

May 2001

Atofina Consolidates Businesses

To better align with an increasingly global customer base and compete aggressively in the marketplace, Atofina Chemicals Inc. announced the consolidation of the company's Specialty Chemicals and Plastics Additives businesses to form the Additives Group.

Under the direction of group president Arthur Van Nostrand, the new unit comprises six business segments: stabilizers, acrylic modifiers, Metablen additives, epoxides, coatings and catalysts.

According to Van Nostrand, the consolidation is designed to increase innovation and improve customer service in segments with similar chemistries and/or customers. Additionally, ROCE and growth

To Page 4, Atofina

Metal Construction News

www.MetalConstructionNews.com

The Voice Of The Industry

Inside The Issue

Special Emphasis

Top Metal Builders & Marketers
.....Pg. 39

Feature Articles

Manufacturing equipment
.....Pg. 12, 16, 20

Job Applications

Marina-related projects
.....Pg. 8

Product Report

Doors for metal buildings and post frame
.....Pg. 30

MBMA Releases ASTM Guide

The Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA) has commissioned the printing of a compilation of ASTM standards used by the metal building systems industry. It contains 156 of the most current standards and totals 1,200 pages.

"This compilation represents a significant savings for our company," said MBMA chairman John Underwood. "All of us struggle to keep up-to-date with today's ever-changing codes and standards. This compilation represents a significant savings in our time and money. It really takes the guess work out of obtaining these standards."

Selected ASTM Standards For Metal Building Systems, 2001 is available from MBMA. Call (216) 241-7333 for order information.

○

MCN Presents The Top Metal Builders Of 2000

Span Exceeds Own Record To Claim Top Builder Status

By Johnna Young
Assistant Editor

Recording 41,657 tons of steel purchased for 2000, Span Construction and Engineering, Madera, CA, has surpassed its own record of 36,504 tons for 1999. Once again, the successful company was named *Metal Construction News*' Top Builder for 2000, making it the 11th consecutive time Span has claimed this honor.

King Husein, president of Span, and his qualified employees work together as a team to achieve higher standards year after year. Span pays special attention to each project down

to the fine details insuring safety, timeliness and customer satisfaction.

"I am pleased to see that our management team is able to handle the high volume of business without compromising the values that have made us successful," Husein said.

"We are flexible enough to make the necessary changes in products and procedures to stay on the leading edge of the industry."

Walking through an individual project that the design/build company has completed demonstrates the integrity, professionalism and commitment Span has in each of its projects. An example of what makes this company

so prosperous can be seen by looking at the Western Foam Packaging Products project in Union City, CA.

Manny Campana, president of U.S. operations at Western Foam Packaging Products, visited one of the protective foam packaging company's major suppliers, he was impressed by the size and complexity of Sealed Air Corp.'s 220,000 sq. ft. facility completed in September 1998.

Looking to uproot Western Foam's manufacturing facility from its undersized leased building in Hayward, CA, to a few miles down Highway 880 to Union City, the com-



King Husein

pany's top executive was curious as to who designed and built this supplier's new building in Madera, CA. When Campana found out that Span Construction and Engineering Inc. completed this massive project, he contacted the general contractor right away.

"I want a building like Sealed Air, but about half the size," Campana instructed.

Soon after, Campana purchased a triangle-shaped six-acre parcel in Union City. This initiated Phase I of the building's construction.

"Developing and building on a triangular parcel surrounded by railroads, power lines and a creek channel was no easy task," Scott Clausen, project architect for Span, said. "We had a big challenge in front of us."

To Page 24, Span



Western Foam Packaging Product's Union City, CA, facility was one of 117 projects completed by Span in the past year.

PortaFab Acquires Henges Mezzanines

PortaFab Corp., manufacturer of modular in-plant building systems and cleanroom wall systems, announced the acquisition of Henges Manufacturing product lines. The acquisition enables PortaFab to manufacture both industrial mezzanine structures and modular building systems.

