A Company on the Go
A TRADITION OF CARING FOR PEOPLE

POURING STEADY
With frigid days few, concrete crews at Waterbury Bus make big gains and help drive the project ahead

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Inscribed on the base of a limestone statue titled “Future” before the National Archives in Washington, DC, is the message, “What is Past is Prologue.” These words are as mighty as the awe-inspiring building itself and the records it holds for our nation and the world. This is where the cornerstones of this great country, the original Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights, are on display.

So what does this mean for us here at O&G? It means our past guides our future.

For our generation, the fourth generation of our family and company, the past is monumental. Each one of us appreciates that we began our careers within a company already built, with a strong foundation and solid values, by many before us. We hold high the responsibility to preserve and further the success of O&G.

For us the past inspires the future. The values and expectations of family and employees who grew O&G guide us as we help lead this company. We honor their legacies and lessons. But, as the next generation, we challenge ourselves to make this company even greater.

We ask each other, “What can we contribute to this company which our fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfather, and thousands of loyal employees, have built over the last 93 years?” Our core values – ethics, safety, productivity and quality – will always drive us. But as we lead our company we remember the past with tenderness and appreciation for our people. At O&G the lines between family, company and community have always been blurred. I know for all of us, these are the same thing. You are our family. You are our company. You are our community.

As a young girl, I would be dropped off at my Dad’s office. I loved the company and our “family.” I couldn’t wait to operate the scale house with Everett Jones, pretend to take concrete orders or answer the phones with Sue Duffy, and ride in the bucket loader with Johnny Cellerino. During my high school summers I worked at the Bogue Road scale under Sue Duffy’s management. During college I learned the ropes from Wayne Zagrodnik at the counter in Waterbury. Now as a business woman, I look back at these memories with great indebtedness. I hold true to the company spirit I felt as a young girl. But I also look back with a greater awareness of the value of opportunity, advancement and career growth in our company.

Our new ERP system is another example of charging forward. O&G has always been innovative and self-developed when it comes to our technologies. Fred Manteghian and our internal team have faithfully assisted in developing the computer programs we have needed to be successful. Our company’s new ERP system is a continuation of the business innovation of our past. Our generation is tasked to continue to innovate, create and build: “The road to success is always under construction,” it’s said. This ERP system is just one of our generation’s contributions to growing O&G with — and for — you and the next generation. We know this time of change has been stressful and we want to thank you all for your hard work over the last ten months.

As Francis Oneglia would say, “Pay attention to pennies and the dollars take care of themselves.” Our ERP system will help us keep a better eye on those pennies. Converting to this system seems monumental. Change is big, and heavy. But we have built bridges, universities, highways and now an ERP system together as a company.

We build greatness at O&G. And once again we are asking for greatness from you. Actions with the utmost certainty convey confidence: if you believe in the work you produce every day, you positively influence the productivity of your fellow employees. Be productive at every moment and stay at least a step or two ahead of the real-time problems and our competition.

For our generation, this is the challenge of leadership. Can we inspire you to continue to build greatness? We believe so, and we hope you will continue to grow with us. This is our dream for so many endeavors well beyond the scope of a new computer system.

Of course my late father continues to be one of my greatest teachers. These are not his words but those of a business leader whom he admired: “You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality.”

Thank you for building and growing O&G together with us.

Kara Oneglia
Assistant Vice President, Mason Division
Before O&G's earth movers and job trailers arrived last June, the abandoned drive-in theater alongside Route 8 in Watertown was barely recognizable. Milkweed and sumac had obscured the asphalt that wasn’t already buried under a mat of weeds and garbage. The property had become a useless eyesore.

But by this winter the 20-acre site has been cleaned up and leveled with enough fill to raise it nearly 13 feet, and concrete structures are rising to reveal the footprint of a 276,000-square-foot structure. The concrete and steel structure will be part of the CT Transit Statewide Bus System and will provide storage and maintenance for the entire fleet of public transit vehicles that serve Waterbury.

O&G has undertaken numerous concrete-heavy construction projects but the new Waterbury Bus Project ranks among the largest in site preparation and materials used, including 18,000 cubic yards of concrete furnished by the company’s own batch plants by the time the project ends in mid-2017. In a single week in mid-December, more than 700CY of high-performance concrete were poured here, with 50 mixer loads from Southbury and Torrington plants in one day.

**STRONG FLOORS** The floors here will carry the city’s 98-piece fleet of transit vehicles, the largest of which tips the scales at 20 tons. The concrete mix engineered for the floors is rated at 5,000 pounds per square inch (psi). Bolstered by post-tensioning cables running through...
them, the floors will be more than able to bear the weight of the vehicles and the administrative floors above.

Post-tensioning is integral to the design of high-strength concrete floors. It compresses the concrete member, providing big benefits: it reduces cracking and the need for expansion joints, holds any minor cracks that develop tightly together, allows structural members to be thinner, and permits longer spans in elevated members like floors, which makes for fewer pillars and more open, usable space. Concrete sets up quickly here. Says General Superintendent Corey Morin, “Thirty feet behind where we are pouring we’re already walking on the new deck. When we do a test break 24 hours after the pour it’s almost full strength – 4,000 to 5,000psi. It’s impressive.”

