

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

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Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

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Pioneer Courage

Gary Demmel – Senior Vice President

The First National Bank has been a good customer of Commonwealth Electric for several years. It has been really fun to be part of their unique projects that have been great additions to downtown Omaha. One of the recent projects is the “Pioneer Courage” park which is right adjacent to the First National Bank Technology Center. The original lighting was done for the park without the sculptures. Then the lighting needed to be changed when the sculptures were recently installed. Mike Sullivan has been the foreman on this project. He spent a lot of evenings working with the artists to adjust the lighting for their sculptures until it was to their satisfaction. Mike deserves recognition for a job well done. Hawkins Construction was the General Contractor on this project. More information on the park is in the write up below:

“What I like about the story of the great wagon train migration across America is the daring, the tenacity, and the innovativeness of the pioneer spirit that opened the West,” said Bruce R. Lauritzen, chairman of First National Bank. “My great, great grandfather, Tom Davis, was one of these young pioneers who helped found Omaha in 1854. Three years later, in 1857, four brothers in their 20’s started The Kountze Brothers Bank, trading primarily in gold dust and buffalo hides. In 1863, they joined with Edward Creighton and reorganized as First National Bank of Omaha – the oldest bank from Omaha west.”

Pioneer Courage conveys the spirit and heritage of the region around the time First National Bank was founded, while contributing to the cultural and aesthetic landscape of today’s downtown Omaha business district. Individual sculptures by artists Blair Buswell and Edward Fraughton depict two pioneer families with their covered wagons as they proceed along a dry creek bed surrounded by native Nebraska plant-



Pioneer Courage Sculpture

ings and more than 2,500 tons of limestone blocks. Each bronze sculpture is 1.25 times life size and weighs several hundred pounds to as much as 6 tons for the largest wagon.

“The main objective of Pioneer Courage is to tell the story of the hundreds of thousands of pioneers who migrated to the West, many of whom stood on this very ground. I can’t think of a better way to experience that journey than to fall in line and walk a few steps with a larger-than-life wagon train,” said Buswell, who is recognized as one of the finest figurative sculptors in the U.S.

“The opening and settling of the American West is a record of heroism and human sacrifice that speaks to the heart of the world,” noted Fraughton who is a descendant of pioneer ancestors. “Unequaled anywhere as to its complexity and scale, Pioneer Courage memorializes the countless thousands who forged their way westward to define the great American dream.”

FEATURES OF THE PARK

Landscape – The landscape of the park generally follows the procession of the pioneer families as they traverse the dry riverbed. Several grasses are used to represent both the meadow grasses of the river edge as well as the prairie grasses of the plains. Other plants chosen to represent the diversity in Nebraska’s riparian

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forests include: cottonwood, river birch, white ash, willows, American plum, upland species of oaks and several species of large pines. The edges of the park begin to blend into the urban landscape by using commercial plantings of limber pine, crabapples, redbuds and groundcovers.

Sculpture – Leading the westward procession is a mule-drawn wagon that’s approximately 13 feet long with an adult male, two children as passengers and followed by a woman and her daughter on foot. Several feet behind them is a second wagon drawn by four Belgium draft horses, accompanied by three pioneer women, a father, several children and a milk cow. Family members range in height from slightly more than 3 feet to 7 1/2 feet tall. Individual sculpture pieces are 1.25 times life size and range in weight from 400 pounds to 6 tons.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Location – Bounded on 14th and 15th Streets, Capitol Avenue and Dodge Street.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Blair Buswell, a figurative sculptor and Edward Fraughton, a Western sculptor, are recognized as two of the leading sculptors in the world. Although both artists are from Utah, this is the first time they have worked together. Fraughton of South Jordan, Utah, holds five gold medals from the National Academy of Western Art. Buswell has received numerous awards and honors for his work, which has appeared at the National Academy of Western Art and the Prix de West shows at the Cowboy Hall of Fame. Since 1983, Buswell has completed nearly 40 busts of new inductees for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

Also, closely involved with the project is Steven C. Boody, president of Boody Fine Arts, Inc., of St. Louis; JVR & Associates, an architectural landscaping firm in Hancock, N.H.

