

M&D Mechanical History Project Timeline

1840-1909

The Dulions Come to America

Arnold Paul Dulion (known as Antoine) was one of three brothers who emigrated from the Alsace-Lorraine region of France around 1840 to the New World, entering the United States and settling in New Orleans, LA. Antoine settled in Madisonville on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain on the Tchefuncte River where he opened a general merchandise store. The store was mostly a trading station for trappers, hunters, and fisherman, specializing in rope, gun shot, groceries, liquor, and clothing. Antoine married Catherine Carroll, and they produced six children, the youngest being our founder, Leon Edward Dulion.

Leon E. Dulion: Cyclist to Plumber

Antoine died in 1884 at the age of 67, and his family began to spread out seeking jobs. Leon's older brother, John, found employment as a cook in a burgeoning new steel community to the northeast – Birmingham, AL. In 1887, Leon, at the age of 13, mounted his bicycle and pedaled the 350 miles to join his brother. John advised Leon E. Dulion that Western Union was hiring young cyclists for telegram delivery.

After several years as a messenger, Leon E. Dulion signed on as an apprentice plumber at the firm of E.C. Warren Co. He turned out as a journeyman in the employment of B.F. Barber Plumbing Co., and later, worked for Monarch Plumbing Co. Following that, he worked for Monarch Plumbing Co. Leon E. Dulion persuaded other journeyman in the industry of the needs for a local union in order to bargain with employers, and was instrumental in the founding of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local Union #91, serving as its first president in 1902.

A nineteen-year-old Irish beauty, Maggie Tully, an immigrant from Michigan, caught Leon's eye, and they were married in 1901.

Mason and Dulion Meet

James Edward Mason was also a plumber working in the construction industry. James and Leon became well acquainted, as they both worked at Barber Co. Both Leon and James were active in the fledgling Union Labor associations, with Leon serving as president of the AF of L Building Trades Council in 1909.

1910-1919

Mason & Dulion Company is Formed

In 1910, James and Leon formed Mason & Dulion Company. The company initially operated from an office and shop located at 4th Avenue and 18th Street North in Birmingham. The new company joined with Local Union #91, and found immediate success and growth.

Mason Dies

An unfortunate hunting accident claimed the life of James Mason in 1915. Leon purchased the widow Mason's interest in the company, with the promise that the Mason name would continue with the business. The company moved its location to 4th Avenue and 20th Street North in 1916.

Future Heirs are Born

Leon and Maggie had three children, Margaret Louise Dulion, Leon Varley Dulion, and William Edward Dulion. The three children would all play roles in the company.

Important Dates:

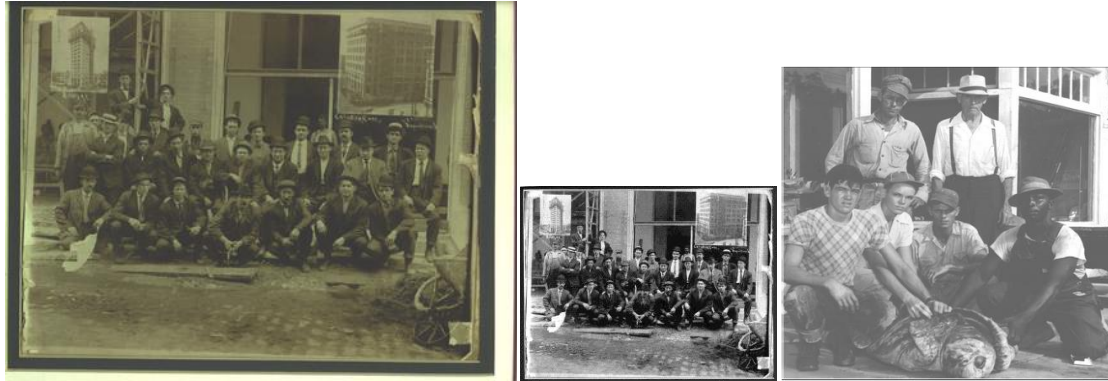
1910: Mason & Dulion Company Founded

1910: Company Office Located at 4th Ave. and 18th St. N

1915: James Edward Mason Killed

1916: Company Office Moves to 4th Ave. and 20th St. N

Photos:



Photos of the early staff of Mason & Dulion Company.

1920-1929

Mason and Dulion Company Expands Throughout Southeast

Business success continued, and the company expanded its plumbing and heating contracts to locales as far away as Miami Beach, FL. In 1925, Leon purchased property on 3rd Avenue and 30th Street South in Birmingham, and constructed a new office and shop building that would serve as the company's headquarters for the next 58 years.

Dulion Continues His Leadership in the Community

Leon developed into a staunch civic and spiritual leader of the Birmingham community, serving as president of the Kiwanis Club, member of the Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, and a leader in the Knights of Columbus.

A New Generation Joins Mason and Dulion Company

Margaret Louise Dulion met a local druggist, Nicholas Rosseau Vance, they were married in 1923. Nicholas R. Vance joined the firm the following year. After his education in St. Bernard, Leon V. Dulion joined the firm in 1928 in the office and later worked as a field superintendent. Leon V. Dulion met Violette Rothschild, and they married in 1929. Prosperity had continued for the firm throughout the 20s. The majority of the high-rise buildings constructed in Birmingham during this era were Mason & Dulion projects.