The low-shrinkage, quick-curing concrete used here also carries an additive to inhibit corrosion where concrete contacts metal.

As floors are prepared for post-tensioning, a design-specific number of tubular plastic sleeves, each containing a twisted steel cable (called a tendon), thread their way through the form in a sinuous, up-and-down path that gives the slab upward arch, helping to distribute the load between columns and prevent sagging when dozens of buses are on the floor. After the concrete has been poured and has set to at least 3,750psi, the cables inside the sleeves are hooked to tensioning equipment. They are stretched with as many as 280kips (1,000 pounds-force) to a predetermined length to reach the proper engineered compression.

What tricks do you use when the winter temperature dips below freezing and you’re needing water-based concrete to pour normally and cure properly, so that you can keep pushing the job ahead? Morin weighs in again: “They can use hot water at the plant. Add accelerator if needed. We can heat the ground. We use insulated blankets with radiant tubing. From below in the open space we have heaters.” The heaters are three diesel-powered units pushing two million BTUs to keep the space under the floor at 45 to 50 degrees.

**SETTING A SUCCESSFUL COURSE**

Pre-construction activities pay big dividends, Morin and Sitework Superintendent Kevin Mierzejewski know, so they settled into that process last winter and spring, long before any field work began. “The success we’re having here is very much related to our pre-con in the office, as a team, sitting down and reading through the documents before we came to the site,” says Morin. “It helps to understand everything inside out and to hit the ground running. You want to come out here and get working on day one,” Mierzejewski adds.

For project lead Morin, spending time in the Main Office where the Building Division Estimating Department is gave the project a leg up. “Not only were we planning the work but we were helping Ernie [Torizzo] and Rob [Hall] price the way we proposed to build it. It made for a tighter bid,” says Morin.

The likelihood of getting the productive subcontractors you want correlates to time invested with them pre-bid. “Typically when you bring a contractor you know and trust in early,” Morin says, “you’re asking for their expertise on how they’d attack the job, and at the same time they’re being educated on the documents in a way they wouldn’t in a simple pricing review. When they understand the flow of the job, they are able to be more competitive.”

**STEADY PROGRESS**

Project Manager Mike Skapczynski runs the job. He has managed challenging ConnDOT projects for O&G before and brings a mindset more general contractor than construction manager, an asset here where O&G is self-performing a sizable portion of the work. To Skapczynski’s thinking the key to success is also in the planning: “On any job, particularly a large one like this, you’re unfortunately going to encounter unforeseen conditions and changes. But when you plan early and strategically, it gives you the capability to react to that kind of adversity more effectively, which enables you to keep the project on track and keep the subcontractors motivated.”

Initially the team pushed itself into a great position, two months out ahead of the schedule. When design issues began cropping up (to-date there have been 400 requests for information by the team where discrepancies between the plans and site conditions were found, and 100 design changes from the client) Mierzejewski was able to redirect stewart to fallback tasks while waiting for answers. As fallbacks were checked off the project slowed back to the original schedule.

Because this is a large, one-off building with some exotic construction and lots of coordination, the stack of plan books is intimidating. Keeping the documents updated and accurate is the shared responsibility of Document Control Specialist Hristo Miljovski and Project Engineers Meghan Semenetz, Zach Mordenit and Brendan Behm.

BIM 3-D modeling is helping maintain productivity here. A comprehensive, architect-supplied three-dimensional model heads off “clashes” – pipes and ductwork both needing to run in the same space, for example – that could happen in the field. O&G’s Virtual Design and Construction Manager, Nick Castler, is the model’s gatekeeper, reviewing weekly input from the trades, updating the model and walking through areas of congestion on a big screen at weekly coordination meetings with the team.

Jim Perault is the Concrete Superintendent. He was hired by O&G for this project, the largest concrete project he has been in charge of in his 38-year construction career. “It’s going great. It’s easy to work for a large company with the resources O&G has. To have the support I’ve got here from Corey, Kevin and Zach makes it a lot easier to put my focus on the work. It’s nice knowing I’ve got smart guys to bounce ideas off of.” He points to a one-two punch giving this project another advantage. “Having a smooth relationship between excavation and concrete work is essential to getting this kind of job done efficiently, and with the company performing both it’s been a real plus. On top of that, self-supplying the concrete – I’m getting tremendous service. With a simple shout I get what I need. The plants are close to the job, too. It all works together.” The biggest challenge Perault has faced has been keeping pace with the design changes. “We’ve gotten through them and have kept the job on track,” he says.

Erecting structural steel has just started, masonry and block work is slated for April weather permitting, and as soon as the steel is ready a rubber membrane roof will go up while under-slab utilities installation and fine grading will go on in preparation for pouring slabs on grade. “Then it’s all hands on deck for mechanical and finish work and our final push here,” says Morin.
Since its early dam and civil jobs through a series of mid-rise office buildings and parking garages to the largest highway project in Connecticut history, O&G has built a significant portfolio of concrete-intensive work. Here is a small sampling.

