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old, has retired from where he worked and now works with us. He has a CDL and we keep him busy moving our equipment around from job to job," continued Rickey Sikes.

"All our people; truck drivers included, are cross trained to do more than one job or operate more than one machine. It is not unusual for a man to be on a motor-grader, excavator, dozer and a loader in a single day or on a single job. We stress working on a team approach and each man is expected to contribute whatever it takes to get the job done. The company may also do as many as nine jobs in a week's time."

"The city of Vidalia, GA. is one of our repeat municipal clients. They have a very professional city government and are always looking for innovative ways to enhance the city. Right now we are resurfacing and reconstructing several downtown city streets in a time sensitive mode."

"Vidalia is well known for growing a very mild, sweet-tasting onion and for its annual spring harvest festival honoring that onion. Now they are planning to hold a fall festival designed to attract more business to the downtown area. They wanted these streets brought up to top shape, because this is where the majority of the activities will take place," continued Sikes.

"The community center fronts on the new street. Time was short and the job had to be done to meet the deadline. We

relied on our new Blaw-Knox PF-3172 to help bring this about. Since we had just taken delivery on the machine, we also relied heavily on the salesman and technicians from our dealer, Burch-Lowe, to make this happen. As usual, they were right there for us."

"Our men had never used the UltraEye® V sensing devices but, with the help of the dealer's technician, we were up and running in no time and the grade, slope and elevation of the streets came out perfectly. We used the sonic grade sensor along the concrete curb like a joint-matcher. The mat quality was everything we could have possibly asked for. Interestingly enough, our screedman was out for the day at a funeral and I had to fill in," said Larry Sikes.

"We have actually subcontracted the asphalt paving on this job from a general contractor named Earthscapes from Phoenix City, Alabama. They are involved in the revitalization of the city's downtown area. This is an attempt to help the many downtown businesses who have stayed on and to bring new business and jobs into the core of the city."

"This is just the first phase of a major long term effort to redefine the traffic pattern to actually enhance traffic flow. Historically, Vidalia has had a vibrant center city business. Now some of the newer businesses have migrated to the suburbs as the city has grown. This is an attempt to stem that flow. All above

ground utility line have been taken down and relocated underground."

"Under this contract we have had five streets to work on. They have ranged from 58' wide and 450' long to 29' wide by 600' long. Most of the streets have been done in two, side by side passes. Some of the streets required only a 2" thick overlay."

"The street that required total reconstruction has a 4" base, and a 2" surface course. The road was 29' wide most of the length, so we added two, 1' extensions on the sides of the 10' screed. This has made the screed 12'. We also have the two 3' hydraulic extensions to use when ever we need them. We do not own our own asphalt plant, so we purchase mix from regional asphalt distributors. We have one within about 10 miles of this job."

"We have our own trucks to carry asphalt. It's more reliable and efficient that way. Our tandem trucks carry about 19½ tons because, due to bridge weight restrictions, tri-axle trucks are illegal in the state of Georgia. We can't even use the Blaw-Knox OmniScreed® on our pavers. That's why we were forced to go to the electric heated Wedge-Lock® screed."

"To be perfectly candid, we have been looking at electric screeds for the past several years and, initially turned our noses up at the new technology. We did a lot of homework before we made the purchase of the PF-3172 because we couldn't afford to make a mistake. Now that we made the selection, I can tell you that it has exceeded our expectations."

"Looking back at our maintenance records over the past several years, 70 percent of our screed failure problems have been linked to heating the older screeds. That just doesn't happen with the new electric heat technology. This screed is similar to a household iron. It's cool on the top and hot where we need it. The mat is remarkably better."

"I can also tell you that the pollution control devices have been a pleasant surprise, too. Initially, we thought they were just some mandated regulatory gadget that simply would raise the cost of the paver. Having used the SmokEater® now, it really does make it safer and more comfortable for our paving crew. That's very important to us because heat and fumes are a serious problem here. It is phenomenal how this device reduces that on a daily basis."

"There is no such thing as a "smallest or largest job" that the company will do. It's whatever our customers want done, where they want it done and when. Our corporate goals are workplace safety, customer satisfaction and pride in doing quality workmanship. Now that we have our new Blaw-Knox PF-3172 paver, our largest and best job may well be the very next one we do," concluded Ricky Sikes.



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