

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WHAT IS IT ABOUT RESTORATION THAT CONVINCED YOU... ?



RANDY BEARD

Another version may be as simple as, “Why do you like to work in restoration?” However it is asked, we all seem to have the answer. Everyone that I know in this industry has a personal story they can offer when asked this type of question. Others even have multiple stories, but I realize this publication is not suitable for those stories,

so I’ll stick with mine.

I have worked in our industry at every position imaginable from construction laborer to consultant. Looking back, I can see I was always interested in the restoration industry and especially in the multiple facets of restoration that draw one in deeper after every project. Especially interesting was the consistent variety of projects and the varying complexities that keep a career interesting.

My turning point came in the mid-1980s when called upon to work, as a restoration contractor, at a new parking structure at the Detroit Zoological Park (the Detroit Zoo) in Royal Oak, MI. I do recognize that there might be an argument for the correlation between the restoration industry and the word “zoo.” I won’t dip into the “humor” file today because for this particular project, the restoration of a 4-month-old “new” construction project meant our industry provided the solutions that resolved issues in the construction of this project.

We were able to provide the solutions through a “team” approach led by a very qualified restoration engineer and consultant team, an owner group, and construction manager all working toward the same goal of returning the structure to its original design capacity. In completing the contracting

work on this project, many aspects of our industry were used, some of which included detailed planning for hydrodemolition of concrete column bases, protective corrosion coating of steel, cementitious pressure grouting, and crack injection. All of this work was designed and monitored by restoration consultants with quality of the application first and foremost.

Without going into any more detail, I was able to fully understand all of the steps of this restoration process and came away from the project with the motivation to further my own career in the restoration industry. I am sure there are hundreds of similar stories in our industry, some much more exciting than mine. I thought it was time I shared one of mine as you do not often get the opportunity to reflect on what really gets a person motivated to work in our industry.

There are many people who I have worked with over the years; but for this question of what convinced me to pursue a restoration career, it is as simple as the following. I appreciate the experience I came away with from that project and want to thank the two gentlemen who were instrumental in this project and, ultimately, in developing my motivation. They are both still heavily involved in the restoration industry, and their efforts both directly and indirectly have been able to convince me the restoration industry was where I wanted to be. Their dedication to the continual improvement of restoration technologies we all use today has been my motivation; and I hope that one day I can do as they have always done: teach, motivate, support, and lead by example.

So, thank you, Tom Kline and Kal Hindo. Tom for providing a very positive experience (several to be exact) and the example to follow and Kal for the dedication to our industry and keeping me in line to succeed and not allowing anything less.