BUILDING AROUND THE COMPASS

O&G’s Energy & Power Group is making good progress on the 10 megawatt Central Heating Plant at UMass Amherst. Read more about this and other building projects on page 6.

Radiating out in all directions from O&G’s Wall Street headquarters in Torrington, major construction projects have kept crews hopping.

To the north, O&G is well into meeting its March 7, 2008 delivery date for the $118 Million Central Heating Plant (shown above) and associated facilities at UMass Amherst. To the south, the new Oxford High School’s doors opened on time this fall for its first students. To the east, situated alongside I-95 in Hartford, the $52-Million Sports and Medical Sciences Academy is on schedule for its 2008 opening. And to the west, O&G has continued its run of new construction projects at the Hotchkiss School with the recent completion of a pair of residence halls at the historic campus. We’ll take a photographic tour of these projects beginning on page 6.
**Route 7 Extension**

One of Connecticut’s last new highway projects balances preservation and progress

This is the type of project you don’t see much anymore in congested Connecticut: the construction of a brand new highway.

With only one more “virgin” highway job in the offing in Connecticut (a seven-mile extension of Route 11 between Colchester and Salem that was halted in 1972 but which proponents appear to have revived), the Route 7 extension is unique indeed.

Like Route 11, the long-awaited extension to Route 7 is not a new idea. The project was conceived as traffic demands grew in the 1970s but investments in engineering plans, land purchases and preliminary development were shelved in the 1980s for a variety of reasons. Brookfield’s First Selectman, Jerry Murphy, continues to be a supporter of the Route 7 bypass project. He views it as the right way to divert heavy through-traffic from the old “Four Corners” center of Brookfield, allowing that area to be developed in a way “that respects our historical New England character.”

Walt Koziol, VP, was involved in estimating the Route 7 project and appreciates the freedom new construction provides. “It’s a nice change building in virgin territory, being able to work unimpeded by traffic and utilities. You’re not having to work nights or off hours. We can also use the equipment to its capacity, really open it up and use it as designed.”

Another of the project’s more demanding aspects is working around a number of sensitive environmental areas, something O&G has considerable experience doing. Fragile wetlands, animal and reptile migration routes, rare plants and grasses must all be protected as heavy construction progresses alongside them.

Of the 80 acres through which the highway passes no more than ten acres can be “open” or worked on at any one time. And before work can start on another ten acres the just-completed ten must be deemed restored by DEP inspectors, with disturbed soils graded and replanted grasses or other ground covers well established.

Continued on Page 10
Environmental protection and all matters “green” have moved to the forefront of the American scene. From cars to construction, our heightened awareness of the environment is having an impact on how we live our lives.

While O&G plays a part and responds to more and more requests for eco-friendly, green building projects, the company has been active in the environmental management of its own plants and facilities for decades. In recent years, in fact, O&G has brought its activities to progressively higher levels of compliance.

Dedicated to Environmental Compliance

Today there is a small, focused and effective core of professionals at O&G’s Main Office who manage any and all matters related to the environment.

Paul Balavender, Counsel for O&G since 2004, oversees the workings of the Environmental Group. For 14 years before joining O&G, Balavender was employed as counsel by the Connecticut DEP in a policy and enforcement capacity. Knowing the statutes, knowing best environmental practices, knowing the DEP culture – and with an abiding respect for the protective intentions of environmental regulations – he draws on this experience as he guides O&G’s environmental compliance activities.

Ginny Ryan’s position as Director of Environmental Compliance puts her right in the middle of all the company’s environmental workings. A chemical engineer since 1986, she has worked independently as a consultant and also as an employee of a number of chemical companies, but always in the environmental field. Among her duties, Ryan stays on top of a prolific volume of permitting and other compliance matters, and sees that personnel are regularly trained.

To many in the company, 19-year O&G veteran Mike Postle is the face of environmental compliance. Since 2002 Postle has “walked the environmental beat” as the company’s Environmental Manager, getting out regularly to all of O&G’s plants and facilities where activities are regulated. His job is not just to monitor environmental compliance but to be a resource for managers and operators who have questions or concerns about handling environmental issues at their workplace.

