



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recalling the Glory Days

It's instructive to revisit the past and gauge the progress our industry has made. My company, Banister, was an early entrant in our industry, but even earlier I have seen pictures of a gas line being constructed south of Calgary in the 1920's where horses were used and the line was welded using oxyacetylene.

But the industry as we know it today was probably started by Ronald K. Banister at the time of the Imperial Oil discovery of Leduc No.1 in 1947.

Through his contacts with Imperial he learned of its plans to tender pipeline construction, so he started Ditching Contractors Co. in 1948 with a secondhand truck and a ditching machine and began building pipelines in the Leduc and Redwater oil fields with his first employee, George Caron, who operated the ditcher.

The company prospered, becoming Banister Construction Ltd., expanded into Saskatchewan, building oil and gas pipelines for Interprovincial Pipelines and TransCanada. A favorite picture hanging in my office shows the Banister 'fleet' in 1953 comprising 2 dozers, 3 booms, 3 ditchers 6 welding machines and pick-ups.

Records for 1964 show that in that year Banister completed 24 projects at prices ranging from 97c-per foot for 4 inch to \$5.86 for 34 inch.

It was in the sixties that pipeline companies were having to develop new construction techniques and equipment to deal with Canadian conditions. Banister was a leader in innovation, developing and testing the Arctic Ditcher.

By the end of the decade, with assets in the \$40 million range and still privately owned the company opted to go public. From then on for a 20-year span through a variety of corporate acquisitions, name changes and ventures into functions such as computer leasing, international pipeline construction, underground hydrocarbon storage, arctic specialty surveying and construction and engineering, the Banister name continued to thrive.

In the late seventies it had expanded into U.S. pipeline construction and acquired heavy civil construction capability through Pitts Engineering. The main legacy of the Pitts acquisition was the financial loss associated with the Revelstoke Dam Project. It nearly put Banister out of business.



JIM TOPPING

Many readers will probably recall 1989, the year the Churchill Corporation acquired the shares of the Banister family and Ron Banister retired.

The year 1993 saw the blockbuster deal when Banister acquired Majestic Contractors and the resulting pipeline division, Banister Majestic Inc. was moved to the Majestic yard north of Nisku.

Ever unhappy with its corporate name, the next year it was renamed Banister Foundation Inc. But to avoid being mistaken for a philanthropic foundation, it was rebranded again in 1996 as BFC Corporation. A couple of years later it became Banister Pipelines Inc. and since 2000 the pipeline division is known as Banister Pipeline Construction Company.

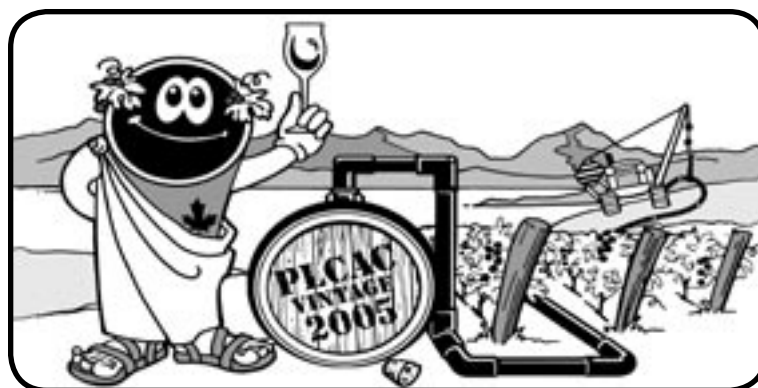
It is said that nearly everyone in the industry has worked for Banister at some time. Consider this: George Caron, Gene Caron, Jack Cressey, Ole Johanson, John Rypien, Mike Wagner, Dick Austin, Dick Hudson and Bob Marriott. Ron Banister sure knew how to pick-em!

It's time to indulge in a little Congeniality

MAY

24-28

at our 51st Annual Convention



THE HOTEL

Kelowna's finest, the Grand Okanagan Resort and Conference Centre, nestled on Lake Okanagan in the heart of the city.

THE CONVENTION

Starts at 1 pm Tuesday, with a Welcome Hospitality in the Grand Terrace for all delegates.

At 2 pm the Board of Directors meet in the Manashee Room.

At 6:45 pm, all delegates invited to the President's Dinner board the coach.

At 7:30 pm they are welcomed at the President's Dinner held at the Mission Hill Winery.

Delegates heading for tomorrow's PGA (Pipeliners' Golf Annual) take it easy and get an early shut-eye.

7 am. Yes, that is 7 o'clock in the morning, golfers board the bus

for the trip to the Okanagan Golf Club. By 7:30 am they are warming up for the event with a hearty breakfast.

The Association's 48th annual Golf Tournament tees off at the Bear Course at 8:30 am.

Meanwhile, back at the hotel non-golfing delegates are registering and getting ready for the Welcome Reception that starts at 6 pm in the Okanagan Ballroom. Of course, golfers who have won prizes and those who have almost forgiven themselves, are keen to enjoy themselves at the Reception as well.

On Thursday morning, that's May 26, all delegates head for the 8 am buffet breakfast in the Okanagan Room.

By 9:30 am they are mustering in the same room for the all-impor-

tant Annual General Meeting at which they will hear addresses by two of the industry's leaders, a report from our president, the elections, the safety awards and details of the most recent pipeline projects being planned.



Robert Marshall, Technical director. Aboriginal Pipeline Group, will give an overview of the Mackenzie

Valley Gas Project and the role of the Group in this project.



Art Meyer, vice-president technology, Enbridge Pipelines, will detail the various pipeline projects

Enbridge has planned for the next few years.

