# KELSO-KURRENTS

#### In This Issue

- Spotlight Project
- Around Chicago
- Greg Doscher Retires
- Casino Project

A Powerful Past. A Brilliant Future.

Since 1908

Vol. 3 2010

## The Business of Delivering Energy



On April 20th of this year, an explosion occurred on the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico. Since that time,

virtually every newscast has carried an update on the enormous effort to contain and cap the flow of oil into Gulf waters. This incident is a reminder to us all of the risks involved in meeting our demand for energy. Three Mile Island, the *Exxon Valdez*, and the Sago Coal Mine explosion are all examples of the inherent dangers involved with providing energy for our homes and workplaces.

Kelso-Burnett plays a role in delivering this energy for our everyday use in the form of electricity. It is not uncommon for us to take electricity for granted. When we flip a switch, the lights go on; when we plug in our computers and touch a button, our screens light up. In truth, delivering electrical energy is a complicated and risky business. Our journeyman wiremen go through a five-year training program learning the skills of their craft. Along with the technical aspects of their training, they are also required to go through OSHA safety training and become OSHA certified.

Kelso continues to sponsor and encourage technical and safety training for our employees throughout their careers. If problems should occur (as we have seen in the past, such as lightning strikes and the flooding of the Chicago tunnel system), our staff is trained and equipped to respond at the highest levels of efficiency and expertise to restore energy quickly and safely for our customers.



For the past 102 years, we have always, and continue to strive for our employees to be the best of the best. When it comes to delivering energy to our customers, we believe you deserve the peace of mind knowing you are getting the very best.

- Brad Weir, President



## KELSO-KURRENTS

## A new CPS Urban Model High School with a bright future

Earlier this summer, Kelso-Burnett Co. and Contech MSI Co. worked with F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen, the Public Building Commission (PBC) of Chicago, and the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to complete the new Eric Solorio Academy High School located at 5400 S. St. Louis in Chicago, Illinois. Owned by the Public Building Commission (PBC) of Chicago, the project implemented a new CPS Urban Model High School (UMHS) prototypical design that will be used to facilitate construction on all future CPS high school facilities. Over the next three years, there are five more schools to be constructed that will mimic the design and construction techniques used on the new Eric Solorio Academy High School.

The CPS board had approved several names for the school since construction began in 2009, but the final name was approved by the board on July 28th to honor the death of a local police officer and community member. Eric Solorio was a member of the Chicago Police Department's elite anti-gang unit and died from injuries he received during a squad car accident while chasing a speeding vehicle in 2006. Officer Solorio's star was retired

by the Chicago Police Department on September 7, 2006, and the school was named to honor his achievements throughout the Gage Park community.

Contracted by the PBC and F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen, Kelso-Burnett Co. completed approximately \$7.5 million in electrical installations to the new four-story, 206,000-square-foot Eric Solorio Academy High School. K-B, along with its subcontractors, had

fifty men working during the peak of construction, and Kelso even utilized three foremen in separate areas of the school for enhanced project efficiency. The K-B team installed all interior

and exterior lighting with a special daylight harvesting control system, electrical distribution for (3) separate services, a 400kw

generator, Mechanical Power, a CCTV System, a Clock System, an Intrusion Detection System, an Audio/Visual System, and Theatrical Lighting and Control. Additionally, K-B installed an IP Digital CCTV Security System with 150 cameras, software, and hardware complete to coincide with the new City of Chicago security watch systems. Contech MSI Co.'s team worked to install a new Fire Alarm System and an Area of Rescue Assistance System throughout the new campus. Overall, the project was completed on schedule, took approximately 52,000 man-hours to complete, and the facility now has a targeted goal of LEED Silver certification with 50% green roof.

Special thanks to F.H. Paschen's project team, headed by Project Manager Steven Gay, Assistant Project Manager Rick Romero, and Superintendents Art Carlson and Gerry Eble. Together, they worked impeccably with Kelso-Burnett's project team led by Rolling Meadows Division Manager Lou Cerone, Estimator Mike Wickersham, General Foreman Chris Crylen, Foremen Jim Fuller, Jason Holubetz and Greg Ney, Contech Project Manager Pablo Albuja, and Contech Foreman Frank Matkowski. We'd

also like to thank the Public Building Commission (PBC) of Chicago and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) for their dedication to the success of this project.

On September, 1, 2010, Mayor Daley held an opening ceremony at Eric Solorio Academy High School to acknowledge this new prototype school and gave all incoming students a grand welcoming. Due to

everyone's hard work and dedication, students in this Gage Park neighborhood now have a safe, inspiring place to learn. Current and future generations of students will benefit from a tremendous educational experience at this state-of-the-art, prototype learning facility for years to come.









# KELSO-KURRENTS

## Around Chicago

#### **Chicago Country Music Festival**

From October 8th through October 9th, Chicago will be hosting its annual Country Music Festival in Millennium Park from 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM. First coming to Chicago in 1991, this two-day event has featured artists such as Emmylou Harris, Dwight Yoakam,





Faith Hill, Keith Urban, Taylor Swift, George Jones, Waylon Jennings, Wynonna, Yonder Mountain String Band, Randy Travis, Loretta Lynn and the father of bluegrass music, Bill Monroe. Best of all, admission to this festival is completely free. For more information, visit www. chicagocountrymusicfestival.us.