Power Generation System

Todd Havlat – Manager of Technical Services / Contract Administrator

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest submitted the successful bid as the general contractor for the furnishing and installation of two 900 kw 480/277 volt 3 phase generators at the existing central complex for the Nebraska Department of Roads located at 1500 Highway 2. The complex consists of three office buildings. This project involved two of the office buildings, a 3000 amp service to the main office building and a 1600 amp service to the testing building. We also furnished and installed two paralleling switchgears in NEMA 3R enclosures.

There were several sub-contractors that made up the Commonwealth team. They were Cummins Power Generation who supplied the generators and paralleling switchgear, ACE Mechanical installed the gas piping and MidCon Underground Construction, Inc. was responsible for all of the excavation and fill work for the concrete encased duct banks. Steves Flatwork installed the three foot thick concrete pads for the generators and the concrete for the pads and sidewalks for the rest of the job. Crane Rental & Rigging provided the Crane service to hoist the two 35,000 lb. generators into place.



Pioneer Courage - Aerial View



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Power Generation System

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We had several meetings with Lincoln Electric System and the State of Nebraska to coordinate tying into the existing service transformers and to shut down the two office buildings to tie into the new services. Ron Lannin was the job site superintendent and was responsible for coordinating all of the sub-contractors to make sure the job stayed on schedule and to work with the owner for shutdowns of the complex.

Great job by all of the field people on the job. We have another very happy customer.



Concrete Encased Duct Bank

High End Renovations at the San Francisco Saks Fifth Ave.

T. Michael Price – Branch Manager

The Des Moines office of Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest started work on a partial renovation of the Saks Fifth Avenue store in San Francisco, CA in May of this year. The work consisted of a complete renovation of the 5th floor, a partial renovation of the 2nd floor, installation of a new store-wide fire alarm system, a store-wide lighting retrofit project and several specialty vendor shops including Dolce Gabanna and Prada. To light the renovated spaces, Saks utilized an innovative buss way system and specialized buss mounted fluorescent and metal halide light fixtures. The buss way was mounted in a knife edge reveal in the hard ceiling. The effect is a very high end look with very good lighting performance.

Roy Lamb was the general foreman on the project. Roy did a great job on a high stress project.

“Although it has been very stressful and fast paced, we have had a great experience working on this project. I always enjoy working for Saks and Possell Construction has really been a good general to work for.”

–Roy Lamb, Project General Foreman

The San Francisco store is one of Sak’s top performing stores so completing the project with as little interruption to the store’s normal activities was very critical. The project’s schedule was aggressive and fast paced. We worked with Possell Construction and the Sak’s project team to complete the project on schedule and within budget. The newly renovated spaces opened in September.



Rawhide Western Town Relocation

John MacKay – Service Manager

In August, Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest was awarded the \$817,000.00 infrastructure and rodeo arena contract for the Rawhide Western Town relocation. The work consists of installation of the utility company's primary and secondary duct banks, the power distribution duct banks, service entrance and distribution switchboards, the communication system duct banks and the rodeo arena lighting. The duct bank work consists of 15,000 ft. of trenching and 61,000 ft. of pvc conduit installed throughout the 125 acre site. The rodeo arena lighting consists of 35 pole fixtures, four of which are 70' tall.

Rawhide, a miniature town devoted to Old West lore, was purchased last year by the Gila River Indian Community and is being moved in November from its 34-year-old home in Scottsdale to a site located on the Gila River Indian Reservation in the southeast valley. It is expected to draw 50,000-55,000 people a year with an economic impact of about \$7 million a year.

The general contractor is M.A. Mortenson Company. CECM's project foreman is David Campbell who will oversee our on-site installation. The project is scheduled to be complete in December.



Rawhide Western Town

U.S. Arid Land Research Center, Maricopa, AZ

Gene Hayes – Project Manager

The USDA Arid Land Research Center is near completion. Currently, we are in the final commissioning of systems and owner's training in order to turn the facility over to them. It is anticipated the owner will take occupancy in early December 2005.

Ground was broken on February 20, 2004 adjacent to the existing Maricopa Agricultural Center, near Maricopa, AZ. This new research facility will house 30 scientists plus support staff for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), chief scientific research agency for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This facility will be co-located with the University of Arizona's Maricopa Agricultural Center.

When completed, this new facility will be one of the premier agricultural research centers in the world dealing with issues of arid and semi-arid lands. The new facility will combine in one center ARS's U.S. Water Conservation Research Laboratory and Western Cotton Research Laboratory, both currently located in Phoenix.

