups
- Pnuematic Power Tilt option
- Manual Tilt Option
- Rough and polished Surfaces

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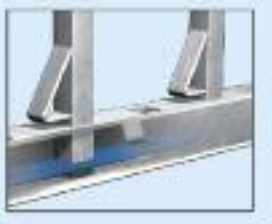

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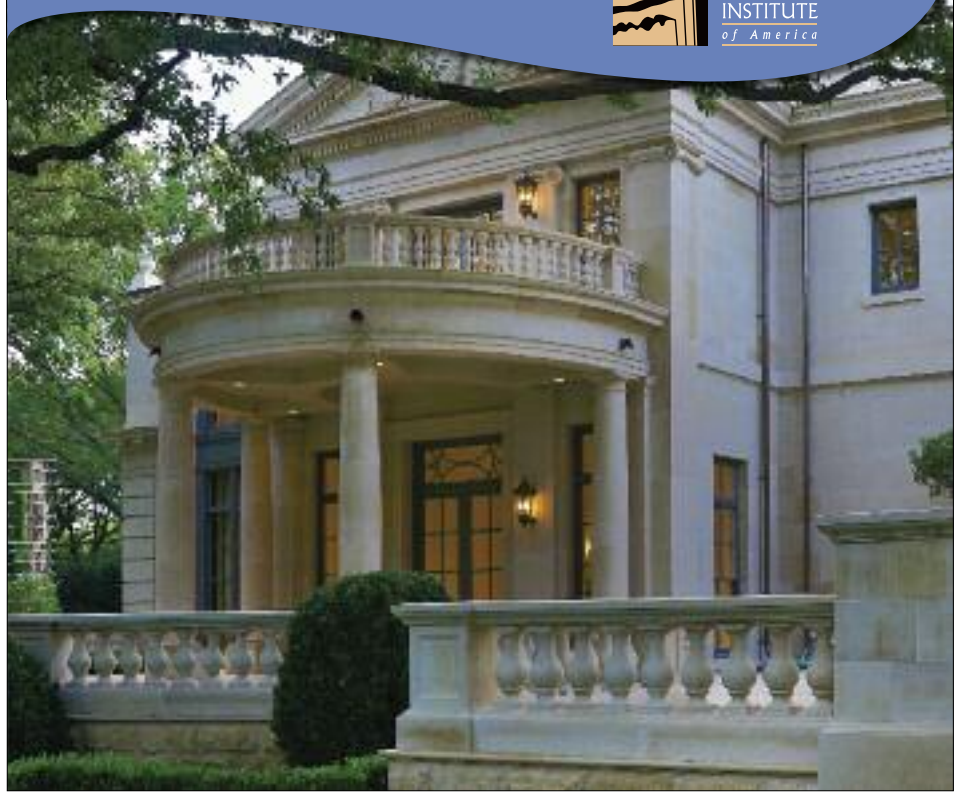
# Marble Institute of America 2011 Pinnacle Award Winners

*Recognizing Excellence in the Stone Industry (Continued from Last Month)*

## AWARD OF MERIT | Residential Interior/Exterior

**Private Residence • Dallas, Texas**



THIS PRIVATE RESIDENCE BOASTS OF OLD-WORLD MASONRY WITH CLASSIC ITALIAN PALLADIAN ARCHITECTURE. THE ARCHITECT DESIGNED THIS 6-1/4 ACRE CREEKSIDE PROPERTY AROUND THE 29,000 SQUARE-FOOT HOME.

The estate incorporates a four-car garage inclusive of servants quarters, and a pool cabana/pavilion. Expansive areas of hardscape connect buildings on the property.

The main exterior cladding is Texas Lueders Limestone. It was used for wall panels as well as plinths, window surrounds, balustrade assemblies, solid columns, and cornices. In a method of old-world construction, the limestone was fabricated to plus zero in tolerance to accommodate 1/8˝ lime-mortar joints. "Border stones" were utilized with the lime-mortar joints system to interlock the stone façade to the CMU wall behind.

Large stone column and window assemblies make up the east and west façades. These load-bearing elements support the pediment assemblies and structure above. The arches at the Pavilion were also designed as load-bearing, where pediment kneelers were cut from two separate carved pieces and epoxied together. Weighing 7,200 lbs each, the kneelers had to be set with a 180 ton crane in order to reach over two very large existing oak trees. The garage and pool cabana were constructed with the same stone cladding system, and with similar load-bearing elements.

