



Fall 2006

Established in 1910

Penzel Construction Co. Receives Industry of the Year Award

Penzel Construction Company was honored as the 2005-2006 "Industry of the Year" by the Jackson Chamber of Commerce/Jackson Industrial Development Company at the Chamber's Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner, held June 19th. Coincident with the award, both the Missouri House of Representatives and Missouri Senate issued resolutions noting Penzel's historical significance, substantial project résumé and integral contributions to the Southeast Missouri community.

The Industry of the Year Award recognizes a company that exemplifies the codes of good business and industrial practices, has made a substantial impact on the community and has enjoyed significant accomplishments during the past year. Selection criteria include the firm's stability, growth, innovations, leadership, business conduct, community involvement and corporate citizenship. The Jackson Chamber of Commerce and the Jackson Industrial Development Company unite to bestow this award.

Penzel Construction's story began when Johann Gottlieb Penzel migrated to the United States from Germany. John, as he became known, and his family docked in New Orleans on November 7, 1853, and in January 1854, they arrived in Jackson, where, like the many generations before him, he worked as a carpenter.

John's son Gustav continued the long family tradition as a carpenter and builder, as did Gus's son Linus. From 1889 to 1893, Gus built the original St. Paul Lutheran Church and numerous other commercial buildings along High Street.

On April 1, 1910, after a couple of years traveling the southwestern areas of the U.S. building houses, Linus moved



The presentation of the Industry of the Year Award. (Left to right) State Representative Billy Pat Wright; State Senator Jason Crowell; Penzel Construction president Phil Penzel; State Representative Scott Lipke; and John N. Thompson, president, Jackson Industrial Development Company.

back to Jackson and started in business as Linus Penzel Contractor and Builder. That was the birth of Penzel Construction Co., as Linus' company is known today. Subsequent to building homes, churches and schools for a number of years, he began building larger commercial buildings, such as the Jackson High School in 1920, International Shoe Co., Milde Bottling Co. and the original First Baptist Church.

In 1922, Linus teamed up with Walter Knox and Son, a local excavation company, and began doing Missouri State Highway roadwork; Linus also started teaching the business to his 14-year-old son, Carl, whom became his partner in 1937. Penzel Construction's business address was 122A High Street during the mid '40s to early '50s, above the area now known as Tractor's

Classic American Grill: the shop was located behind what is now the Jackson Post Office. Penzel relocated in the early 1950s to its present location. That street, just south of U.S. Highway 61 West, was recently renamed Penzel Drive.

In 1955, Carl became the sole owner of Penzel Construction Co. and incorporated the company the following year. Carl's son, Gene, entered the business full time in 1959, having acquired a Civil Engineering degree from the Missouri School of Mines, and finishing his commission in the Navy as a flight instructor.

Penzel Construction continued to do highway work and larger commercial and industrial work throughout the 1960s, but because of the Federal Highway Program,

continued on page 4

Industry of the Year Award... *continued from page 1*

concentrated on highway work during most of the 1970s. As the federal program diminished in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the company's focus turned back toward commercial and industrial construction. Gene took over as president in 1981 and made attracting new industry a high priority for the company. Through the '80s and '90s, Penzel built many industrial buildings, some of which were spec buildings that were used to attract new industry to the area. In 1984, Penzel was presented with the prestigious "Construction Professional Development Award" by the National Society of Professional Engineers.

In 1987, Gene's son, Phil, joined the business as a civil engineer after graduating from the University of Missouri-Rolla. In 1988, Penzel Construction was granted a certificate of authority to offer engineering services and began to heavily pursue design-build projects with an in-house engineering staff. In 1996, Penzel Construction Company was chosen, from over 300 nominations, as the "Family Business of the Year" by the Family Business Forum of the University of Illinois at Edwardsville. Also that year, Phil was promoted to company president. During the late '90s and into the new millennium, Penzel saw the largest growth and sales in the company's history, including projects for Procter & Gamble and Siemens Westinghouse.

Phil acquired full company owner-

ship from Gene on October 1, 2004, and in that same year, the National Association of Church Design Builders invited Penzel to join its organization. Penzel was the only contractor chosen between St. Louis and Memphis, and key to meeting their criteria was Penzel's historic support of Christian principles.

Penzel Construction continues into the

future with a balanced ratio of highway work and building projects, staffed by the most capable employees in the industry.

As Penzel nears its centennial anniversary in 2010, we reflect on the extensive history of the company and we ensure that the same principles sustain our business today as did in 1910—honesty and integrity.

Project Updates

- The **Trinity Lutheran School** project consists of a new gymnasium building addition with a gross floor area of 9,802 square feet. An elevator is being installed to accommodate the existing three-story structure. The project is scheduled for completion in late fall. Dennis Ward is the project superintendent.
 - **Route 34 Phase II** started May 15th. The project involves widening the existing roadway, and includes staged bridge construction, asphalt work, segmental retaining walls and various related items of work. Estimated completion is Summer 2007. Dave Conrad is the superintendent and Mike Williams is the assistant superintendent for this project.
 - **Target Store Addition** in Cape Girardeau, Mo., is winding down. Penzel is performing the concrete and other work for S.M. Wilson Company. Luke Miget is the project manager and Bob Sachse is the site superintendent.
 - **McAlister's Deli** in Marion, Illinois, is nearing completion. The full service restaurant will feature sandwiches, hoagies, salads, boxed lunches, catering and their famous sweet tea. Penzel is the design-build contractor. Phil Penzel is serving as project manager, with Tim Johnston the site superintendent.
 - **Christ Church of the Heartland** in Cape Girardeau started this past June. Phase I site work is well underway and the building work is scheduled to begin shortly. Luke Miget is the on site project manager and David Mirgeaux is site superintendent.
 - **Jackson RII School District Warehouse** is underway and consists of Penzel providing and erecting a pre-engineered steel building, with our scope of work to be completed this winter.
 - **Signature Packaging Facility** in Scott City is scheduled for completion in November; they plan to be in operation by December 1st.
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