At 7:30 pm delegates will be attending the theme party - the Feast of Bacchus in the Okanagan Room.

At 8 am on Friday morning, all delegates, well, nearly all, will be ready for the Buffet Breakfast in the Okanagan Room after which they will sort themselves out for whichever pre-arranged outing they selected.

The choice will be the Kettle Valley Railway Tour leaving at 9 am, or the Okanagan Valley Wineries Tour that leaves the hotel at 9:30 am.

Both coach tours leave the hotel from the North Entrance and lunch and refreshments are included.

Both groups will be back in the hotel in time to take the 5 o'clock coaches to the Eight Mile Ranch for a barbecue that starts at 5:30 pm. Saturday, May 28, promises to be a great day for the delegates. It starts with the usual Buffet Breakfast for everyone in the Okanagan Room.

And then at 9:30 am there will be an Executive Development Session for all delegates outdoors on the Grand Terrace.

At 11:30 am, the Associate members have their own meeting in the Cassiar Room. And at noon everyone will meet in the Okanagan Room for the annual Awards Reception.

At 6:30 pm the evening will start with all delegates in formal attire at the Gala Reception to be held on the Grand Terrace. Then, at 7:30 pm, it will be time for the annual banquet in the Okanagan Ballroom, a fitting end to a fine convention with great entertainment and conviviality.



A Toast to Our 2005 Convention Sponsors

 ACKLANDS GRAINGER <small>Acklands-Grainger Inc.</small>		 Atlantic CAT <small>Atlantic Tractors & Equipment Ltd.</small>	 B.E.L. <small>B. E. Larkin Equipment Ltd.</small>	 Brandt <small>Brandt Tractor Ltd.</small>
 <small>Can East Pipeline Equipment Company Limited</small>	 <small>Canusa-CPS</small>	 <small>Caterpillar Inc.</small>	 <small>Commercial Coating Services Inc.</small>	
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 <small>Toromont CAT</small>	 <small>Trencor, Inc.</small>		 <small>Tuff-N-Nuff Industries</small>	
 <small>Underground Construction Magazine</small>	 <small>United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters</small>			
			 <small>Vermeer Manufacturing Company</small>	

Welcome to three new associate members

CSI Coating Systems (2005) Inc. 2102 - 5th St., Nisku, AB. T9E 7X3. 780.955.2856; Fax: 780.955.7215.

Wayne Duncan, president; Dean Larose, vice-president. This company has been in the specialty coatings application business for a quarter century.

Midwestern Manufacturing Company, 2119 South Union Ave., Tulsa, OK. 74107 918.446.1587 Fax: 918.858.4269.

In the pipeline rental equipment business for 50 years, it is headed by James A. Bost, chairman and CEO. Thomas F. Golden is the president, James Shelley, vice-president; Scott Jeter, sales manager.

PipeLine Machinery International, 12800 Northwest Freeway, Suite 300, (77040) Houston, TX. 77251-1373. 713.939.0007 Fax: 713.439.0009.

Serving mainline contractors throughout the world with CAT pipelayers and purpose-build equipment, this company is lead by Melvin S. Ternan, president, well-known to PLCAC members. Douglas R. Fabick is chairman, John Fabick IV is a regional vice-president, as is Tony Fernandez. The company's corresponding representative is Sherry L. Gettis, located at 16830 - 107 Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB T5P 4C3.

ACTION DATES

2005

24-28 MAY

Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada
51st Annual Convention
The Grand Okanagan Resort
Kelowna, BC
Contact: Barry Brown
Oakville, ON
(905) 847-9383 www.pipeline.ca

12-16 SEPTEMBER

International Pipe Line & Offshore Contractors Association
39th Annual Convention
Fairmont Vancouver
Vancouver, BC
Contact: Luc Henriod
Geneva, Switzerland
41-22-306-0230 www.iploca.com

2006

8-12 FEBRUARY

Distribution Contractors Association
45th Annual Convention
Sheraton Maui
Lahaina, HI
Contact: Dennis Kennedy
Richardson, TX
(972) 680-0261 www.dca-online.org

15-19 FEBRUARY

Pipe Line Contractors Association (US)
58th Annual Convention
Four Seasons Aviara Resort
Carlsbad, CA
Contact: Pat Tielborg
Dallas, TX
(214) 969-2700 www.plca.org

Members may recall the adventures of Scot Coulter, a health, safety and environment expert, in China, reported in the August 2002 issue. Here is a brief report on his more recent activities in Kazakhstan.

Building a pipeline among Beluga Sturgeon

After leaving Milan where I completed an HSE course for new engineers heading for the Kashagan Project in Kazakhstan, the most expansive and largest oil and gas recovery project currently underway in the world, I headed for the field in the north Caspian Sea, about 50 km. south of the Kazakhstan shoreline.

It includes about 40 km. of on-shore and 50 km. of off-shore pipeline, that is expected to employ over a thousand workers at peak construction.

A particular challenge was the 15 km. section of environmental protected area the pipeline had to pass through. It was the breeding ground for the Sturgeon that produce the famed Beluga caviar. As well, it was the breeding area for

one of only two non-ocean species of seals.

While winter work is routine for Canadians, the client personnel and the construction staff had little experience of working on ice or in winter weather conditions. Working in semi-remote areas and in minus thirty degrees maximum was a problem for them. They could not see how people could stay warm in such conditions.

A lot of in-house training and discussion on pipelining in winter were necessary and contingency plans had to be developed to allay the doubts of project management. My experience in working with ice-making companies and ice roads across our Canadian swamps and rivers proved to be very beneficial to our team.

Reproduction of material is encouraged, please acknowledge the association's newsletter.

Contributors are invited to send material to:

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