Black Friday

Black Friday came in 1929, and when the securities market crashed, it took Mason & Dulion with it. Bankruptcy was the only option for most construction firms, and Leon E. Dulion was no exception.

Bankruptcy wiped out his debts, but Leon E. promised his creditors that he would repay them, including over \$100,000 owed to Crane Co. As the company began business again, over several years, Leon E. made good on his promise, repaying every dime lost by his creditors.

Important Dates:

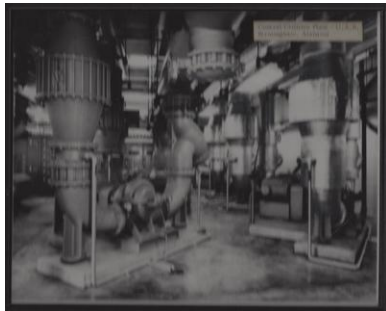
1924: Nicolas R. Vance Joined

1925: Company Office Moves to 3rd Ave. and 30th St. S

1928: Leon V. Dulion Joined

1930: Black Friday

1930-1939



Central Utilities Plant at U.A.B. in Birmingham, AL

Along with the entire country, the construction industry began the arduous climb through the Depression back to prosperity. Leon E. promised Nicholas R. Vance and Leon V. Dulion future ownership if they remained with him through the tough times.

Important Dates:

1935: Company Celebrated its 25th Anniversary

1940-1949

Mason and Dulion Opens Pensacola, FL Office

The coming of World War II brought military construction opportunities to the South, and Leon V. Dulion was dispatched to manage projects in Selma, AL; Alexandria, LA; and Mobile, AL, eventually resulting in the opening of a branch office in Pensacola, FL in 1945, with Leon V. serving as manager. Leon V. hired Lucille Tate in 1943 as his bookkeeper, and she served in this capacity until her retirement. The company was stocking distributor for Auburn stockers and parts during this period.

Construction Booms in Florida

Construction was booming at the Pensacola Naval Air Station, Eglin Field, and surrounding fields, and the brand office grew rapidly. The Dulion family purchased property and cabins located on Santa Rosa Sound, seven miles east of Navarre, FL. This property was initially used to house key Florida supervisory employees. Recreational facilities were added, and it served as a second home for the Florida and Alabama families. This property was sold after Maggie Dulion's death.

Renovated and Relocated Offices

In 1947, the offices at 3rd Avenue South in Birmingham were totally renovated, and new storage facilities and a loading dock were added. The Pensacola branch relocated its operations to North Pace Boulevard.

Important Dates:

1941: The United States Entered World War II

1945: Branch Opened in Pensacola, FL

1950-1959



: Jane Vance Jones



Jesse Yarbrough

Prosperity Brings New Service Fields

Prosperity continued for the firm throughout the 40s and with the arrival of air conditioning in the 50s, the Birmingham office opened a sheet metal shop in a leased building with D.C. Lee as manager.

Growth was sustained, and Nicholas R. Vance organized the Birmingham office into three divisions, each with an operating manager: Plumbing Division – Bob Brand, Manager (promotion from the field); Heating and Process Piping Division – Kenny Walden, Manager (hired from Hayden/Meyer); Sheetmetal & Air Conditioning Division – Bill Stegall, Manager (hired from Air Engineers). The company was a distributor for Westinghouse Electric HVAC equipment in the early air conditioning years.

Margaret Vance and Harry Schlosser Marry

Nicholas R. Vance had four children, and three of them would figure prominently in the company's future. Margaret, his second oldest child, worked for the company as a secretary in 1950 when Harry Schlosser, a young Honeywell representative came calling. Harry Schlosser was a Georgia Tech graduate

in mechanical engineering. They later married, and in 1954 Harry Schlosser joined the firm as an assistant to Bill Stegall.

The Vance Children Join the Firm

Jane Vance Jones, Nicholas R. Vance's youngest daughter, joined the firm in 1963 as an assistant bookkeeper, and would replace Lucille Tate when she retired. Nicholas Dulion Vance, his youngest, joined the firm in 1957 after his graduation from Auburn University in Mechanical Engineering. Nicholas Dulion Vance would eventually lead the firm as CEO in later years.

Leon V. Dulion's Children Join the Firm

Leon V. Dulion had two children, and his son Leon V. Dulion, Jr. (Buster) joined the Pensacola office in 1954, after his graduation from the University of Notre Dame. Leon V. Dulion, Jr. would eventually lead the Florida corporation as CEO

Company Becomes Incorporated

In 1954, Leon E. Dulion, at 80 years of age, was still active, but his age and health were a concern. The company was incorporated as a Delaware Corporation (Mason & Dulion, Co., Inc. in 1954, with Leon E. Dulion owning 70% interest, Nicholas R. Vance owning a 15% interest, and Leon V. Dulion owning a 15% interest. 1954 was a bellweather year for the firm, with record business volume and profitability. The firm had landed its first contract at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, which would prove to be fertile ground for the firm over the next fifty years.