"The opportunity to acquire the Henges mezzanine manufacturing capabilities, as well as their key mezzanine management people fits very well into our growth strategy of becoming a single source for industrial in-plant space solutions," explained Wayne McGee, president of PortaFab Corp. "Mezzanines will complement our line of modular in-plant building systems and cleanrooms. PortaFab

can now offer integrated system coordination and one consistent quality standard for complete in-plant building systems."

Long a national leader in pre-engineered modular construction, PortaFab is now emerging as a fast growing, diversified manufacturer of modular building systems for a wide range of markets, including industrial plants, distribution facilities and high-tech cleanroom manufacturing environments.

"Our recent acquisitions have positioned PortaFab to be a leader in the market for pre-engineered technical building systems used in the fastest growing segments of the industrial market," said McGee.

○

Next Month In Metal Construction News...

■ **Special Emphasis**
Multi-Story Self-Storage Complexes

■ **Product Report**
Standing Seam Roof Systems

■ **Feature Articles**
Pre-Insulated Panel Applications

■ **Job Applications**
Hotels & Resorts

from 'A to Z'... We have the Answers.



Airline Hangers to Zinc Mining Maintenance buildings, Anchor Bolts to Zinc-Aluminum coated panels, United Structures of America, Inc. has the answers. Answers that will make your life a lot easier when it comes to being a competitive contractor in the Metal Building Industry.

Using a USA Builder is more than using just another local contractor. It Means using a member of a highly competent, caring experienced team of

professionals. Professionals who pride themselves in handling some of the more complex problems that can arise in the industry. With a USA Builder, you have this expertise when you need it, at your fingertips, just a phone call away.

If you want more information on where to find an Authorized United Structures of America, Inc. Builder, or if you need to get in touch with one. Call Ron Fletcher, V.P. Sales. (281) 442-8247.

UNITED STRUCTURES OF AMERICA, INC.



Corporate Office and Main Plant

1912 Buschong
Houston, TX 77039
(281) 442-8247
Fax: (281) 442-2125

Tennessee Plant

P.O. Box 605
Portland, TN 37148
(615) 325-7351

For More Information,
Call Ron Fletcher, V.P. Sales
(281) 442-8247



Circle #1 on reader service card.

Top Metal

■ Builder

➔ From Front Page, Span

But, Span was ready for that task. The Madera, CA-based general contractor began the Western Foam project in September 1999, and even through the wettest February in a decade completed the 100,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility in April 2000.

"I think there is a good parallel between our companies. Loyalty, honesty and integrity, you know, the principles from the old school, that's what makes the difference," Campana stated.

"Some of our people have worked with me over 12 years, some almost 15, that's rare now. I see these same good qualities with the Span team."

Designing Western Foam's State-Of-The-Art Facility

Working closely with Western Foam, Span used the design/build method to develop a site and facility plan for the project. By early April of 1999, the final design was complete. Development review was in process at the city and the financial package had been submitted.

Greg Potter, engineering manager for Span, took the lead with hands-on dealings with the city. Union City had committed full support and assistance in the approval of the new project.

However, the existing drainage capacity in the industrial area was limited and state and federal submittals were required for a new outfall structure into the adjacent Dry Creek channel.

Span's Techniques In Building This Facility

Earthwork for the 100,000 sq. ft. building began in early September 1999. The new Western Foam building consists of a steel building designed and fabricated by VP Buildings utilizing continuous beam framing. Span used 279 tons of steel for this structure. Concrete tilt-up panels are also part of the facility's design.

In addition, metal tops the facility's roof. A VP standing seam roof—formed from 24-gauge steel—was selected. The 100,000 sq. ft. of roof panels have a Galvalume finish. The roof also features fiberglass insulation and a Skyweb II safety net.

Aesthetic accents were provided at the front of the building through an offset office in the corner with contrasting fluted panels and texture coat



The Western Foam Packaging Products building utilized concrete tilt-up wall panels.

finish along the top band. Storefront glass also enhances the industrial building's architectural appeal. Square footage of the office space includes 4,500 sq. ft. in the front and 1,500 sq. ft. in the back portion. A total of 14 dock doors and three truck doors were also installed in the building.

