Plimpton Announces Retirement

Director of Marketing and Promotion, Richard “Dick” Plimpton has announced his retirement effective May 1, 2005, ending two years of employment with the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association. During his time with IRMCA Dick concentrated his efforts on various promotion efforts, particularly concrete overlays. His understanding and expertise have helped many members conduct successful promotional efforts. His overall knowledge and passion for the concrete industry has been a valuable asset for IRMCA and its members.

Dick and wife Joanne will continue to live in Bloomington—at least when they’re not traveling the globe, and Dick will continue his association with IRMCA as a consultant.

IRMCA Hires New Director of Marketing & Promotion

John Reed has been working for IRMCA since January 2005 and will assume the title and full responsibilities of Director of Marketing & Promotion upon Dick Plimpton’s retirement in May. Regarding his new position, John commented, “I am looking forward to returning to Illinois and working with IRMCA members to promote the increased and continued use of ready-mixed concrete in Illinois.”

While attending Bradley University in 1968, John joined the ready mix industry as a part-time driver for Dean Amundsen of United Ready Mix. He graduated and continued to work part-time for United during the two years he taught and coached. He then accepted a position as the plant operating engineer of United’s new Pekin plant. John left United to work for American Fly Ash Company as director of utility service and later as sales representative. Most recently, he was the regional sales manager in Schwerman Trucking Company’s dry bulk division.

John has a wife, Mary Jane, and two children, Anne and Tom. They currently reside in South Bend, Indiana, but plan to relocate to central Illinois. IRMCA is pleased to have the benefit of John’s experience and knowledge. Please take the time to welcome him and get to know him.
Something New From OSHA

OSHA has begun publishing a relatively new document in their Workers Safety Series called “Concrete Manufacturing - a Pocket Guide”. You can view this document by going to the following website: www.osha.gov/Publications/concrete_manufacturing.html.

This document is free of charge and you can order as many as you’d like by faxing OSHA Publications at 202-693-2498. Your FAX must include: the document you are requesting—called “Concrete Manufacturing – a Pocket Guide”. You can view this document by going to www.osha.gov/Publications/concrete_manufacturing.html.

IL-ACPA Honors Plimpton

At its annual convention in Springfield on March 1, 2005, the Illinois Chapter, Inc. of the American Concrete Pavement Association honored IRMCA’s own Dick Plimpton as its Concrete Man of the Year. IL-ACPA President Gerry Krozel of the Prairie Group presented the award and praised Dick for his 40 years of service to the concrete pavement industry in Illinois. Dick will retire from his position as Director of Concrete Manufacturing-Pocket Guide #3221; the quantity; your name; your address; your phone number; and your reason-why do you want them and/or how you will use them.

New IRMCA Members

Green Walls, Inc.  
David Haegeland, Pres.  
65 E. Palatine Rd., Ste. 303  
Prospect Heights, IL 60070  
Phone: 847.541.2616  
Products & Services: Manufacture and distribute ICF Forms

SIKA New Construction  
9134 Chatham Ct.  
Woodridge, IL 60517  
Phone: 312.282.6711  
Products & Services: Full line of chemical admixtures for concrete

Congratulations to the 2004 - 2005 Harvey Hagge Scholarship Recipients:

Congratulations to the 2004 – 2005 Harvey Hagge Scholarship Recipients: Jason Stemna at Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville; Adam Boluhoff at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale; Carl Olson at University of Illinois – Chicago; Robert Rodden at University of Illinois – Urbana; Alson Smith at Illinois Institute of Technology; Christopher Von Holton at Illinois State University; Nathan Treager at Northwestern University; and Paul Ozinga at Middle Tennessee State University

IRMCA is Grateful For Its Reception Sponsors


Bronze: Arkalite.
Dear IRMCA Members,

There is so much I appreciate about the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association that I don’t know where to begin. IRMCA has a daily involvement in the day to day running of our operations, from helping us maintain a safe environment for employees to knowledge the managers and dispatchers have gained through education provided by the Association.

