



Publisher's Message

Good to Hear from You!

by Libby Maurer

"No man ever listened himself out of a job."

—Calvin Coolidge

I'll begin by stating the obvious: We appreciate hearing from you. When you pass along your feedback, we typically work it into a future article in one way or another. As a matter of fact, this particular issue is stacked with articles that essentially came from our readers! Thank you for contributing your thoughts and ideas to **SBC's** annual Material Handling & Equipment/Supplier Listing issue.

Although it wasn't intentional, this issue took a safety focus right before our eyes. As you read on page 7, WTCA President Barry Dixon has become a stickler for in-plant safety. Past president Scott "10-4" Arquilla alerted us to an OSHA citation in his plant involving a missing machine guard back in March. He reported back with the final resolution; check out page 72 for his story and a discussion about what to consider about guards. We hope you find these themes as important as our contributors do.

Wood truss manufacturing operations have been—and often still are—put in the same category as woodworking and furniture factories in terms of their sawdust emissions. We all know it isn't fair or accurate, but not until now has there been a rational argument to defeat this classification. "Dust in the Wind" on page 62 offers a solution in the way of a formula meant to contend with EPA emissions requirements for particulate matter.

Two new columns grace the pages of **SBC** this month. If you don't already follow a preventative maintenance program, "How to...Schedule Breakdowns" will start you off on the right foot. In **Environmental Components**, we will cover popular sustainability activities in the industry. We kick it off by examining how wood energy can not only be used to save on fossil fuel costs, but it can also present an additional revenue stream.

If plant operations aren't your bag, check out "Structural Building Codes Matter" and "Sealing Truss Placement Diagrams." The recent ICC Final Action Hearings allow us to reflect on two solid years of code work on behalf of component manufacturers. Turn to page 66 for a listing of the code changes you should be aware of this time around. And, after reading an article about California P.E. Bryan Hill's crusade against a requirement to seal placement diagrams, one reader responded with some criticism. Ryan Dexter clarifies the industry's position on page 50.

Southern Components recently went the extra mile to solidify its relationship with a new customer: the company supplied cold-formed steel components for an *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* project. Earlier this year, the Shreveport, LA-based manufacturer was asked by a customer it hopes to do a lot of work with in the future to participate in the project. Turn to page 76 to find out whether it was all worth it in the end.

Finally, check out the annual supplier listing on page 84. The listing alone makes this an issue to keep on your desk, the shelf, or—we know you do it—in the bathroom.

Speaking of hearing from you, we have one final request. If you haven't already returned the postcard attached to the March or June/July issues, please contact us. We're working on updating our mailing list, and we need your help to clean it up! **SBC**

at a glance

- The focus of this issue is Material Handling and Equipment.
- The annual Supplier Listing begins on page 84.
- Consider in-plant safety with articles on pages 7 and 72.

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