



the OUTRIGGER

R. Baker & Son Newsletter

winter 2008

WHO'S ON YOUR JOB?

R. Baker & Son understands the intricacy...

Every project, large and small, has a unique set of challenges. One challenge that is common to every project is assigning the right personnel with the proper expertise to meet the jobs demands.

Providing personnel that are fully trained, certified, licensed and experienced in their field should be a given.

What sets R. Baker & Son apart from our competitors is our employee philosophy:

- Every employee is viewed as a member of the R. Baker family. We approach projects in a team effort.
- We believe and instill that each member of a family/team should look out for each other no matter what their differences may be.
- Each member is encouraged to support each other and to seek ways in which to balance out each member's strengths and weaknesses.
- As a new member joins the family/team they are watched over and evaluated for their care, concern and capabilities. If they are willing to grow and work together with R. Baker & Son, they will be embraced and welcomed.
- R. Baker & Son is proud to have a number of employees who are second and third generations with brothers, wives, fathers and sons working out in the field and throughout the Company.

Whatever projects R. Baker & Son takes on within our capabilities, you can rest assure that our team will bring the strength and expertise required while maintaining the safety, quality and personal care they deserve.

Experience the Baker Best at <http://www.rbaker.com>

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CONSTRUCTION FEATS OF THE 20TH CENTURY: From Muscles To Machinery

There have been some amazing achievements in American construction in the 20th century: the Empire State Building, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Hoover Dam, the World Trade Center. Likewise, it was an era when incredible advances were made in construction equipment and machinery. Without them, construction of these modern wonders would have been virtually impossible – as would most of the work we do at R. Baker & Son.

Of course, some incredible construction feats have been accomplished using only rudimentary tools. For example, the Great Pyramid in Egypt was built over 4,000 years ago using only simple tools such as levers, sledges and copper chisels. Pulleys, wheels and iron tools had not yet been invented. It is estimated that it took tens of thousands of workers – and countless lost lives – at least 20 years of hard labor to build it. Now consider this remarkable fact: if the Great Pyramid was built today, it would take a few months to complete.

Before the 1900s, construction equipment was horse-drawn and antiquated, but with the introduction of some key technological innovations (the carriage and the on-board operating systems, diesel and gasoline engines) and in response to the increasing demands of the American people, advances were made at seemingly breakneck speed. By 1909, dump trucks, excavators, trenchers and ditchers had come into use. In the 1940s, the bulldozer became well known to the American public, and other heavy equipment soon followed: scrapers, graders, haul trucks, cranes, pavers and rollers. With the 1960s came the introduction of hydraulics, and diesel engines became increasingly powerful.

Today, an estimated 1.3 million off-highway machines are in operation in the U.S. These machines and the industries that build and operate them have made enormous contributions to our nation's infrastructure and economically. They are what make our work at R. Baker & Son efficient and cost effective.

If you would like to see some photographs of the construction of some of America's most renowned structures, consider "Works in Progress" by Alvin Rosenbaum. R. Baker & Son recently presented this book to our employees and customers as a token of thanks for their loyalty and patronage.



Safety: Proactive vs. Reactive

"Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterward". – Vernon Law

When you are looking at the OSHA safety manual, it becomes clear, very quickly, that many of the OSHA safety standards were written as a result of an accident. The information contained in the OSHA safety manual is a collection of important lessons someone paid dearly for.

We at R. Baker & Son like to look at safety as a proactive activity. Safe projects are achieved through diligent pre-project planning, proper training and staffing, thorough safety plans, daily job safety analysis procedures and communication. By maintaining the procedures described above and working as a team safety proactively becomes second nature and part of our daily way of life.



Congratulations to R. Baker & Son's most recent Quality Award winners: Art Sferlazzo, Carl Finkelson and Jesse Paszkewicz. The Quality Award Program has been established to recognize employees for their outstanding achievements.



R. Baker & Son upholds one of the most comprehensive safety programs in our industry. We are proud of our safety accomplishments of zero incidents, which have been acknowledged by OSHA with the award of four (4) VPP OSHA star awards. Read more on our web site at <http://www.rbaker.com/safety.php>

Industry News -

KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL BROOKLYN, NY

R. Baker & Son performed an eight phase demolition and environmental remediation project at the Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. The eight phases were all part of an overall project master plan.

Due to NYC building requirements that buildings over 2 stories in height are required to be demolished manually along with asbestos waterproofing consisting on the interior and exterior at every level an intricate phasing plan was required to perform the project. Site specific safety and environmental procedures were developed addressing all aspects of worker safety, air monitoring and environmental controls.

The master plan included pre-abatement interior selective demolition, interior asbestos abatement, selective exterior pre-abatement demolition, exterior asbestos abatement followed by manual structural demolition, on a floor by floor basis. The entire building was enclosed by fully planked scaffolding and debris netting.

Following building demolition selective foundation removal for new utilities was performed along with tunnel closures, backfilling and compacting.

The pictures with this article provide a view of some of the work performed. The project was completed safely, efficiently, on time and within budget.



*top right: the aerial photograph shown reflects the phase demolition performed by R. Baker & Son.



Protect Yourself Crane Safety

Fatalities and serious injuries can occur if cranes are not inspected and used properly. Many fatalities can occur when the crane boom, load line or load contacts power lines and shorts electricity to ground. Other incidents happen when workers are struck by the load, are caught inside the swing radius or fail to assemble/ disassemble the crane properly.

- * Cranes are to be operated only by qualified and trained personnel.
- * A designated competent person must inspect the crane and all crane controls before use.
- * Be sure the crane is on a firm/stable surface and level.
- * During assembly/disassembly do not unlock or remove pins unless sections are blocked and secure (stable).
- * Fully extend outriggers and barricade accessible areas inside the crane's swing radius.
- * Watch for overhead electric power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot safe working clearance from the lines.
- * Inspect all rigging prior to use; do not wrap hoist lines around load.

- * Be sure to use the correct load chart for the crane's current configuration and setup, the load weight and lift path.
- * Do not exceed the load chart capacity while making lifts.
- * Raise load a few inches, hold, verify capacity/balance, and test brake system before delivering load.
- * Do not move loads over workers.
- * Be sure to follow signals and manufacturer instructions while operating cranes.

For more complete information
www.osha.gov
800-321-OSHA