Back at the Main Office, Carol Rizzuto is the group’s administrator. She is a maven of details and impeccably organized who keeps logbooks current for every environmentally permitted facility, responding to requests for information, filing important paperwork and the like. When Ryan and Balavender are asked about her duties, their automatic response is, “Thank God for Carol!”

This core group is also supported by, or overlaps with, the functions of other staff like Ken Faroni. Faroni, O&G’s Planning and Permitting Coordinator, is actively involved with the Environmental Group. Some of the longer-held environmental permits were put in place through his efforts and he continues to monitor them. He also keeps up-to-date on environmental permits pertaining to O&G’s quarry operations because, when he talks to the zoning and inland wetlands boards of the town where they are situated, he needs to be able to tie it all together.

Richard Warren, who works out of Bridgeport, focuses on environmental compliance at the company’s plants in the southern
The environmental group defines itself as having three primary missions: regulatory compliance, pollution prevention and emergency response. The goal is to maintain O&G at 100% compliance with every environmental regulation that pertains to the company’s diverse operations, from permitting to training staff. Through regulatory compliance and “beyond compliance” efforts, O&G is able to minimize its environmental footprint.

But in an imperfect world with 30 different sites and 130 different permits in effect the reality is that “stuff happens,” and the ability of the O&G’s first responders to swiftly and competently respond to an environmental incident is absolutely essential.

Training is Everybody’s Business

When Ginny Ryan came to O&G she was surprised at the level of environmental compliance for which the company is responsible. “I didn’t expect this level of regulatory activity scope of the challenge for this small department becomes apparent.

Complying with these types of broad-reaching regulations would be impossible without the full cooperation of the operators and managers who work the sites. So Ryan has done much to make sure that field personnel are trained in their obligations under the permits and understand how to meet those obligations fairly independently.

She counts on Postle’s presence at the sites in this training. “One of Mike’s roles is to oversee the site manager’s environmental compliance. Mike makes it his business to be sure they understand why storm water inspections are important and how to perform them, for instance, or that their SPCC plan is up-to-date,” says Ryan. The “Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures” plan is a vital document for operators and managers at all locations where the potential for pollution from an oil spill or runoff exists. “Mike helps them know what the document’s about. In the event of an incident they know to reach for that SPCC plan to start their countermeasures and make the call to the DEP.”

The Environmental Group sees training as increasing environmental awareness as much as anything. Says Balavender, “We’re trying to make everyone environmentally aware. Even at large plants we may have just a few people working, so they really are the ‘eyes’ of that

Continued on Page 9

Hundreds of binders containing thousands and thousands of pages of environmental documentation pertaining to operations at over 30 O&G facilities are controlled by the Environmental Group

Mike Desrosier, 72 Davenport St., Stamford: For identifying and documenting neighborhood environmental conditions that could negatively impact O&G’s environmental compliance at the 72 Davenport St. plant

John Jenkins, 33 Boardman Rd., New Milford: For initiating a study of the environmental conditions at the New Milford Quarry that would later be necessary to permit an increase in production

Kevin Maher, 686 Canal St., Stamford: For initiating the spill response for a non-O&G vessel that would have impacted O&G and for coordinating the clean-up effort with the Coast Guard over the course of a weekend until complete

Nancy Yuhas, 1225 Seaview Ave., Bridgeport: For initiating a document system thorough enough to demonstrate compliance for the NU job at the Seaview Avenue site even before O&G was aware of all the compliance requirements

O&G’s Environmental Award Winners

These employees were recognized with special company environmental awards for their pro-active work on behalf of environmental compliance at O&G locations across the state.
TO REBUILD OR NOT TO REBUILD...That Wasn’t Much of a Question

When it came down to either purchasing a brand new replacement crane or rebuilding an old workhorse already in the O&G arsenal, the answer was obvious from the get-go to all parties involved. From cost and functionality viewpoints, the choice was clearly to rebuild. Aside from a new crane of comparable size costing nearly a million dollars, new hydraulic cranes, while more sophisticated, don’t pack the same old-fashioned mechanical “punch” of the old-time friction cranes.