**MIA Member Company:**
Dee Brown, Inc.
Garland, Texas
*Stone Installer*

**Other Project Team Members:**
Larry E. Boerders Architects, *Architect*
Sebastian & Associates, *General Contractor*
Mezger Enterprises and
Texas Quarries, Stone Suppliers

**Stone:**
Texas Lueders Limestone

## AWARD OF MERIT | Residential Interior/Exterior

**Sukhumvit 22 Residence • Bangkok, Thailand**

**MIA Member Company:**
Stones and Roses International Co. Ltd.
Samutprakarn, Thailand
*Stone Supplier/Stone Fabricator /Stone Installer*

**Other Project Team Members:**
Mr. Chumsri Arnold, *Client*
Era Studio Ltd., *Architect*
Agora Co. Ltd., Local Design
M.S.K., General Contractor

**Stone:**
Cream Limestone
Grey Basalt
White Limestone
Brown Sandstone

THE building was formed by the connection of 3 shop-houses. Typically shop-houses are designed vertically with a set of half story floor levels connected by a central staircase. The connection of the 3 shop-houses created a set of 3 staircases opened to a large central open space topped by a skylight glass roof. The stair steps and risers are paved with a light color limestone which provides the link connecting the set of stairs and corridors.

The lightness of the limestone participated in creating luminosity in the large stairwell. The hand-rail molded in the same limestone, underlines the graphic layout of the staircases. Each

level is designed as a living area with bedrooms and adjacent bathrooms. The bathrooms are paved and cladded with 2 stones of contrasting colors: dark grey basalt and white limestone.

The alternative use of these 2 colors throughout the set of bathrooms and the similarity in the stone pattern and details provide a sense of unity through all the levels. The detailed design, selection and arrangement of bathroom hardware, association of contracting textures create a contemporary and distinctive atmosphere.

*Continued on page 42*

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# MIA 2011 Pinnacle Awards

*Continued from page 42*

HOLZMAN Moss Bottino Architecture designed the Francis Marion University's Performing Arts Center, a $32.8 M construction located in Florence, South Carolina. Hidden with the stone façade of the building is a 68,000 sq ft multi-purpose theater featuring 900 seats and a revolutionary acoustic technology center made of various recycled materials.

In keeping with the architect's commitment to sustainability, the design reinforces community pride and participation through the use of regional materials and symbolism. Remnant White Cherokee Marble is inset in the exterior walls to accentuate the building's depth, dimension and profile. The material also conveys memories since the pieces used are the same as Florence National Cemetery's headstones (veterans' memorials). These pieces also add depth to the façade as they are interspersed with split face marble pieces.

All White Cherokee Marble used at the site was post-production recycled material, integrated into the design to create visual interest. Sustainable elements also include the use of remnant granite for building cladding, as well as recycled content building materials such as terrazzo, marmoleum, tectum and other materials containing renewable resources such as wool carpeting, linoleum flooring and OSB millwork.