#### 77th McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade

On Thursday, November 25th, Chicago's State Street will be the host to the 77th annual McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Beginning during the times of the Great Depression and known as one of the largest parades in Chicago, the Thanksgiving Parade offers fun for the entire family. Come watch marching bands, large balloons,





Ronald McDonald, Santa Claus, and many more parade down State Street to add to your family's Thanksgiving Day fun. For more information, visit www.chicagofestivals.org.



## K-B Awarded Des Plaines Casino Project



Recently, Kelso-Burnett Co. was awarded the electrical, data, and fire alarm work for the 147,000-square-foot Des Plaines Casino project currently under construction off River Road and Devon Avenue in Des Plaines, Illinois. Owned by Midwest Gaming and Entertainment and contracted by Pepper Construction, the casino project is similar in size and scope to some of K-B's largest projects over its 102-year history!

Upon completion, the goal for the new casino is to achieve a LEED Gold Certification, which would make it the first LEED Certified casino in Illinois. It's an ambitious goal given that the layout of a conventional casino has no windows, no outdoor space, and minimum levels of natural light. Planned "Green" features within the facility include high-efficiency HVAC units with energy recovery, selective use of skylights, a single-stream recycling program, efficient lighting fixtures and controls, and more. In addition, the project is using innovative, efficient LED lighting for the casino's five-level parking structure, which will greatly reduce energy consumption in the 24-hour, 7-day-a-week facility.

Special thanks to Pepper Construction, and congratulations to the entire K-B team. Thanks especially to K-B's Director of Estimating & Preconstruction / Division Manager Dan Maimonis, Division Manager Jeff Weir, and

Estimators Ted Malinowski and Jim Chorley for their outstanding efforts in pursuit of this project. Rolling Meadows Division Manager Jeff Weir will be overseeing the casino project, and General Foremen Tracy Olkowicz and Frank Valentino will be taking charge in the field. The Des Plaines Casino project is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2011, and stay tuned for updates on its progress in future articles.



## Greg Doscher Retires from K-B



On Friday, July 16th, Kelso-Burnett Co.'s Rolling Meadows Branch hosted a retirement party for longtime electrician Greg Doscher (featured on the left of the photo) at Dick's River Resort in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. Greg started with Kelso-

Burnett in 1995 and has worked on numerous projects for K-B's longtime client, Allstate Insurance. Here is a brief highlight of Greg's superb career:

- One of Greg's first projects at Allstate was for the Little Hands Day Care Center, which he supervised from groundbreaking to opening day.
- Greg oversaw the renovation of the third floor of G-building, along with the installation of the Bloomberg room.
- His team upgraded Allstate's original hard-wired fire detection and alarm system to an addressable system, along with all the additional points - monitoring, alarm and control. This was for four complexes - North, South, West, and Printing & Distribution Center - and there were over three thousand devices in total.
- Greg was involved in the upgrading of the Johnson Controls Building Automation System, which was a multiple-year project. It involved coordination with the building engineers,

- the property department, and others in order to facilitate the conversions of the heating, cooling, lighting control, fan systems, and more. This was also accomplished in the North, South, West and Printing & Distribution Center complexes.
- Greg was called upon to assist the building engineering staff on an "as-needed basis" with electrical maintenance. Relationships with the department leaders were complimentary of Greg's professionalism and responsiveness, along with the other members of the Kelso-Burnett crew.
- Due to his knowledge of the Northbrook complex buildings, Greg was chosen to lead a project to document the electrical distribution system in the four buildings. He provided upgraded CAD drawings and electrical data to Patrick Engineering for the purposes of determining the available fault hazards for all of the electrical equipment in all of the buildings. An offshoot of this project was the installation of over-current protective devices external to the branch lighting and power panels so that there would be no available voltage in the panels when work was required in them.

These are just some of Greg Doscher's career highlights in which he has earned well-deserved accolades from customers, electricians, and Kelso-Burnett. Greg's presence and expertise in the field will surely be missed by all. The entire Kelso-Burnett family would like to congratulate Greg on his retirement, and we wish him all the best with his future endeavors.

#### K-B Milestones

In 1981, Kelso-Burnett Co. completed a \$485 thousand electrical remodeling project at Statesville Prison, located in Joliet, Illinois. While running some feeders one day, the K-B crew realized the presence of a major disturbance in the courtyard of the prison. In the blink of an eye, the entire crew became temporary "inmates" of Statesville. The entire crew was quickly locked up in Cell House F for their own safety while the State Police were called in to control the disturbance.







#### KELSO-BURNETT CO.

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The safety department at Kelso-Burnett offers OSHA 10-

and 30-hour classes. For more information or to schedule a class, contact Scott Johnson at (847) 483-3826 or Cathy Kay at (847) 483-3827.



#### **NFPA 70E Training**

Kelso-Burnett continues to train employees and clients on the NFPA 70E requirements. Only

an employee who is certified as an "Electrically Qualified Worker" may approach and work on live systems. He or she must also utilize an Energized Work Permit. Contact Cathy Kay at (847) 483-3827 if you would like to schedule a training session.