I am now going on my nineteenth year in this industry and I would like to take this chance to thank everyone who, over the years, has made my job and my Dad’s job easier and allowed us to become better producers. These thanks are directed to my fellow producers, to the suppliers and to the IRMCA boards and committees. Without their efforts in the past we would not be where we are at today.

All members should consider how fortunate we are to have people doing such excellent work for IRMCA. It is a big job keeping an organization like ours operating while maintaining close personal ties to the people it serves. Bruce, Michele, Dick, John, Whitney, and Jennifer do a wonderful job. Without their diligent efforts we would lack the camaraderie we have developed through IRMCA’s educational and social events. Many of us would also be without informed direction in a time of increasingly complicated regulations and requirements. To all above I give my most sincere thanks.

I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks to Dick Plumpiton, our outgoing Director of Marketing and Promotion. The effort he has put into his work should be remembered as a true advancement for the promotion of the use of concrete in this state. We now have begun making inroads into how IDOT, local municipalities, and public companies view the benefits of concrete. This is largely in part of the hard work he has put into various projects. His vast knowledge and experience will be missed, however, I know that no one will ever be able to get the concrete out of his blood and we have not seen the last of Dick.

I would like to welcome John Reed who will be taking over the position Dick is vacating. I hope everyone will welcome and encourage him in his new position. He has a solid marketing background and good industry experience. We must support his efforts to continue to reach the people who make the decisions about using concrete on public and private projects. I believe with the right encouragement and participation from the members, he will be successful in his endeavors.

I would like to thank outgoing president Dennis Oedewaldt of Construction Materials in Peoria for the time he has given. I know from just being around him that he has many responsibilities that require a great deal of time and to sacrifice some of that time for IRMCA is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Dan Edwards of Edwards Ready Mix in Glen Carbon for completing his term on the board. Also, I would like to welcome Brad Dell of Doll’s, Inc in Olney to the board this year and I look forward to working with him and all the others serving this year.

As we move forward I am going to repeat the message that has been said many times over. We must look at our everyday lives and see if there is any spare time we might be able to free up to serve this great organization. I ask everyone to do this over the course of the year. In 2000 we will have several members completing their term on the board. At that time we will need to fill those vacancies and I ask everyone to consider serving. The time I have put in so far as a board member and officer has been well worth the minor sacrifice. We must keep the Association moving forward and without the time the members put in, we would lose momentum and, eventually, the benefits we are now seeing.

Please also thank your IRMCA commitment when you are given the opportunity to join one or more Association committees. We need more involvement in the committees. Think of it as a chance to add two cents to the issues that face our industry. Fresh perspectives and new voices bring about new ideas. So I ask you, if you have not been involved as much you would like to have been, please get involved now.

As the new president I pledge to the members that I will do the job to the best of my ability and encourage the promotion of concrete. I am not too busy to talk to anyone, so please contact me if there is anything I can do for you. Let us all look forward to a rewarding year ahead.

Sincerely,

George Moharaz
IRMCA President

PROMOTION PRINCIPLES 101
A Practitioner’s View – Lesson 1

We could get into a very lengthy theoretical discussion about promotion, what works, why it works and why it sometimes does not work; but, to most of you, that does not matter. To those of you in the ready-mix business, it is about making the phone ring. Keep in mind that this is a significant difference from waiting for the phone to ring. The first step is to start! To those of you that think of promotion as bringing someone in to do a razzle-dazzle PowerPoint presentation must understand that this is only one step that may be part of the process. Whether or not it depends mostly on you and your relationship to the target customer. So let us start by analyzing the different customers with whom you interact.

Most of you think of your customer as the contractor. Contractors generally have a very specific limited set of requirements. They want it when they want it as cheaply as you can deliver it. Oh, by the way, it has to meet all of the specified requirements and the contractor may or may not know what those are. From his point of view, that is generally your job since you are the expert on materials. After all, he just builds things. Sound familiar? In mind that my other hat is working in his endeavors.

