

# T C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. TRACKS



Spring 2017 • [www.carasmussen.com](http://www.carasmussen.com)

## Paving Crew Wraps Up Caltrans Job on Hwy 150

Rasmussen's paving crew has wrapped up a challenging and successful 25-mile project deep in the hills of Ojai along Highway 150 for Caltrans.

The scenic two-lane highway provided a hurdle to the paving operation, as one lane of traffic had to remain open for vehicles to be escorted through by a pilot car, one direction at a time.

Besides the obvious safety concerns of working adjacent to oncoming traffic, having to grind one lane and pave back the same day made for much work to get done in short 6-hour windows of time, said Project Manager Justin Buonarati.

"Having to back up each morning and pave the adjacent lane that was paved the previous day was resulting in overtime by roading the equipment two or more miles. It takes up a lot of time since the equipment only goes 2 or 3 miles per hour," he said. "However, the crews were great. The hustle displayed by the entire crew was terrific.



Using bottom dump trucks to place the asphalt ahead of the shuttle buggy helped to speed up and smooth out the process along the two-lane Highway 150.

"We were eventually approved for a longer paving window, eight hours instead of six," he said. "That was a plus because it gave us the opportunity to get more done in one day, and increase production."

The project began work on July 6, and was completed in January. There was a big push to finish paving before the winter temperatures got too cold, Buonarati said. After the paving, a shoulder backing operation took place

for four weeks. Buonarati was assisted by Project Engineer Jesse Gonzalez.

"This type of work was a little different than our traditional paving work. With the successful outcome of this project, I hope this gives us the confidence to tackle more of this kind of work. With its relatively remote location, I enjoyed the challenge," Gonzalez said.

One advantage the paving crew was able to take was using bottom dump

See OJAI, page 4

## Rasmussen Projects Stay Afloat Despite Record Rain

Despite a record-breaking amount of rainfall so far this year, C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. managed to weather the winter storms relatively unscathed.

"It was more of a frustration than anything," said

company Vice President Adam Rasmussen. "We kept having to reschedule our paving, but we really didn't suffer from any major delays."

The worst-hit of the company's ongoing projects are the grading jobs for KB

Homes and Fore Construction at Springville in Camarillo, where the seasonal rainfall total is nearly twice the normal amount to date.

"Right now we've got a couple of big lakes out there," Rasmussen said, and

added that the company is pumping out the water and working to dry out the dirt.

If the sunshine holds up, Operations Manager Tom Charon said, contract work is expected to resume again in by mid-March.

From the Desk of ...

Charlie  
Rasmussen



## Investing in Technology to Take Us into 2020

When our management team started drafting our strategic plan, leading us into the year 2020, one of our biggest goals was to upgrade technology throughout the company in order to streamline operations and boost productivity.

In the past year, we've spent a good amount of time and money to research and purchase new software systems, iPads for the field and new innovations for our equipment. To say it was a huge undertaking would be a huge understatement.

Our software rollout began with Viewpoint, implemented in early 2016. The software is used by accounting, contract administration and operations. While I understand there was at first a slight learning curve, it seems that everyone is now using the software easily and prefers the new system. Our IT Manager, Jeremy Francis, has been working hard to customize the software by building custom forms for importing and exporting data that Viewpoint wasn't originally designed to take.

Next we transitioned to HCSS HeavyJob, which mainly reduces the time and hassle of paperwork that was flowing from the field into the office. It allows foremen to submit timecards, field notes and safety forms directly from the field. Besides the obvious benefit of not having to deliver the paperwork to the office, it also helps our employees by allowing them to verify the amount of hours they worked at the end of each day. From a safety standpoint, the software collects information on our JHA meetings, near miss incidents and accident reports and delivers directly to our safety director, operations manager and project managers in real time.

In the future, we're even going to be able to use HeavyJob to start tracking the quantities of materials utilized each day.

For the office staff, we began using Keystyle Portal, a web-based software that allows employees to electronically upload timecards, view paystubs and manage time-off requests. Both of our new timecard systems have been a huge relief to our Payroll Administrator, Daisie Armstrong, saving her hours of organizing and filing paper timecards. We're going to have to find a few new tasks to fill all the free time she has now. (Just kidding, Daisie.)