1. **Towers at Merritt River**  
   Completed 2005 for $111M; 41,700CY of concrete

2. **Contract E**  
   Scheduled to complete August 2016, at a cost of $358M, 2,510 concrete piles and 72,400CY of concrete

3. **Torrington Towers**  
   Completed in 1976 for $18M; concrete framed, 200 apartments

4. **Baldwin Bridge**  
   Completed 1993, $207M, then the largest segmental bridge in US, 98,500CY concrete, 12.7M lbs rebar

5. **LNG Facility**  
   Completed in 2007 for $139M; cast in place with post-tensioned walls

6. **One Commercial Plaza**  

Total project costs have been adjusted to current dollars.
It’s an ongoing focus at O&G: improving the performance of commonly ordered “ordinary” concretes and high-performance mixes required for demanding applications.

Bill Stanley, O&G Materials Division Vice President, heads the corporate effort to research and invest in innovations in concrete and cement technologies. He’s assisted by Quality Manager Jim Maher and his staff of four who assure the quality of aggregates and concrete leaving O&G’s eight plants. Stanley sees no end to the demand for more strength and faster curing. “High-rise construction is becoming all concrete, hand-in-hand with the development of quicker-setting, low-shrinkage mixtures,” he says. “That enables cast-in-place buildings to take shape more quickly, yielding more square feet faster.” The new mixes are also longer-lived, giving developers the 75-year or longer life cycle they are looking for.

High-performance concretes are ideal for all-concrete-framed construction, castable in more slender columns, thinner floors and thinner walls that reach seventy-five percent of their strength in just a day or two. With high-performance mixes, post-tensioning can begin a day after pouring, allowing the deck to be put into use as a base for building the next floor above it that much more quickly.

O&G is also locally sourcing materials to “green” the concrete coming from its batch plants. One such element that augments Portland cement is dolomitic marble from the company’s New Milford quarry which binds with the cement to produce impressive gains in strength. “We are also looking at replacing some of the cement in our mixes with common recycled glass,” Stanley says. Cleaned and ground to a powder, it is mixed with water and becomes a supplementary cementitious binder – a pozzolan – and is a highly durable, very strong, environmentally friendly alternative to cement.

Steel erectors refer to it as “topping off” when they hoist a symbolically significant girder into position atop a structure. That day arrived at the Orville H. Platt High School in Meriden (where O&G has been construction manager since the fall of 2013) on the 13th of last November, signaling that the project had entered the third of four phases. O&G’s project team, including Project Manager Dave Cravanzola, Project Superintendent Steve Baranello and Project Engineer Evan Nelson, had a girder painted white and ready to receive signatures, notes and doodles from the happy participants. On hand were the school’s administrators and custodial staff, Platt’s state champion volleyball team and a sampling of upper classmen who have been participating in the O&G-run “Platt Builds” program. “I’m proud that the school has been so involved with the construction,” Baranello remarked. “I’ve been building schools for 25 years and I’ll tell you, I’ve never worked for a more cooperative client. The people here at Platt are solid gold.” The project is on track for a September 2017 completion.

O&G Project Superintendent Steve Baranello (above, in safety lime jacket) helps fix the flag to a signed beam minutes before it was hoisted into position at a “topping off” ceremony at the Orville H. Platt High School in Meriden.
Time for a New Look
The Original Earth Products Showcase Gets a Major Makeover

Down on Hancock Street in Bridgeport, Facility Manager Dani Alves gives a Cook’s tour of the nearly completed renovation at the company’s indoor showroom for exterior masonry products. The showroom was a first for the company and a first for the region when it was envisioned by the late Bob Oneglia and built in 1993. Bob Rizzo, Mason Division Assistant Vice President who operates out of the building, is obviously pleased with the makeover. “Were Bob here I know he’d be very pleased and he would be thrilled with how Kara improved the new space.” (Kara Oneglia, Mason Division Assistant Vice President, is Bob’s daughter.)

“In its time this place was cutting edge,” says Rizzo. “There was nothing else like it. But we deal in products that are certainly a bit style- or fashion-based. Trends come and go, and as often as we had changed and updated over the years we knew it was time to restart from scratch.”

The square footage of display area was condensed from 20,000SF to about 12,000SF. What once was showroom space became an enlarged indoor warehouse area. It created new benefits, not the least for mason clients was the ability to purchase dry sand and block in any weather.

There are over 100 product offerings displayed on walls and in vignettes, from veneer stones to pool copings, and decorative concrete pavers to imported patio materials. The result was more products than before, displayed in a very accessible, customer-friendly way. Overlooking the showroom space is a brand new Architectural Design Center for architects, specifiers and their high-end clients, where unique stone products from across the world are on display to view and touch, in a casual environment conducive to decision-making. “This space will allow O&G to share the best new products we discover at trade shows around the globe that we feel our clientele would appreciate,” says Oneglia.

“We accomplished all this with the experience of the creative, long-time employees here in Bridgeport,” says Alves. Rizzo concurs: “My appreciation and thanks go to Tony Engala, Dani Alves, Sheryl Lentine and Sonia Maldonado who all took part in the design. And whatever construction assistance we needed, [General Superintendent] Leo Nardi found the best help for us. It was a truly unified O&G effort.”

