



J.L. WALLACE, INC.
General Contractors

STABILITY • INNOVATION

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DUAL IMPACT

Country Lakes Business Center Complete by Fred Barry, COO

THIS ISSUE:

JLW Happenings	1
President's Message	2
RCH Reflections	3
HR Corner	4

Projects At or Near Completion

- Country Lakes Business Center
- WRXY
- National Guard Armory (pictured below)
- SunTrust Bank at Gulf Coast Town Center
- Park Center
- Heritage Bay Maintenance Building



J.L. Wallace, Inc. has completed construction of Country Lakes Business Center, an industrial complex located in Fort Myers.

The project included the construction of two state-of-the-art, tilt-wall buildings totaling more than 47,200 square feet. Also, included in the project is a fully paved, outdoor storage area enclosed within concrete walls for heavy equipment.

The smaller of the two buildings, approximately 7,200 square feet, and the more than one acre outdoor storage area will be used as the Southwest Florida headquarters of HJ Foundation, Inc. The

second building spans 40,000 square feet and offers 20 units which can be used as flex office and warehouse space. Each unit is comprised of a store front entrance along with rear access and overhead doors. The unfinished interior space can be designed to meet the needs of any type of business.

We were contracted by owner Ed Hickey to work as Construction Manager early in the planning stages on this project. We collaborated with the design team throughout the pre-construction phase to keep the project cost effective as well as designing the ideal office complex for HJ Foundation and maximizing the balance of the site for leasing

opportunities on the second building.

The owner was adamant about creating a structurally sound building that would be capable of withstanding any possible storm system that may come through Southwest Florida. To accomplish this, the perimeters of both buildings are tilt-wall construction with concrete poured roofs throughout to make them hurricane ready at any time. Also incorporated are additional amenities that will create a secure environment in the event of a storm as well as reopening for business as soon as possible thereafter.

HJ Foundation, Inc., a Miami-based building foundation company, specializes in deep foundations, augured cast-in-place pilings, vibro-compaction, and excavation shoring. Some of the noteworthy projects they have been involved in include Dolphin Stadium renovations, the new Performing Arts Center in Miami,

American Airlines Arena, and University of Florida Stadium.

The project was designed by Architect Alan Esparza

with civil engineering by Joseph Franciotti with Community Engineering Services, Inc. Interior design for the HJ Foundation building was created by Bobette Rousseau and Victor Bruce of International Design Partnership, Inc. The J.L. Wallace team included Senior Project Manager Fred Barry, Superintendents Dick Risner and Brian Dragich, and Project Manager Assistant Fran Ferri.





Preparing for Serendipity

by Jerry Wallace, President

If you ask enduringly high achievers about their success, most will tell you it was a serendipitous journey. That is not to say they were just lucky. In 1754, Horace Walpole, the fourth Earl of Orford, England, coined the term serendipity, based, he said, on “a silly fairy tale called *The Three Princes of Serendip*, in which the heroes were always making discoveries by accident of things which they were not in quest of...”

Actually, this fable was more about earning your luck than simply getting lucky—a fitting metaphor for the rocky and unpredictable road that successful people and companies tread to pursue their dreams. The overwhelming majority claim that their success has been a serendipitous journey, and the luck they enjoyed was usually earned, often at great cost.

What may appear to be brilliance, heroism, or passive good luck is actually a saga of passion, depth, and skill. Because they love what they do, they invest the time to acquire detailed knowledge about things that matter. It is focus and knowledge more than brains and brawn that allows them to observe the subtleties of their path and then take advantage of serendipitous events. They describe their path as adventures filled with bad breaks and unplanned good fortune. Only a prepared mind and open heart prevails.

So, are successful people saying goals and plans are pointless? Absolutely not, they are often essential along with the perseverance to follow through to the end.

Perseverance to the end has never been better exemplified than by our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln’s unyielding drive and aggressiveness was part of his genetic makeup. It was a personal quality, one characteristic of many great leaders. For example, in

their early years, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Gandhi clearly demonstrated active ambition and an inclination toward attaining a higher station in life. This character trait is a vehicle they all employed to carry out their individual mission in life.

Without question, Abraham Lincoln “thirsted” and “burned” for distinction. Yet, even though he often became depressed at failures and setbacks, Lincoln developed the enviable ability to persevere and learn from his own failures. Later in life he turned defeat into eventual victory. No endeavor became a hindrance to his overarching goal to achieve. In fact, everything—failures and successes—became stepping stones to the Presidency.