## Did you hear??!

- There must be something in the water around here ... lots and lots of baby news to report. We'll start with a big congratulations to **Adam Rasmussen** and his wife, **Carrie**, who welcomed their twins, Caden and Clover, into the world on January 13.
- Also, relieved NOT to be expecting twins is **Stacey Klein** and her husband, **Victor**. Their baby girl is due March 23.
- Welcome back to **Michelle Benitez**, who has returned to the accounting department from maternity leave. Her little boy, Noah Alexander Huerta, was born Nov. 1, 2016.
- Catching up on other new arrivals... Congratulations to: **Justin** and **Jaclyn Ritchea** for their second baby, James Ritchea, born January 29; **Armando** and **Aja Gonzalez** for their third child, Christian Gonzalez, born Dec. 7, 2016; **Trevor** and **Natalie Camarillo** for their second baby, Maleah Camarillo, born Sept. 1, 2016; and finally, a long overdue congratulations to **Brent** and **Sara Henzel** on the birth of their first baby, Brooke Henzel, who was born July 29, 2014.
- Vice President **Doug Misley** took out the ladies from accounting and contract administration to tour the Commerce Center Drive project.



Got news to share? E-mail it to [sklein@carasmussen.com](mailto:sklein@carasmussen.com)

In our estimating department, we've starting using HCSS HeavyBid, which – as you might guess – is compatible with HeavyJob. It also interacts better with Viewpoint, and allows us to seamlessly import cost and production data from the operations team. At the same time, it enables us to easily download budgets, subcontracts and purchase orders into our accounting software.

Finally, the majority of our fleet is now equipped with telematics that help us see in real time the location of each piece of equipment and how its performing, whether its engine is too hot or if the oil pressure is low, and even if the tire pressure is low. Any warning messages generated are sent right away via email or a message to an app on a smartphone. This helps our fleet management team figure out the problem on the spot, rather than waiting to dispatch a mechanic to diagnose the problem. This technology comes standard on all our new equipment purchases, from our arrowboards to our D10s, and we're continuing to add it to our existing fleet.



Founder's Day 2016 was a grand slam as Rasmussen employees and their families enjoyed ball park fare, took a swing at some games, and cheered for employees who received awards for their service to the company over the years. The event, held August 27 at the corporate office, recognized the founding of the company 52 years ago by Carl A. Rasmussen.

## 2016 Founder's Day Service Award Recipients

### 35 Years

Paul Biere  
Arnie Thilesen

### 30 Years

Jamie Arriaga  
Federica Carrillo  
Raul Dominguez  
Ramiro Gamboa  
Eladio Gonzalez  
Rodrigo Luna  
Marty McGough  
Santiago Serrano  
Rodriguez

### 25 Years

Bob Dickens  
Lisa Dubois  
Victor Espinoza  
Alfredo Fernandez  
Marcelino Flores  
Oscar Guevara  
Tim Markley  
Doug Misley  
Javier Piedra  
Alex Ptolemy

### 20 Years

Jesse Camarillo  
Tom Charon  
Bryan Featherstone  
Jill Hurst

Robert Newton  
Adam Rasmussen  
Gustavo Rodarte  
Julian Zamorano

### 15 Years

Howard Brewer  
Kevin Brock  
Jaquelyn Ciraulo  
Jesus Garcia

Arturo Hurtado  
Eric Landegger  
Alejandro Lozano  
Mark Mayfield

David Perez-Luna  
Eric Peterson  
Royal Wilkins  
Sarah Wilkinson

### 10 Years

Juan Alvarado  
Roberto Alvarado  
Andy Berry  
Antonio Carrillo, Jr.  
Jose Chevez  
James Dickens  
Edwin Eckert  
Robert Fenton  
Antonio Flores  
Francis Flores Roman  
Enrique Fuestes  
Armando Gonzalez

Rigoberto Guizar  
Brent Henzel  
Noe Hernandez  
Stacey Klein  
Alfredo Martinon  
Brandon Medema  
Chris Quillen  
Carlos Rivas  
Juan Rocha  
Jose Sahagun  
Brian St. Germain  
Juan Torres

### 5 Years

Trevor Camarillo  
Maclovio DiazRufino  
Richard Dominguez  
George Garcia  
Daniel Gomez  
Manuel Gonzalez  
Anthony Guerrero  
David Hernandez  
Joe Jaramillo III  
David Kahlberg  
Travis Markley  
John Marquez  
Charmaine Marshall  
Pablo Navarrette, Jr.  
Paul Pidgeon  
Mauel Polanco, Jr.  
Jason Prado  
Manuel Prado  
Justin Ritchea  
Roberto Serrato  
Robert Wolff

## OJAI, from page 1

trucks to haul in and dump the asphalt. "The job was bid to pave using Super 10s," he said. "They only hold 18 tons per load, but bottoms hold 23-25 tons. And instead of having the trucks back up to the paver and then dump, it's one continuous motion. It helped us meet our smoothness spec."