Company Enters Dark Period

In the mid-1950s, there were dark clouds on the new corporation's horizon. Leon E. Dulion died suddenly in March of 1955. The Leon E. Dulion estate, including his Mason & Dulion shares, was left in a trust to be administered by joint executors; his son Leon Varley Dulion and his daughter Margaret D. Vance were named executors. The proceeds of the estate, on Maggie's death, were to be distributed one third each to the two executors, and one third to the children of his son William.

Leon Edward Dulion's accountant, Edwin Gilliam, was old, and had made serious errors in moving the company to corporate status, and the Dulion Estate eventually paid in excess of \$200,000 in estate taxes.

Nicholas R. Vance Passes and Troubles Continue

Nicholas R. Vance, who had served as General Manager since 1942, had been in failing health for several years, and died in October, 1955. Leon V. Dulion ascended to the presidency after the death of Nicholas R. Vance, and almost immediately faced unacceptable financial demands from four key Birmingham managers. The demands were refused, and the four managers left the firm, leaving the Birmingham office with a management void.

Important Dates:

1954: Harry Schlosser Joined

1954: Leon V. Dulion, Jr. (Buster) Joined FL Office

1954: Company was Incorporated and Name Became Mason & Dulion Co., Inc.

1954: Awarded First Contract at Redstone Arsenal, AL

1955: Leon E. Dulion Death

1955: Nicholas R. Vance Death

1955: Leon V. Dulion Became President
1957: Nicholas D. Vance Joined
1958: Jesse Yarbrough Joined
1959: Awarded First Contract with Pearce & Gresham (TUCC)

Photos:



Mason & Dulion Co., Inc. building in Birmingham, AL.

1960-1969

Important Dates:

1960: Company Celebrated Its 50th Anniversary
1961: Leon V. Dulion Death
1961: AL and FL Offices Split
1961: Alabama Company Name Became Mason & Dulion Co., Inc. of Alabama
1961: Margaret D. Vance Became President, Nicholas D. Vance and Harry Schlosser Became Vice Presidents
1961: Awarded First Contract with 3M Company of Decatur
1963: Jane Vance Jones Joined
1964: Travis Ray Schollian Joined

Photos:



Mason & Dulion Co., Inc. begins work at the Marshall Space Center with the construction of the Saturn C-5 Test Stand Support Systems.

1970-1979

The Company Size Decreases to Three Employees

1976 was a pivotal year in the firm's history, as Harry Schlosser executed his buy/sell agreement for retirement, followed by the untimely death of its president, Margaret D. Vance. The terms of the buy/sell agreement placed a severe strain on corporate finances, and operations were reduced to accumulate capital to meet the payout obligations. In 1977, the company shrunk to three employees before a new growth period began.

New Growth and a New Name

A new dawn in the firm's history took place in 1977 with the founding of a new merit shop corporation, M&D Mechanical Contractors, Inc. The firm maintained a double-breasted operation with the older corporation continuing to solicit business in the dwindling traditional union areas. The new M&D firm borrowed operating capital from the old corporation initially, and with union agreement, M&D Alabama fabricated ductwork for M&D projects for several years.

M&D Mechanical Looks North

Nicholas D. Vance was sole owner and CEO of both corporations at this point, and the master plan called for the eventual relocation of the Merit Shop Company to North Alabama. The firm had enjoyed great success in North Alabama, concentrating on industrial plants located along the Tennessee River and on government facilities located in that same general area.

A Trilogy Partnership is Formed

In 1978, Jesse Yarbrough and Kenneth Prater began what would become the trilogy partnership with Nicholas D. Vance. Kenneth Prater was the son-in-law of Jesse Yarbrough, and had joined the firm on a permanent basis in 1974. The trilogy plan was to eventually build an office and shop in Decatur, Alabama to headquarter the new corporation. The partnership purchased and leased property to M&D on Jackson Street Southeast in Decatur in 1978 to house an office trailer and warehouse, which served as temporary facilities for M&D in North Alabama.

M&D Receives First Arnold Air Force Base Contract

M&D was awarded its first contract, a one million dollar waste heat recovery project for the Corps of Engineers at Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee in February 1978. The young Merit Shop firm went to court to overcome organized union violence to complete the contract. In this same year, the firm moved its surety business from long time preferred-risk Seaboard Surety Co. to U.S.F. & G to obtain greater bonding capacity.

Jesse Yarbrough Purchases Interest in the Firm

The firm's operations were in need of a cash infusion due to the Harry Schlosser buyout, and in May, 1979, Nicholas D. Vance sold Jesse Yarbrough a 50% interest in both corporations, and welcomed Jesse as Executive Vice President of both corporations. Nicholas D. Vance loaned M&D \$100,000 on a five-year note to increase the working capital of the new corporation.