After his disappointing defeat for the Senate seat won by Stephen A. Douglas in 1858, Lincoln wrote: “The fight must go on. The cause of civil liberty must not be surrendered at the end of one or even one hundred defeats.” Such extraordinary perseverance helped propel Lincoln to the Presidency and, in a sense, his entire life had prepared him for his future executive leadership role.

Perseverance until victory was never more epitomized than during the Lincoln years yet serendipitous events prepared this leader for a time beyond our comprehension. Serendipity comes to those who do their homework and have the courage to do reality checks periodically to determine whether or not they are still on course to achieve what actually matters about their goals or ambitions. Successful leaders find themselves well prepared to seize the best opportunities that serendipity can provide. By living their values and paying attention, they are able to turn a steady stream of inevitable, unpredictable, and challenging events, in life and work, into good fortune and success.

I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.

Thomas Jefferson

RCH Reflections

Ray Home Under Construction in Verandah by Jeanne Beach

Carolyn and Doug Ray of Inverness, Illinois began vacationing regularly in South Florida several years ago when their son Brad worked the winter season at the Pine Tree Golf Club in Boynton Beach. They bought a condominium in West Palm Beach and enjoyed the east coast but most of their friends had second homes in the Naples area. So they began to search for a place on the west coast and selected the Verandah community, a Bonita Bay Group development, in Fort Myers. They purchased a single family three bedroom villa in the Verandah but after the first year decided that they wanted something larger. They need the extra room because the wives of both their sons Brad (Jacqui) and Scott (Sara) are expecting babies this summer and the Ray household will quickly outgrow the smaller villa. The Rays will be grandparents for the first time--a boy and a girl--and Carolyn says they are getting the pool in the new home ready for the little ones.

So they began searching for a custom home and lot within the Verandah and met Ron Robinson. "We connected with Ron," Doug said. "He was unassuming and there was no pressure. He showed us the models in Verandah and they weren't exactly what we wanted. He then said, 'I'll show you one you might like at Renaissance'...he took us there and it was what we had in mind. Another home builder had a similar model but we felt comfortable with Royal Corinthian. First Ron, then Patti Lacy and DeWayne Banks and owner Jerry Wallace, we felt they would work with us. And they have," Carolyn said. "We have built two custom homes and we know what is involved. Being so far away during

the construction process could have been a real problem but it hasn't been," she added.

"What we have found so far is that they all want to, not only build a good home, but to work to make us happy. We made many changes in the plan, adding sliding glass doors, fireplaces, and redesigning some of the rooms. Every home is different and things come up." Carolyn said. "They have worked with us every step of the way."

"Patti's personal touch is more than helpful, DeWayne's commitment to excellence, and Jerry's overall philosophy has made for a positive experience."

The Rays expect to spend a few weeks a year in their new home with increasing use as Doug nears retirement. "Maybe if this one works out well, we'll build another one with Royal Corinthian," Doug said.

A former reporter and editor, Doug is the CEO and President of Paddock Publications, publisher of the Daily Herald, in Arlington Heights, Illinois. He enjoys playing golf; mostly he plays on the weekends with Carolyn. She plays more often and is the current club champion at their home course, Kemper Lakes Golf Club. Their son Brad now is assistant golf professional at the Makray Golf Club in Barrington, Illinois and son Scott is editor of niche publications at Paddock Publications.



Update—The Ray's first grandchild, Evan Douglas Ray, son of Scott and Sara, was born on July 5th, weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz., and was 21½ inches long. Mom, dad, and baby are all doing fine.

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**Enjoy the sun and fun of
summer!**



HR Corner by Jeanne Beach

Following almost 6 years with JLW and RCH, **Bev Valdes** retired at the end of April. A lady of many talents, during her tenure with the two companies she worked in various positions including receptionist, accounting assistant, PMA for RCH, and PMA for JLW. We will all miss Bev's infectious personality and good humor and wish her all the best as she enjoys her "golden years."

It is with sadness that we also say goodbye to **Mike Card**, Senior Project Manager, Superintendent **Brian Dragich**, and Project Manager Assistant **Linda Flemmings**. Mike, Brian, and Linda are exploring new opportunities and we wish them all the best of luck.



We extend a warm welcome to **Steve Lentz** who has joined the JLW/RCH family as Controller.



Happy Birthday

Ron Robinson—April 2
Jerry Wallace—April 16
Russ Henning—May 25
Joanne Wallace—May 26
Mary Gaskins—May 29

Happy Anniversary

Dick Risner—5 years
Russ Henning—3 years

