

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE (FORMERLY WOODWORDS)

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President's Message



"Industry Continues Innovations" by Richard Brown

It is always with great anticipation that I look forward to the latter half of each year. It is during this time that our industry usually begins to pull back from the hectic throws of spring and summer after the construction process gets a full head of steam, and also because the Building Component Manufacturers Conference (BCMC) is just ahead.

Historically, BCMC has meant an opportunity to see what is new in our industry, especially in equipment and technology. Some of the equipment that has been exhibited over the years includes the computerized saw, the roller-style trailer, the gantry-style truss assembly table, etc. Other innovations to be introduced at BCMC include all the computer technology and sophisticated design software that continues to evolve faster than seems reasonably possible.

I remember a conversation that I had about 10 years ago with the late Charlie Harnden of Alpine Engineered Products. Charlie asked me what improvements had been made in our industry. At that time I told him most of the improvements had taken place in the office. That is to say, in the design side of our business. I told him that not much change had taken place in the assembly or delivery side of the industry. He told me that in large part he agreed with my point of view. He went on to say that he hoped our industry would see more change in the assembly area in the coming years.

Looking back, this conversation really captured what was going to take place in the next few years and, up until his untimely death, something that Charlie was working hard on to help make happen. I'm sure he'd be pleased today with the progress that has been made and would be pushing all of us to make even more significant changes in how we are approaching our businesses.

Where does this all lead us today? Each company that markets its equipment and technology throughout the issues of *WOODWORDS* has been and continues to be, a valuable participant in advancing our industry to the next level. They constantly bring new and innovative ideas to us to help make each of our businesses more competitive. As you read through *WOODWORDS* this month, take some time to reflect on where we have been and where you see need for improvement. Let all of us know where you feel the greatest needs are in our industry, and I'm certain the industry will continue to develop and change in the best possible way.

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