

Nevada Producer Builds New Plant, Looks to the Future

Source: *THE CONCRETE PRODUCER MAGAZINE*
Publication date: March 30, 2010



With a smile on his face and a strong work ethic, Howard Hiskett founded Hiskett and Sons in Fallon, Nev., 1963. With the help of his son, Thurman, and eventually his grandsons, Steve and Sean, Hiskett and Sons has evolved from 30-year-old "hand lever" physical concrete batching into 21st Century concrete production.

For the last 46 years, Hiskett and Sons has kept an eye on the future and the opportunities that came with it. The owners took every opportunity to upgrade and update their facilities and equipment. With a U.S. Navy air base in the neighborhood, they knew it was only a matter of time and they would be in a position to contend for the larger projects that eluded them.

With the addition of a **new R&S Industries concrete batch plant** in 2009, the last piece of the puzzle was in place when the producer supplied concrete

for a new runway for the air base. With every goal met, it continued to anticipate the challenges that wait just around each corner. Steve Hiskett, batch plant and operations manager, also considers the friendly relationship that continues to endure with the competition across town as a key to their success through the years.

Hiskett and Sons maintains between 15 and 25 employees and makes every effort to maintain their reputation of honesty and loyalty throughout the small community of Fallon. Steve Hiskett says that Thurman's reputation and good business sense enable the company to thrive.

The company donates money to worthy causes and takes an active interest in the area youth, as evidenced by the local high school mascot, Gurka, displayed on the side of the new cement silo supplied by R&S.

The purchase of a new concrete plant, as well as updating the rest of their operation, was a hard but necessary step. Competition within the industry has become much tighter, and economic conditions have affected everyone. People began to go out of town to buy concrete that was cheaper and easier to produce from the big, modern outfits.

Hiskett and Sons decided to update with a new concrete plant featuring fly ash and cement capabilities, as well as weighed water and a computer control system. Steve Hiskett emphasizes the importance of utilizing all the little things that will save on expenses and make a huge difference, such as using gravity to convey the cement and fly ash rather than using cement screws that take additional maintenance and energy costs.

With a new location, they started fresh with all new equipment, including buying 12 new trucks. Since the company also sells sand and gravel, they were able to clear the entire site themselves. They completed their own sitework, poured their own foundation, and set the anchor bolts. An R&S serviceman came to set up the plant and ensure quality and function once the site was ready.

Even though new equipment has breathed new life into Hiskett and Sons, the operations manager maintains that they remain the same loyal and honest people that they have always been. R&S sent a Texas flag to accompany the plant's factory installed flag pole, which Steve said they proudly displayed until they gifted it to a woman in the community from Texas who expressed interest in their Texas-Nevada pride.

Business remains fairly slow, but the air base nine miles away helps since it is still spending money.

For more on the equipment supplier, visit <http://www.randsinc.com/>. For more on the producer, visit <http://hiskettandsons.com/>.



For a Quotation or More Information on R&S Industries Concrete Batch Plants,
Please call (800) 792-7427
www.GulfAtlanticEquipment.com
info@GulfAtlanticEquipment.com