Important Dates:

1974: Kenneth Prater Joined

1975: Awarded First Contract with Arnold Air Force Base

1976: Nicholas D. Vance Became CEO

1976: Harry Schollosser Retired

1976: Margaret D. Vance Death

1977: Company Name Changed to M&D Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

1977: Nicholas D. Vance Became Sole Owner

1978: Jesse Yarbrough and Kenneth Prater Completed Trilogy Partnership

1978: Awarded First Million Dollar Contract with Corp. of Engineers at Arnold Air Force Base

1979: Harry Schlosser Buy Out

1979: Jesse Yarborough was Sold 50% of the Business

1980-1989

M&D Moves to Sherman Street

In 1981, the trilogy partnership purchased property on Sherman Street in Decatur, AL, which adjoined the property then being leased on Jackson Street, with future construction of permanent headquarters for M&D in mind. Kenneth Prater also was elevated to Vice-President and Director of the firm. As all M&D Alabama union working agreements had expired in 1982, plans were finalized for a tax-free merger with M&D, and a relocation of the firm to Decatur, Alabama

The trilogy partnership negotiated a contract with the city of Decatur to issue industrial development board bonds for the construction of a new 18,600 square office and sheet metal building to be located at 1810 Sherman Street Southeast in Decatur. The building was completed in July 1983, and the firm moved its complete operations to Decatur.

The Firm Joins the Computer Age

In 1984, the firm joined the computer age with its old Burrough's accounting system transferred to an IBM desktop computer. During the 1980s, the firm also began using computer-aided drafting programs, slowing moving away from drawing plan by hand.

Jane Jones and Travis Schollian Become Minority Shareholders

In 1985, Travis Ray Schollian was elevated to Vice-President and Director of the firm. Jane Jones and Travis R. Schollian also became minority shareholders in that year. A new shareholder's buy/sell agreement was adopted in the same year, allowing a 2 ½ year payout period for stock redemptions. In 1987, the firm obtained the first of two renovation projects for NASA, which included major asbestos abatement. Surety arrangements were moved to Travelers' Indemnity and its successor firms in October 1987. The payout provisions of the buy/sell agreement were extended to five years in 1987.

In 1988, Travis R. Schollian and Jane Jones increased their corporate share holdings, and Kenneth Prater became a shareholder, all with equal minority interests. Key field superintendents Wayne Blackwell and Edward Teague also purchased minority interests in that same year. Bobby L. Allfrey, a graduate of Athens University, and former manager for Noland Co., joined the firm as a shareholder, Vice-President, and Director in 1989.

Important Dates:

1981: Purchased Property on Sherman Street in Decatur, AL

1983: Corporate Offices Moved to Decatur, AL

1985: Company Celebrated Its 75th Anniversary

1985: Johnny Horton Joined

1985: Travis R. Schollian Promoted to Vice President

1988: Shareholders were Travis Schollian, Jane Jones, Kenneth Prater, Edward Teague, and Wayne Blackwell

1988: Awarded First Contract with GE – Construction of the Decatur, AL Facility

1989: Bobby L. Allfrey Joined

1989: Awarded Contract for X-Ray Calibration project for NASA at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL

Photos:



M&D Mechanical Contractors was awarded its first contract with GE in Decatur when the new plant was constructed.

With the retirement of Travis Schollian (President) and the recent departure of Jane Jones (Secretary), Steve Yarborough (Vice President), and Jesse Yarborough (Manager Field Operations), 1992 was a year for changes in the company. The retirement of these senior managers forced the company to reorganize. Bobby L. Allfrey, Kenneth Prater, Edward Teague, Wayne Blackwell, and Ruddle D. Putman developed a buyout arrangement with the previous owners. Allfrey would serve as President, Prater as Vice President/Treasurer, Blackwell and Teague as Vice Presidents, and Putman as Corporate Secretary.

Since the company had lost several key people in the retirement process, the new management decided to "right size" the company, and start a re-building effort for several of the departments. This effort caused the company to set its sights on less volume of work and concentrate more on strategies that would offer the most efficiency for the size of the business.

During the first few years of the new management team, the business reduced its revenue due to the reduced size of management. This enabled management to concentrate on new strategies. This allowed clients to get comfortable with the new team and a slow rebuilding process was implemented. The mid-90s was fairly good for the business, and a growth trend started, remaining steady through present times. The new management team had a five-year buyout plan, and in 1997, the last payment was made to the past owners.

Design/Build Becomes More Prevalent

During the mid-90s, the company began to venture into several design/build projects. Historically, up to this point, the company had steered away from this somewhat risky market. Many changes in the construction environment had created a fairly large market for this type of construction. Several of the projects were government projects, and the company was successful in submitting winning proposals. This design/build segment of the business would become a major part of M&D Mechanical's success during the past decade. As business volume grew, staff was added to grow with the company. Rodney Ferguson was hired in 1993, Alan Schollian in 1996, and Joel Ellis in 1998; all as Project Managers. During the mid 90's, the company began to venture into Design/Build projects.

Historically, the company had steered away from this somewhat risky market; but changes in the construction environment had created a fairly large market for this type of construction. Several of the projects were government projects and the company was successful in submitting winning proposals. This Design/Build segment of the business became a major part of M & D's success during that decade. Notable projects include the Rowland Creek Pumping Station for the Army Corps of Engineers at Arnold Air Force Base, followed by the Atmospheric Air Dryer Facility, also at Arnold AFB, and the Base-wide Energy Distribution projects at Redstone Arsenal. In 1999 M & D was awarded a Chiller Plant Renovation at Huntsville Hospital, Boeing built their over-1 million-square-foot rocket assembly plant in Decatur, and Vintage Pharmaceuticals built a tablets plant in Huntsville; all becoming long-term clients for the company. As the decade closed, Wayne Blackwell, Director of Field Operations, retired in 1999 after over 30 years with the company.

