



Malcolm Drilling Co., Inc. Celebrates 50th Anniversary... 50 Years Young

by Alan Rasband, Vice President and District Manager, Malcolm Drilling, Kent, Washington*

Most people reading this article have probably heard of Malcolm Drilling Company, but few know that Malcolm Drilling is celebrating its 50th anniversary in the foundation drilling business.

John M. Malcolm (ADSC International past president 1978-1979), was a paratrooper in the famed 101st Airborne Division. He served his country as an Army Ranger from 1958 through

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1962. He always strived to be the best at whatever he did. In 1962, following his discharge from the U.S. Army and with a modest loan from a friend, he purchased a small highway drill rig without a free line or outriggers. John grabbed the controls and went into the drilling business in the San Francisco Bay area. There he loaded augers and other heavy tools without any assistance. This ultimately led to several back operations. John would operate the rig during the day and make calls well into the night lining up work for the next day. Getting started in any business is challenging and for John this was no exception. This is very similar to the challenges faced by ADSC Category III and IV Contractors Members today**. In 1965 John purchased an old bucket rig which allowed him to begin bidding larger projects including those requiring belled shafts. In 1966 he purchased his first Williams LDH drilling rig. This opened the door



John M. Malcolm with two of his sons during the early years. "Circa 1966."

to work on even larger and more challenging projects. John would do anything to make his company a success. While still expanding his drilling business he would buy a truck load of Christmas trees in the California Mountains and sell them from a lot in town in order to put extra money into his company.

Along with his boundless energy John has always had a knack for finding good employees. Many of these folks are still with him today. Slowly but surely his company grew from just a few employees and one drilling rig to two, then three and on and on to the expansive and successful company it is today.

Being mainly a drilled shaft and "drill-only" contractor, an important turning point in Malcolm Drilling's success occurred in 1968 when P & Z Drilling Company ceased to do business. At this time John reached out and hired several of P&Z's key people. Ed Nolan (deceased) who later became an ADSC Director, ADSC Hall of Fame Member, as well as a past president of the ADSC's West Coast Chapter 1993-1994, was such a key hire. In addition, Ed Bucher (deceased) and the renowned de-

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sign engineer Lee David brought their knowledge and expertise to Malcolm. As a result, Malcolm Drilling could perform more diverse work such as shoring, bracing, underpinning, and other earth retention systems, which included installing hand-dug underpinning pits. Malcolm Drilling now had the capability of de-

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SR99 Tunnel Project, Secant Pile Walls, Seattle, Washington.

signing and bidding general engineering projects. John also brought Heinrich Majewski to the company who applied his knowledge of, and creativity with, European style equipment such as duplex and single rotary cased technologies used to install small diameter tiebacks, soil nails and micropiles. Talented engineers and managers such as John Roe who was a past president of the ADSC's West Coast Chapter (2001-2002), a past ADSC International Board Member, and past Chairman of the Association's Bylaw Committee, joined the company. George Stanton and Ted Robinson were also brought on board. These talented additions helped John expand into other regional markets including Los Angeles, California and Seattle, Washington.

During the early 70's, John Malcolm and other leaders in the industry (Past ADSC Presidents Jene Hayes, Bob Long, Don Morin, Stan Anderson and Stan Case) realized the value and benefit of being a part of a trade organization joining with other specialty contractors to

promote and advance the interests of specialty drilling contractors. In 1974 this ultimately led to the expansion of the ADSC into an international organization. At the time the association had been fundamentally a "Texas organization." John subsequently served as the ADSC President (1978-1979). He was also involved in the establishment of the association's West Coast Chapter which was founded in 1984. Throughout the years John has continuously supported the ADSC. Many of Malcolm's employees have taken a leadership role in the association serving as Board Members and Officers at the international and chapter levels.

Being a visionary, John has always looked for new and better ways to perform work. In 1996 he began purchasing the necessary equipment to take on projects utilizing the Oscillator/Rotator Drilled Shaft method of construction. Today Malcolm Drilling has one of the largest fleets of Oscillator/Rotator equipment in the world.

Malcolm Drilling was recently honored by the ADSC as the recipient of the association's prestigious Drilled Shaft Quality in Construction, Contractor of the Year Award. John continues to study the industry closely. He has the natural insight to know

Beginning in 1962 when he purchased his first drill rig, and as of this writing, Malcolm Drilling has come to own a \$180 million dollar equipment fleet.

what new technologies are emerging. As a result he has expanded his equipment fleet in order to enable the company to take on a wide range of projects including jet grouting, deep soil mixing and the installation of displacement piles. Equipment manufacturers will tell you that John Malcolm "knows what he

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190 Hyak to Snowshed Oscillator Shaft Project, Snoqualmie Pass, Washington.



As an extension of the company's business model it has become involved in ground improvement technologies. These include jet grouting, soil mixing, stone column and cutter soil mixing. These technologies are being applied in projects in Florida, Washington, Utah and California. As a result of having some of the most sophisticated equipment in the world, Malcolm is able to bring the full depth of equipment and technologies to any geotechnical or structural foundation project.

In today's competitive world a 50 year old company anniversary is an amazing accomplishment. However, John Malcolm has no interest in stopping or slowing down even after performing over twenty thousand jobs representing over \$2 billion dollars in revenue. As John Malcom says, "You ain't seen anything yet!" Malcolm Drilling Company, Inc. 50 years young.

1800 - 1.5 Meter Shafts for Secant Pile Wall, SR 99 Tunnel Project, Seattle, Washington.

wants." Moreover, the equipment he acquires allows the company to develop the best approach to the work undertaken. Beginning in 1962 when he purchased his first drill rig. Malcolm Drilling has come to own a \$180 million dollar equipment fleet.

By bringing aboard talented people such as **Barry Kannon**, who is a Member of the ADSC's Hall of Fame, a Past ADSC President (1988-1989), Past Chairman of the associations Industry Advancement Fund Board of Trustees as well as a Past West Coast Chapter President (1984-1986 and 1992), and **Terry Tucker**, a Past ADSC International Board Member, the growth and influence of the company has accelerated dramatically. These professionals have helped build the foundation for the future of Malcolm Drilling. The company takes a great deal of pride in being recognized as an industry leader and innovator. Expansion into other markets and regions has been a natural progression for the company. Offices in Miami, Florida;

**Alan Rasband is the Vice President of the ADSC's Board of Directors thus continuing the tradition of Malcolm Drilling personnel serving the industry in which it works.*

*** ADSC Contractor Members are identified by a classification system that notes the magnitude of the dollar value of single projects undertaken. Category III and IV Contractor Members represent firms that take on somewhat smaller projects. Category I and II contractors work on projects of greater dollar value often in excess of several million dollars. Malcolm Drilling rose from a Category IV to a Category I Contractor. (Editor)*



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Las Vegas, Nevada; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Denver, Colorado have been opened. In addition, the company has expanded internationally with the creation of Malcolm International in Panama (see *Foundation Drilling* magazine's cover feature article in the March/April 2012 issue). Malcolm Pacific undertakes projects in Hawaii and the Pacific Rim.



Installation of tangent piles in the Republic of Panama.