Hydraulic cranes provide their operators with lots of digital data on the crane’s function, from boom extension and angle to whether or not the crane’s lift capacity is being exceeded. But computerized and structural sophistication can be frustrating for operators used to the old friction cranes that are operated by a “touch” that comes from years of experience. (One long-time operator says when he can tell how a crane’s working by “just feeling it in my seat.”)

“They just don’t make them like that anymore” really applies to the crane world. Friction cranes, like this Manitowoc Model 3900 crawler (tracked) crane with a 100-ton lift capacity, would be nearly impossible to replace. Their key components are straightforward and “beefy,” made to stand up to a lot of abuse. And they’re superior at certain jobs. “You could use certain hydraulic cranes to do some of the same things, but a crane like this excels at running a dragline like you’d use to dredge out a pond or unloading materials from a barge,” says Dave Zambero who oversees field maintenance at the South Main facility. “If you ran a hydraulic crane eight hours a day doing that kind of heavy work, you’d destroy it.”

The job of rebuilding from the tracks up was given to Dewayne Grant, an eight-year O&G veteran. “One of the most important parts of a job like this,” says Grant, “is organization.” At the height of the project there were some 25 pallets of miscellaneous parts spread across the buildings of O&G’s South Main depot in various stages of work, from waiting for sandblasting to welding and painting. Most parts were being reworked, some were being purchased. Grant was able to keep all the workflow in his head.

When all was said and done, after 60 weeks of labor for Grant spread out a little over a year, the cost came in at less than half that of a new machine. O&G is looking into rebuilding another friction crane, probably within the next year, and Grant would welcome the assignment.

Dewayne Grant may have been the point man on the project, but he’s quick to share credit for this significant rebuild. Dave Zambero oversaw the job and had final say over critical decisions along the way. Steve Vail, a former crane operator and the company’s crane safety inspector, advised and assisted when he could. Phil Covelli, Grant’s supervisor, provided key support and Don Drost did all of the painting that made the finished crane look better than new.

NEW LIFE FOR AN IRREPLACEABLE WORKHORSE  After being entirely rebuilt at O&G’s South Main Repair Facility by Dewayne Grant (assisted by Dave Zambero, Steve Vail, Phil Covelli and Don Drost), the vintage Manitowoc Model 3900 was trucked in pieces to the Route 7 Extension Project (see page 2) where it would be put to use. (clockwise from left) Grant and Zambero confer; key rebuilders Zambero, Grant and Vail; workers direct the lowering of the body onto the crawler; crawler and body united.
to the north
UMASS CENTRAL HEATING PLANT

AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS  (from top) Facade of Central Heating Plant (CHP) nears completion. View of the CHP in the fall of 2006. Systems being installed within the CHP to generate an abundance of electricity using advanced technologies – enough extra that it will be transferred up the grid to other schools in the state system.

to the south
OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL

OXFORD, CONNECTICUT  (from top) Main entrance to the new Oxford High School, opened this fall and the first high school built in the town. Inside the main entrance the new foyer features architectural appointments and abundant natural light, while the school’s Media Center will incorporate the latest digital learning tools.
Hartford, Connecticut (from top): Architect’s rendering of the $52 Million magnet school, scheduled for completion in 2008. View of the main entrance to the building which will be clad in aluminum storefront. The academy seen from the client’s video cam (I-95 to the right and onion dome of Colt Building at left rear).

Lakeville, Connecticut (from top): Architect’s rendering of the twin dormitories and approach. Dorms were ready for occupancy September 4, 2007. The LEED-certified residence halls house 28 students each in Edelman (boys) and Flinn (girls), and provide four levels of faculty living space. Paving and curbing complete the access ways.
It was an unusual career path that brought Dan Carey to O&G in January of 2007 as Associate Counsel and the company’s new Director of Human Resources.

