MEL’S METTLE

"LONDON BRIDGE"

London Bridge is falling down
Falling down, falling down
London Bridge is falling down
My fair lady

Time is swiftly passing me by in this “enlightened” age in which we are now living. As with so many memories of my youth, nursery rhymes seem to be a relic from a former life. One of those old rhymes, LONDON BRIDGE, popped into my cranium when pondering the fate of our nation’s decaying road and bridge infrastructure.

As a kid, little did I realize that these lyrics, also known as MY FAIR LADY, could be taken at face value. There is much debate about the origin of this rhyme, but all of them apparently agree that nothing good was happening. In essence, it deals with the plundering of London Bridge and attempts to repair it.

It seems to me that America’s transportation infrastructure is facing the same fate as London Bridge. This internationally famous part of England’s infrastructure was built in the 1830’s and formerly spanned the river Thames in London. After years of neglect, it was dismantled in 1967 and relocated in Havasu City, Arizona. The London Bridge is now known as the world’s largest antique and most expensive souvenir!

America is neglecting its infrastructure in the same manner that the English ignored the most important overpass in their biggest city.

DEALER SPOTLIGHT

Form & Build Supply, Inc.

Form & Build Supply, Inc., is a leading supplier of concrete and masonry products in the Province of Ontario, Canada. Established as a sole owner/ operator in 1975, the company has exhibited consistent growth which now includes 79 full-time employees along with the branch locations in Windsor, Kitchener, Hamilton and Mississauga (Toronto). Originally representing two manufacturers, Form & Build now carries over 7,000 different products from over 100 leading manufacturers. From waterproofing materials to forming hardware and accessories to tools and fasteners, Form & Build has everything concrete professionals need to get the job done.

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Like most of MFC’s successful dealer partnerships, the association with Form & Build has grown steadily over the years. It all started rather moderately about 15 years ago and has consistently increased to the point...

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

PRECAST BARRIER FORMS

The demand for temporary concrete barrier has swelled due to highway department requirements to safely protect roadside construction workers from passing traffic.

In shop photo

30’ long x 42” high single slope precast setup prior to shipment.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Augustus (Gus) Nichols
Fabrication Specialist

The phrase “Steady As A Rock” is used to describe someone or something that is dependable and trustworthy. There is no doubt that this phrase could be used to define the production and work ethic of Gus Nichols at MFC.

Gus’s career at MFC began in 1987 when he began training in the challenging task of fabricating curb & gutter face forms. The skill sets developed by Gus in the curb & gutter department were soon applied to the production of median barrier and bridge parapet forms. Much like curb & gutter, dimensions for barrier and parapet forms are exacting and vary from state to state. Over the years, Gus has exhibited the concentration and patience to fabricate steel to variable and precise specifications for curbs, barriers and parapets.

Gus’s reliability and steadiness extends beyond the fabrication of specialty steel forms. The work performed by Gus is not the type that can be transported or preformed remotely. He must show up every day at MFC rain or shine and Gus does just that! His attendance record is outstanding which is so important in light of MFC’s tight production schedules and commitments.

In Gus’s words, he is “getting up there in years”, but that doesn’t mean he is looking forward to retirement. Gus continues: “I enjoy coming to work and being a part of the production team at MFC. A good group of guys that is dependable and trustworthy. There is no debate that this phrase could be used to define the production and work ethic of Gus Nichols at MFC.”

Speaking of family, Gus enjoys spending time with his four children. There are three boys (Shanna, Augustus, Jr. & Princeton) and one girl (Tara). Visiting Tara and Princeton is easy in that both live in the Milwaukee area. It takes a bit more planning to see Shanna who lives in Arizona and Augustus, Jr. who lives in Georgia.

Thanks, Gus, for being “Steady As A Rock” in your steadfast loyalty and contributions to MFC.

"American Infrastructure"

American infrastructure is falling down
Falling down, falling down
America infrastructure is falling down
My fair citizen.

New highway bill must be funded
Must be funded, must be funded
New highway bill must be funded
My fair congress.

Modern roads, bridges should be built
Should be built, should be built
Modern roads, bridges should be built
My fair contractors.

America has a choice: Invest and rebuild our infrastructure or let it crumble like the London Bridge.

On second thought, maybe all is not lost if we let it disintegrate. After all, we could always transform our once great infrastructure network to one giant amusement park!

In addition to coordinating sales promotions and inventory levels, the impressive leap in sales can be attributed to the education of the Form & Build sales staff. The knowledge of MFC forming systems is imparted by direct factory representatives via on-site training sessions, product demos and open houses. The Form & Build sales team is thoroughly versed in the pros & cons of both MFC’s poly and steel forming systems. This understanding allows the salesperson to confidently recommend poly forms vs. steel forms or “visa versa”.

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

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In Gus’s words, he is “getting up in years”, but that doesn’t mean he is looking forward to retirement. Gus continues: “I enjoy coming to work and being a part of the production team at MFC. A good group of guys that is like extended family.”

Speaking of family, Gus enjoys spending time with this four children. There are three boys (Shanna, Augustus, Jr.& Augustus, Jr.) and one girl (Tara). Visiting Tara and Princeton is relatively easy in that both live in the Milwaukee area. It takes a bit more planning to see Shanna who lives in Arizona and Augustus, Jr. who lives in Georgia.

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PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

PRECAST BARRIER FORMS

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MFC is proud of the well-grounded partnership with Form & Build and is looking forward to continuing to build a strong bond with our Canadian friends across the border. Congratulations to Form & Build as it celebrates its 45th anniversary of faithfully supplying and supporting the Ontario construction industry.

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DEALER SPOTLIGHT

Form & Build Supply - London, ON, Canada

Oftentimes the name of a construction supply dealer can be misleading or, at the very least, nondescript. Nothing wrong with the name “Smith Distribution”, but it doesn’t immediately translate to an outlet for concrete contractor supplies.

In the case of Form & Build Supply, Inc., it is a very appropriate name for a company that distributes MFC’s concrete forming products. The contractors served by Form & Build literally “form & build” with MFC’s steel and poly forms for concrete construction.

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