



50 Years & Going Strong

What started as a two man operation in 1960 is now a successful, growing family business, 60 men strong, possessing years of dedicated work experience. Wicks Construction was founded in 1960 by Allan Wicks and Bob Carolan, childhood friends, both farm kids, who began the concrete business to meet the needs of a growing Winneshiek County.

The company began by doing small residential and agricultural projects locally around Decorah. They built curb and gutter projects by hand in the 1960's and 1970's. Allan Wicks and Bob Carolan worked together for 16 years before Carolan sold his portion of the company and the name changed to Wicks Construction Inc. Wicks Construction then went into concrete paving by forms and screeds in the early 1980's. Several years after Allan's son Brad took over, Wicks Construction also started slip form paving. By 1996 Brad added a laser screed for doing large floor pours. In 1998 Wicks bought their first telebelt for placing concrete and rock. Wicks Construction has added equipment and technology to the business as the demand on the business and people changed over the years.

Allan and his wife Janenne raised 4 children. Their son Brad, who currently runs the company, started working in high school at Wicks Construction. Brad's sister Bridget and her husband own Casper Plumbing and Heating in Decorah. Pam is a Dentist in California and Nancy owns an Organic Farm in Crested Butte Colorado. Following college graduation, Brad moved to Colorado where he worked in many areas of construction. Wicks said that during the recession from 1982-1984 he was able to consistently find work because of Iowa's reputation of having a good work ethic. These values were passed on by Allan. Brad worked for Irving F. Jensen for a time before moving back to Decorah to work for Wicks Construction.

Brad was newly married to his wife Darcy when his parents were tragically killed in a commercial plane crash in January of 1985. Following the tragic accident, Brad took over the helm of the family business in 1985 at the age of 23. "The dedicated and longtime company employees and the community was a wonderful strong support system to help me get my feet on the ground," said Brad, of those early days as the new company president.

During Brad's first years of taking over the company, Wicks Construction emphasized on road work and light commercial projects with a small portion of their work going towards residential construction. As with many companies, Wicks Construction has endured difficult times and has taken on some challenging jobs to keep up with a changing economy. They have worked on many well known commercial buildings such as: Target, Wal-Mart, Hy-

vee, Scheels, and many more, along with working on a number of Cabela's warehouses. As a favor to the Cabela's, Wicks even found themselves in Nebraska, building the personal home of the Cabela's CEO.

Wicks Construction has diversified into the industrial and road paving markets while continuing to specialize in residential and commercial work. The same workforce that helped them grow in size each year has also helped them expand, completing work not only in Iowa but Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota. Wicks Construction Inc. joined AGC of Iowa in 1988. They have been active in AGC of Iowa by getting involved in committees over the years. With online bidding taking over a few years ago, they try to attend the annual state convention each year as employees miss the interaction with their fellow contractors. Employees at Wicks Construction Inc. have also participated in a number of training courses in the past years.

Brad said AGC of Iowa has been very beneficial to them over the years but said most importantly, "AGC of Iowa has helped preserve the road fund and promote road building in Iowa which both directly and indirectly help Wicks Construction."

Wicks Construction's commitment to excellence and consumer satisfaction can be seen directly through the eyes of employees, as 64% of them have been there between 10-40 years. We have many long term employees, which makes life easier as a manager", says Wicks.

Brad and his wife have four children: Weston, 25, attends Rochester University in New York, where he is pursuing his MBA., Lana, 23, is in her third year at the Univ. of Iowa Dental School, Gavin, 20 attends UNI for Construction Management, and Tess, 18, is pursuing Actuarial Science at Drake University in Des Moines, where she is also a cheerleader for football, and basketball. Brad and his wife Darcy have been married for 26 years. Darcy is the Vice President. Brad's Uncle Wes Wicks serves as General Manager and has worked for the company since the beginning. Some of Brad's children have expressed an interest in working for the company some day. He started in this business young and would want his children to get some varied experience at different companies before joining Wicks Construction Inc.

Wicks Construction Inc. will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year, having grown over the years to a full service concrete contractor specializing in residential commercial, industrial and road concrete work. They have had 22 great years as AGC of Iowa members and hope to have many more in this family owned and operated business.