Safety Precautions Implemented During Construction

Numerous obstacles during the

project had to be addressed, not only from a construction standpoint, but also from a safety perspective. For example, an active railroad spur, overhead power lines and a heavily used industrial side street leading onto the site all had to be considered when planning the facility's construction.

"In weekly safety meetings held with subcontractors, these issues were continually discussed. As on all our construction sites, mandatory use of hardhats, safety glasses and proper clothing was monitored daily by our

WIDER ARE WELL WITH



Now you can expand your metal buildings and your business at the same time with our new Long Bay System (LBS). With LBS, it's easy to build a bay as long as 56 feet without using a support column.

LBS eliminates heavy angles that require special fasteners and additional labor. The sections are lightweight and inherently stable, pre-punched for accurate bolted connections. Each part is individually piece marked, and shipped to your job site direct from the factory. The LBS top chord is 4 inches wide, giving you plenty of room to work with. It's the same gauge as our purlins, so you can use standard fasteners.

With LBS, you can bid and build the big jobs in your area — large bay metal buildings for warehouse and manufacturing facilities. Or tilt-wall buildings for shopping centers. You can put our standing seam roofs down on LBS, just like you do on our purlins, or use a "B" deck for built-up and single ply.

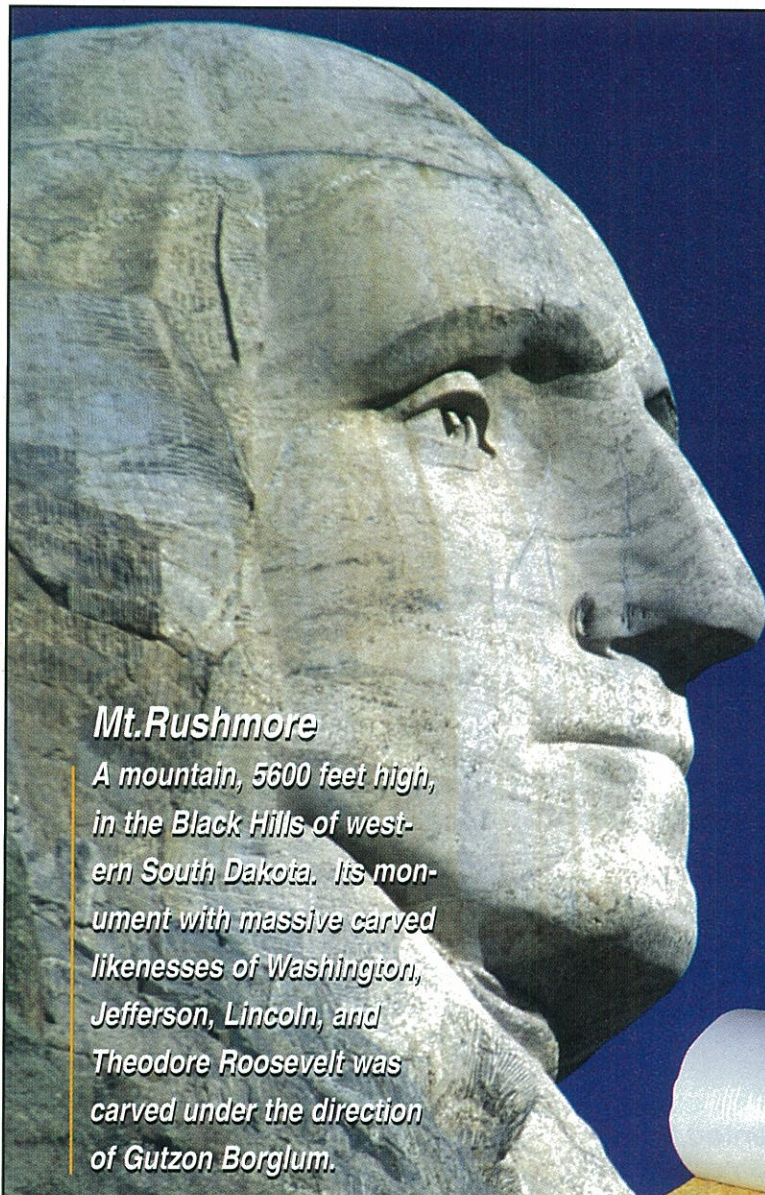
For more information, and a special LBS marketing video with your name on it to show your customers, call Steve Owens at 1-800-556-3726.



