The Harper Co.
CONTRACTORS

The 2020 Construction Season has been different, putting it mildly. We have managed through the myriad recommendations and regulations from the Government regarding the Virus, and we have experienced a wetter than normal Spring. In comparison with many other industries and businesses, we should be counting our blessings. The Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has seen its revenues from fuel tax drop significantly, which contributed to fewer projects and even cancelling two months' worth of highway lettings. In addition, because of the revenue cash flow problem, Kentucky has decided that many projects that have been awarded will not receive funding for a yet to be determined time. These necessary actions by the Commonwealth create concern and uncertainty in the highway market. We have experienced similar actions taken by Airport Authorities. We were the low bidder on a project at the Nashville Airport, however before they could award the project, it was decided that their anticipated funding would not be met, and the job was cancelled all together.

COVID-19

Clearly, our opportunities have been affected by this worldwide issue, but Harper will prevail. Our wonderful economy took quite a hit, but is on its way back. Our ability to maintain an efficient operation with only top-quality staff, trained to continuously perfect our skills, allows us to keep over head costs to a minimum. All our valued folks should take pride in being an important part of a quality organization. Inside you will find some of the projects we are currently building.

Newsletter

SUMMER 2020

PROJECT Updates

*We have another new project at **CVG** to perform repairs to portions of the Runway 9-27 and Runway 18R-36L. These repairs are primarily asphalt.*

Re-Habilitation of Taxiways "N" & "S" at the No. KY – Greater Cincinnati International Airport is a carry-over project from 2019. This job should finish up in Fall of 2020. Our long time partners at CVG have again been wonderful to work with

Mount Zion Road: We are about to wrap up this challenging project. The wet spring and soft subgrade have slowed us a bit, but we are finishing asphalt paving and concrete work quickly. Harper, the residents who live along this stretch of KY 536 and the general public who depend on this road will all be happy to see it completed this summer.

Amazon CVG HUB: This project has experienced many delays. We have not yet been able to gear up for any production paving. We anticipate bringing in a second, high production plant if, and when it is needed. With over 100 acres of 21 inch thick pavement to place, we look forward to the challenge of expediting the project. Beneath the 21 inch concrete, we are constructing 8 inches of Cement Treated Base course and 8 inches of Crushed Aggregate Base course. Our work also includes over three miles of Trench Drain and over 500 structure tops. Our crews are ready to fire up plants and pavers to get this job built, just as soon as the grade & Drain work allows.

Louisville Airport: We have another R/W & T/W Re-Hab project at the Louisville International Airport this season. We are fortunate to have been the low bidder on these annual projects and our crews are getting better at it each season. Much of the pavement we are replacing was constructed by Harper in 1997. We believe the original pavement was designed for a 20 year life, so this pavement is performing well. This is especially true given that this is the World Wide Hub for UPS. As anyone who has spent much time around Louisville's airport knows, UPS has many large aircraft taking off and landing continuously. Our partners at the Louisville Airport are always a pleasure to work with. This project will finish this summer.

Knoxville TN Airport R/W: We have three projects with work remaining at this great airport. We are ahead of schedule on two and the third project has yet to start. We should finish up these jobs in mid-to-late summer. Being ahead of schedule is bitter sweet at the Knoxville Airport as we have truly enjoyed the professional Team from CHA and the Airport that we have been so fortunate to work with. Hopefully our Smokey Mountain Division will get another opportunity to work at Tyson-McGhee again soon.

We picked up an interesting project for **KYDOT in Ballard County**. We are working for Intech on this job placing new Concrete Paving over an existing asphalt roadway. The job requires milling out the existing blacktop and replacing with new concrete pavement. The original traffic plan has been modified due to the very heavy traffic volume on this road. Instead of part width construction restricting traffic to one lane, we will be shutting the road down completely for 3 weeks and paving 26 ft. full width, from end to end. This will require a plant and paver, but will greatly reduce impact on traveling public. This job is only a matter of feet from the Mississippi River across from Illinois. If you travel any further west, you better have a boat! We are expediting this project so our work will finish this fall.