The paving crew was led by Superintendent Dave Ortiz and Foreman Bruce Ortiz and Manny Prado. Labor Foremen Jesse Camarillo and Bryan St. Germain led the grinding and traffic control crews. The shoulder backing crew operation was a true team effort with Howard Brewer, Eladio Gonzalez and Armando Gonzalez all tackling the work.

## Food Drive Delivers in Time for Holidays



Rasmussen employees dug deep last October to collect more than \$500 worth of food and personal toiletries to donate to the Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry. (Right) Nathan Hirschfeld and Joe Mack helped load two shopping carts' worth of donated supplies and Danielle Tellez and Tera Cooney represented the company to deliver to the food pantry in Newhall.



## Employee Spotlight

1. How long have you worked at

C. A. Rasmussen? One year and seven months.

2. What project are you currently working on? Gettin' people paid.

3. What is your relationship status? Heart-eyes-emoji in love.

4. How old were you when you had your first beer? Oh, um ... 15, I think? (Don't tell my mom.)

5. What do you like to do on weekends? I travel any chance I get. But most weekends I like to sleep in, be lazy with the occasional productive chore. Discover new brunch spots. Catch up on my stories (TV). Play video games. Watch Formula 1 & Moto GP racing with the hubs. Snowboard weekend trips to Mammoth!

6. Do you have any nicknames? I've had lots. Growing up it was always Crazy Daisy, Lazy Daisy, Daisy Dukes. This clever kid in elementary school once came up with Dandelion Legweak (opposite of Armstrong, get it?)

7. Do you have any tattoos? Yes, two. Tigger standing on some daisies, I got the day after my 18th birthday. Then my two brothers and I all have a similar but unique

star tattoo. I'm currently working on my sleeve. Just kidding, Lisa!

8. What has been your most challenging project working at Rasmussen? I don't know. Getting everyone to turn in or approve their timecards on time is challenging sometimes. ;)

9. What is your favorite word? I'm afraid I use the word "F#^%" more than a lady should (outside of work, of course).

10. Where were you born? Van Nuys Presbyterian.

11. Do you have any pets? Yes, I have two rescue cats, Cedric and Riley. My dog, Emma, who passed away a few years ago, was the best Corgi ever.

12. Name one thing on your bucket list. Retiring in Rome, I think, is my one true bucket list item. So, I guess I'll have to learn to speak Italian, too.

13. What are you most afraid of? Spiders, straight up.

14. What are your favorite TV shows? I'm a fan of "Games of Thrones," "Silicon Valley," "Chef's Table," "Survivor," "Dancing with the Stars," (my guilty pleasure), "Downton Abbey" (even though it's over), "House of Cards," and "Who Do You Think You Are."

15. What is your best memory of working

## 20 Questions with: Daisie Armstrong



at Rasmussen?

I love the holiday spirit here. Decorating for Halloween and Christmas is so fun.

16. What has been your all-time best Halloween costume? I went as Sally from "The Nightmare Before Christmas" once. I had spiral contact lenses, my face painted, and a cool wig. Some people didn't recognize me. That's always the best in my opinion, when people don't know it's you under there!

17. What is your favorite food? Oh man, I love so many foods! Umaichi Ramen comes to mind. I could eat Avocado Egg Toast every day. But, one dish I can't get out of my head was the lasagna I had when I went to Italy. Seriously the best meal of my life (so far).

18. Which is your favorite animal in the zoo? My favorite animal was always the cheetah. But you don't see them in zoos very often.

19. When was the last time you rode the bus? A couple years ago on another trip, this time in Amsterdam.

20. Which Rasmussen employee would you like to see in the next spotlight? Let's go with Miss Tera Cooney.

# SAFETY CORNER

with Joe Mack



Safety is a core value at C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. Job site safety is an ever-present issue that is a constant concern on every job and in any trade. The greatest way to prevent accidents is to train people how to reduce risk and put controls in place that will limit the possibility of an accident. Workplace mishaps can be reduced dramatically with the correct mindset and attitude by recognizing four common errors that open the door to injury.