He spent ten years in human resources, most recently for a Swiss manufacturer of photofinishing equipment, traveling frequently between Europe and the U.S. It was during this time that he also pursued an education in the law, attending classes in the evenings and earning his J.D. at almost the same time his employer was filing for bankruptcy. “When they shut the doors,” chuckles the good-humored Carey, “I said to myself, ‘Well, it looks like I’m a lawyer!’ ”

He started with employment and business law, building on his HR experience, and moved to criminal defense. After a year-and-a-half, the prosecutor’s office invited Dan to switch allegiances. “I thought, ‘You can’t do more trial work than as a prosecutor,’ so I joined them. There’s a thrill in trial work that I loved. I got to be pretty good at the drama, fighting crime and all that good stuff for almost two years, and then I came to O&G.”

Why the switch back again to human resources work? “I enjoy HR work because it’s meaningful. We spend so much time at our jobs, between our regular hours and overtime and the work we bring home, that it has to be meaningful.” For Carey, HR work offers that kind of satisfying contribution. “You can see the ripples of what you do throughout a company when you’re in HR. Every time you address a need, introduce a needed program, or just take the time to meet with an employee and get them what they need to succeed, you see the positive energy spread through the larger organization. I have a nice job,” he laughs. “People should be envious!”

Having a decade of multinational-corporation HR work under his belt, Carey was impressed with how adroitly O&G staff had been performing HR duties for years though there was no formal HR team. He singles out Paul Patch, Ida Mussen and Sharon Okraska in particular. “There were not many things where I walked in and said, ‘We’ve got to fix that.’ ” Almost nothing. It was really amazing how Paul, Sharon and Ida were doing all the human resources work as well as most dedicated HR departments.”

For Carey the shift from manufacturing HR to HR for a large construction and materials company has required adjustment. The workforce was much less diverse at his prior employer’s, for one thing. But moreso that business was run with very formal and rigid organizational patterns, fundamentally different from O&G’s methods. “O&G has got to be one of the most ‘latticed’ organizations around,” says Carey, referring to the company’s less rigid organization, with a free-flow of information and decisions both vertically and horizontally between work groups. This arrangement allows O&G to execute work swiftly and efficiently. “O&G’s eyes are always on the end result. We don’t often get held up waiting to go through this person or that person. When they need to, our managers can step between the lines and reach out to other parts of the company. Whatever we need to be doing to get the job done, we do it.”

**Code of Conduct: O&G formalizes a long-standing way of doing business**

Across all divisions, in all its ventures, O&G has held itself to high standards for more than 80 years – not just in the workmanship it delivers and the products it supplies, but in the manner it transacts business.

As business has increased and more staff has joined the O&G ranks, communicating the company’s “culture of integrity” to new employees has taken on a new urgency. The long-standing principles that have underlain O&G’s success needed a cohesive presentation for its newest workers.

O&G’s General Counsel, Paul Balavender, undertook the responsibility of consolidating the company’s guidelines for proper business conduct into a document entitled simply, “O&G Industries, Inc., Code of Conduct.” From a general statement of O&G’s business philosophy, to business relationships with clients and suppliers, e-mail and Internet policies, avoiding conflicts of interest and more, the “Code” gives clear and specific guidelines on proper business practices.

Director of Human Resources, Dan Carey, prepared a companion presentation that fleshes out with examples just how business should – and should not – be conducted, and delivered it to O&G’s management personnel at several employee training sessions held this spring at the company’s Wall Street headquarters. “There is nothing new here,” said O&G Vice Chairman Raymond Oneglia, Jr., as he addressed one of the sessions. “We have always behaved this way.”

By formalizing these principles in a corporate document, actively training employees in the guidelines for proper conduct and being readily available to resolve any questions that arise, O&G is leading the industry and ensuring that the highest levels of ethics continue to be understood and practiced.
plant. The concrete operator up in the tower, for example, may be the only person who sees a truck come in and leak some oil, so he has to be trained in what to look for, what storm water’s all about, why we’re so concerned about it. We want him to make the connection that it’s important not to spill on the ground because it can end up in our storm drain and damage the environment."

