



MASONS' LINE

The Goal is to Keep Masonry Strong and Respected



Paul Jahn, Ash Grove Packaging

When I first entered the construction industry in 1980, I was on a residential framing crew. It didn't take long for me to realize that construction was a special industry, indeed. We would start a job looking at a hole in the ground and, little by little, a structure would start to take shape. I vividly remember leaving work at the end of

the day, looking back at what we had done, and feeling pride in what we had accomplished that day. Even though it was truly a gratifying profession, it didn't take me long to realize there was another trade on the job that was a cut above the rest. It was a true craft that could not be learned overnight. As soon as I picked up a trowel and made a feeble attempt at putting mortar on a brick, it was obvious to me that this was not a trade learned quickly or easily. I respected the masonry crew, and I understood why the masons took great pride in their trade.

I learned many aspects of construction from the framing crew, one of which was exterior cladding. We installed aluminum siding, wood siding, and stucco. I often commented to my colleagues, "Why would anyone want anything but brick on their home." The beauty, strength, and durability of the masonry industry are unsurpassed. I can't think of anyone ever looking at a building with siding or stucco and exclaiming, "WOW, isn't that

beautiful!" However, when you look at a masonry building with the intricate shapes, arches, soldiers, saw tooth patterns, and columns, it is hard not take a deep breath and say "WOW, that is truly a work of art!"

When I joined the manufacturing side of the industry, I gained a new insight into what is expected when it comes to construction materials. I could see why the bar is set high for the specifications of construction products. Beautiful, well-built projects require good materials as well as great workmanship.

My Company has always been a proud member of the Utah Masonry Council. But, it was only last year that I came to be a member of UMC's board. Although I am the newest member of the Council, it didn't take long at all to see the commitment of this fine organization. The goal is obvious: to keep the masonry industry strong and well-respected. The members are striving to maintain the high standards that are set by the

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SWATC Students Renovate Cedar City's Oldest Standing House

The Hunter House, now located in Cedar City's Frontier Heritage State Park (formerly called the Iron Mission State Park), was originally build in 1866. This all-brick two-story home has four rooms and a central stairway. The double-wythe walls are adobe (not fired) brick. And,

even though the exterior brick was fired, it is still very soft when compared to today's standards. State RAP and grant money made it possible for Mike Liebhardt, an instructor at Southwest Applied Technology College, to oversee the renovation of this impressive project. The

students' initial goal was to repair the interior plaster that had cracked when the home was relocated four years ago. As they started the patching, they found that there was no cement used in the house. (It was not available in the area



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SWATC Students Renovate Cedar City's Oldest Standing House (continued)



Hunter House

at that time.) They decided to scrape out the clay mud, repair the damaged brick, and then repoint. Upon completing this endeavor, the brick was cleaned off and metal lath was attached. Then, where the plaster was still in good shape, the plaster was evened up. To avoid the possibility of future cracking, a coat of adhesive plaster was next applied over a stucco netting. The final coat was a pigmented cement/lime finish plaster that did not require painting. For a finishing touch, the students rebuilt the altered gas fireplace into one closely resembling the original fireplace.

The high school and two college freshmen students thoroughly enjoyed working on the Hunter House. In years past, the construction students have built a new home, but this year home sales were slow. Having the students do this restoration work was a perfect fit for the college and museum.

What could the students' next

project possibly be? Well the Hunter House had an addition that was completed in 1890. When the addition could not be moved with the house, it was torn down and all of the bricks and major pieces of wood were saved in hopes of rebuilding the addition. A grant opportunity has surfaced, and the students may be able to start on the addition within the next year. They are facing one problem, though: the brick was placed on pallets and stored outside. After weathering for four years, many of the adobe bricks resemble piles of clay. Mike Liebhardt indicated that this situation opens the door for another exciting project:

"So the next thing we found is someone that has experience in firing brick the old fashioned way... in a make-shift kiln that we will make onsite and basically work like an 18th century coke oven. Should be fun for the whole town. We are going to have a blast with this!"



Mike Liebhardt repointing brick



A special note: Mike's class runs for the regular school year and is a full year long. There will also be an adult program that will possibly incorporate apprenticing with local contractors. The class is a certificate program that lasts for 980 hrs. Anyone who is interested can contact Michael Liebhardt at MLiebhardt@swatc.edu or SWATC at 435-586-2899.

The Goal is to Keep Masonry Strong & Respected (continued)

consummate masonry professional, and they want to keep the standard imitators from tarnishing the good name of the masonry industry. In the short time I have been involved with UMC, I have gained a new and deep respect for the professionals who care so deeply for their trade. I know of very few professions where you see the business passed from father to son and brother to brother like you do in the masonry industry. It is a passion, and the skills are learned at an early age and carried on for many generations.



Pre-Apprentice Program at Decker Lake

Masonry Ordinances Protect Communities Across the Country

The staff here at Decker Lake is especially appreciative to the community business partners who donated materials to make this happen for our youth.