Enlisting expert mason clients who did most of the final installation work, the renovation took about one year, from demolition to the final cleanup. As Rizzo and company attend to the punch list items that put the finishing touches on the project, they are planning a grand opening for the spring. 

(top) Imported pavers from Great Britain lead to a full scale conservatory and house facade veneered in Champlain Stone Granite. O&G formally represents Champlain on residential and commercial projects. (bottom) Unilock pavers and walls complement a full-scale house facade and clearly depict how elegant a patio can be for potential customers.
The Joint Venture team at Contract E in New Haven has driven itself four months ahead of schedule. At the most ambitious highway project ever undertaken in the state and the byword for productivity, the work of Carpenter Foreman Ryan Young has gained special notice.

Young and his small winter crew frame various large concrete structures: bridge decks, abutments, parapets. They build the wooden frames and forms that hold the wet concrete while it takes shape and then strip off those forms when the concrete is cured. Young’s is one of six carpentry crews that work at Contract E.

Young is youthful for a foreman. In his thirties, rugged and looking the part of a leader, he is very uncomfortable if he is not pushing his assignments forward, even on ice-cold winter days. He’s been with O&G since 2007 and was promoted to foreman at Contract E two years ago.

Carpentry has been all Young has set his hand to since high school. He recalls his years in residential framing where his work ethic was formed. It was a do or die, invaluable, mind-setting experience. “Framing houses is go-go-go,” he says, “and if you can’t keep up with the pace you’re gone. To have a very productive mind to do carpentry it helps to have a residential go-go-go background. You learn how fast things need to get done in order to make money.”

Bob Nardi, Structural Superintendent at E, seeks carpenters with a residential production background. “I’ll hire those guys all day long. I know what it takes to get the work done. They can pick up bridge work easily, but they bring that drive.”

Young deliberately learned from foremen at every job he’s worked for O&G, boosting his competency. “I’ve worked with a lot of good ones. I’ve learned three or four different ways to do everything.” So he’s not daunted by challenges, whether it’s a specification, a working environment or a schedule. He also has a brotherhood of experienced foremen and superintendents he can bounce ideas off of.

Young pushes any accolades for his productivity toward his carpenters and laborers. A camaraderie that fosters cooperation that leads to productivity flows down from Young. “I have good guys working for me, a really good crew. It’s all about the guys. If you can get the guys who do it once and it’s done right the first time, you don’t have to go back and change things. That’s a perfect world.” When Jerry Meskun retired two years ago Young inherited his crew. He has two of those men – “Ziggy” Lata and Armando Machado – with him on E along with laborer Charlie Guzik and Wayne Ritchie, a carpenter foreman helping out until he has his own crew come spring.

Turning out work quickly only counts if that work is good work, Young knows. Pushing productivity without pushing quality would be to build a house of cards. Young, who laughs when he says, “I’m OCD like crazy,” sees doing things right the first time as the only acceptable way to build. “If you’re getting the work done on time and it’s coming out nice, that’s the number one thing. I don’t want to cost the company money. I want to make them money, then we all benefit. I really, really, really care about how things come out.”

What Young says of his crew he extrapolates to the company as a whole: do good work that comes out nice, finish it on time and you’re always going to have work.

What happens to productivity when winter weather rolls in? “It takes a huge toll but we keep moving ahead,” he says. This winter has been mild; the winter of 2015, the coldest recorded in the state, was the worst he’d experienced. “Machines are not meant to run in those temperatures. Power cords cracked, saws were dying faster. Plus it’s harder to move when you’re all bundled up. For weeks we framed an abutment, fifty feet high, and we had a sustained 20-mile-per-hour wind funneling through that corner every day. That was unbelievable.”

But Young’s crew refused to bow before the weather, the work continued and today, due to the steady accumulation of such days logged by Young and others at E, the strategy to drive ahead of the schedule has held solid.
Bowen Athletic Field Renovation

The aging home field of the James Hillhouse High Academics in New Haven was completely overhauled and ready in time for the annual Thanksgiving Day game with the crosstown rival Governors of Wilbur Cross High School. Once extensive environmental remediation was accomplished, a multipurpose athletic field with artificial turf, an eight-lane running track, new locker rooms, lighting and 2000 grandstand seats highlighted the rebirth. “We’re thrilled to have worked on this project with the City of New Haven and to see the Elm City Bowl finally return home to Bowen Field,” said O&G Project Executive, Mark Jeffko. Hillhouse (in blue) was victorious at home, 40-20.
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A safety mindset is part of your personal protective equipment

Your challenge, in the office or in the field, is how to manage the risks you face as you work. I am constantly aware of safety, whether it is the safety of my family or of those working on one of our project sites.

But safety is a shared responsibility. The next time you step onto the work site ask yourself, “How can I make the area where I operate and have some influence be safer for those around me and myself?” We have taken pains to create a safety culture at O&G where you can be at ease speaking about safety issues that concern you.