We are also the low bidder on a major project at **CVG to rehabilitate and widen Runway 9-27**. Work includes asphalt milling and paving as well as concrete remove & replace, patch work, excavation, storm drainage, striping, grooving and new joint seals. All lighting and other electrical items will be replaced with new fixtures. This project implements environmentally friendly methods of construction. Everything that can be recycled or re-used will be. Re-purposing our resources is not only good for our environment but can be cost effective as well. This is a multi-year project, scheduled to begin this fall.

Bluegrass Paving is working towards another successful season.

Our philosophy of maintaining only the highest quality Team Members has reached a milestone.

Bill (Willy) Jeffers is now in charge of our plant. Willy has many years experience at Harper running complex machines and plants. While Harper hates to see Willy go, he brings stability, "Harper" work ethics and professionalism to Bluegrass Paving.

Steve Robbins has joined the Bluegrass Team and is in charge of all Quality Control. Like Willy, Steve has many years experience working with Harper, primarily over seeing the Quality Control Department. Steve has already made huge strides in management practices, work ethic, professionalism and assuring top quality mixes.

Another addition to our Team is **Kyle Bruan** who is running our concrete crews. Kyle has 15 years experience with a Cincinnati Company specializing in this type concrete work.

With Phillip, Richard and Lisa we are operating efficiently and looking forward. Keep up the great work and continue creating opportunities for those in our crews who are looking for advancement.

LATEST ADDITIONS

In order to better manage our growing fleet, we purchased 5.5 acres next to our Hebron office & yard, giving us over 20 acres to work with. In keeping up with technology, we recently replaced / upgraded primary computer systems on several plants and pavers, as well as installing millimeter GPS on more equipment. As our work load continues to grow, so does our need to replace and expand our Equipment Fleet. Here are just a few of our recent additions (John Deere, CAT, Guntert Zimmerman, Gomaco, Mack, Bobcat and Ford) following our BUY AMERICAN policy. We do our part in keeping jobs and dollars right here in the USA to **Keep America Great**.

John Deere 824 Loader

(Just like the new one added last year)

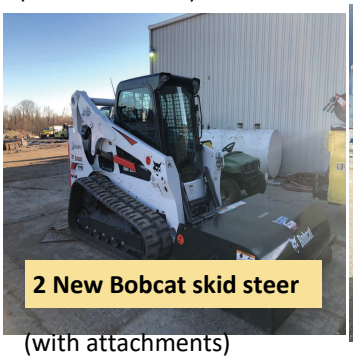
Guntert Zimmerman 850 Slip Form Paver

(A twin to our current GZ)

John Deere Fast Track Dozer

(#4 for our fleet)

2 New Service Trucks



2 New Bobcat skid steer

(with attachments)

Cat Vibratroy Roller

Tri-Axle Mack Dump Truck

Oil Distributor Truck

Boiler

(for Concrete Plant)

New MTP

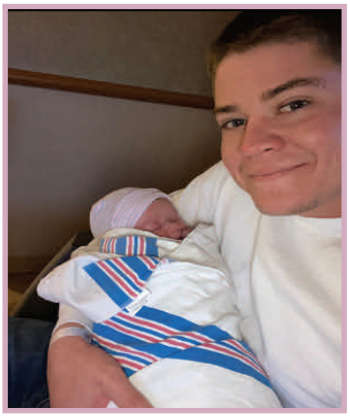
Gomaco Material Placer

Water Truck

WELCOME NEW TEAM MEMBERS

June 1, 2020 marked the first day of working with Harper for **Dave Langen**. Dave has a many years' experience in managing the financial end of construction companies. Dave is our "*CFO in training*". Harper, like all construction companies, have a certain ways of doing things. Dave is in the process of learning our unique methods of accounting and financial management. **Bruce Huff**, who has been with Harper for over 40 years, has a big birthday coming up this fall and is looking to kick back and enjoy retired life. His is an enviable situation like his immediate predecessor, **Mike Shayeson**, whose biggest daily decision seems to be whether to use artificial, live bait or no bait on his fishing pole! Like Mike, those 40+ years full of risks, stresses, challenges and ultimately rewards earned Bruce the privilege of retiring before being worn to a frazzle.