You also need to be aware of the “politics” of promotion. To be successful in this venture, you are first going to let your contractors know what, where, when and how you are planning to promote. This is essential in that it sets the contractor to thinking about whatever proposal you have in mind. He needs to understand the effort as being an eventual reality to which he has put some thought.

Put yourself in their position. Remember, contractors do not like to be caught flatfooted and embarrassed in dealing with their customers any more than you would. Some preliminary educational effort with your customers, the contractors, may be required. Remember that if the contractor is opposed to your plan, you are in the untenable position of having to persuade the end customer against the wishes of your customer, the contractor. You must first persuade those contractors of the merits of your plan.

Now that your contractor is in agreement with the plan, you can begin with his customers. Those are the simple politics of human relationships and a little oversimplified since you will have multiple contractors working for you. You must find yourself in the somewhat awkward position of representing your customer(s) to the end-user customer. Even then, you are not sure that you will get the project. It is an unfortunate reality of promotion in the ready mixed concrete business!

You must support his efforts to continue to reach the people who make the decisions about using concrete on public and private projects. I believe with the right encouragement and participation from the members, he will be successful in his endeavors.

Randell Riley is an Engineering Consultant for the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association, and the Great Lakes Cement Promotion Association. He is actively involved in the day-to-day promotion of long-life quality concrete pavements. He can be reached at 217-793-9533 or on the internet at pccman@InsightBB.com.

It has been a pleasure to interact with you, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Randell C. Riley, P.E.
About Randell C. Riley, P.E.

"Promotion is about making the phone ring, which is significantly different from waiting for the phone to ring.”
The 94th General Assembly has convened. We will be fighting for some of the same issues that were not passed in the last session. We have had measured success with the House, Senate, and the Governor at times only to observe that all three cannot come together on the same issues. We have been hit hard with fees and fewer IDOT jobs are on the horizon. Here are the front burner items for this legislative session.

STATE:

- The original HB 4457 which dealt with redistribution of weight on our mixers passed the House unanimously but died in the Senate. Planning for this session is underway to try again. Our strongest OPPONENT was the Illinois Municipal League, and the County and Local Roads Engineers. They are against us!

- Effective July 1, 2005, the first rollback of the Commercial Distribution Fee will be changing from 36% to 21.5%, i.e. an 80,000# base plate that was $3930 last year will rollback to $3511. There is still a lack of clarification on the rolling stock exemption.

- HB1334, VEH CD-WEIGHT-TRUCK MIXER. This bill, sponsored by Rep. John Millner, passed with a vote of 110 yea's and 2 nays. Thank you for responding to our action alert by calling your Representative. Four more Representatives have signed on as cosponsor of this Bill. Now it will go before the Senate for approval. We will alert you when to call, write, fax, or e-mail your senator.

- HB 2347, VEH CD-EXCESSIVE IDLING. This bill limits diesel idling time to three minutes. Mixes are currently exempt in this bill before the House.

- HB 805, Workmen’s Comp reform, died last session but is being reviewed and rewritten for this session. The Governor has indicated that he is promoting reform of our workmen’s compensation rules. Keep an eye in your newspaper as this bill begins to unfold.

- High Capacity Water Wells; this bill also died last session but we are checking on its future status.

- I personally enjoyed our Winter Short Course and thought the lobbyist from the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Doug Whitley, was very good.

FEDERAL:

- OSHA has announced that they are specifically targeting the Ready Mix Concrete Industry in Illinois. Some members have been inspected and cited. It is prudent to have all of your records including your OSHA 300 up to date. You can go to the OSHA website and obtain this form. Of course, if you have implemented the IRMCA Safety Manual and are USING IT, you should be in pretty good shape.

- The TEA 21 bill is still undecided. We are hopeful for $318 billion. President Bush does not want to exceed $256 billion. This amount is inadequate for us as a donor state. If the President and Congress could come together at around $292 billion, we would find that to be acceptable. With the state of finances in Illinois, we need this federal money to spur road and bridge construction and keep it going.

- The USDOT is taking comments from the industry concerning the Drivers Hours of Service issue.