We talk a lot about complacency and how it relates to safety. I think most will agree, it’s important to constantly remind ourselves how complacency and bad habits contribute to the level of risk that we, and people around us, are exposed to. I think about my drive to and from work. I take the same path every day. I know it like the back of my hand. So sometimes I find myself unfocused on driving and instead thinking about all the things happening at work and home. There are many instances in our days when we forget the level of risk because the task is so routine.

The next time you report to work, look around. See things differently. Ask yourself, “What can I do that would make a positive difference here? What can I personally take charge of to reduce risk here?” What decisions do you make every day that you can reconsider and say, “Maybe there is a smarter, safer way?” Look with fresh eyes and make your suggestions. We are ready to help.

When you clock out at the end of the day, don’t leave a safety mindset behind like you might your tools. Take that safety mindset on the ride home. Let it work at home. Take your safety awareness everywhere, to the point where you habitually do the simple, practical things that minimize the risks to your health and well-being, and to that of your family.

Don’t decide to leave your safety awareness to the jobsite. Let your safety mindset be like the PPE you wear, for your good, the good of your coworkers and our customers, and for the good of the people who depend on you to return home each day.

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**Safety Training Calendar**

| Title: Hazwoper Eight-Hour Refresher | Title: CPR / First Aid / AED |
| Location: Main Office | Dates: 3/1, 3/3, 3/9 |
| Date: 2/29 | Time: 5 pm-9 pm |
| Time: 7:00-4:00 |

| Title: Hazmat Physical | Title: OSHA 10-Hour Course |
| Location: Bridgeport Repair | Dates: Session 1: 3/11 or 3/16; Session 2: 3/17 or 3/18 * |
| Date: 2/23 | *Attendance at one Session 1 and one Session 2 is required to complete the course |
| Location: New Haven Joint Venture |
| Dates: 2/24, 2/25 |

We will be offering at least one more class from the OSHA 10-Hour Course this spring. The date, time and location will be announced.

We are also going to offer a CPR/First Aid course on Saturday, March 12 for all O&G employees and immediate family members. This is a great opportunity for our employees and their loved ones to receive valuable training that may save a life. The training will start at 9 AM at the Main Office. Please reach out to Mike Ferry if you and your immediate family are interested in attending: 860.496.4892 or michaelferry@ogind.com.

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**OSHA’s TOP 10 VIOLATIONS FOR 2015**

1. Fall Protection (1926.501) 6,721 citations
2. Hazard Communication (1910.1200) 5,192 citations
3. Scaffolding (1926.451) 4,295 citations
4. Respiratory Protection (910.134) 3,305 citations
5. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147) 3,002 citations
6. Powered Industrial Trucks (910.178) 2,760 citations
7. Ladders (1926.1053) 2,489 citations
8. Electrical – Wiring Methods (1910.305) 2,404 citations
10. Electrical – General Requirements (1910.305) 1,973 citations
ERP Update

Enterprise Resource Planning, or ERP, is shorthand for software and a process that has been interconnecting data across the entire company, from quarries and plants to heavy civil and building projects. Information entered into computers in every O&G business entity, once insular and proprietary, now feeds through unique conversion code into the central ERP software package – the JD Edwards EnterpriseOne® system – running in a Windows® environment. From there it is available to be accessed and output in familiar formats (an Excel spreadsheet, for example) for functions from financial analysis and customer billing to inventory control. It is enterprise-wide and all-encompassing.

Beginning in March of 2015, appointees from every O&G business unit, “team leads,” have “owned” the implementation of the piece of the software dealing with their business activities.

Grace Vieira, A/R Supervisor, has been team lead for sales order management and advanced pricing modules, and has assisted with accounts receivable and inventory management. “JD Edwards encompasses all the daily transaction data from all of our divisions thru specially designed interfaces. These interfaces import daily transactions into one centralized system which gives us the advantage of real-time business analysis, ad hoc reporting and streamlined billing,” says Vieira. It also reduces duplicate data entry and steeply cuts paper consumption. “Our customers are appreciating the new convenience the system provides for them,” she says.

A project of the scope undertaken at O&G normally fills eighteen months, says system implementer CSS International of Charleston, South Carolina. It was completed in ten at O&G. The system went live on January 4, after mega man-hours spent entering data, validating, converting, testing and debugging. Since then, as departments become adept in its use, ERP’s efficiencies are proving to be sizable, as its advocates knew they would.

Right Place, Right Time

It just happened that Ilir Alibali, who for five years has driven a mixer out of Davenport Street in Stamford, was between deliveries the evening of October 10. It just happened he was two stories up inside the batch room looking out the window when he spotted a car driving where no car should be. Alibali noticed the headlights of a sedan weaving into the property, driving past the plant and down the pier at water’s edge, where barges are loaded and no vehicles go, before disappearing off the edge into the night and black water below. Calling 9-1-1 as he scrambled down the stairs and grabbing his flashlight, he sprinted to the site where the car had gone under. It just happened, too, that Alibali has been a strong swimmer nearly all his life and had no reservations about jumping in to pull the despondent driver, a man in his thirties, out of the car and to safety. “One hand I hold the tire on the barge and other hand I grab the guy, closer and closer, and then pull the guy out. He was pretty lucky.”
When you cannot buy a curbing truck built the way you want it – which is to say, “backwards” – and you cannot find anyone to build it that way, you do what Jim Zambero and Keith Woolford at the South Main Maintenance Facility did. You build it yourself.