MBMA
METAL BUILDING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

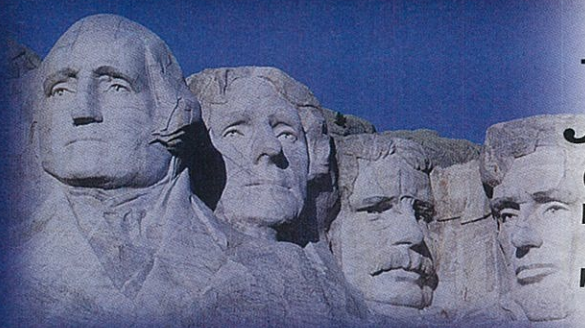
Web: www.mescobldg.com E-mail: Sales-Marketing@Mescobldg.com

PO Box 20, Grape

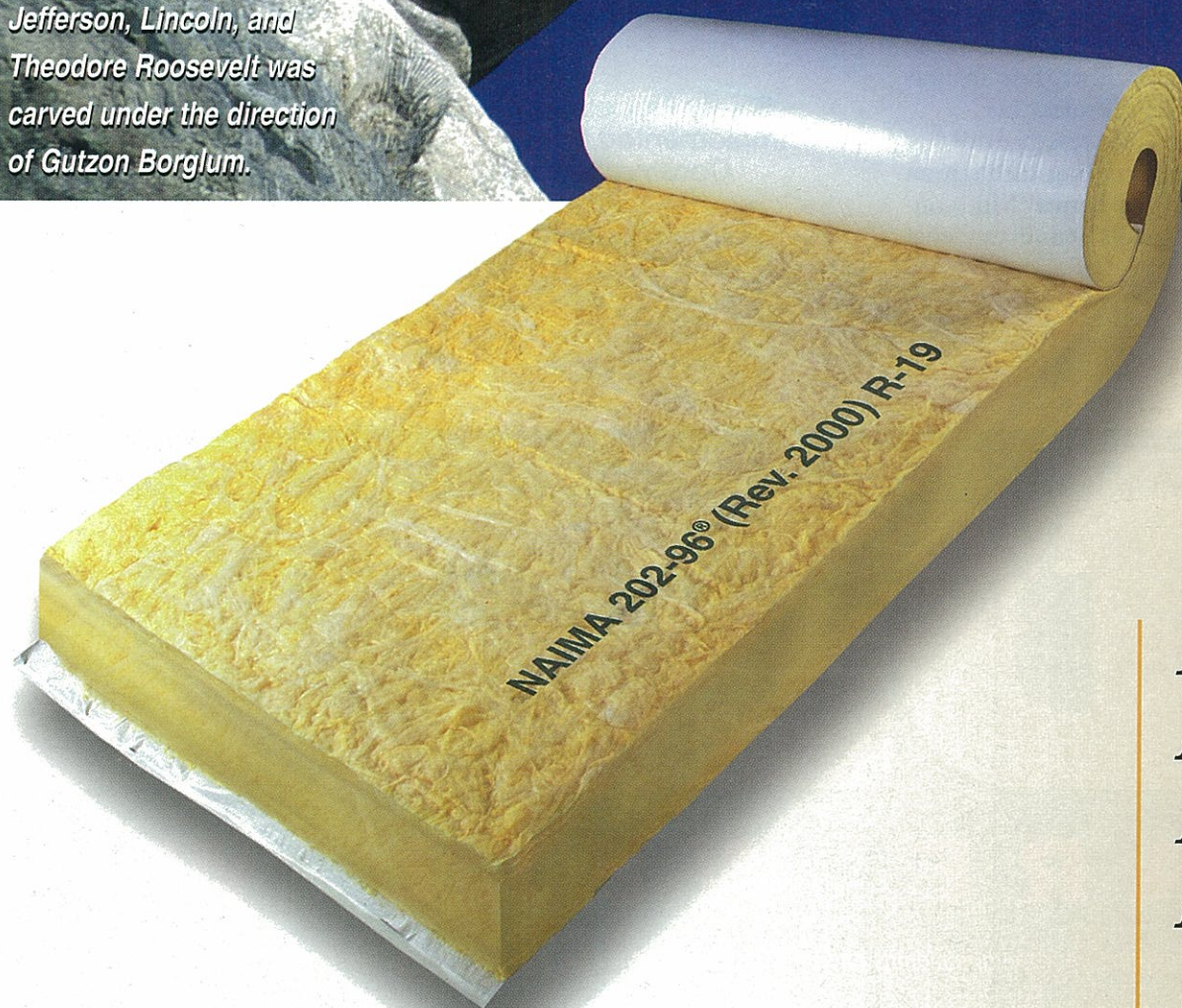


Mt. Rushmore

A mountain, 5600 feet high, in the Black Hills of western South Dakota. Its monument with massive carved likenesses of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt was carved under the direction of Gutzon Borglum.



**SOME
THINGS
JUST
STAND
THE
TEST
OF
TIME**



Fiber Glass Metal Building Insulation

*Still the insulation of
choice for superior
thermal protection.*

NAIMA

**NORTH AMERICAN INSULATION
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION**

44 Canal Center #310 • Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (703) 684-0084 • Fax: (703) 684-0427 • www.naima.org



Circle #19 on reader service card.

superintendent," Tim Pendley, Span's safety director, established.

"Our building erection crew participated weekly with random drug and alcohol testing. Also a safety net was installed to meet Span's 100% fall protection policy."

Campana agreed that safety played a significant role in the project. "People here always used safety hats. Project superintendent Roger Motsenbocker would even make me wear one every time I came on site," Campana noted. "Certain areas were protected, the site was always kept clean."

During 2000, Span elevated its safety program by adding two assistant safety directors. This allows the company to make continual jobsite inspections on every job. Additionally, Pendley and his assistants have recently completed a 40-hour OSHA training course.

"We are also focusing on proper training of new hires. We have assembled a mock-up building roof framing system that allows us to demonstrate proper installation of a safety net, roof sheeting, and various trim and multi-gutter conditions," Pendley explained.