Company Grows in Specialized Areas

The late 1990s saw the company continue its growth into several different specialized markets. These markets included industrial piping, hospitals, large commercial buildings, and specializing government projects. During this timeframe, the company was also awarded several high pressure projects for NASA. This strategy of focusing on niche areas required a very diverse management team and workforce. With continued emphasis on training, this diversity proved to help the company survive downturns in the economy. Management focused on building a very methodical diverse team, bringing in new personnel that would be able to specialize in certain aspects of the business.

Fabrication also became more important in the industry in the late 1990s and early 2000s. M&D Mechanical expanded its fabrication shops to be able to handle the additional demand for in-house fabrication.

Important Dates:

1990: Jesse Yarbrough Retired

1990: Ruddle Putman Joined

1991: Travis Schollian Became President

1991: Awarded Contract for Test Stand 300 for NASA. Test Stand Used to Support Space Station.

1992: Nicholas D. Vance Semi-retired and Sold His Ownership Interest

1992: Jane Jones Retired

1992: Travis Schollian Retired

1992: Jesse Yarborough Retired

1992: Complete Company Reorganization. Officers Became Bobby L. Allfrey (President), Kenneth Prater (Vice President), Wayne Blackwell (Vice President), Edward Teague (Vice President), and Ruddle Putman (Corp Sec.)

1992: Awarded Contract for the Yellow Creek project in Iuka, MS

1993: Rodney Ferguson Joined

1993: Received First CAD Project

1995: Awarded First Contract for Frito Lay Plant in Pulaski, TN

1996: Alan Schollian Joined

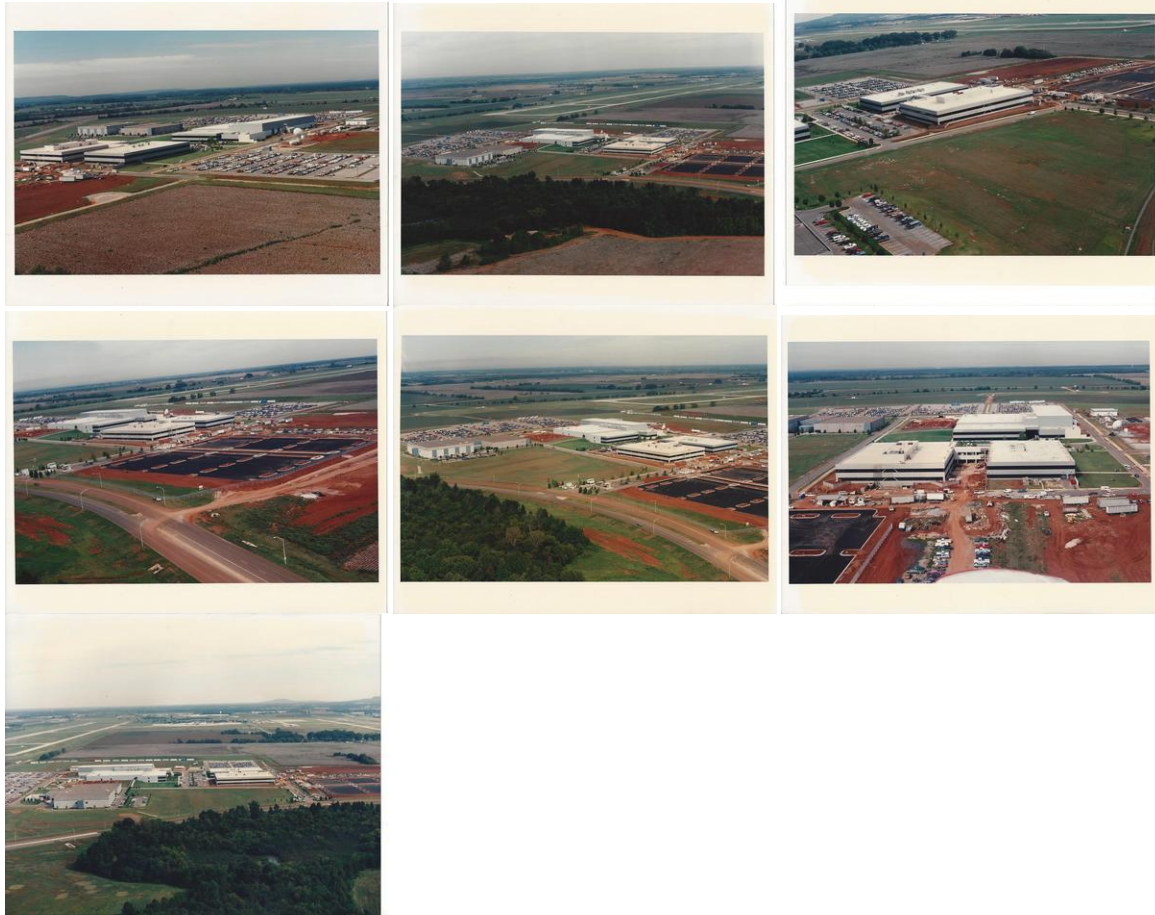
1998: Awarded Contract for Decatur, AL Boeing Facility