**MIA Member Company:**
Polycor
Quebec, Canada
*Stone Supplier/Stone Fabricator*

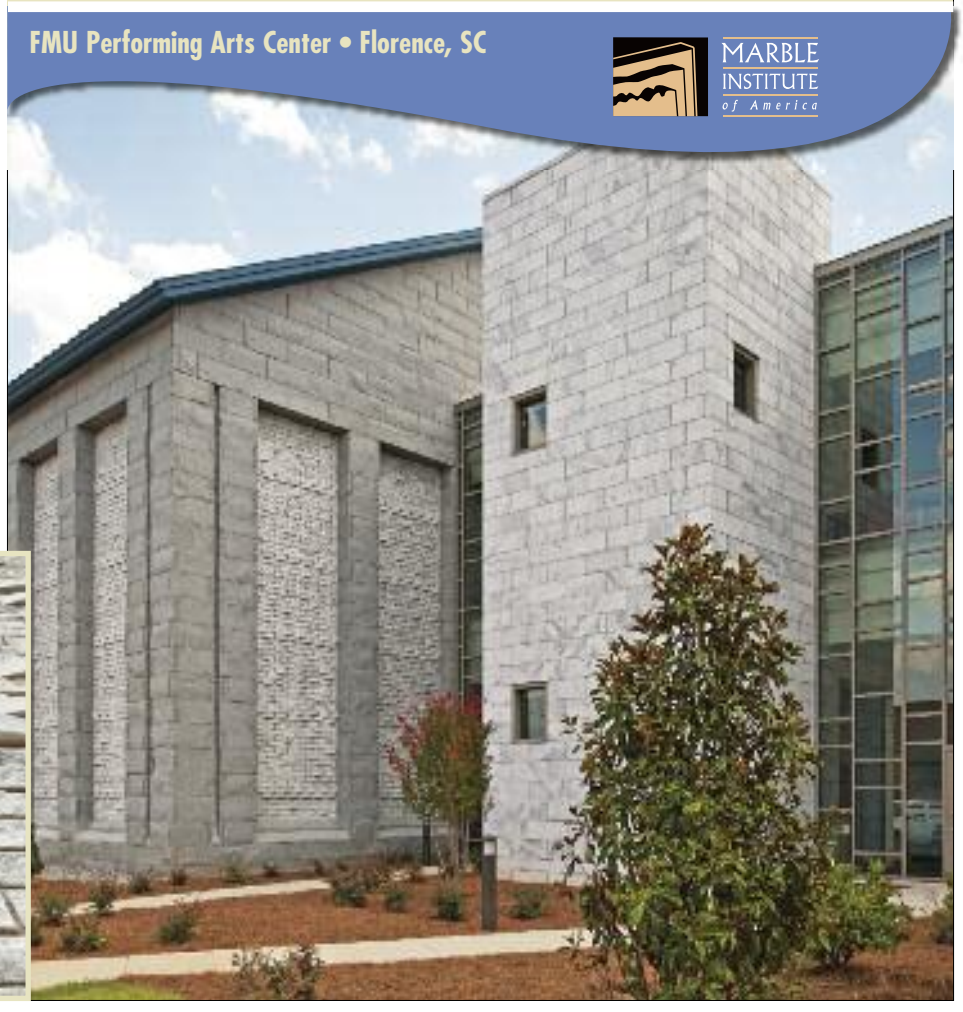
**Other Project Team Members:**
Owner, *Client*
Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture, *Architect/Designer*
M.B. Kahn Construction Co., *General Contractor*
Mac's Masonry, Inc., *Stone Installer*