With the guidance of the Utah Masonry Council and Aleta Fairbanks, Decker Lake Youth Center was able to implement a 10 week series of introductory hours to masonry skills.

Under the direction of mason Larry Blanchard, seven students spend 6-7 hours a week covering the basic skills of the trade. So far students have practiced tool and masonry material identification, safety, arranging brick in the five basic structural bonds, loading a trowel, spreading a mortar bed and forming a head joint on brick and block. Larry Blanchard emphasizes the satisfaction one gets when producing something with your own hands. Students seem genuinely intrigued with this goal as they plan their first project — a garden wall. The excitement of the class has spread to the others in the facility with a “waiting list” in place for the fall class.

The staff here at Decker Lake is especially appreciative to the community business partners who donated materials to make this happen for our youth. **In particular we thank Jeff Elder and Bill Lippman at Interstate Brick, Craig Buehner of Buehner Block, and Ken DiLoreto at Quikrete.** Without their support, we would not have been able to move forward in this endeavor. Our goal to help troubled youth make real connections with the skilled working world is a stronger reality with this kind of community rally. We look forward to reporting our progress in the upcoming months.

Daria Gal, Comprehensive Guidance Counselor

“A builder only owns a home as long as it takes to sell it. A buyer may own the home for 5-7 years. But our community owns the home forever. No one has a greater stake in the quality of what’s built in our city than we do.” -- City Planner, Aurora, Colorado

Some call it new urbanism. Some call it green building, and others call it just plain smart. However it's termed, communities throughout America are enacting masonry ordinances to combat substandard construction and manage the quality of new development. Local governments favor masonry standards because they provide a tangible way to guarantee the durability, safety and curb appeal of new buildings in their communities. Masonry guidelines ensure that new homes and schools are built to last and to require little or no exterior maintenance. Masonry guidelines guarantee that apartments and town homes are built to resist fire, hail and wind. And last but not least, masonry requirements leave plenty of room for individual - expression and design choices.

Citizens like the standards, too, because they are an insurance policy of sorts on the future direction of their neighborhood or community. Well-built homes and commercial buildings retain their value and add to the prestige of the community, and that translates into safer, more desirable neighborhoods and higher resale values for homeowners. By Diane Travis, RMMI

UMC has hired Brent Overson to review the masonry standards of Utah's cities and towns and to help them understand the many benefits of building with brick, block and stone. If you are concerned about the masonry ordinances in your community, please contact Aleta.

**DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE
MAD ABOUT MASONRY GOLF TOURNAMENT
Thursday, July 15th
Wasatch Mountain State Park Golf Course
Register at www.utahmasonrycouncil.org**



Utah Career Days were very successful this year. We participated in Farmington and Logan. Between the two locations, we had over 9,000 students exposed to masonry in a four-day period. A major "shout out and kudos" for the many hours they spent working the booth go to Tyler Clark and Ken DiLoreto from Quikrete, Jim Wilcox from Wilcox Masonry, Chris Robinson from Sunroc, Drew Richins from the Local Bricklayers Union and also William "Butch" Rovder from the International Union BAC. Also, the suppliers who donated materials are: Quikrete, Interstate Brick, Sunroc and Spec Mix. The support of the masons and suppliers made this busy, yet fun, event possible for junior high and high school students throughout Utah.

Construction Trades / Granite Technical Institute Open House

The end of this school year completes the first year that the Granite, Murray, Jordan, Canyons, and Salt Lake School Districts have united and invited construction personnel to participate in a Construction Trades Business Advisory Board. This Board has been organized to increase participation in construction-related careers through cooperative efforts to create educational programs that provide the necessary skills required on the jobsite.

Granite School District also has a program called Granite Technical Institute which encourages students to become involved in career programs offered to them during high school enrollment.

In February these two groups hosted an open house for students in these school districts to increase their awareness about programs for the many alternatives available to them if they choose not to attend a traditional college. UMC provided students with an opportunity to try their hand at buttering a brick, and our booth was one of the favorite attractions. We want to express our sincere appreciation to Mat Nielsen of A Good Brick Mason, Rick Shorter of IMS Masonry, and Drew Richins of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen Local Union for helping UMC man our booth. We also want to thank Interstate Brick and Quikrete for providing the materials. Their generosity made this enjoyable event possible!



Interested junior high and high school students wait their turn while they watch their peers butter a brick.

Congratulations to these Best of State Winners:

Child Enterprises
Best Subcontractor

MHTN
Best Architect



Mat Nielsen, Drew Richins, and Rick Shorter demonstrated and then supervised the students as they tried their luck buttering a brick or two.



Live Webinar Series

The Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA) is offering Live Webinar Series. The Webinars allow attendees to earn Masonry Certification credits from the comfort of their home or office. Attendees will be able to ask questions and have access to handouts just as they would in a classroom setting.

Visit www.masonrycontractors.org/live for more information about each webinar and to purchase your tickets.