1999: Wayne Blackwell Retired

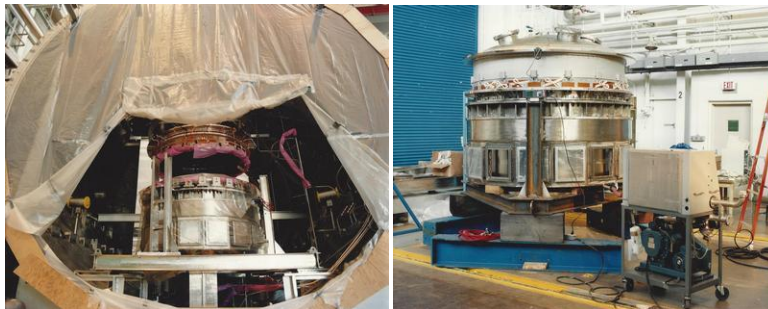
1999: Awarded First Contract with Huntsville Hospital

1999: Awarded First Multi-Million Dollar Design/Build Contract for Roland Creek Pumping Station Project at Arnold Air Force Base

Photos:



Date Unknown: Boeing Facility in Huntsville, AL



1994 project at the NASA Building 4619

2000-2009

Management Reorganization Continues

In the late 1990s and into the new century, the company saw some of its main management aging and a new round of management retirement was destined to happen over a five to seven year period. First was Wayne Blackwell, who retired in 1999 after 30 years with the company. Shortly thereafter, Kenneth Prater, a major partner in the business, retired in 2002. Then, Edward Teague, a senior project superintendent and mentor for many of the company's employees retired in 2004.

These changes in management led to a newly-elected Board of Directors and a shift in ownership for a portion of the company. Additional project managers were added, allowing M&D Mechanical to continue its growth plans, and develop a more experienced, diverse management team.

The National Economy Disrupts the Construction Industry

The company continued its growth until the September 2001 World Trade Center attack, which sent the economy in a tailspin. The ensuing months were challenging for the company, with most of the industry putting things on hold until the stock market corrected itself. The company was able to pull out of the dip with very little issues and again, begin its controlled growth pattern.

The economic crash in the late 2008 again challenged the company to rethink its position and direction for the future. Wisely, the company, after having shed over 40% of its field force, directed its efforts to government work in the area. Fortunately, the company continued its efforts on a diverse workforce and maintained its position in the market by performing many different types of projects. Several government projects hit just in time to carry the business into 2010.

With the economic stimulus packages created by the Government after the 2008 election, many new federal opportunities presented themselves.

Important Dates:

2001: World Trade Center was Attacked and Stock Market Crashed

2002: Kenneth Prater Retired

2002: Jesse Yarborough Death

2004: Edward Teague Retired

2004: New Board Members were Bobby L. Allfrey (President), Alan Schollian (Executive President), Rodney Ferguson (Vice President/Treasurer), and Ruddle Putman (Corp Sec.)

2004: Awarded North Alabama ABC Excellence in Construction Awards for Hartselle Medical Center Major Equipment Upgrades (Mechanical-Commercial Under \$12 Million Category)

2004: Awarded North Alabama ABC STEP Award – Platinum Status

2005: Named first ABC Accredited Quality Contractor (AQC) in the North Alabama Region

2005: Awarded First Contract with Samford University

2005: Awarded North Alabama ABC STEP Award – Platinum Status

2006: Awarded North Alabama ABC Excellence in Construction Awards for Redstone Arsenal Base Wide Area Energy Distribution System Phase II

2006: Awarded North Alabama ABC Excellence in Construction Awards for Samford University Robinson Law Library HVAC Renovations

2006: Awarded North Alabama ABC Image Award for Samford University Boiler Plants 1&2

2006: Awarded North Alabama ABC STEP Award – Platinum Status

2007: Awarded National and North Alabama ABC Excellence in Construction Awards for Crestwood Hospital Vertical Expansion (Mechanical-Commercial \$2-\$10 Million Category) and the UAH Shelby Center for Science & Technology (Mechanical-Commercial \$2-\$10 Million Category)

2007: Awarded North Alabama ABC Excellence in Construction Award for Samford University Boiler Plants 1&2 Projects (Mechanical-Industrial \$2-\$10 Million Category)

2007: Awarded North Alabama ABC STEP Award – Platinum Status

2008: Economic Crash

2008: Awarded North Alabama ABC Award for System Software Engineering Annex Phase II (Mechanical-Commercial \$2-\$10 Million Category)

2008: Awarded North Alabama ABC Award for Huntsville Hospital Emergency Department Expansion

2008: Awarded North Alabama ABC STEP Award – Platinum Status

2009: Zero Recordables

2009: First Building Information Management (BIM) Project was Started

2009: Rodney Ferguson and Alan Schollian Completed LEED™ Certification

2009: Awarded North Alabama ABC Excellence in Construction Award for Navistar Process Cooling Tower Project (Specialty Contractor Less than \$2 Million Category)

2009: Awarded North Alabama ABC STEP Award – Platinum Status

Photos:



North Alabama Excellence in Construction Award



North Alabama Excellence in Construction Award



2006 North Alabama ABC Excellence in Construction Award



2006 North Alabama ABC Excellence in Construction Award



2007 North Alabama Excellence in Construction Award



2007 National Excellence in Construction Award



2009 North Alabama Excellence in Construction Award



Arnold Air Force Base – Replaced Primary Pump Station Valves



Dublin Whitford and Joyce Thomas look over the waiting room for the Huntsville Hospital ER, where single rooms line an expanded waiting area.