- **Dave** lives in Burlington, 10 minutes from the office, which could be seen as good, or not so good for him. With Dave's Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration- Accounting from the University of Cincinnati, and his years of construction firm experience, he is sure to be a great fit at Harper. Welcome Dave
- **Kyle Bruan** began his tenure with Bluegrass Paving this spring as a paving foreman. Kyle has many years' experience in Curb & Gutter, Sidewalk and other specialty concrete work in the tri-state area. Kyle has already proven to be a great asset to Bluegrass and we are confident he will enjoy a long career here. (despite the fact that Billy Sims recommended Kyle for the position!!) Welcome Kyle.
- While the face of **Steve Robbins** is not new, he does have a new work address. After more than 20 years running ***Harper's*** *Quality Control Lab*, Steve has taken on a new challenge in running the *Quality Control Lab for* ***Bluegrass Paving***. The close affiliation between Harper and Bluegrass helps to make this transition smooth…just like our pavements! Thanks for the versatility and commitment Steve !



MEET MYLA MAY CREAGER, DAUGHTER OF DYLAN CREAGER. SHE WAS BORN DECEMBER 17, 2019. CONGRATS DYLAN!

COLLEGE CORNER

Mr. W.L. Harper was a graduate of the University of Cincinnati Civil Engineering, class of 1928, nearly 100 years ago! UC invented the Co-Op program way back in 1906 as a requirement for graduation. Mr. Harper who went through the program was a strong believer in the merits of gaining hands on experience, while learning the academic aspect of a profession. As such, many co-ops have worked at The Harper Company over the years and some even stayed on after graduating. We are continuing Mr. Harper's philosophy by employing co-op students from various schools in the region. When possible, we offer full time positions upon their graduation. Our student-workers have been from University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati State, Northern Kentucky University just to name a few. In addition to co-op students, we have had many employees enroll in evening college programs to earn Degrees related to our business in order to help the company and themselves succeed. We are proud to recognize our current group of "working students" who are dedicating a lot of personal time and effort to learn more

Samantha Kleem – NKU

Chase – Law

Cole Oldfield – UK

Civil Engineering

NKU
NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Hunter Hensley –NKU

Construction Management

Josh Carroll - NKU

Construction Management

John Thomas – NKU

Construction Management

Winter Conference 2020

The second week of January we held our Eighth Annual Winter Conference at the Pink Shell Resort in beautiful Fort Meyers, Florida. The weather could not have been better, temps were in the 80's and it was sunny the entire week. The fish were biting pretty well for our employee bonding fishing tournament. Over 50 fish were caught of several species. A few sharks were even snagged, one was nearly 8 feet long. Everyone had a great day on the water. John Schubert did a fabulous job making all the arrangements and awarding out the prizes. Thank you John! Aside from our angling gig, we had a productive meeting day. Shawn and Brandon put together some interesting data, and Travis and Brandon gave everyone a re-fresher course on the use of I-Pads. Of course we made time for another round of Harper Family Feud. The questions get better every year. We had a shelling and dolphin cruise for our guests which was very fun and relaxing. The kids really enjoyed the trip.

We certainly hope that the Virus situation does not prevent us from enjoying another Winter Conference next year. Who knows where we might go next?

Eighth Annual Healthy Harper Day

The unpredictable weather cooperated with us on June 4 for our Healthy Harper Day event. As with past HH Days, everyone from the Main office took a break from desk duty, donned shorts and tees to beautify our work place. Landscaping was trimmed, some removed and some added. Flowers and mulch were spruced up and a lot of weeds met their demise. Our HH Day crew leaders, affectionately referred to as Thing 1 (Tonia) and Thing 2 (Carmen) kept everyone working efficiently so there was no schedule time lost for lack of planning. This is a very important skill that we hope everyone at Harper masters. Much was accomplished in one day. Several large and old pine trees had died and were cut down resulting in disturbing quite a large snake who made the area his home…until now. While trimming bushes, we discovered a bird's nest, complete with eggs, that we carefully moved to a more safe location. John transplanted a decorative tree, which now has the name "Little John".

The day was both relaxing and hard work. It is always nice to associate with everyone, absent the pressures of the business. The Main Office landscaping really looks great and we can all take pride in being a part of an organization that cares about each other and our place of work.

THING 1
THING 2

THE HARPER CO.

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The Harper Company

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