

FEBRUARY 2004

PIPELINERS HALL OF FAME NEWS

A photograph of four people standing in front of a large yellow tracked bulldozer. The bulldozer has the 'DARBY' logo on its side. In the background, there is a long white warehouse with 'DARBY' and a green shamrock logo on its side. Other yellow equipment is visible in the yard. The sky is clear and blue.

***Darby
Equipment
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Three
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Darby Equipment Company

Three Generations Committed to Quality

WHEN LEE DARBY RETIRED IN 1982 AFTER MORE THAN 43 YEARS WITH VARIOUS HEAVY EQUIPMENT COMPANIES HE WASN'T QUITE READY TO HANG UP HIS SALESMAN'S HAT AND GO FISHING. IN FACT HE WAS JUST GETTING STARTED . . .

What he and wife Lucile started was Darby Equipment Company to broker, lease and sell pipeline construction equipment around the world. In 1989 the second generation of Darbys signed on with son Ed joining management. Ed Darby's role quickly became developing manufacturing capabilities for the company to address issues of equipment availability and quality control. To beef up engineering Floyd McCann was hired for his years of expertise in bending equipment design. Completing the roster of key personnel Ed persuaded brother Bob to join and head up sales. With the team in place good things began to happen. From

a modest beginning of five, 6 to 20-inch bending machines built in 1988, the Darby family along with a team of dedicated, talented employees developed a premier line of pipeline equipment. Currently operating from their 67,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Darby manufactures 6 to 48-inch pipe bending machines, pipe facing machines, a full line of accessories including mandrels, line-up clamps, roller cradles and other pipeline supplies (go to www.darbyequip.com). The Darby team added manufacturing and engineering expertise to their well-earned reputation for responsive customer service and it proved a

potent mix making Darby a viable, competitive provider for the worldwide pipeline industry.

Drawing on a wealth of knowledge and experience from early days brokering equipment from various manufacturers, Darby engineered the best of existing features into their products and then added innovations of their own. As a mid-sized company they have been able to develop and adapt products quickly to the needs of the industry. These two facts have brought them into the forefront of the industry as a cutting edge manufacturer.

In 1999 Darby introduced its Series 2000 hydraulic pipe bending machine with the capacity to generate 3000 psi and precisely bend 22 to 36-inch pipe with wall thickness up to one inch. These rugged machines are proven around the world and have become the standard for reliable performance on pipeline right-of-way. The Series 2000 features a Cat. 3056 turbo-charged, 159hp engine, a Quincy 390 air compressor and two sets of two nine-inch hydraulic cylinders working in tandem to produce the highest rated torque in the industry. At just over 45,000 lbs., the unique design frame minimizes weight while maximizing strength, evidence of Darby engineering expertise. Pound for pound, no other pipe bending machine offers more bang for the buck than the Series 2000.

Maintaining close ties and listening to the input of contractors in the field is a vital element in the Darby approach to product development. At the request of contractors, they recently introduced two new 16-inch pneumatic powered wedge mandrels for their 6 to 20 and 16 to 30-inch pipe bending machines. The design features a right angle gearbox to allow the air motor to fit smaller diameter pipe. Four tapered wheels fit to the contour of the pipe and keep the mandrel running true. The mandrels are engineered to adapt to a wide range of wall thicknesses without re-shimming. The new mandrels have performed flawlessly on the 116-mile Centerline Project and the 250-mile Williston Basin Interstate project.

Another result of further pipeline contractor input, Darby will introduce a wireless, electronic bend indicator in 2004. As with all Darby equipment it will be designed and manufactured for optimum reliability, portability and user friendly service.



The late Lee Darby, founder of Darby Equipment Company.

Lee Darby worked at Darby Equipment until his death in 1994 at the age of 76. He will be remembered as one who approached work and play with the same joyous spirit. He instilled enduring principles of integrity, hard work and professionalism into the corporate culture of Darby. Lucile Darby still maintains a limited role at Darby and stands as testament to the family's dedication to the company and its exemplary employ-



Darby workers fine-tune one of the first Series 2000 pipe benders to roll off the line.



Final inspection before shipping Darby line-up clamps.



Final stages of welding the massive frame for the Darby 36" Series 2000 pipe bender.

ees. In 2003, Bobby Darby, representing the third generation, joined the company to help continue the tradition initiated by his grandmother and grandfather. Today Darby Equipment Company, a third generation, family owned business, is hard at work meeting the changing needs of pipeline construction. Rooted in a past dedicated to responsive customer service, with an unwavering commitment to engineering excellence and quality manufactured products, Darby Equipment Company continues to look ahead to a great future.