CORE Construction is the General Contractor. CECM is the electrical con-

tractor, also responsible for the fire alarm, tele/data and access control systems for the project. With a contract value of nearly \$3.2 million dollars, this is one of the more significant electrical projects in this region.

Gene Hayes is the Project Manager. Jason Turner assumed the Project Superintendent duties mid-stream, completing the construction and closeout of the project.



Building Exterior

CECM Teams Up with Candelaria on Combined Air Operations Center

Jay Hoobler – Project Manager

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on 10/17/05 to transform an existing ground launched cruise missile facility into a Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) at Davis Monthan Air Force Base.

The new Falconer CAOC will be the only continuously operational CAOC in the continental United States and one of only five Falconer CAOC weapon systems used to support combatant commanders worldwide. The new CAOC will serve as the command and control hub for the U.S. South Air Force.

Commonwealth Electric worked exclusively with a construction team put together by Candelaria Corporation to develop the winning proposal for this project. The team approach used in preparing the bid for this project enabled each of the team members to discuss their respective scopes with the other team members and gain a greater understanding of how the job would actually have to be built. This project is the twelfth project that Commonwealth has worked on with EPC/Candelaria over the past two and half years but it is the first project that a team was assembled prior to the bid.

Construction management for the \$11.35 million project will be performed by the 355th Civil Engineering Squadron. The project has a 270 day construction schedule and is currently scheduled for completion on 7/24/05.

The new CAOC will provide more than 36,000 square feet of space for real-world operations, training missions, and battle simulations with built in flexibility to accommodate new weapons systems and capabilities as they are developed.

Once completed, the Falconer CAOC will be linked to the other four Falconers around the world so that any one of the CAOC can assume the duties and responsibilities of the other should something happen to disrupt the daily operations of any of the other facilities.

Representing Commonwealth Electric on this project will be Steve Harrell as our on-site superintendent with project management duties being performed by Jay Hoobler.

This is a high visibility project for all parties involved. We are looking forward to the challenges presented by this project and the opportunity to demonstrate our abilities to complete another successful project.

Spotlight on Des Moines' Safety

Ruben Bera – Corporate Safety Director

In the coming issues of your newsletter, I will be focusing on different locations and the achievements they have made towards safety. Each location has its own qualities and many outstanding team members who all have the same goal – “Thinking Smart and Working Safe”.

The Des Moines' location is currently working on an addition to Mercy Hospital. The general contractor is Kraus Anderson. This is a large new addition that presents several safety challenges. The CECM team consists of: Ron Saf - project manager, Matt Masters – assistant project manager and the general foreman on-site is Nate Finley. Nate and his other foreman are working jointly with Wolin Electric of Des Moines. We are supplying the bulk of the manpower and all of the supervision.



Mercy Medical Center

From the start of this project, a challenge was made to go accident free. No injuries, no lost time. We have been working on this project well over 12 months and to this date, no injuries. This is a credit to the leadership of Nate and his entire crew. I make regular safety visits and any concerns I have are quickly taken care of. We have safety luncheons as a reward and as a thank you for the commitment to this job towards safety. Matt Masters keeps me constantly updated on safety and has requested assistance dealing with specific

safety issues. Great job to all employees on-site and for those behind the scenes that make this all possible.

Another job that deserves mentioning is our work at the ADM plant in Des Moines. This job is led by our foreman Joe Shoemaker. Joe took over the reins from Mike Keeler three years ago and continued to follow in Mike's footsteps regarding safety. No injuries, no accidents. Work at ADM is year long from performing critical work during shut downs to every day electrical work. This work environment is difficult due to the nature of the operations. This is a soybean processing plant. Safety is a priority at the facility and our crew not only follows ADM safety rules but exceeds in CECM safety. Commonwealth Electric has been working at this plant for well over ten years and no accidents. This is another great example of quality people working under difficult circumstances and getting the job done safely.

In addition to outstanding work, the Des Moines' location also conducts regular foreman safety meetings. I am asked to provide updated safety information. We have brought in outside guests to present information. These meetings are an excellent way to keep our people updated on any changes such as the new arc flash standard that could affect their job.

The Des Moines' branch provides other valuable services to many customers in the area. The branch manager, Michael Price and his entire staff are committed to safety and have taken steps to ensure our people are provided with the best safety equipment and information.

In the coming issue, I will spotlight our Arizona location.