But first, why would you want to take a conventional curbing truck configuration – feeding hot asphalt out the back of the truck – and flip that around? Flipping is not fine tuning, it’s ground-up re-engineering. Zambero, Vice President of Equipment, says there are two principal reasons.

“The first is safety. As curbing trucks are now, asphalt crews have to proceed very slowly, with the body of a dump truck tilted up in the air and the driver paying attention to live wires and overhead obstructions. There are 24 tons of hot asphalt in those bodies.”

The second reason is productivity. A front-feeding curbing truck eliminates labor-intensive steps in coupling and uncoupling paving elements from dump trucks. The front-discharge model is self-contained and self-sufficient, carrying over 20 tons of asphalt. It can carry and discharge topsoil and two-inch stone, too, all through a conveyor belt and a flexible shoot the operator directs right where materials are needed.

For Woolford, the shop’s foreman who took on the engineering and design of the new trucks, it was a challenge he enjoyed. He based his design off existing front-discharge trucks but worked with a much wider feeder conveyor belt (a high-capacity 36 inches wide, not the 14 inches he was expecting). The belt required dramatic re-engineering, especially around the steering column that bypasses the belt. “It worked out well,” says Woolford, “they’ll never have to fool with that steering, trust me.” Being bomb-proof throughout was tops on Woolford’s requirements list, so he built the first trucks as strong and simple as he could. “We want them to work and never come back. Reliability is the most important thing.”

In the process of building on a stripped mixer chassis, Woolford remade the driver’s cab door, switching sides and making new closers and handles in his shop which, he smiles, work better than the originals. He learned that he had to move the engine back and drop it down deeper into the frame to get the right driveline angle, and position the body so it would “axle out” and be legal. “A lot of thought went into it, an amazing number of things that don’t show that we needed to engineer,” says Woolford.

No supplier wanted to build such a curbing machine, including body maker E.D. Etnyer from whom O&G buys various truck bodies. But when company president Don Etnyer flew out from Illinois to check on what O&G was up to, he was duly impressed and said, “When I saw your design and your facility I knew I should never have doubted you guys. You should be building equipment for me.”

Will their design catch on with other companies when these new curbing trucks hit the road this spring? Preliminary reports from those who’ve seen the trucks taking shape say it just might.●
Lynn Robotham, who has worked under the same job title but with increasing responsibilities and in expanding capacities since she began with the company, for the second time, 20 years ago, is an artist of managing her time.

She had left O&G after temping directly out of college. She did not intend to return. But when, a few years later, having worked elsewhere, a recruiter told her about a great position at a construction company in Torrington that would utilize her skill set, she just had to laugh and head back.

Robotham is a contract administrator for the Building Division. She works in a second-floor corner office, spacious and light, with a view of Troy Brook passing a pencil’s throw away. She shares the space with fellow contract administrator Joann Schleker, performing a passel of behind-the-scenes tasks that keep the Division’s projects orderly and in compliance with regulations.

Her contract administration duties are steady year round, even when projects slow in the winter. Weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports issue from her office for her share of ongoing jobs in the Division as well as those in the Special Projects Group, the Industrial Projects Group and all general construction projects. Certified payroll, processing payments to contractors, dealing with insurance agents, reviewing contract bonds, reviewing the insurance compliance of contractors, handling bids, setting up budgets and schedules of values for every project, change orders, reimbursements, backup for project managers in the field – “We’re just all-around help, it’s what we do,” she says. (Administrative Assistant Lynn Besanceney is an indispensable support to Robotham’s productive little department, as is after-school, part-time temp Tabitha Stadler).

Last March Robotham was selected to represent the Building Division’s interests in the herculean Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) conversion – the changeover to a computer system that will integrate the management of all of O&G’s ventures. While she insists that her part was not as large as others’ it nonetheless required that she further finely slice her available time.

Much of her involvement, outside of planning and meetings, meant combing through (validating) all the project data entered for the Building Division. It would be key to launching her portion of ERP with accuracy. She was pleased with what she didn’t find. After validating 127 pages of vendor data, she spotted only two errors. And now that ERP is launched she is eager to master her piece of the new system and is anticipating more gains in efficiency.

And then came Christmas. Leading a small but merry band, Robotham heads an annual toy drive, soliciting, reminding, tallying, collecting and delivering hundreds of Christmas presents: this year over 500 were given to 130 children and young people through the Torrington Area Youth Services Bureau. In 2010 she jumped in, mid-stream, when the annual toy drive at O&G lost its coordinator. “The gifts were coming in, there was no stopping it, so I picked it up and ran with it,” she says. Every year since, with corporate blessing, she has run the toy drive. One of “her guys,” Pete Yablonski in Bridgeport Repair and Maintenance, wanted to break his record and took 30 names this past Christmas. She’s working on finding more guys like Pete, who oversee the employees Robotham cannot readily contact, to get the word out so all O&G employees are able to give. “O&G people are so generous,” she says. Her heart’s desire is to see that every needy child and teen gets something at Christmas. “I’m just here to help provide,” she says. Indeed.
Congratulations to everyone around the company who reached a significant milestone in their employment with O&G in 2015.