For ER, bigger will be better

Huntsville Hospital's new state-of-the-art emergency room, to open at 4 a.m. Wednesday, passes the look test. But will the sparkling space – with 80 new private exam rooms and a more comfortable waiting area – mean faster care for the sick and injured?

IN LOCAL: A sneak peek is set for Monday, PAGE A13

M&D Mechanical Contractors won a North Alabama ABC Excellence in Construction award for the Emergency Department Expansion for Huntsville Hospital.



M&D Mechanical Contractors was awarded its first contract with Samford University in 2006 and was awarded a North Alabama ABC Excellence in Construction award for the project.



2009 Officers from Left to Right: Ruddy Putman, Bobby Allfrey, Alan Schollian, and Rodney Ferguson



2009 Officers from Left to Right: Ruddy Putman, Bobby Allfrey, Alan Schollian, and Rodney Ferguson

2010-Present

M&D Enters 2010 with New Leadership

At the annual M&D Stockholders Meeting held in June 2010, a new Board of Directors was nominated and approved. Johnny Horton joined Bobby Allfrey, Ruddle Putman, Rodney Ferguson, and Alan Schollian as a board member. Prior to the June 2010 meeting of the M&D Board of Directors, Bobby Allfrey made known his desire to step down as President of the company, and to assume another role within the organization. The Board elected Alan Schollian as President, Rodney Ferguson as Vice-President/Treasurer, Johnny Horton as Vice-President of Field Operations, Ruddle Putman as Corporate Secretary, and Bobby Allfrey as Chief Operating Officer for Special Projects. A major project for us in 2010 was the A-3 Altitude Test Stand for NASA at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. This project entailed 3 years of work, over \$25 million dollars of volume and many challenging aspects related to safety, quality, personnel, and management. Ultimately, it was a successful job for us and for NASA. At

this same time, numerous projects were underway for NASA at Marshall Space flight Center and at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. These jobs, along with the construction of the new Madison Hospital, helped us have strong sales when many parts of the country were struggling.

At the close of our 2010 business year, our 100th anniversary, Bobby Allfrey stepped down as President of the company, staying on as Operations Officer and Project Manager. Alan Schollian became President, Johnny Horton became a Board Member, and work continued to be plentiful. We hosted a celebration in August of that year to commemorate 100 years in business, and received numerous congratulations from the community and our business associates.

The early part of the decade provided a stream of good projects and high volume sales years. Notable projects were the construction of the Polyplex plant in Decatur, NASA's Building 4220, expansion at HEXCEL, and the expansion of the Huntsville Hospital Health System to include 5 facilities in north Alabama. We had a record year in 2013, with sales of almost \$40 million dollars. In September of 2013, Nicholas D. Vance, the grandson of our founder, worked his last day as an M & D employee; ending 56 years of active involvement in the business. In December of that year, Bobby Allfrey was recognized by the Associated Builders and Contractors North Alabama Chapter with the Eagle Lifetime Achievement Award. Bobby was mentored by Nick Vance and entrenched many of the business practices we follow today. He retired in July of 2014.

Work opportunities began to slow, or rather change as we began to see fewer large projects in our home geography; but more small projects spread out over the region. This shift in our market required adjustments in our job site support systems, manpower placements, project management, and accounting. For several years, beginning in 2014, we struggled to book multi-million dollar projects, instead building volume with more, smaller jobs. Fortunately, most of this work was for repeat clients and margins were strong. In September of 2016, Ruddle Putman, Office Manager and Corporate Secretary retired, the company elected S corporation status with the IRS, we moved our corporate home from Delaware to Alabama, and added a lady to our Board for the first time in 24 years. Michelle Cesareo became our Corporate Secretary, joining Johnny Horton, VP, John Barnard, VP, Rodney Ferguson, VP/Treasurer, and Alan Schollian, President, in leading the company.

Important Dates:

2010: Company Celebrated its 100th Anniversary

2010: Reached 1 Million Man Hours with No Loss Time

2010: New Board Members were Alan Schollian (President), Bobby L. Allfrey (COO), Rodney Ferguson (Vice President/Treasurer), Ruddle Putman (Corp Sec.), and Johnny Horton (VP Operations)

2010: Awarded First Contract with Madison Hospital

2010: Orbital Welder and Spiral Machine Purchased Increasing Fabrication Efficiency

2010: Awarded North Alabama ABC STEP Award – Platinum Status

2011: Johnny Shelton Joined as Company's First Internal BIM Employee

2011: Awarded North Alabama ABC STEP Award – Platinum Status

2012: Orbital Welder Certification Achieved

2012: Total Station Purchased

2012: Received National ABC Excellence in Construction Award for NASA Building 4602 (Mechanical-Commercial \$2-\$10 Million Category)

2012: Awarded North Alabama ABC STEP Award – Platinum Status

2013: Nicholas D. Vance Retired

2013: Awarded North Alabama ABC STEP Award – Platinum Status

2013: Bobby L. Allfrey Retired

Photos:



From Left to Right: Bobby Allfrey, Nicholas D. Vance, Alan Schollian at 100th Anniversary Celebration



From Left to Right: Bobby Allfrey, Nicholas D. Vance, Alan Schollian at 100th Anniversary Celebration



Nicholas D. Vance at 100th Anniversary Celebration



2012 National ABC Excellence in Construction Award



Nick D. Vance and his wife at the 2012 Christmas Party



Bobby Allfrey and his wife at the 2012 Christmas Party

Business

Monday Technology | Tuesday Small Business | Wednesday NASA/Defense | Thursday Government | Friday Real Estate | Saturday

The Huntsville Times | Wednesday, April 13, 2011

2-minute Times

Market openings

Dow \$2,253.58, up 17.83

Nasdaq 2,744.79, up 26.72

S&P 1,314.16, up 10.30

Russell 2000 822.21, up 10.99

Tuesday's volume:
NYSE: 4,277,312,983
Nasdaq: 1,780,094,694

Test stand contract
Decatur-based M&D Mechanical Contractors has been awarded a \$5.9 million contract by NASA for the A-3 Altitude Test Stand under construction at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. The test stand will enable NASA to test the J-2X engine for the Ares launch vehicle at simulated altitudes of up to 100,000 feet, matching conditions of an engine firing in space. It is the first test stand to be built at Stennis Space Center since the 1960s. Founded in 1970, M&D provides mechanical, plumbing, HVAC, piping and custom metal fabrication services to the industrial, institutional and government sectors, including NASA, the Army Corps of Engineers, the University of Alabama in Huntsville and Huntsville Hospital. Visit mndmechanical.com.

A shortage of railroad containers is part of the reason rail cargo traffic at the International Intermodal Center at Huntsville International Airport saw a steep drop in March, officials said. Air cargo loading weights at the intermodal center increased 35.8 percent, and outgoing freight weights increased 50 percent in February compared to February 2010. (The Huntsville Times file photo)

Forgo out

DI Magazine among top 10 for inventors

By David McI...

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AREA BUSINESS IN BRIEF

M&D receives NASA contract
Decatur-based M&D Mechanical Contractors recently received a \$5.9 million contract from NASA for the A-3 Altitude Test Stand being constructed at the John C. Stennis Space Center in south Mississippi.

M&D received a one-year contract for the fire suppression and detection system for the stand, one of several task contracts that the company has received for the test stand project.

The new contract is part of a five-year contract M&D has with NASA for the test stand project. The initial contract was awarded in early 2010. The first task of the long-term contract, awarded for \$4 million, involved fabricating and delivering steam piping and industrial water piping for use on the test stand. The company now is installing the piping into the test stand as part of a \$3.2 million contract with NASA and is halfway through the project. M&D Mechanical Contractors is also installing the industrial water piping system for the test stand, a contract that was awarded for \$450,000. **ERIC FLEISCHHAUER**

Shop owners form association
Decatur shop owners formed the Downtown Business and Merchant Association and elected officers Thursday.

The business owners met at the Princess Theatre to discuss ongoing economic initiatives for downtown. The following people were chosen as the new association's officers: Chris Arthur, owner of Bank Street Antique Mall, president; Jamie Whitlow, owner of Your Story Captured, vice president; Connie Tschert, Decatur Downtown Redevelopment Authority office manager, secretary; Ashley Ashwander with The Paper Chase, treasurer; and Trish Land, owner of Trish Land, publicity chair with Bright Street, owner of Dr. van Doolittle and Debra... **ERIC FLEISCHHAUER**

Japan benefit raises \$35k
A benefit hosted Tuesday by Morgan County Economic Development Association at Pullin's Aukin Coliseum raised \$35,000 to help fund disaster relief efforts in Japan.

The RDA held the benefit as a show of support for the country's three Japan-based companies, Daikin America Inc., Toray Carbon Fibers America Inc. and Toray Fibers America Inc. About 50 attended the benefit.

The event was planned with the support and the assistance of many donors, said RDA President Jeremy Nott. **ERIC FLEISCHHAUER**

IT'S TIME TO PLAY BALL

Friends and family, show your support and athlete! Run a GOOD LUCK ad in our third Baseball and Softball special edition coming this week!

ORDER FORM

Circle the ad design you wish to purchase below. An actual test, fill out the order form, attach a photo and payment, and drop off at The Decatur Daily classified department Monday-Friday 8-5. The ad will appear in the Tuesday, May 10th edition of The Decatur Daily and online at www.thedecaturdaily.com.

Deadline: Thursday May 10th, at 5pm.

	1x3 \$26
	1x4 \$32
	2x3 \$37

Name _____

Daytime Phone _____

Email Address _____

Player's Name _____

Team _____

Number/Position _____

Message _____

The Decatur Daily 201 1st Ave • Decatur 35640-0000

M&D Mechanical Contractors began work on the A-3 Altitude Test Stand at Stennis Air Force Base in Mississippi in 2010.



In 2011, Nicholas D. Vance was presented a Lifetime Achievement award from the North Alabama ABC Chapter for his contributions to the Alabama construction industry.