“...be prepared to be called upon again this legislative session to contact your Senators and Representatives on the issues for this year. We will do our best to keep you well informed. Thank you for your continued participation - it counts!”

Be prepared to be called upon again this legislative session to contact your Senators and Representatives on the issues for this year. We will do our best to keep you well informed. Thank you for your continued participation - it counts!
Short Course Presents Various Current Industry Issues

Attendees of the Short Course, held at the PAR*A*DICE Hotel and Casino in East Peoria on January 10 and 11th, were treated to presentations on a variety of subjects pertinent to our industry. Of great interest was the presentation on recent successes in concrete overlay promotion. Organizers Randy Riley and Dick Plimpton coordinated the session that featured a presenter from the Portland Cement Association who told about opportunities in the overlay market; city officials from Bloomington and Macomb who explained why they selected concrete instead of asphalt; Dennis Probst told us how Mid-Illinois Cement Association who told about opportunities in the overlay market; city officials from Bloomington and Macomb who explained why they selected concrete instead of asphalt; a representative from Illinois State University who discussed why they chose concrete and why they will again; a concrete contractor who reported on the success he had on a large concrete overlay project; and one of our own, Dennis Probst told us how Mid-Illinois Concrete successfully handled a large overlay project.

Randy Riley has helped us respond to the request from several members for copies of the presentations. He also left with a copy of the revised IDOT Guidelines described above when he talked about Portland Cement Concrete Inlay and Overlay. Brad Burke followed with a presentation that included several pieces of data interesting to the producers and associates present.

After lunch, Doug Whitley, President of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, regaled the audience with the Chamber’s view on the political and business climate in Illinois and his views on the future for business in Illinois. IRMCA belongs to the State Chamber and Doug e-mails his monthly President’s letter to IRMCA which we now forward to all members for whom we have e-mail addresses. [If you have e-mail and would like to be added to this list, please contact IRMCA. It’s fascinating and valuable information.] The remainder of the afternoon consisted of a talk on collections and a presentation by Dave Anderson and Jim Anselm of McNeils on recent advancement in concrete plant design.

Participants not only learned, they also left with a copy of the revised IRMCA Hazards Specific Manual complete with a CD of the program, copies of several of the presentations, and for those who completed both days, the latest version of 29 CFR PART 1910 – OSHA Standards for General Industry–our guideline as well as the OSHA Certification Card. Participants not only learned, they also left with a copy of the revised IRMCA Hazards Specific Manual complete with a CD of the program, copies of several of the presentations, and for those who completed both days, the latest version of 29 CFR PART 1910 – OSHA Standards for General Industry–our guideline as well as the OSHA Certification Card.

Representatives of the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association Safety Committee, along with DCEO On-Site Safety and Health Consultants and OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialists, presented two OSHA 10 Hour Certification programs to over 75 persons in Springfield and Joliet during February. These 10 Hour Certification programs were designed particularly for persons who work in or around ready mix concrete plants and trucks. The programs were very positively received by the attendees.

Participants not only learned, they also left with a copy of the revised IRMCA Hazards Specific Manual complete with a CD of the program, copies of several of the presentations, and for those who completed both days, the latest version of 29 CFR PART 1910 – OSHA Standards for General Industry–our guideline as well as the OSHA Certification Card.

On behalf of the entire IRMCA membership, we thank the following for taking time from their busy schedules to volunteer as certification trainers: Rob Nelch, Nelch & Sons; Dave Mashek, Prairie Material; Mike Mosley, Rogers Ready Mix; Rita Mosley and Paul Seidlitz, DCEO On-Site Safety and Health Consultants; and Bill Conolelan and Nancy Quick, OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialists.

IRMCA continues to vigorously support creation of a safe work environment for all its members’ employees and will continue to provide opportunities for safety training. Please be aware that the DCEO and OSHA professionals listed above are willing to talk to our members at any time-individually or collectively—and advise them on safety issues. These people are not inspectors; their function is to help businesses create safe workplaces and habits. They can be reached through IRMCA.