Often the training is a requirement of the permits the company holds. Provisions might state that employees need to undergo hazardous waste training annually, for instance. In the past O&G relied on outside consultants or vendors for assistance. But today, having in-house resources right in the Environmental Group makes for the most cost-effective, timely and tailored training possible.

Says Ryan; "Training in part is the management of change and it’s been going well. Plant managers are understanding that you can’t just install equipment, turn it on and assume it’s in compliance. People are understanding that they need to get Environmental involved, and the sooner the better. We’re on their side. We’re watching out for the environment and O&G. Awareness is definitely progressing.”

**It’s In the Details**

Manual, manuals, manuals. Rows and rows of them dominate Rizzuto’s Wall Street office. They define, dictate, document and drive environmental compliance. While a substantial baseline of manuals had been built over the years by a combination of in-house staff but largely outside consultants, Ryan and Balavender have been overseeing their refinement and expansion the last several years.

These documents cover any aspect of operations that can impact the environment and are specific to every facility. They often require a PE (professional engineer) stamp to certify that they meet engineering requirements. Training and inspection operations are also defined. O&G maintains over 20 facilities covered by stormwater general permits.

O&G has added computerized tracking to its arsenal. It helps the group stay on top of all the dates for critical and routine environmental compliance actions, including permit renewals and applications. An audit module is also in the works that will help track the results of internal audits, list the specific tasks to be performed, and assign individuals to those tasks, emailing them automatically as a reminder. “It could be a nightmare to assign, track, and document completion of all those items for all those facilities, so this is a very positive step,” says Rizzuto with a smile.

Aided by computers and with enough manpower to review the monthly statements that come in from O&G’s various locations across the state, credibility is being built. “The guys in the field know we’re processing the reports they send in and not just filing them away. They know they can count on support when needed. We’re closing the loop and it’s been a very good thing,” says Ryan.

**Beyond 100% Compliance to Proactivity**

Balavender sees that great strides have been made in environmental compliance with the new environmental group. Despite its size, O&G has not had any formal enforcement actions brought against it for facility non-compliance in a number of years. He has main-

**When inspectors come you want to be able to say, ‘These are the things we’ve done, this is how well organized we are, this is how good our environmental house is.’**

GINNY RYAN

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE


tained contacts with the DEP where he once worked. “My hope is that the level of concern is less than it was in the past, but being as big a company as O&G is, with such a large and diverse environmental footprint, O&G and DEP will frequently interact.”

But Balavender and Ryan see plenty of forward momentum and are focusing on the future. The future, as they see it, will move the company in a proactive trajectory on environmental matters. “I’d like to see us going for more than 100% compliance. I would like to see us go to a real proactive stance where the regulators say, ‘Wow, our regulations require A and O&G’s doing A++. We can take them off our radar screen because there are so many others we need to watch who are nowhere near that level of compliance.’” O&G on most days is 100% compliant, though Balavender admits the company is not quite at a point where there are enough resources and manpower inhouse to move it into the “A++ compliance” territory. But that is what the environmental group is working toward.

On O&G’s relationship with the regulators, Ryan is very upbeat. “We have strived to improve it one-on-one. We’ve invited DEP inspectors to come with us when we do our stormwater inspections. We are trying to build a positive relationship as we seek their understanding and advice on what we’re trying to accomplish across the company, so we won’t have issues in the future. We’re trying to work with regulators to improve both our relationship and the stormwater issues themselves.”

**Pro-Activity: New Milford Quarry**

To see proactive compliance, environmental remediation and a spirit of cooperation between regulators and O&G at its best, look to the company’s newest quarry in New Milford, Connecticut. O&G purchased this 340-acre facility in June of 2006 and straight-away began not only improving its production but reducing its environmental impact.

The company is receiving numerous compliments from its neighbors and customers on the new access road in, on its appearance which has been enhanced with plantings, and on the berm built for noise control.

