

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Elsewhere in this issue of the Belden News, you will see a brief article announcing the retirement of Bill Belden, Jr. Bill's service to the company and to our family may not rank with the longest in company history but it does compare favorably in its impact.

Under Bill's leadership, the company's book value increased by a factor of six from mid-1983 until the end of 2015. That comes out to a compound annual growth rate of approximately 5.75%. While that return isn't in Warren Buffett's league, I would venture to say it's a return far in excess of what would have been accomplished if we had simply maintained the status quo during that time.

Bill provided leadership to the industry as well as the company serving as Chairman of the Brick Institute of America in 1993 and 1994. He visited most of the brick manufacturing operations in the United States and many others in the world giving him keen insight into our competition and the relative value of their operations. This led to our purchase of Redland Brick Inc., the U.S. subsidiary of Redland PLC, in 1996 and to the purchase of Lawrenceville Brick in 2011. Bill also diversified our portfolio outside the industry and made the critical decision to invest in First Federal Savings & Loan of Wooster (FFSW) during the height of the Savings and Loan crisis. First Federal became Signal Corp, which was acquired by FirstMerit in 1999. FFSW was in the top ten of all NASDAQ stocks on a total return basis during the ten-year period from 1988-1998.

Bill led us to become the first ISO certified face brick manufacturer in the United States because he recognized the need for us to measure, maintain, and ultimately, increase our lead in the quality arena.

As an elementary student at St. Peter School, a seven or eight block walk from Belden Brick headquarters in Canton, Bill would often visit our grandfather, Paul B. Belden, Sr. P.B. was an iconic figure in both the brick industry and in the civic arena of Canton and northeastern Ohio. Bill clearly paid attention while visiting P.B. After his death in 1970, P.B.'s office remained unoccupied until Bill's arrival in July 1983. Bill's service to the Stark County community, the brick industry, this company, and the Belden and Hartung families has ratified the wisdom of putting Bill in that office. Bill has never lost sight of our mission to remain The Standard of Comparison in the brick industry nor to the ideals of servant leadership in our community. We are all better off because of his service.

If you have the opportunity, please join me in thanking Bill for his unwavering commitment to this company and the communities it serves, to this industry, and to the entire Belden Brick family.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Belden



Jim Tann - ASTM Committee Member

Jim Tann Wins Award

Jim Tann awarded Gilbert C. Robinson Memorial Award for his technical expertise and his contributions in the field.

Jim Tann of The Belden Brick Company was awarded the Gilbert C. Robinson Memorial Award for his technical expertise and accomplishments at the meetings in a special awards luncheon. The award honors Gill Robinson, a member of ASTM Committee C15 for 35 years before his death in 1996. Gill pioneered the application of practical technology in the development of standards for masonry units.

In order to preserve the memory of his contributions, the Gilbert C. Robinson Memorial Award was established to recognize those who make contributions of a similar scope and significance.

Jim Tann's work on the Durability task group as well as his many other contributions including serving as Chair of Committee C15 for four years were used as a basis for bestowing this award. In a similar fashion, it was noted that Jim Tann will be serving on ASTM's Board of Directors starting next year. This very prestigious position will help the clay brick industry get more recognition throughout ASTM and help with any future issues our masonry committee may have.

Dedicated to Brick!

John Quist (A Distributor from Hamilton Parker) travels to the Great Wall of China on vacation ... he had to see first hand how Belden Brick might stack up against this historic icon! Impressive dedication John!



Spring-around the Corner

Belden Brick Chips make a beautiful landscaping accent to any residence or business. Use them in your planting beds or garden paths to make a bold statement for a lasting architectural look.



Available in 3 colors and 3 sizes.



THE BELDEN NEWS

SPRING 2016

Product Highlight: Thin Brick - Beautiful Surroundings

Belden Thin Brick is clay fired brick and is available in a large variety of textures, colors and sizes. Whether your need is indoors or outdoors, Belden Thin Brick can add a rich, distinct look to your project in less time and cost than you could ever imagine.

Belden Thin Brick can add the warmth and beauty of brick to the inside of your home, office or building. With Thin Brick you can create a unique look for your den, kitchen, great room or any surface that can use improvement. The uses of Belden Thin Brick are limited only by your imagination.

Outside, transform the exterior of your home from wood or aluminum siding to the rich look of brick. You will find an improvement in sound reduction, energy savings and improve resale value. Most of all, the character and attractiveness of your brick home will satisfy you for many years of maintenance free living.

- Save money in materials & installation costs
- Achieves long term value because of its low maintenance cost
- Add the classic beauty of brick without adding the weight
- Can be applied to virtually any existing interior or exterior wall
- Available in ¾" or 5/8" real brick
- Also available in pre-blended packaging to match face brick & thin brick together for same project



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Distributor Spotlight

THOMPSON/SILVERADO BUILDING MATERIALS

Diversity has been instrumental in the success of the Thompson/Silverado brand - a culture founded on innovation and progressive ideology with consistent growth.

Thompson/Silverado Building Materials was founded by Ken Thompson in 1962 in what was then the rural Southern California town of Tustin. Always the visionary, it was only a matter of time until Ken's first seed would blossom into a tree of success standing tall amongst the building community. Thompsons and Silverado now proudly serves its customers out of ten locations throughout the Golden State, seven of which contain cutting edge Design Centers. Continually aiming to improve the customer experience, these showrooms were a natural progression which have proven to be immeasurable assets for enhanced distribution.