On behalf of the entire IRMCA membership, we thank the following for taking time from their busy schedules to volunteer as certification trainers: Rob Nelch, Nelch & Sons; Dave Mashek, Prairie Material; Mike Mosley, Rogers Ready Mix; Rita Mosley and Paul Seidlitz, DCEO On-Site Safety and Health Consultants; and Bill Conolelan and Nancy Quick, OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialists.

Safety program presenters clockwise from top: Nancy Quick, OSHA; during her Joliet presentation; Jim Randolph, P.B.I. Redi-Mix, discusses fall protection; Rob Nelch, Nelch & Sons, speaks about Silica.
That's Not Tile, It's Concrete!

Owners of J & S Auto Center in Lincoln, IL, Jim & Shelly Horn, recently completed a dramatic renovation project on their property, formally a farm implement business, and concrete figured prominently in the overhaul. After admiring colored concrete floors at their favorite restaurant in Osage Beach, the Horns decided to include color in the concrete for their new showroom floors.

The Horns hired architect Russell Francois of Francois Associates of Bloomington to provide the creative concept for the attractive and economical renovation package. It was then up to Neal Legare to supervise the job and ensure an opening prior to winter. One advantage Mr. Legare had was that the existing high ceilings provided the opportunity to raise the inside floor elevation, reduce exterior excavation, and improve site drainage.

Vandenbergh Concrete & Excavation, Ashland, IL, was hired to place the exterior concrete and immediately began preparing several test patches for color and texture. Jim explained to IRMCA visitors, “You look at lots of tile samples, don’t you? We wanted to take time to select just the right color and patterns—something unique. Bob Vandenbergh was very patient.” Due to the number of steps necessary to accomplish the final product, the contractor limited the placement area for each day’s placement. The appearance of the finished product is a tribute to the patience and expertise of Mr. Vandenbergh and attention to detail of Neal Legare.

The new interior floor elevation opened the opportunity for Ultra-Thin Whitetopping over the south parking lot. Don Payne, Operations Manager, Contractors Ready Mix, Lincoln, IL, pointed out to the owners how a lighter, brighter concrete surface would improve presentation of the autos. This promotion approach also eventually led to a new concrete drive on the east side of the building. Converting the exterior concrete drive and parking area from asphalt to concrete resulted in a 400% increase in the concrete on the job.

Excavation, Ashland, IL, was hired to place the exterior concrete and immediately began preparing several test patches for color and texture. Jim explained to IRMCA visitors, “You look at lots of tile samples, don’t you? We wanted to take time to select just the right color and patterns—something unique. Bob Vandenbergh was very patient.” Due to the number of steps necessary to accomplish the final product, the contractor limited the placement area for each day’s placement. The appearance of the finished product is a tribute to the patience and expertise of Mr. Vandenbergh and attention to detail of Neal Legare.

The new interior floor elevation opened the opportunity for Ultra-Thin Whitetopping over the south parking lot. Don Payne, Operations Manager, Contractors Ready Mix, Lincoln, IL, pointed out to the owners how a lighter, brighter concrete surface would improve presentation of the autos. This promotion approach also eventually led to a new concrete drive on the east side of the building. Converting the exterior concrete drive and parking area from asphalt to concrete resulted in a 400% increase in the concrete on the job.

If you are in the area, it’s worth a stop—J & S Auto Center, 1006 Woodlawn Road, Lincoln, IL.

Converting the exterior drive and parking area from asphalt to concrete resulted in a 400% increase in the concrete on the job.

The Horns hired architect Russell Francois of Francois Associates of Bloomington to provide the creative concept for the attractive and economical renovation package. It was then up to Neal Legare to supervise the job and ensure an opening prior to winter. One advantage Mr. Legare had was that the existing high ceilings provided the opportunity to raise the inside floor elevation, reduce exterior excavation, and improve site drainage.

Francois, of Francois Associates for their new showroom floors.