But the biggest impact has been in the heart of quarry operations. At the time of purchase, the facility lacked certain permits and plans for ongoing activities. Says Balavender, “Pursuant to DEP’s policy on Incentives for Self-Policing we wrote a letter explaining that we had just purchased the facility and that certain permits were lacking. We requested DEP allow us to operate in general compliance while we make applications for all the permits the quarry was supposed to have had.”

The DEP allowed quarry operations to continue. “They want companies to come forward with matters of non-compliance as we did,” continues Balavender. “They want you to show them you’re working on the issues so they can exercise forbearance as you resolve things. They really want it to work.”

And so does O&G. “We’re investing in some very big changes in New Milford to protect the environment,” says Ryan. For instance, New Milford happens to be in a “severe non-attainment zone,” a designation which means the DEP holds generators in this geographical area to a maximum of 25 tons of gaseous NOx emissions over a year’s time. But according to Ryan the company has decided to be proactive on this important matter. “We’re going to replace the old crushing plant with a new one that runs off electricity, removing the fuel source and polluting NOx emissions entirely. We’ll be at zero emissions and will be helping the environment in that zone.”

Right now the plant operates in compliance, but in 2008, with its investment in new crushing equipment, the New Milford quarry will be exemplifying the kind of A++ work the Environmental Group is targeting.
Retirees

“There was always work, and that’s why I stuck with driving. All in all it was a pretty good way to make a living,” says PETE FORTIN looking back at his years behind the wheel of construction equipment, primarily mixers. Pete worked a good many years with O&G – 29 to be exact – after having racked up another ten with other companies in the state. Most recently Pete drove a mixer out of O&G’s Southbury facility. Before that, it was Beacon Falls, and before that, the now-defunct Waterville plant. Looking back they were good years spent with a lot of good people. Retired as of June 1, Pete is devoting a lot of time to the family farm where he was raised and lives, a 66-acre parcel of heaven in Harwinton his dad named White Horse Farm. Between clearing land and looking after the beef cattle and horses, Pete’s keeping himself busy down on the farm. Thanks for the loyal years of service, Pete. Happy trails.

There’s no mistaking ANGELO GUGLIOTTI’S roots: he’s Italian through and through, with a rich accent, an unmistakable zest for life and a joy in his work that belle his 65 years. Angelo emigrated from Naples, Italy, in 1959 and landed in America, spent some time in Germany and Canada, and eventually raised a son and a daughter with his wife, Ursula, in Wolcott. He ended up at O&G in 1975, where he stayed until this past February when he retired. Angelo’s specialty was blacktop and concrete work, and in 29 years with the company he did a lot of it all over the state. He smiles as he speaks of his years with O&G: “I liked doing everything, I liked it all. I liked all the guys, good guys. I made a good living, I worked every day. I show up every day, I do the work, that’s how I am!” He’s embracing his free time now and constantly keeping busy. “The doc says there’s nothing wrong with me. So every day I do something.” Live long and share the joy, Angelo! Dio benedice!

Though he was only with O&G the last 11 years of his career, JOHN THOMA was a triaxle and trailer driver for a lot of years at a number of firms and sings O&G’s praises. “This job was like a country club! I mean, we have great equipment in top shape, lots of extras. Most guys don’t know what driving for the rest of the world is like in comparison.” He’s also thankful for the company taking him on well into his fifties. “I cannot say a bad word about O&G. I can honestly say I really enjoyed working there. I’m very grateful they took me on when they did – it was rough being out of a job in my fifties and I was tickled to death to get the job.” John and his wife of 40 years, Audrey, recently moved to a gated community in Florida where he is going to restart his stalled restoration of a beloved ’48 Ford F-1 pickup. Enjoy Florida, John, and maybe you’ll drive the restored F-1 back up for a visit when you can.

ROUTE 7 EXTENSION

Unexpected delays by the State have plagued Project Manager Mike Daley and the small army of workers (some 80 workers from O&G and 15 different subcontractors at peak during the summer, trailing off to about 60 in the fall and then a spare crew through the winter months). O&G proceeded at a brisk pace under the eyes of the DOT to open 2/3 of the job – all of it in compliance with environmental constraints – before the ten-acre limitation from the DEP in essence halted forward momentum. To say the delays frustrate Daley, General Superintendent Bill Hurley and the rest of the team is understating it.

