

From the President's Desk

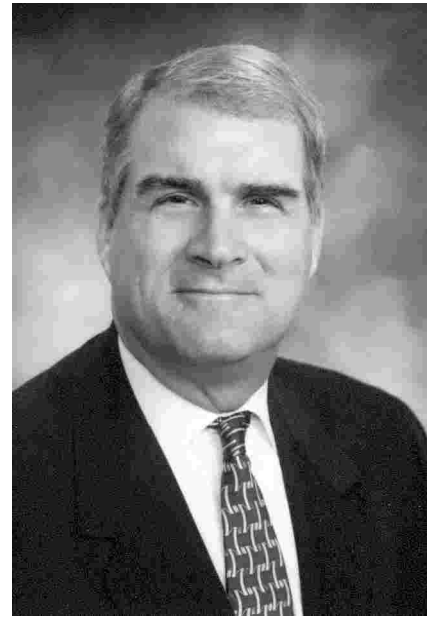
Sometime during 2009, The Belden Brick Company will reach its 124th anniversary and begin its one hundred twenty-fifth year of operations. From its beginning as the Diebold Fire Brick Company in 1885 to its transition in 1895 to The Canton Pressed Brick Company and then to The Belden Brick Company in 1912, the Company has endured, survived and prospered through the Panic of 1893, the Panic of 1907, the Great Depression, two world wars, and the severe recession of the early 1980's here in Ohio and the Midwest.

By the foresight and hard work of our predecessors, the Company emerged from each of those periods well-positioned to participate in the inevitable resurgence of the construction market and the economy in general. Now, it appears that it is our turn to navigate the current severe downturn in the global economy. We will probably only operate at approximately sixty percent of our capacity this year, but we will use this opportunity to upgrade and maintain our facilities, to unveil our new sawhouse for thin brick products, and to continue to plan for new facilities that we will undoubtedly need as the 21st century progresses.

We are realistic about the situation that exists, but we are optimistic and confident that we, too, will endure and survive and ultimately prosper because we have honored and maintained the traditions, values, and fundamental business practices of our fathers and grandfathers. We are optimistic, too, because we have outstanding and committed colleagues both inside our organization and in our distributor partners. We look forward to meeting the challenges of 2009 and beyond together with you as we continue our quest to provide the market with products and services that define "The Standard of Comparison" in our industry.



Robert F. Belden
President & CEO



Quality/Safety Corner

The Recent Political Rhetoric included Massive use of the Word "Change".

The recent political rhetoric included massive use of the word change. In the non-political sense change is the answer as we analyze and change our processes both operationally and in the support areas in an attempt toward continual improvement.

For example: Brick with a nominal 8 inch height are deformed during the cutting process at Plant 2. This deformation causes the face of the units to be out-of-square. Shawn Bellville's ideas uses the facer to flip the units upside down to counteract the cutter deformation. Face squareness was improved for a recent run of double monarch units made with this process. Plant 2 plans to eventually use this extra step for all brick with this cut height, including quads and double utilities.

At Belden we continue to change, hopefully for the better. One thing that has not changed is the commitment, loyalty and resourcefulness of our people that supports our continued position as the Standard of Comparison in our industry.

Health & Safety

2008 Safety Incentive Program Complete

The Belden Brick Company has always worked hard to keep its employees safe while they are at work whether through physical guarding or safety training. These traditional safety methods have proved successful, but too many injuries still occur throughout the year. Many of these injuries are preventable, so the Company devised a monetary safety incentive program in an attempt to strengthen the safety culture within the plants.

Historical data, such as yearly claim totals and workers comp dollars spent, was the basis for setting 2008 claims goals and payment amounts. Each plant had different goals based on the number of employees at the facility. A three tiered goal system was established for each plant with a better payment for lower claims. The Company paid out about 29% of the amount possible.

When all of the numbers were tabulated, four facilities were able to meet their goals. Congratulations go to Plants 2, 8, 9 and CPG (Central Maintenance, Pit Dept., Gas Dept.). However, all facilities worked very hard even if they weren't able to make their goal this year. The evidence is in a lower than average claim total for 2008 and the fact that there is a growing buzz in the plants related to safety.

Part of our Safety Program included an Annual Safety Slogan Contest. Dean Shutt suggested & won with: **"WORK SAFELY TODAY - ENJOY LIFE TOMORROW!"**

Calendar of Events

February

February 16
Belden Brick Annual Forum & Distributor Recognition Dinner
McKinley Grand Hotel – Forum
Canton Cultural Center - Dinner

March

March 16-18
Belden Annual Distributor Sales Training Class
McKinley Grand Hotel
Canton, OH

April

April 23-25
Brick Show 2009
Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort,
Golf Club and Spa
Marco Island, FL

September

September 8-10
BIA September Committee & Regional Board and Council Meetings
The Westin Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

October

October 17-18
BIA Fall Board & Council Meetings
The Broadmoor
Colorado Springs, CO

BELDEN NEWS

WINTER 2009

Not Just Another Brick in the Wall at The Belden Brick Company

On September 9th The Belden Brick Company hosted a masonry day open house for architects and engineers entitled "Not Just Another Brick in the Wall." The open house included a full plant tour, hands-on demonstration and educational seminars. More than 55 people from all over Northeast Ohio attended the sold out event. It turned out to be a great day for Belden Brick due to the heavy interest from the architectural community.

The event was cosponsored with the International Masonry Institute with help from the Brick Industry Association and the Brick Institute of America – Mid East Region. Brian Trimble from BIA was the educational seminar instructor and Tom Nagy from IMI orchestrated the day's activities along with the hands on demonstration. Jim Tann and Natalie Stan of the Mid East Region were also a great help in organizing the days activities. Thanks to all the Belden Brick employees who assisted with the days events for putting on a successful day of important continuing education credits for the architects and engineers.

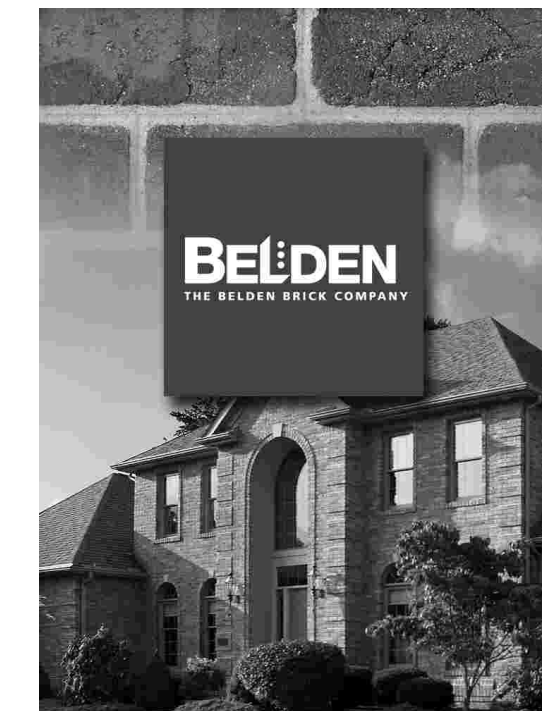


in this issue

QUALITY/SAFETY CORNER

DISTRIBUTOR SPOTLIGHT

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



We Work Here.
We Play Here.
Proud to Call Here,
Our Home.

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