## Rushing

Employees often feel pressure to complete tasks as quickly as possible so that they can move onto the next task or finish the day early. Rushing reduces the quality of workmanship and increases the chances of not following the correct safety steps to complete tasks. Accidents increase on Fridays, holiday weekends or when jobs are behind schedule. It's important to remind employees that working safely is the first priority, even if it means finishing the job later.

## Frustration

Frustration is a mindset that almost everyone experiences. Having the right tools to manage frustration and to turn negatives into positives is key to being able to avoid accidents and injuries. Maintaining a constructive and positive attitude is necessary. While not all situations can be managed or controlled, encouraging a positive outlook is a valuable practice to any company.

## Fatigue

Fatigue greatly reduces production and performance. A tired driver is said to be as dangerous

on the road as a drunk driver, which illustrates the dangers of fatigue. It is very important to identify when a worker is fatigued, and how to take the correct course of action. For example, a great danger in hotter months is heat stress, which causes fatigue and can result in death. Knowing our Heat Illness Prevention Plan is an essential training topic for all workers. To avoid fatigue, employees should not work overly long hours, especially during periods of high heat. Employees working nights must get sufficient sleep during the day. Energy drinks (such as Red Bull, Monster, etc.) are never a replacement for a good amount of sleep.

## Complacency

Complacency can be the most dangerous mindset that results in an injury or accident. The first step to an accident

involves the false belief that experience makes you invulnerable. Accidents can happen to anybody at any time, and each worker should always be aware of each situation's potential risks. A false sense of security is often the result of inexperience and/or overconfidence, which can lead to accidents occurring. The following mindsets and bad habits can cause or contribute to critical errors which increase the probability of injury:

- *Eyes not on task*
- *Mind not on task*
- *Walking into the line of fire*
- *Losing balance, traction or grip*

If you'd like to learn more about how you can help prevent and avoid these common workplace mindsets that can cause many job site accidents, reach out to our Safety Director, Joe Mack. We'll discuss your safety concerns and show you how to decrease injuries and keep profits up!



## 2016 Safety Award Winners

### 1st Quarter

#### **Manny Polanco \$500**

Manny was nominated for keeping work areas exceptionally clean and orderly, making for a safer work environment on the Mullholland Drive retaining wall area.

#### **Tim Markley \$100**

Tim was nominated for maintaining a zero lost time accident rate for employees under his supervision on the Commerce Center Drive project.

### 2nd Quarter

#### **Jose Sahagun \$500**

Jose was nominated for assisting a pedestrian across the jobsite during construction since the sidewalk was closed along Agoura Road.

#### **Jose Padilla \$100**

Jose was nominated for taking extra traffic control measures on the Agoura Road widening to keep traffic aware of the work zone and keep traffic going at a safe speed.

### 3rd Quarter

#### **Alfredo Martinon \$500**

Alfredo was nominated for alerting the safety director to fibrous material being released during the crushing process at Vulcan Materials in Palmdale.

#### **Robert Newton \$100**

Robert was nominated for placing delineators along an edge where there was a high potential for vehicles to drive off an 18" to 20" vertical on the Commerce Center Drive project.

### 4th Quarter

#### **Tim Markley \$500**

Tim was nominated for parking equipment after his shift to block any errant car access to the vertical drop left after grading the Commerce Center Drive project.

#### **Eladio Gonzalez \$100**

Eladio was nominated for accident/incident prevention on the Playa Vista project, which was completed without any incidents. The job was high-risk due to its proximity to live traffic and pedestrian volume.

# 2017 COMPANY CALENDAR

**Monday, May 29**

**Memorial Day**

**Saturday, June 3**

**Operating Engineers Holiday**

**Tuesday, July 4**

**Independence Day**

**Monday, September 4**

**Labor Day**

**Friday, November 10**

**Veteran's Day – Holiday (Observed)  
Field & Office Closed**

**Thursday, November 23**

**Thanksgiving Day**

**Friday, November 24**

**Day after Thanksgiving Day**

**Saturday, December 2**

**Operating Engineers Holiday**

**Monday, December 25**

**Christmas Holiday**

**Tuesday, December 26**

**Floating Holiday**