“Performing the environmental aspects of this job are actually the easiest parts,” says Daley who, with his staff, have worked for years on projects with similar environmental restrictions. Though understanding the different positions of both state agencies as they carefully prepare plans and methods for future progress, he cannot help but voice his concern. “The toughest part is maintaining approval to work. The ten-acre allotments have kept us bottled up.”

The project began last April and is scheduled for completion in November of 2009. Two areas are restricted due to environmental concerns over amphibian migration. Working at set times will drive the last two years of the project: one section of land cannot be cleared until June of 2008 and another until June of 2009. “We’re on an even pace now,” says Daley. “If not for the current restrictions we could easily have completed the job around six months early, by around May of 2009.”

John Gemetro, VP of the Heavy & Highway Division, attends many of the bi-weekly meetings between O&G and the state agencies, and is sympathetic to his men in the field as well as the state’s concerns in the wake of highly publicized, mismanaged road jobs elsewhere. “We’ve been making pretty good progress, and it’s now a function of doing things in a sectional manner,” referring to the ten-acre limitation. “We’re looking for a clearer flow of information from the appropriate agency and then progress should pick up again.” Which will make O&G’s team – used to completing roadwork on or ahead of schedule – happy indeed.
REBECCA “BECKY” WHEELER

“Becky brought a perky smile and a cheerful disposition to O&G each day. She always did her best to make the Main Office a good place to work,” says Ken Merz, for whom Becky worked most of her 26 years with the company, most recently in the Administrative Services Department before she passed away in October. Says Lydia Babbitt, Becky’s immediate supervisor, “She was perpetually trying to bring some sunshine to work, no matter the circumstances. She had a wonderful sense of humor. Becky could really lighten the mood.” Friends also recall her creative talents: “She was very artistic. She could draw anything – I told her she missed her calling, she was that good,” says Lisa Canfield who worked closely with Becky. Being at O&G, says Canfield, was like being with family for Becky. She was willing to do anything the company asked her to do, and everyone seemed to know her. Everyone also recalls her phenomenal memory, an ability that came in handy time after time. Weeks after a package was delivered, for instance, Becky could recite the minutest details from memory to resolve an issue about that delivery. “We miss her terribly and always will,” says Canfield.

ALBERT PELUSO

“Bert was an employee every employer would want,” says Jim Zambero, Vice President, reflecting on his years as Bert’s supervisor in O&G South Main equipment depot. Bert was a parts manager, a position to which he brought many years of experience when he joined O&G in 1997. Zambero talks about Bert’s work ethic, the kind of integrity coupled with drive that would have him at his parts counter at 5:30 or 6 AM when work didn’t begin until 7, that would allow him to only take single days off so as not to impact the flow of work at the shop, and that enabled him to return to work right after a chemotherapy or radiation treatment and to keep working right up until his untimely passing. “We’re really going to miss him,” says Zambero. Bert’s wife, Jan, remembers his generosity across the board, and his sense of humor: “He was extremely funny – that’s what attracted me in the first place. At the wake it seemed like every stranger had a little story, something about the funny things Bert said.” She also recalls how he walked to the beat of his own drum and was always in control of himself. Says Jan, “He was such a hard worker. He always earned his dollar.”

JOSEPH PETRONE

Joe worked for O&G Industries for over 35 years, retiring in the 1990s. But, says his niece, Linda Mahoney, Joe remained “O&G gold” until the end. “He loved the people and the company, and he’d always be talking about what projects O&G was involved with. He kept in touch with folks in Torrington, got his calendar every year. He just thought the world of O&G.” The feeling was (and remains) mutual. Joe was a heavy equipment operator and Tony Damiano, Vice President, remembered working with Joe in the late 1960s on various projects and was his supervisor for many years at the company’s quarries and plants. “Joe was a damn good employee,” says Damiano. “He was super-conscientious about his job. He was always 15 minutes early for work, regardless of the weather or how he felt, a very dedicated guy who took his performance seriously.” George Oneglia knew Joe well for 35 years and still holds Joe in the highest regard: “They don’t come like Joe anymore. I don’t think he ever missed a day of work. He was a very hard worker – you could count on him to get the job done.”

