

PROGRESS 2008

Dickinson Company, Inc.: 63 years of excellence, 1945-2008

Again this year, Dickinson Co., Inc., was recognized by the Iowa Department of Transportation as one of the top 15 contractors doing work for the DOT in 2007. Iowa DOT engineers rate all projects and all contractors on items such as quality of work, safety, equipment and personnel.

For the past 12 years, the DOT has recognized the 15 highest-rated contractors. Dickinson Co. has made this list 10 of those 12 years.

"We are very proud of our employees and our reputation," said Marlowe Dickinson, company president. "Of the hundreds of good contractors who do work for the Iowa Department of Transportation, it is quite an honor to be ranked among the top 15."

The 63-year history of Dickinson Co. began in 1945, when Earl Dickinson opened Dickinson Hardware in Williams, IA. Dale Dickinson joined his father at the store, and branched off into bidding plumbing, heating and electrical work.

In 1958, Dale moved the construction part of the business from Williams to Oskaloosa. The company was now involved in water and sewer line construction, as well as mechanical, electrical, heating, ventilating and air conditioning in building construction.

Area projects during the late 1950s to mid-1960s included Oskaloosa High School, Whittier Elementary School, Mahaska Hospital, William Penn's Wilcox Library, Atkins Memorial Student Union and dormitories, and schools in Knoxville, New Sharon, Thornburg and Williamsburg.

In the mid-1960s, Dale branched off into highway lighting, signing and traffic signals. Since 1970, a majority of the firm's work has been highway-type projects, including installation of the mileposts on Iowa's entire 8,000-mile primary highway system, 160-foot tall light towers at interstate interchanges, conventional roadway lighting, overhead sign trusses, post-mounted roadway signing, traffic signals and downtown streetscape lighting.

Dale retired from full-time management in 1989,



photo provided

A tower, part of the University of Iowa's new emergency warning system for students, faculty and staff, stands next to Parklawn student housing in Iowa City.

but remained active in the business until his death in 2003. Since 1989, Dickinson Co. has been owned and operated by two of Dale's sons, Marlowe Dickinson, president, and David Dickinson, vice president. Barbara Dickinson, Dave's wife, is office manager for the firm.

The company continues to work on many transportation-related projects. In addition to signing and signal projects in Ottumwa, Carroll, Fort Madison and Story City, they have installed runway lighting, approach systems and automatic weather stations at many airports around Iowa. This past year, they have had projects on airports in Carroll, Chariton, Fairfield, Iowa Falls, Perry, Bloomfield, Centerville and Osceola. For 2008, projects include the Albia and Forest City airports.

Dickinson Company, has been heavily involved in the installation and service of outdoor emergency warning systems. In 2007, a system was installed for the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, the city of Libertyville, the city of Ainsworth and replacement

sirens were installed for the Duane Arnold Energy Plant in Cedar Rapids and Marion.

Other services offered by the company include directional boring, trenching, backhoe and light crane work.

"We are proud of our 63-year history," David Dickinson said. "and we are proud of our current employees who understand the importance of carrying on the quality reputation that was so important to our father, Dale. It is our skilled and dedicated employees — Gary Wanders, Larry Miller, Scott Van Roekel, Shannon Van Alst, Everett Icenbice, Jesus Matanane, Travis Westbrook, Chris Anderson, Pat McQueen, Tom Jenkinson, Ryan Goodsell and Ryan Dickinson — who continue to provide the experience necessary to complete quality projects to the satisfaction of our customers."

The Dickinson Company, Inc., office and shop are located at 1616 D Ave. W., Oskaloosa. They can be reached by phone at (641) 673-3256.

Arnold Motor Supply carries all your car parts, accessories

If you need some parts to make your muscle car rumble or just get the family car tuned up for the eventual arrival of spring, Arnold Motor Supply in Oskaloosa is the place to go.

Last year, Arnold Motor Supply celebrated its 80th birthday, and this year, Arnold Motor Supply will celebrate its 46th year in Oskaloosa. It is located at 410 A Ave. W., and has been at that location since 1968.

Arnold Motor Supply carries aftermarket parts, automotive parts, paint and body supplies and full machine shop services with capabilities of alternator and starter repairs.

While Arnold Motor Supply specializes in car parts and service, the team believes people come first.

"We believe in building a business with people and not mortar and brick," Manager Mike Leathers said. "We believe in providing the best customer service," and employees are trained in the latest technology.

Leathers leads a team of 9 full-time staff members, and Marion "Sherm" Sherman has been an employee for 20 years.

This year, Arnold Motor Supply is holding some events for customer appreciation. On June 13, Arnold Motor Supply will hold an open house featuring NASCAR driver Patrick Carpentier and Sprint Car driver Craig Dollansky. On July 18-19, Arnold Motor Supply is hosting drag races at Eddyville Raceway Park.

Also, Arnold Motor Supply will continue to participate in the charity program with Crisis Intervention Services where the company will fix up used cars for CIS clients so they can get a fresh start on life.

Arnold Motor Supply is a member of the Auto Value Alliance, and on Feb. 14 the Oskaloosa store received an honor to be the first certified auto parts supply store to be recognized by the alliance. This means that the team members are ASE parts certified and have received extensive training. There are 4,600 parts stores in North America and Europe.

"That's a nice honor for us," Leathers said.

Breadeaux Pisa making fresh pizza every day

We at Breadeaux Pisa take pride in making the freshest pizza possible. Starting with our dough, we make it fresh daily. Also, our vegetables are cut fresh daily.

We accept all local competitor's coupons and have monthly and daily specials. We also offer special deals for all church and school functions, just ask Kathy when you call.

Just because you don't see a coupon, it doesn't mean you won't get the best price for the best pizza in town.

Breadeaux offers hand-

tossed, deep dish, crispy-thin and sizzle-pan crusts, as well as a variety of sides from pasta and salads to bread, cheese, hot wings and cinnamon sticks. Breadeaux's toasted ravioli and dessert pizzas are also popular items. Breadeaux's menu items are all made using the freshest ingredients.

For years, Breadeaux Pisa has been providing Oskaloosa residents with what they think is the best pizza in town. But, more often than not, Breadeaux also can be seen contributing

to community events by taking their business into the community or bringing the community into their business. The Breadeaux Pisa booth can be seen at a variety of events from the county fair to Live After Five and more.

The store, located at 215 A Ave. E., in Oskaloosa, is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday; and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday. They offer dine-in and carry-out, as well as serving slices through the lunch hour.

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