Diversification has been instrumental in the success of the Thompson/Silverado brand. A culture founded on innovation and progressive ideology has forced incessant growth. Year after year product offerings have expanded and in accordance, so has the square footage dedicated to displaying materials. Extensive is not a strong enough word to accurately depict the options found throughout the state of the art facilities under the Thompson/Silverado umbrella. Thousands of bricks,

mountains of stone, and miles of pavers call out to a broad demographic. Builders, contractors, architects, designers, and home owners count on the Thompson/Silverado name to supply their demand.

Success is rarely formed from an individual effort. It is the strong partnerships developed along the way that support prosperity. In 2004, Thompson Building Materials partnered with Belden Brick, a relationship which has yielded significant progress. Belden's quality manufacturing capabilities armed with a united architectural sales team has proven to be an undeniable force in the California market.

Every day efforts continue to be deployed enhancing the capacity to supply California's ever growing demand with the best products the industry has to offer. The teams at Thompson/Silverado feel privileged to represent the Belden line and look forward to taking the partnership to heightened levels for years to come. We have sold millions, but are striving for billions! The competition may view our goals as over ambitious, but that is what sets our teams apart, the desire to pursue greatness.

Success is rarely formed from an individual effort. It is the strong partnerships developed along the way that support prosperity.



COLOR: WINWOOD BLEND
A Beautiful Color and Very Versatile!



Retirement: Thank you - Job Well Done. You will be Missed!



Lauren Gonser
Manager-Marketing Planning & Special Products

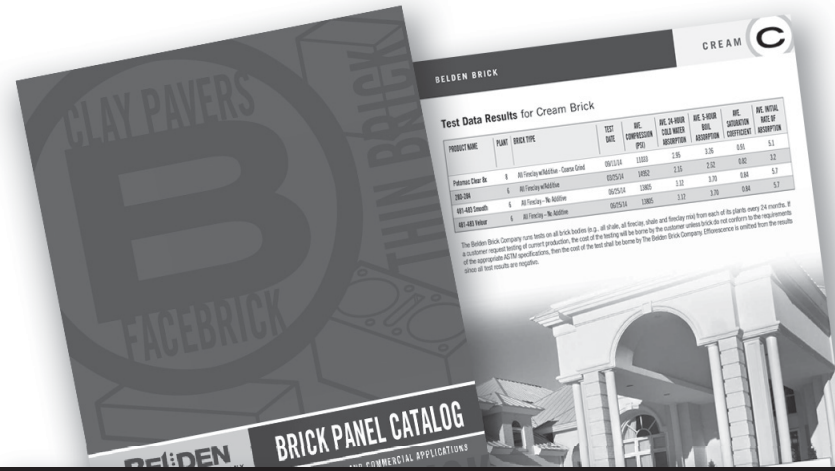
Lauren Gonser came to The Belden Brick Company in May of 1990 after a successful stint with Stark Ceramics in East Canton, Ohio. Lauren was named Manager, Marketing Planning and Special Products, reporting to Bob Belden, Vice-President/Marketing. Lauren has been heavily involved in the marketing of chemical resistant products, glazed brick, and thin brick. He was instrumental in the planning, design, and construction of Plant 2 where we resurrected our smooth shale floor brick (dairy brick) line. As we continued to field more

and more requests for thin brick slabs to complement our conventional face brick styles, Lauren took on the task of researching and planning the equipment needed to operate the Saw House, Plant 5, and again brought the project to fruition. Throughout the nearly 26 years that he has been with our company, he has been involved in ASTM committees and task forces, particularly in the chemical resistant product area. He has also served as chairman of the Ceramic Glazed Masonry Institute (CGMI). Even with all these commitments both inside and outside our company, Lauren has steadfastly served our chemical resistant customers and provided technical expertise to our entire staff. Lauren will retire from The Belden Brick Company at the end of March 2016 and although he did spend his early career with Stark Ceramics, he has earned the right to be considered a Belden "man." We thank Lauren for his loyalty, his dedication, and his numerous contributions to helping us maintain our position as The Standard of Comparison in our industry, and we wish him and Kathy a happy, healthy, prosperous, and long retirement.

2016 Belden Brick Binder

The New Belden Brick Panel Catalog is available for distributors - covers our face, thin & paving line of products with a section for your special shapes catalog.





New for 2016 - our new binder is a valuable resource for all your brick data needs and technical specifications, brick panel photography - the ultimate brick selector!



A RESOURCE RIGHT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS
Brick Specs, Photos, Reference Data & More ...

From all of us at Belden Brick, friends, family and associates, we wish you the best in your well earned retirement. May you have many years of happiness. Your dedication and passion for our industry and this company has driven us all to strive for bigger and better things.

Thank You!



Happy Retirement

William H. Belden, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

William H. Belden, Jr. has retired as Chairman of the Board of The Belden Brick Company, Belden Holding & Acquisition, Inc., and all affiliated companies effective January 1, 2016. Bill is the first chairman in the history of Belden Brick to retire. Bill has been a director of Belden Brick since his election to the board in 1979. He began his formal employment with the company on July 1, 1983 as president. He became chairman in 1993 and was named CEO in 1995. Bill will continue to serve as a director of Belden Brick and Belden Holding & Acquisition, Inc. for the foreseeable future. All of us at Belden Brick are grateful for Bill's leadership and guidance over the past 32-1/2 years and wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

32 1/2 Years