Great Western Building Materials

by Richard Groen, Manager

Great Western Building Materials (Great Western) began as a small lumberyard known as Oxnard Lumber and Supply in 1926 in Oxnard, California, and has grown into an industry leader in building material distribution. The business has been family-owned for 50 years and currently has six locations in California — San Francisco, Oxnard, Pico Rivera, Riverside, San Diego and Hayward — and three in Arizona, specifically Phoenix, Avondale and Tucson. Great Western has come a long way from its humble beginnings.

We've built our business on long-lasting professional relationships with our contractor customer base and our team of dedicated employees, many of whom have been with our company for more than 20 years. Our core values are honesty and integrity, professionalism and excellence, profitable growth and sustainability, value and respect for our employees, teamwork, and safety. I feel, as a manager at Great Western, that these values have everything to do with our high employee retention and our valued professional relationships with our customer base. This customer base includes such specialty contractors as drywall, plaster, metal framing, ceiling and tenant improvement, as well as general contractors and developers.

We are dedicated to providing our contractors, builders and manufacturers with the industry's best overall value chain. We offer the finest products, communication and service for our customers with a focus on our core values at all times. Our top-of-the-line products include: gypsum wallboard products, acoustical ceilings, metal framing, lath and trim products, stucco and plaster, tools, insulation, access panels and the full Sto product line, to name a few. Also, we are proud to say that we have the most experienced drywall stocking crews in the business, with the advanced equipment necessary to get the building materials promptly to our customers.

We are fortunate to have well-trained, experienced staff members at all locations who focus on providing excellent customer service, whether in our branches or on job sites. Specialists are on hand in all our locations to provide assistance. Our staff is constantly working on adding value to customers and their companies.

Great Western is not just a corporation that has survived the challenging economic cycles of our industry. It is a family-owned business, still owned and operated by Larry Rogers (son of Great Western's founder William Rogers), who is actively involved in running the company. Having a company that is family-run, rather than being publicly traded or owned by a financial company, allows us to treat our employees and customers as individuals and cater to their specific needs immediately without the bureaucracy that can plague other companies. In other words, Great Western's family ownership allows us to treat our employees and customers like family as well.

Since we joined the Northern California market in 2011, we have moved and expanded our San Francisco location in order to make room for our new product lines and stocking equipment — always with our eye on future growth. With our WACA affiliation, we've gone from being the "new guy" on the block to the "go-to guy" in Northern California. WACA has provided us the opportunity to connect with and support the customers that support us. We are now very proud to announce the grand opening of our newest facility in Hayward, increasing our presence and service capabilities in the Northern California region. Boasting a combined total of more than 70,000 square feet of warehouse capacity in Hayward, we're now prepared more than ever before to service customer needs anywhere, at any time. Our company is always interested in new opportunities, improving service and relationships, and ready to find solutions to any challenges that come our way.

Our outlook for the Bay Area is brighter than ever, and we are excited to be part of the growth in this great community.