From the President's Desk

Dear Friends and Colleagues:  

Last week, I accompanied Brian Belden, Mark Britko, Lauren Goner, and Jim Tarr, President of the Brick Institute of America, to Victoria, B.C., a suburb of Rochester, where we met Brian Penner to view a demonstration of SAM (Semi-Automated Mason) at a company called Construction Robotics. SAM is a functioning robot mounted on a rail system that is integrated into a HytecIdelial® scaffolding system. SAM is capable of laying 1,700 modules per hour or about a row that includes two human, a mason and a tender. The Construction Robotics equipment and process promises to provide the following benefits:

• Job savings of greater than 50%  
• Reduced physical strain on the mason and crew, mason focuses on testing/trim and wall quality.  
• Lower health and safety impact on the workforce  
• Consistent production rate and performance  

Using grants from the state of New York and the National Science Foundation, Construction Robotics has made significant progress in understanding and solving the technical hurdles that have prevented the commercialization of robotic masonry. We were impressed with the team at Construction Robotics as well as their advisers and investors. They have listened to and addressed most of the real-world obstacles encountered on a masonry site. Almost all the technological advances in our industry have occurred on the manufacturing side of business. The masonry production process is still the same, one at a time, by hand, as they have been for millennia. The average age of masons in the United States has continued to be in the mid-to-late 50s and many architects and owners are convinced that the quality of the finishmanship of today’s masonry trades has declined. Our New York office tells us that the masonry trade in New York City has made our product relatively non-competitive on buildings over 20 stories high in Manhattan. All these factors and more make the efforts of the people at Construction Robotics an exciting development for our entire industry. I have committed to assisting their efforts in any way that I can.

If you would like to learn more about SAM and see a simulation of SAM in action, you can visit the Construction Robotics website at www.constructionrobotics.com to see the video. They plan to install the brick on a manufacturing/office building on the site where they are developing SAM.

We are anxious to do what we can to lower the installed cost of our product in the hopes of increasing our market share, and we think that SAM will be a positive step in that direction. I know that you will join me in watching the continued progress of the Construction Robotics team and in wishing them success in their efforts.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Belden
President & CEO

Beldenbrick.com has a wealth of information for our customers.

One of the most popular areas in the Photo Gallery is the 'Visit Beldenbrick.com' area. We’ve recently made some changes to the photo gallery that we hope will also benefit you. Those changes include addressess of projects in the gallery, the ability to search for projects with specific features, and a simple Guide for Search. Beldenbrick.com uses a brand new-shoots which gives customers the ability to store their photos in an organized place too! Read on to learn how you can benefit from these changes:

Galleries: There are predefined galleries focused on specific types of projects, commercial, residential, sculptures, staircases, fireplaces to name a few.

Advanced Search: Using our Advanced Search, customers can filter our photo gallery by color, product type, line, texture, building type, and a long list of special keywords like circular arches, courtyards, patios, accent bands, doorways, etc. to narrow for a specific example of something you may want to show your customer.

Locations: Our improved gallery has the ability to include the actual location of the project. We don’t want to encourage, but new photos are ensuring the gallery all the way with the actual location. Using the advanced search, you can locate jobs within distance of your customer that you could actually visit! If you want to add jobs to our gallery for use in your local market, simply upload the pictures alongside with the address and we’ll add them to the gallery! Guide for Customers: For customers who aren’t familiar with how to select brick, we walk them through a choice of commercial or residential, color selections, and identify the type of product they might want. We then display a list of the photos that meet their criteria.

Visit Beldenbrick.com to see the gallery in action. Log in to Beldenbrick.com and select photo gallery from the menu and select photos from the menu. To submit new photos and projects to become part of our national database and your regional gallery!
From its humble beginnings as a small block producer serving the Kanawha Valley to supplying massive products throughout the Tri-State region, Peerless Block and Brick has earned a reputation for providing quality products with exemplary customer service. Founded in 1905, Peerless has developed into the leading regional manufacturer and mason of quality brick, block, stone, retaining wall and paver products to the commercial, residential, and hardscape markets. Located in Saint Albans, WV, Peerless has grown from a single manufacturing facility to over twenty facilities in western Pennsylvania, Barbourville, Kentucky, and Middlesboro, KY.