WORKING IN “VIRGIN TERRITORY”  Project 87-113 is one of the DOT’s last planned highway construction projects in Connecticut, extending Route 7 (called “Super 7”) around congested Brookfield Center to the tip of New Milford. OPPOSITE Drilling, blasting, excavating and hauling out rock from a highway cut through rockface, and placing that excavated rock into the abandoned quarry to build up a road base. ABOVE Some 450,000 CY of earth and rock will be excavated before the job is completed, some of it from cuts like this one; crews drill and fill blast holes to prepare roadbase near the beginning of the highway extension, at the end of the current “Super 7,” view looking south at a road base midway through buildup.
Roberts Avenue Elementary School
Danbury, CT
Over two years of extensive preconstruction work by O&G’s Pre-Construction Manager, Lorel Purcell, culminated with the August 2007 groundbreaking for the Roberts Avenue Elementary School in Danbury. O&G will be Construction Manager for this $20.5 Million, 51,500 SF K-5 school on behalf of the City of Danbury Engineering Department. Sitework and detailed building construction will be pursued with extreme care due to the active municipal supply well located less than 125 feet from the academic building. The building will sit on over 1,000 rammed aggregate piers, a progressive design-build pier system that saved an estimated one million dollars. O&G’s construction team of Jeremy Szep, Tom Goizueta and Mark Sedensky is working closely with the owner representatives headed by City Engineer Farid Khouri and Project Manager Vincent Amendola, as well as Friar Associates’ reps Adam Palmer and Luke McCoy. Occupancy is planned for January 2009.

Henry Abbott Technical High School
Salisbury, CT
O&G has been awarded the $25 Million Construction Management contract for the Richard and Sally Flood Athletic Center at the Salisbury School, a 100-year-old private boy’s boarding school. Designed by The Office of Michael Rosenfeld of Acton, Massachusetts, the 106,000 SF athletic center will contain an ice rink, basketball and squash courts, weight and wrestling rooms, a lounge and administrative offices. Beginning with Phase One in March of 2008, an outdated metal building covering the ice rink floor will be demolished and a new athletic center built over the existing rink. The rink will be ready for use in the school’s 2008-2009 hockey season. Phase Two will complete the building and sitework in August of 2009. O&G’s management team includes Senior Estimator Bill Coyne, Preconstruction Managers Brian Holmes and Larry Schilling, and Superintendent Jim Nardi.

Waterbury School Construction Program Management
Waterbury, CT
As Program Manager for the first phase of the City’s School Construction Program, O&G assists the Board of Education and the School Department’s Chief Operating Officer, Paul Guidone, with planning, budgeting, administrative and technical services related to the school construction projects. O&G furnishes a full-time staff located in its Waterbury office, led by Bruce Turbacuski, Senior Program Manager. The first phase includes the planning, design and construction of three new Pre-K-8 elementary schools and the construction and renovation of media centers and classrooms at Kennedy, Wilby and Crosby high schools. The cost for these projects is approximately $120 Million. Various firms have been chosen by the School Building Committee to lead architectural and engineering design teams, including JCJ Architecture, Friar Associates, C.J. Lawlor Associates, Svigals+Partners and S/L/A/M Collaborative. The high school projects are underway and scheduled to be completed in 2008; the new elementary schools are in various stages of design with openings planned for the 2010 school year. The Board of Education recently received additional funding for the renovation of the City’s downtown Enlightenment and Alternative Education Center. It is anticipated that the City of Waterbury and its Board of Education will continue to plan for additional construction, renovation and repair projects over the next several years.

Waterford’s Quaker Hill Elementary School will boast geothermal heating, waterless urinals, pervious parking areas and other state-of-the-art features that will make it Connecticut’s first eco-friendly “green” public school when O&G wraps up construction in the fall of 2008.