50 Years
Ernie Torizzo

40 Years
Leo Martigneni

35 Years
Michael Brennan
Thomas Ciacielo
Mark Carroll
Stanley Dziedzic, Jr.
Paul Patch
Barbara Weingart
Jim Zambero

30 Years
David Beaudry
Peter Lipeika, Jr.
Richard Mangione
Thomas Messenger
Todd Newell
Brad Otis
Robert Puzacke
John Rouleau, Jr.
Carmen Tralongo
Steven Walker

25 Years
Richard Authelet
Kenneth Biega
Alan Brennan
William Buys, Jr.
Lisa Canfield
Kevin Clark
Leighton Davis
Michel Dionne
Thomas Duba
Daniel Gladstone
George Graikoski
Brian Holmes
Scott Jones
Donald Kennedy
James Kittredge
John Leverty, Jr.
Burt Lively
Michael Rinaldi
Glenn Tatgenhorst

20 Years
Michael Alberta
Dani Alves
Lydia Babbitt
Jody Fiorillo
James Gallagher
Bobby Gantt
Jody Hames
Gregory Kilmer
Aaron Mednick
William Miller
Scot Moffat
Corey Morin
George Parenteau
Stanley Remiszewski, Jr.
Harold Staley

15 Years
Paul Ammirato
Kevin Bernard
Kerry Caparulo
Nicholas Carrieri
John Chacho
William Coyne
Eric Cullen
Jennifer Elridge
Kevin Faria
Ronald Filippini, Jr.
John Fitzpatrick
Edward Hardaswick, Jr.
Raymond Hawkins, Jr.
Joseph Heron
Kerry Hogan
Philip Holigan
John Humes
Linda LaPorte

10 Years
Rita Lima
Julie Locascio
Adelino Luis
Jamie Lukasco
Daniel MacDonald
Patricia Mohrman
Rosaline Moore
Steven Osato
Nelson Otano
Robert Palmquist
Carmen Pinto
Lorel Purcell
James Rafferty, Jr.
John Recce, Jr.
Chris Rizy
Angel Roman
Andrew Sulewski
Dennis Winn
Carol Zaleski

5 Years
Michael Lenhardt
Scott Mangione
Edgar Marin
Christopher McPadden
Anthony Meikle
Michele Otero
Douglas Owens, Jr.
William Powell
Donald Primerano
Kevin Reilly
Stephen Rose
Richard Rubino
John Shay
John Tavares
Daniel Wearne
Michael Weston
Timothy Zeitler

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2015 Family Business Award. The Hartford Business Journal named O&G among “the best and the finest” family-run operations in the state. Entering its 93rd year in continuous operation, O&G received the first-place award for companies with more than 200 employees, recognized for “completing expansions, growing in the marketplace, fulfilling major projects and breaking new ground in the local and state business community.”

CCIA Community Service Award. The voluntarism of Sharon Okraska, Lynn Robotham, Terry Creighton, AnnaMac Weigold and retiree Shirley Durante on both annual O&G Toy Drive campaigns was recognized by the Connecticut Construction Industry Association. The Community Service Award honors the efforts of the team and O&G for “demonstrating a sustained commitment to the community.”
Dennis Carey, 58  
**Exemplary at work, colorful after hours**

You could sum up the Dennis Carey we knew as a man who worked hard at his hard job and at least as hard after hours. His humor was deadpan, with a well-practiced timing. He would wait expectantly for his hearer to “get” his quip or story before lighting up his own smile. It was a winning way that most understood. After some years broiling and freezing and balancing, he realized that commercial roofing was not his best path and opted for a different but equally physical one. He joined O&G in 1986 and rose through the ranks in a manually strenuous field to become the foreman over fellow laborers who poured concrete on O&G jobs. His greatest accomplishments, judged by the way he spoke of them, closer to the end of his working days before intractable heart issues forced him to retire at the age of 51 in 2008, were overseeing concrete at the Merritt Towers right off Route 15 in Stamford, and at the Yankee Gas LNG Tower just east of Route 8 in Waterbury (see page 6). His friends will not forget Dennis’ occasional exploits after hours, and that he never missed a day’s work in his 22 years with the company.

Lester Klimaszewski, 73  
**Looked sharp at all times**

On a construction site not many men could wear the abundance of cologne and jewelry Lester Klimaszewski did and pull it off. He was a natty dresser, fond of buying his shirts and jackets one size too small: Lester was a relentless body builder well into his retirement and preferred if you recognized that. The only thing small-ish about Lester was his height. He freely dispensed grins and jokes, told in his Warsaw accent. His robust personality led him head-on into any situation, which is not to say blindly: Lester was meticulous in his working habits, a thorough and trusted project superintendent in the Building Division. He was famous for searching for “a honeymoon fit” as he would progress through the stages of the buildings he built. He digested binders of blueprints and made his own scale drawings – Lester loved his drawings – whenever he needed to translate the tasks for his crews in the field. He worked for 16 years at O&G beginning in 1993 and remained in regular contact with his work friends after retiring in 2009. Lester’s health failed suddenly and precipitously and he succumbed on January 17.