Part of Peerless’ success comes from aligning itself with reputable manufacturers that have similar core values. In 1970, Peerless found such a partner in Belden Brick and began representing their complete product line in the Tri-State region. Their continued success has built a reputation that is synonymous with quality, dependability, and integrity in the architectural and residential markets. In fact, through Peerless’ efforts and promotion of Belden products with the local architectural community, Belden is viewed as the standard that all other brick manufacturers are measured by in commercial construction throughout West Virginia. Furthermore, Peerless and Belden have been involved in many award-winning projects which include streetscapes, schools, judicial facilities, office buildings, and private residences.

Correction to the Belden Brick Summer 2012 Newsletter
2012 Employee Anniversary - Chuck Woods was accidentally omitted for his 30-year anniversary with The Belden Brick Company. We sincerely apologize.

Delbert Mulliet Retired after 42 Years of Service
The company’s record of retiree after 42 years has started for Plant 6 employee Delbert Mulliet. Friday, April 28th, 2013 was Delbert’s last day at full-time Belden employee. Delbert started his journey with the company Feb. 3rd, 1971. Delbert has done almost every job in the production side. We all know his expertise was shaping making. Many of the tools that he used in his career were the same tools his dad used to perform shape-making. Delbert is proud to show you the tools that he uses to “stick” shapes is the same one that his dad used. The picture shows only some of his handwork over the years. Delbert was the first to open the company on Thursday, April 21st, which included a tour and visit to the Canton office. Delbert finished his last day on Thursday morning, being served a 800 a.m. in the plant lunchroom. Delbert holds the title of the longest man ready for the future as he promises to take on as many as possible. Delbert has also agreed to return our staff at plant 6 serving part-time, as an at-call worker for future shape jobs and help us in future training other workers with cutter set up. Delbert was asked to rate that his on-set scale will not be effective until after the month of May because he has been a retiree?

The Belden Brick Company and Plant 6 staff thanked Delbert for his many years of exemplary service.

Belden Brick Donates Paving Brick to Ohio Geological Walk Through Time
September 21, 2017 - Geneva, Ohio – The Belden Brick Company, a manufacturer of brick and architectural products, opened its doors to the public, offering a paved walkway that now resides within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) area of the state park grounds. The ODNR finished the walkway construction in July.

"We are always proud to give back to the community," said Bradley Belden, corporate manager of operational and regulatory services. "This pathway provides a historical look into the natural evolution of the state of Ohio. Belden Brick is honored to contribute to such a memorable exhibit."

The walkway is a 266-foot long segment of exhibit path detailing the geological history of the state of Ohio. The walkway opened in July, just in time to illustrate the world’s largest geological bedding map, depicting all 88 counties of Ohio. Buffaloes from states across the state were moved to the site, only representing the composition of Ohio’s diverse geological areas. The project is privately funded and made possible by donations to the Friends of the Ohio Governor’s Residence and Heritage Garden.

“Without generous donors like the Belden Brick Company, the Ohio Geosell Walk would have never been possible,” said First Lady of Ohio Hope Talbott, whose foundation to the Heritage Gardens at the Governor’s Residence in Columbus, the walkway’s original proposed location. “We appreciate the donation of Belden’s brick paving, which has harmonized and completed the walkway.”

The Belden Brick Company traces its roots to the Delaware Fire Brick Company, organized in Canton, Ohio, in 1888 by Henry S. Belden and five associates. The Belden Brick Company owns and operates six plants in Tuscarawas County, employs approximately 550 people and has an annual production capacity of nearly 250 million square brick equivalent. In the US brick industry, The Belden Brick Company is the sixth largest by production volume manufacturing. Belden Brick is the largest family owned and managed brick company in the United States.

For Immediate Release
Jim Pilla comes to Belden with 15 years of sales and management experience. Jim first was exposed to the Belden Standard of Cooperation while working for Forbes Brick, a Cleveland Distributor for Belden. Jim has been a manufacturer’s representative for Weisz Lock Releasing Valve Systems, Keystone Retaining Wall Systems, Allen Block Retaining Wall Systems, Aqua-Bloc Permeable Pavers, Bergdoll Outdoor Living and the full line of Permeable pavers manufactured by 400 Schutter’s an Olde Brick Company. Jim is married with three children and lives in Independence, Ohio. Jim enjoys coaching his daughter in softball and basketball, playing golf, yard work, and spending time with the family.