Distributor Spotlight

LUSCO BRICK & STONE CO. CELEBRATES 100 YEARS IN THE WICHITA COMMUNITY

It’s his October marks an inflection in the history of one of Wichita’s most reputable building and masonry material providers. Lusco Brick & Stone, located at 929 East 14th St., will celebrate its 100 years in the Wichita community.

The company was founded in 1919 when Hunter B. Gilkeson II decided to start his own business as a way to provide brick and masonry materials to the Wichita community. Gilkeson II had a successful lumber company but was interested in the brick business, and he decided to create his own company to fill that need.

In the early years, Lusco Brick & Stone served as a supplier of brick and masonry materials to the Wichita community. Gilkeson II continued to operate the company, and it soon became a well-known name in the region.

During World War II, Lusco Brick & Stone expanded its operations in order to meet the demands of the war effort. The company diversified its product offerings to include concrete blocks, and it continued to grow.

In the post-war era, Lusco Brick & Stone continued to expand its product offerings and to diversify its operations. The company added new locations and new product lines, and it continued to grow.

Lusco Brick & Stone remains a leader in the brick and masonry materials industry in the Wichita area. The company continues to operate in its original location, and it continues to provide quality materials and services to the local community.

For more information about the company, its services and long history in the Wichita community, see www.luscobrickstone.com.


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company. Founder Hunter B. Gilkeson II served as president of the company until his death in 1953. His son, Hunter B. Gilkeson III, took over the company after his father’s death.

Under Gilkeson III, Lusco Brick & Stone continued to grow and to diversify its operations. The company added new products and services, and it continued to expand its market reach.

In the late 1960s, Gilkeson III decided to sell the company to his son, Hunter B. Gilkeson IV. Gilkeson IV continued to operate the company, and he continued to expand its operations.

In the 1970s, Lusco Brick & Stone consolidated its operations to focus on its core brick and masonry materials business. The company continued to grow and to diversify its product offerings.

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Calendar of Events

January
January 22-23
Carolina Brick Forum
Greensboro, NC

January 29-February 1
Brisk Brick - Brick Fundamentals
TBD
Dennis CS

February
February 11
Belden Brick Annual Distributor
Dinner & Forum
Canton, OH

March
March 10-13
Brick University – Advanced Brick Technology
TBD
Atlanta, GA

March 17-19
Belden Brick Annual Sales Training Class
McKenna Hotel
Canton, OH

April
April 17-19
Brick Show 2008
Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort & Spa
San Antonio, TX

Belden Brick Saves...

SIXTEN YEARS – Belden Brick Co. was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy as Energy Champion, the highest energy-saving level industry can achieve. Belden’s Plant No. 9 reduced its natural gas consumption by an estimated 16 percent.

A $1.6 million project to make 16 million brick per year and arrest erosion. That’s what spurred the 100-year-old brick maker to participate in the DOE Industrial Technology Save Energy Now program, according to Bradley Belden, manager of occupational and regulatory services at Belden.

“Sixteen percent is significant when you consider the piton volatility of the natural gas market,” he said. “The company has formed an Energy Management Council to identify similar energy reduction opportunities at all of our facilities.”

Plant No. 9 had been producing brick since 1901. It was acquired by Belden Brick in 1973. The production has doubled since what is described as a 100-year-old kiln was added.

Belden Brick indeed ODES to support energy assessments and help identify immediate opportunities to save energy and money. ODES also helped predict the effectiveness of the energy-saving projects the company was considering, according to Belden.

So far, the company has completed four energy-saving projects at Plant No. 9. They range from adding fan controls and insulation to ductwork to moving a thermocouple in a drying oven to a location that better indicates the need for more heat.

According to DOE Save Energy Now statistics, small to medium-sized industrial plants have saved an average of $117,000 per year since 2001. But it’s not just about the money. Belden Brick Co. is the industry leader in architectural brick.

If you’ve been into Home Depot or Lowe’s, you’ve probably walked by a brick wall or seen a brick driveway. From a building’s foundation to a driveway, from a chimney to a brick patio, bricks are used for a wide variety of applications. Today, over 700 different types of bricks are used in the construction industry.

Belden Brick is a proud partner with the National Association of Home Builders and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers to promote energy-efficient brick buildings.

“In a typical case, customers take advantage of the rebates and reduce their heating and cooling by 10 percent to 15 percent,” said Tom McMillan, Belden’s environmental manager. “That makes a lot of sense for them.”

Belden Brick is the nation’s oldest manufacturer of brick, and is doing what’s right.”

100 years to this business and the community. A large part of responsible manufacturing is utilizing natural gas as an energy source.

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These rebates are available to Belden Brick’s customers who are interested in insulating their homes with brick. Belden Brick offers an extensive line of brick and masonry products that can be used for a variety of applications. From fireplaces to firewalls, Belden Brick has a product for every need.

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