The steel framing was left exposed in the warehouse area of the 100,000 sq. ft. Union City, CA, facility.

The General Contractor's Relationship With The Subcontractors

Several subcontractors were needed to complete this job. Many of the companies who were selected have an established working relationship with the Span Construction team.

"As a subcontractor that works primarily with the owner, it is unusual for my firm to deal with general contractors, and for the most part we do not," George W. Bruno, president, CEO of Automated Controls &

Electrical Services, said.

"However, due to the honest approach that Span Construction takes on all projects, I take great pride that they include me as part of their design team. The projects we work on are always well managed and flow smoothly so that all trades concerned can function in a capacity to get the job done on time, with the best quality craftsmanship."

Automated Controls & Electrical Services, Madera, was the electrical subcontractor for the Western Foam project. Bruno added this particular

job is a good example of Span's capabilities.

Larry Kumpe, vice president of Fresno Plumbing & Heating Inc., Fresno, CA, said Span also has the ability to make all the subcontractors feel like part of the team. This company, who has worked on design/build projects for Span for the past eight years, did the plumbing work for this particular project.

"They are always open to cost savings suggestions. They have the capability of scheduling jobs to meet final dates without overcrowding the subcontractors, which makes our employees very pleased," Kumpe noted.

Span's key employees' organizational skills also helped this project run smoothly, Mike Nelson, president of Mike Nelson Co. Inc., Fresno, said. Nelson's company helped install the metal studs, drywall and acoustical ceilings.

