



Summer 2005

Established in 1910

## Linus Penzel's Company Remains Faithful To His Principles After 95 Years

Penzel Construction turns 95-years-old this year. When Linus Penzel started his company in 1910, it would have been impossible for him to envision what the future held for the construction industry. In retrospect, for a company, in particular a construction firm, to endure throughout that stretch of history is remarkable. Two world wars, the Great



Linus Penzel

Depression and numerous other conflicts and events devastated financial systems; business failure became routine.

To reflect on the magnitude of the accomplishment, we need to appreciate the vision. In an era when a handshake was a contract, Linus recognized that business success was just as uncomplicated. His simple plan for business conduct originated from his faith. The foundation for Linus Penzel's business plan was found in Luke 6:31 and Matthew 7:12. Strict adherence to these principles enabled the company to develop and grow through volatile economic periods. Success was by design.

Linus passed the company on to his son, Carl, confident that his philosophy would continue to be the cornerstone of the business. Now in its fourth generation, Penzel Construction Company remains uncompromised and fully committed to the doctrine of the founder. Just ask our customers.



A view of the Southeast Missourian Building from the Northeast

## Historic Southeast Missourian Building Gets a Makeover

Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is home to a number of historically significant properties, but none more so than the Southeast Missourian newspaper facility on the corner of Broadway and Lorimier. Built by the newspaper's original publishers and completed in 1925, this exceptional cast-in-place concrete structure is a downtown landmark. De-



The northern mural.

signed by the T.P. Barnett Company, a prominent St. Louis architectural firm of the time, the elegant stucco and tile-clad building is a notable example of Spanish Colonial influence on early 20th century architectural design.

When an addition was completed in 1936, two wall panels on the east side of the building, facing Lorimier Street, were left open to hold tile murals. Almost ten years passed while a search was underway for someone to reproduce an oil painting on clay tiles that could endure Missouri's weather extremes. After an additional two years in the making, the tile murals were installed in 1947. Titled "The Art of Printing," the southern mural incorporates images of the Gutenberg press with prominent

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# Project Updates

- The **Saint Andrew Lutheran Church** in Cape Girardeau renovation and addition is moving forward. Work includes a new 10,995-square-foot building addition, renovation of 8,248 square feet of the existing structure, along with extensive site improvements.
- The **Bank of Missouri** facility in Marble Hill, Missouri, was completed on time and within budget. The design/build project consisted of a complete renovation and expansion of an existing building, with a drive-thru teller addition.
- The **New McKendree United Methodist Church** in Jackson, Missouri, is on schedule. The new 12,925-square-foot facility will include a Celebration Center, classrooms and a commercial kitchen. Penzel is the design/build contractor, with a September dedication projected.
- **First Baptist Church of Cape Girardeau** is progressing toward a late November completion. The 23,226-square-foot project includes a sanctuary, multi-purpose room, kitchen, nursery, classrooms, offices, choir room and support spaces. Penzel is the design/build contractor.
- The **First General Baptist Church** project in Jackson, Missouri, is nearing completion. The scope of work includes construction of a new administration building, a gymnasium addition, renovation to the existing facilities, and major parking expansion and improvements. Penzel is serving as construction manager/general contractor; the architect is St. Louis Design Alliance.
- The **Route 72 Project** in Jackson, Missouri, (Project No. JOVO598) involves widening existing Route 72 from the Route 25 intersection to Main Street. Included are staged bridge construction, asphalt work, segmental retaining walls and various related items of work. Completion is anticipated to take place this coming winter.



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# Missourian...

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regional newspaper personalities. In the northern mural, titled "Gathering & Disseminating News," editors and reporters gather news from a number of famous visitors to Cape Girardeau, including President Harry Truman. The murals addition concluded the composition of an architectural sonata.

In January 1951, the adjacent building at 313 Broadway was acquired. Purportedly to have been built as a butcher shop, it is now utilized for various newspaper operations.

Though the buildings remain in exceptional condition, restoration and updating are required to provide a fresh look, a contemporary environment, and a more efficient infrastructure. Penzel Construction Company is the general contractor for the project, which focuses on both function and aesthetics. The design, inspired by the business of newspaper publishing, was created by Kiku Obata & Company of St. Louis to reflect the newspaper's identity. This October, the Southeast Missourian will celebrate 100 years in business with a fresh look, and perhaps could echo an article printed in 1924 when the newspaper touted the site as the "fanciest piece of property in Cape Girardeau."

# PENZEL

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