

Form To FinishTM

MEL'S METTLE



SHARED VISION

Big headlines in the construction news media recently announced the purchase of Wirtgen Group by Deere & Company. In the eyes of Deere, the acquisition was part of a long-range commitment and plan to enter into the roadbuilding business. The transaction gave me pause to consider the commitment that MFC made many, many moons ago to that very same roadbuilding industry.

While MFC entered the road building business in the early 1920's, not so Deere. In fact, Deere currently offers precious little in the way of road equipment. "In one fell swoop", Deere placed itself squarely in the transportation game by adding a large umbrella of internationally-known Wirtgen products to its roadbuilding line-up: Rollers & Compactors (HAMM); Asphalt Pavers & Plants (VOGELE); Milling Machines & Concrete Pavers (WIRTGEN).

Although we never want to get complacent here at MFC, it does make me proud that the Company began entrenching itself in the roadbuilding industry almost 100 years ago. It confirms that MFC continues to be in the right marketplace when you read the following comments from Max Guinn, Deere President of C & F (Construction & Forestry): "There's plenty of news out there today about interest in infrastructure/roadbuilding investment, so we believe it's an attractive space for Deere."

Guinn adds that the transportation sector has "growth tailwinds" and that it is "important to recognize that road construction consists of not just new roads, but also the rehabilitation of existing roads." Hope you don't mind me being a bit more boastful, but road rehabilitation construction is where MFC really shines: Steel Forms (METAFORMS®) to repave and reconstruct our collapsing roads and highways as well as our airport runways and taxiways; Concrete Finishing Machines (SPEED SCREED®) to refinish and refurbish our urban streets and boulevards; Plastic Forms (POLY META FORMS®) to rebuild and replace our crumbling curbs and sidewalks.



The gist of this mettle is that it is reassuring to know that both MFC and a large successful organization like Deere & Company are both committed to the future of roadbuilding. And also like Deere, MFC knows that commitment shows up before results.

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EMPLOYEE PROFILE CARLOS VELEZ - Shipping & Receiving

People who are meticulous can be pretty annoying, what with extreme attention to detail. But if that person is, say, your surgeon or your accountant, you'll want them to be meticulous. In the case of Carlos Velez, his extreme care and treatment of detail makes him an outstanding person to be managing shipping & receiving at MFC.

Since Carlos has been in charge, there has been a dramatic decrease in shipping/ receiving errors and disputes. Not only has Carlos brought a new level of accuracy to MFC shipping, but he also introduced a new concept to assure correct documentation.



Now every shipment from MFC is linked to at least one photograph to verify packaging details. Since adding photography to his duties, Carlos estimates that there are now over 40,000 photos in the MFC shipping archives.

The road Carlos followed to management duties at MFC was filled with blocks and detours. It was a challenge from the start as Carlos was raised in Puerto Rico in a family of 12 brothers and sisters. When he was only 12 years old, Carlos remembers making only \$1.00 per hour at various cleaning jobs and being disappointed in job opportunities. But Carlos did not give up and, at one point, was combining one full-time job and two part-time jobs while still finding time to attend University to become a CPA. About 10 years ago, his younger brother (Ruben) called and suggested he could find work for him in the US. Two days later, Carlos was on his way and the rest is history.

Carlos says he is never bored at MFC. No day is ever the same with an unending variety of tasks and challenges. It is a true juggling act for Carlos to combine the packaging/ shipping of MFC's diverse product mix with the almost daily receipt of thousands of tons of steel. Besides not being bored, Carlos likes the family atmosphere at MFC and the respect that all employees have for each other.

While not meticulous managing shipping/receiving at MFC, Carlos enjoys reading (especially Greek mythology) fishing and cooking. Carlos and his wife, Rosa, have been married for 35 years and have 3 children: Carlos, Lizzette & Linnette.

FIELD REPORT SPEED SCREED® North Carolina

In the last issue, we asked our readers to send photos of MFC products hard at work on jobsites. In response to our request, we heard from Dallas Owens, Project Manager for Granite Contracting LLC, who sent us photos and information about the excellent job performance of their Speed Screed Cruiser.

The machine was originally purchased for a high-profile concrete overlay (unbonded) project for The Governors Club in Chapel Hill, NC. With the need to address the community's aging streets, the infrastructure committee turned to the new concept of placing an unbonded concrete overlay. The innovative overlay method greatly expedited the project which previously required removal of distressed pavement, sub-grade stabilization with cement followed by paving with 7" of concrete.

Granite Contracting was chosen to perform the work and Granite, in turn, chose the SPEED SCREED® to place the overlay. Careful staging of the work by Granite enabled the Jack Nicklaus designed golf course and Governors Club House to remain open for the community residents and guests.

What is an Unbonded Overlay The purpose of an unbonded overlay is to restore structural capacity to an existing pavement that is moderately to significantly deteriorated. The term "unbonded" simply means that a bonding between the overlay and the underlying pavement is not needed to achieve the desired performance (ACPA Publication TB021.03P Guide to Concrete Overlays: Sustainable Solutions for Resurfacing and Rehabilitating Existing Pavements, 3rd Edition).

The same finishing machine that was used on the Governors Club project was later used on Interstate repair work.







Granite Contracting, LLC Cornelius, NC 28031



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SPOTTED IN THE FIELD

POLY META FORMS® Alabama

Keeping our field cameras focused in the South, here is a jobsite photo of a curbing project at the Ohatchee (AL) High school. The 12" high curb radius was achieved by using 2 - 6" poly forms in conjunction with 6" + 6" steel stacking pockets.

The forms were supplied by M & M Construction Supply which is an MFC Master Dealer located in Rainbow City, AL.



MEL'S MUSINGS



The older you get, the better you were.