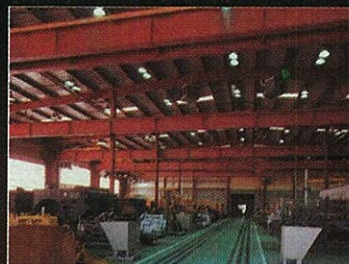
"They (Span's team) take scheduling and safety of all phases of the project very seriously. When you, as a subcontractor, are fortunate enough to work with a general contractor such as Span, you can rest assured that the project will be safe, and will produce a top quality product," Nelson stated.

Western Foam posed a few unique problems, Mark Carmicheal, vice

To Page 26, Span ⇐

SPANSES

IN YOUR REACH.



Circle #20 on reader service card.

vine, Texas 76099-0020 / Tel: (800) 556-3726 or (817) 488-8511 Fax: (817) 329-2326 / Listed on the NYSE as NCS

Top Metal

■ Builder

⇒ From Page 25, Span

president of Clovis Madera Equipment Inc., a Fresno-based grading and paving contractor, said. "The site was irregular in shape, and practically the entire site was to be developed either with buildings, truck docks or asphalt paving," he added.

"This left no place for the subs to store equipment or materials. Add to that the rainy season hit. But with

quick action from the project management and the site superintendent, they were able to implement a plan to have the water pumped off and build access roads, and the project was able to proceed as close to the original schedule as possible. Without the proper scheduling of subcontractors, deliveries, etc., this project would not have been possible or profitable."

Bob Jones of Madera-based Bob Jones Painting was also pleased with the Western Foam project. As a painting subcontractor, the company has been working with Span since 1986.

"As I was figuring out what made them special, I realized that all the key people we dealt with in 1986 are



Architectural accents at the front of the building include contrasting fluted panels and a texture coat finish along the top band.

45 seconds!
QTR™
Purlin Rollform System

45 second change includes both Cee to Zee and 16 to 10 gauge thickness change!

AUTOMATIC GAUGE CHANGE

- High speed shape and gauge change
- Easy to setup and operate
- Maximized productivity
- Tooling progression proven in high production factories around the world
- Simple design / Low maintenance

"Whirlwind's new Bradbury QTR™ Purlin Rollformer far exceeds other lines in terms of speed, efficiency, and section shape control. We recommend it without reservation, it is second to none."

Jack Sturdivant
Jack Sturdivant, President
Whirlwind Building Systems

BRADBURY

THE BRADBURY COMPANY, INC.

1200 E. Cole • Moundridge KS 67107 USA
1 800-397-6394

1 620-345-6394 • Fax 1 620 345-6381
email: bradbury@bradburygroup.net

A Member Of:

THE BRADBURY GROUP

still there in 2001," Jones said. "As expected the project was well organized. They were ready for us as promised which allowed us to complete our work efficiently."

VP Buildings' Involvement In The Project

Since this was a design/build project, VP Buildings was involved from the initial stages, according to Husein. Span has been affiliated with VP Buildings for 21 years.

"They were instrumental in designing the most efficient framing system," he added.

VP Buildings president David M. Gilchrist feels Span distinguishes itself from many other builders through personal contact, passion for the customer, attention to detail, and an "uncompromising appetite for quality and safety."

He continued, "I can assure you that there is not a Span Construction project anywhere, nationally or internationally, that VP employees show concern over the handling, the scheduling, or the erection of the project."

Details are of particular importance to the Madera-based company, according to Bill Crabtree, business development manager for VP Buildings.

"Span pays a lot of attention to detail, taking care of the small details can often make the difference between an average project or a successful project and it results in a satisfied customer," he stated.

Recommending Span Construction

The Western Foam project started out as a referral project and now Campana and his company are a repeat customer. Phase II, totaling an additional 18,000 sq. ft., is now in the works.

"Would I recommend Span?" asked Campana. "I don't have one complaint. We are working with Span on an 18,000 sq. ft. expansion. I've recommended Span to my friends and associates."

He added, "I've built three houses

To Page 28, Span ⇒

Circle #21 on reader service card.