Kenneth Ryan, 91  
**Quietly expert and patriotic**

Many will not remember Kenny Ryan, who retired in 1987 after working faithfully for O&G for 30 years, the last eight of which were spent as an estimator for the Building Division. With years of valuable civil engineering experience under his belt, he became an estimator back when there were only four men preparing bids. He was a civil engineer, an expert on site work and his bids reflected it. Those who do remember Kenny speak of him with respect. They recall his congenial way and his dedication to a disciplined work day. Perhaps Kenny’s diligence was the good fruit of a military career that began when he enlisted in the 24th Bombardier Group of the Army Air Forces during World War II. When the Korean War erupted, he was back in uniform and afterwards joined the Air Force Reserves, retiring after 30 years at the rank of Major. Kenny loved skiing in Vermont, often with fellow estimator and friend Ernie Torizzo. He also made several trips to ski out West with his daughter Cindy and her husband John. A Winsted resident his entire life, Kenny passed away in his own home on January 20th.
Few people get the kind of send-off that awaited FRANK DOWNEY when he walked into his retirement party on December 5th. If the size of a party is any indicator, Frank was a very popular fellow. And no wonder. Known for the smile he freely flashed and his one liners (“I know a lot of things, I just need to remember what they are,” for example), it was his “I’ll do whatever you need done” attitude that earned him so many respectful friends.

More than 170 people came out to send him off, a tremendous showing for a man who worked for the company only 11 years. On the job Frank would “rush around,” as he put it, making sure parts for emergency repairs got from suppliers or stockrooms to where they were needed as quickly as humanly possible. He also worked as a volunteer driver, connected through O&G to a church in Waterbury, helping people get to the health care they need.

Before he left Frank jotted down a letter of appreciation, that read in part, “I didn’t know there was a company with so much care and compassion for their employees. I didn’t struggle to get up to go to work every day. I looked forward to it. I really loved my job, going to all our suppliers, meeting new people daily and going to all O&G facilities, making friends with other employees and helping take care of equipment breakdowns.”
Saxe Middle School  New Canaan, Connecticut
Beginning this summer O&G will be renovating the Saxe Middle School’s auditorium and building a two-story addition with 25,000SF of new classroom space. This $18.6M project will continue year-round and be finished for the 2017-2018 school year. S/L/A/M Construction Services represents the town; project architect is JCJ Architecture.

E.T. Grasso Southeastern Technical High School  Groton, Connecticut
Connecticut Department of Construction Services (DCS) has chosen to manage the construction of a new Ella T. Grasso Southeastern Technical High School. Construction of the 215,000SF, $134.9M facility will begin in fall of 2017. O&G is working with the DCS and the design team led by architect Moser Pilon Nelson.

Higgins Hall and Annex at WCSU  Danbury, Connecticut
This $22M, like-new renovation of the three-story Higgins Hall and Annex at Western Connecticut State University will see classrooms, faculty offices and support spaces upgraded and an Academic Success Center created. 86,000SF of space in all will be renovated. O&G is the Construction Manager; Tai Soo Kim Partners is the project architect.

Shafer Hall at ECSU  Willimantic, Connecticut
O&G will be working at Eastern Connecticut State University with architect Stantec/ADD to convert an existing academic building to a residence hall with support space. Work on the three-story structure, valued at $22M, includes abatement of hazardous materials, site modifications and a complete renovation of this 1945 building.

W.J. Johnston Middle School  Colchester, Connecticut
At the W.J. Johnston Middle School, 44,000SF will be renovated, 74,000SF of old building will be demolished and 74,000SF of new space will be created. Year-round work on this $48.8M project will begin in the fall of 2016 and finish for the 2018-2019 school year. Project architect is Tecton Architects.

Gallup Hill School  Ledyard, Connecticut
Currently in preconstruction, this $28.6M project will begin December 2016 and see 42,000SF of space renovated as new and another 39,500SF of additions completed by December 2018. The school will serve 700 students Pre-K through fifth grade. Silver/Petrucelli + Associates is the project architect.

Ledyard Middle School  Ledyard, Connecticut
Valued at $35.6M, work will begin in December of 2016 and wrap in December of 2018. Approximately 53,000SF will be renovated as new, 23,000SF will be demolished and 45,000SF will be created. The school will remain fully operational during construction. Silver/Petrucelli + Associates is the project architect.
ELEGANT LIVING

SOPHISTICATED AND INSPIRING

With a mix of interior design stories, exciting feature articles and reviews of the latest trends in natural stone and earth-based materials, the second annual Stylish Spaces with Masonry has nearly doubled in size. We have had the good fortune of speaking with amazingly talented people working on some incredible projects for this latest edition and we are thrilled to share it with you.

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