Tom Clarke and Bruce Grodne only thought they were finished interviewing Alison Smith. Very impressed with the scholarship applicant from the Illinois Institute of Technology, they were thanking her for coming when she asked if she could “take just a minute and show you some pictures?” Alison, had spent several months traveling through India and while she was there primarily to “soak up the culture”, the “civil-engineers-in-her” demanded an extended visit to India’s concrete marvel, the Bahá’í House of Worship in New Delhi.

The edifice, also known as The Lotus of Bahá’u’lláh, was completed in 1986 and has drawn more than 50 million visitors, surpassing the Eiffel tower and even the Taj Mahal in popularity. The primary design of the temple is inspired after the lotus flower—the national flower of India. The main structure consists of nine petals constructed of reinforced white concrete, cast in place. To avoid construction joints, petals were concreted in a continuous operation for approximately 48 hours. Concrete was carried up the staging by women bearing 50-pound loads in baskets balanced on their heads. You can learn more about this phenomenal structure by visiting www.uga.edu/bahai/india.html.

Alison was selected to receive a 2004-2005 IRMCA scholarship. She is a senior working towards a degree in civil engineering.

Scholarship Recipient Travels to India

The Bahá’í House of Worship in New Delhi, India.

Advertising in the IRMCA News is an effective way to reach members and industry professionals.

Member rates
- classified: $25
- 1/4 page: $50
- 1/2 page: $100
- full page: $150

Non-member rates
- classified: $30
- business card: $48
- 1/4 page: $72
- 1/2 page: $120
- full page: $180

Send ad copy to: jbedell@irmca.org

For more information call: 800.235.4055

Business card: $40
1/2 page: $100

Full page: $150

classified: $25
1/4 page: $50
1/2 page: $100
full page: $150

Member rates
- classified: $25
- 1/4 page: $50
- 1/2 page: $100
- full page: $150

Non-member rates
- classified: $30
- business card: $48
- 1/4 page: $72
- 1/2 page: $120
- full page: $180

Send ad copy to: jbedell@irmca.org

For more information call: 800.235.4055

Submission deadlines for 2005:
- Feb. 4, May 6, August 5, Nov. 4

Contact to a full year placement and receive a 10% reduced rate.

Congratulations to Dan Edwards of Edwards Ready Mix, winner of the crossword puzzle contest. The puzzle solution is given below.

That's not tile, it's concrete!

Tom Clarke and Bruce Grodne only thought they were finished interviewing Alison Smith. Very impressed with the scholarship applicant from the Illinois Institute of Technology, they were thanking her for coming when she asked if she could “take just a minute and show you some pictures?” Alison, had spent several months traveling through India and while she was there primarily to “soak up the culture”, the “civil-engineers-in-her” demanded an extended visit to India’s concrete marvel, the Bahá’í House of Worship in New Delhi.

The edifice, also known as The Lotus of Bahá’u’lláh, was completed in 1986 and has drawn more than 50 million visitors, surpassing the Eiffel tower and even the Taj Mahal in popularity. The primary design of the temple is inspired after the lotus flower—the national flower of India. The main structure consists of nine petals constructed of reinforced white concrete, cast in place. To avoid construction joints, petals were concreted in a continuous operation for approximately 48 hours. Concrete was carried up the staging by women bearing 50-pound loads in baskets balanced on their heads. You can learn more about this phenomenal structure by visiting www.uga.edu/bahai/india.html.

Alison was selected to receive a 2004-2005 IRMCA scholarship. She is a senior working towards a degree in civil engineering.
Please support the Associate Members of the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association.


The IRMCA staff regrets any omissions from the above list.

Champ Wayland!

Longtime IRMCA member Champ Wayland of Wayland Ready Mix, Inc. in Macomb, Illinois celebrated his 90th birthday on June 19, 2004. Champ is still active in the business with his son Larry. Champ attended this year’s Short Course in Peoria where he had the opportunity to reacquaint and reminisce with many longtime friends. Congratulations, Champ, keep it going!

Pictured below: Champ Wayland at work and (below) the Wayland Ready Mix plant in Macomb.