Top Metal ■ Builder

⇐ From Page 26, Span

in my life, each time it has been a nightmare. I know what it is like to build and be disappointed. This time it was different. Although we had some challenges, I was never upset. Span has always treated the schedule with utmost importance."

Mark Reynolds, who manages project development and oversees design/build services, was in contact with Campana almost on a daily basis.

"Manny reminded me several times that his whole future was in my hands. That's why our construction management system is so important," Reynolds related.

"By closely monitoring critical paths and pre-planning with our sub-contractors, Span is able to maintain quality construction along with meeting schedule. This team was proactive and that made the differences. Manny was in his new facility in April."



Storefront glass enhances the architectural appeal of the offices, as well as providing substantial natural light.

Other Significant Span Accomplishments In 2000

Ranging in size from 2,100 sq. ft. to 1 million sq. ft., Span completed a total of 117 projects last year. Many of these were projects for the company's ongoing client—Costco Wholesale.

Serving this customer for over 11 years, last year Span successfully completed 30 Costco warehouses, 40 gas stations, eight warehouse additions and seven depots/distribution centers, amounting for 7.8 million sq.

ft. and over 80 buildings.

"Span definitely 'raised the bar' when it comes to performance, completing all of the projects on or ahead of schedule and with no injuries," Rod Horton, corporate accounts manager for VP Buildings, said.

"Each project is challenging with tight time schedules, hundreds of roof penetrations and constant coordination and communication with the general contractor, architect and owner, sometimes on a daily basis."

Span, who is in its 21st year of business, also received four VP

Buildings' Hall of Fame awards for outstanding projects. Projects awarded this honor included: Pacific Coast Producers, Lodi, CA; Costco Wholesale, Mission Valley, CA; Costco Wholesale, Tolleson, AZ; and Buzz Oates Enterprises-Tandy Corp., Woodland, CA.

What's Expected For 2001?

Currently the general contractor has 17 projects under construction in 2001. Span also continues to surpass its own expectations.

"Span continues to follow the same philosophy of providing the best service, superior quality, and competitive pricing to maintain and build our business," Husein explained.

Crabtree, who has worked with Husein and the Span team for over 20 years added, "Back in 1980, King referred to his progress as 'taking one sure step at a time'. What was true in 1980 is still true in 2001 as King and Span Construction continue their progress as 'taking one sure step at a time'."

○

Reliability Aesthetics Options Resale Value

**Demand
the same
reliability
in your
door as
you do
in your
airplane**

- **Experience and Expertise** With over 40 years of award winning service, Wilson has set the industry standard in design and engineering.
- **Aircraft Quality Aluminum** Premium, lightweight aircraft alloy aluminum design sets industry standards others are compared to.
- **Custom Designed Doors** 10-140 ft. wide



For premium aluminum bifold doors
Call 1-800-558-5974



**Protect your
investment with a**

WILSON Door

www.wilsondoors.com

Any Building, Any Door, Need We Say More?

BE DOOR WISE!
Installation Services Available

- **For Larger Openings** premium, bottom-rolling custom-designed door packages.
- **Door Openers** for bottom-rolling doors designed to meet your needs

For bottom-rolling doors
and door openers

Call 1-800-558-5974



**BIFOLD
AND SLIDING
DOORS FOR
AIRCRAFT
AGRICULTURE
INDUSTRY
MARINE**

You build other people's businesses. We help build yours.



You already know the advantages of building with a metal building system. But as a VP Buildings Authorized Builder, you can increase business by offering customers even more advantages. Like hassle-free custom design at no extra cost. Special exteriors that give your customers the look they want. And correctly engineered buildings that get manufactured and delivered as promised.

Plus, with VP Buildings, you'll have access to more than 50 years of metal manufacturing experience. With world-class distribution and marketing support. Not to mention VP Command, the industry's most advanced computer software for custom design solutions.

So don't just build with metal. Build with VP Buildings. Call 800-238-3246 and become a VP Authorized Builder.



THE ULTIMATE
BUILDING SOLUTION.

Circle #22 on reader service card.