**Stone:**
White Cherokee Marble

## AWARD OF MERIT | Special Award: Sustainability

FMU Performing Arts Center • Florence, SC

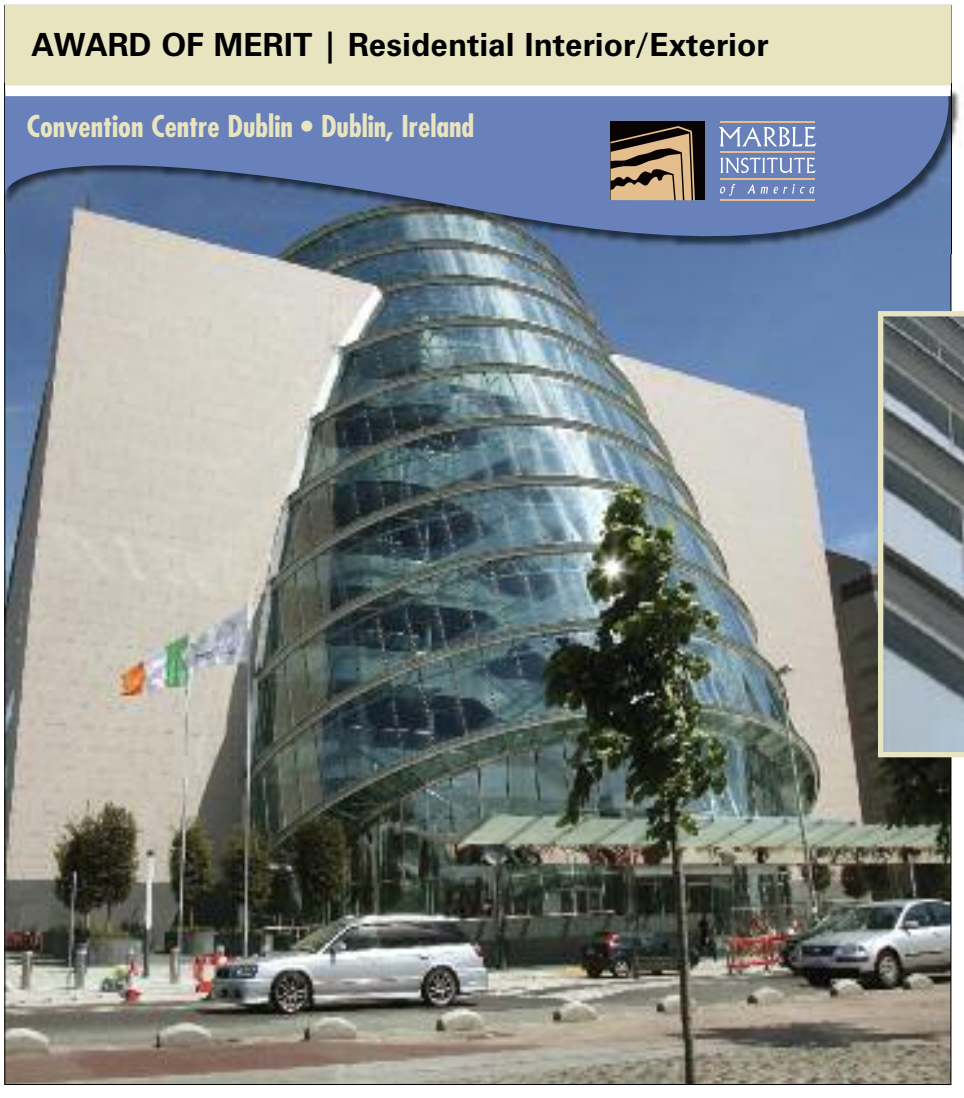
MARBLE INSTITUTE of America



## AWARD OF MERIT | Residential Interior/Exterior

Convention Centre Dublin • Dublin, Ireland

MARBLE INSTITUTE of America



**MIA Member Company:**
Eclad Limited
Dublin, Ireland
*Natural Stone Wall Cladding Systems*

**Other Project Team Members:**
Spencer Dock Development Co., *Architect*
Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates, LLC, *Architect*
CMP/John Sisk & Son, *General Contractor*
Eiregramco, Ltd, *Stone Installer*
Ganitos Ibericos, S.A., *Stone Supplier/Stone Fabricator*

**Stone:**
Rosa Porriño Granite
Negro Angola Granite

DESIGNED by Pritzker Prize winning Irish-born architect Kevin Roche, the Convention Centre Dublin (The CCD) is located in Spencer Dock in Dublin City and, at 475,000 square feet, is the largest single-use building constructed in Ireland for decades.

The CCD has a strong commitment to sustainability which includes recycling, using sustainable energy and an integrated building automated system. For example, the Centre has a thermal wheel heat recovery system and an ice storage thermal unit ISTU which chills water overnight to form large ice blocks that melt during the day to provide air conditioning for the entire building. Not only has the design team produced a stunning, state of the art International Convention Centre but it is the first in the world to be recognized as carbon neutral.

The 75,000 square foot external natural stone façade was an important element in this performance. Eclad's fully integrated thermally broken ESW system incorporates high performance insulated panels behind 30mm (1-1/4″) thick Rosa Porriño and Negro Angola granites to achieve the highest level of thermal insulation across the façade. The system was independently tested to meet the most stringent ASTM and International testing criteria and has obtained "CE" marking status for use throughout Europe.

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## The Fab King cuts sink holes, profiles edges, and drills holes

**The Swiss Army Knife Approach**
The Fab King combines the functions of a router, a drill press, an in-line back splash polishing machine, top polisher, and radial arm sink cut out machine in one.

**Real World Designed** *Wow!*
Nobody knows a machine like a repairman. The designer of this machine has more than 20 years' experience in the stone industry. Much of that time was spent trouble shooting and repairing stone equipment. 220 volt, single phase power and off the shelf components guarantee maximum uptime.

**Strong Backbone**
Unlike other radial arm machines, the solid frame will not flex when the motor is under load. Edge profiling requires a solid structure and the Fab King delivers it with 4" industrial strength steel square tubing.

**Full-Size Bed**
Unlike smaller solutions, the Fab King fabrication bed offers a full 114" of linear travel and 30" of gantry travel.

**Sink Cut-Outs in 8 Minutes!**
The Fab King can cut out any sink shape using a template (which means no mistakes and precise dimensions) in as little as 8 minutes.

**Save Your Core Bits!**
It will drill holes in seconds without wobble and extend the life of your core bits.

**Offer the Latest "Leather" Surface Without Spending Big Money**
No need to inventory special slabs, with Viper® Diamond Antiquing Brushes you can offer the latest finishes without the wait and expense of specials orders.

**Profile Without Tears!**
Unlike radial arm machines which can deflect 3/16" when fully extended and prevent true edge polishing, the Fab King cantilevered frame design presents a square and true tooling surface. You can use all of your favorite router bits. No need for a Plexiglass scratch guard.

**A Back Splash Machine for Free!**
A bonus application is that this is the easiest back splash polishing system yet developed. The travel head runs true horizontal to insure a flat edge polish. You can use the 3-Step Viper® Pad to obtain the fastest finish yet.

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