

How Ben Maibeck Rose To President

By KATHY MORAN

When Ben Maibeck started as a construction worker for Barton-Malow Co. in 1938, he couldn't imagine the twists and turns his life would take, eventually making him president and chief stockholder in the company.

And if he could have peeked into the future then, he probably wouldn't have believed it.

Maibeck, a Redford Township resident for 32 years, had to climb a steep ladder before becoming president of the construction company in 1960.

The firm will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. It can count among its satisfied clients Detroit Edison, General Motors, Ford Motor Co., Federal Mogul and Jones & Laughlin.

The company built the Observer Newspapers modern plant in Livonia and is completing reconstruction of the

Packaging Corp. of America's Plymouth plant which was destroyed by fire last winter. Barton-Malow also was awarded the construction management contract for the \$30.2 million Pontiac stadium.

Maibeck can boast that in its brief history, the company has completed 40,000 contracts. Its sales volume has hit as high as \$80 million in a year. He also is proud that more than 75 per cent of Barton-Malow's business are repeats from satisfied customers. The company averages about 80 jobs per client.

Maibeck's history with the firm began one year after it passed the \$1 million mark in sales volume.

The route from construction laborer, time keeper and engineer helper to the leather chair in the president's office in Oak Park is marked with a series of "lucky breaks," says Maibeck, now 53.

He didn't have time along the way to pick up something he considers essential — a college degree — but he had the good fortune of learning the business first hand from its founders, Carl Barton and Arnold Malow.

"I feel very definitely that God has been good to me and put me in the right place at the right time," says Maibeck, who is also a bishop for Apostolic Christian Church.

"The opportunities that were offered to me along the way were through no fault of my own."

Maibeck's steady climb becomes intriguing when he says he lacked ambition and never considered rising to the top of the company's hierarchy.

"I thought it was beyond me," he said.

He attributes his success to the people he met along the

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A Lucky Man

IT WAS A SERIES of lucky breaks that helped him climb through the ranks to the presidency of Barton-Malow, says Ben Maibeck. He credits his success to colleagues who shared their knowledge with him.

3 Scholars Laud Parents, Teachers

Showering their teachers and parents with much of the credit, three girls, all seniors at Redford Union High School, have placed as semi-finalists in National Merit Scholarship competition.

Each finished in the top 0.5 per cent of some one million students tested nationally in 17,000 schools.

They are Elizabeth Kos-

tecki, Cathy Mushna and Kathy Payne. Each will compete next month for 3,100 scholarships for higher education.

"The school and staff are extremely proud of their accomplishment," said Robert Schramke, high school principal. "We're proud to have students of such high caliber."

Four others received let-

ters of commendation for finishing in the top two per cent. They are Carl Chambers, Cathy Henrikson, Philip Savich and Bernard Schaefer.

Among the semi-finalists, Miss Koslecki plans to major in communications art at Michigan State University. She is considering concentrating on television and movies.

She works for the school's student newspaper and literary magazine, and belongs to a religious youth group. Her favorite subjects include English, journalism and government.

"It gives me a little more security getting into college," she said of the honor, "and my parents and teachers really deserve a lot of the credit."

Miss Koslecki attended Herbert and St. Christine elementary schools in Detroit and St. Agatha elementary and high school in Redford. She transferred to Redford Union in the 10th grade.

Miss Payne said she plans

to attend either Michigan State or the University of Michigan and major in medical technology or pathology.

She is a member of two choirs at Covenant Community Church and belongs to its youth organization. She also works as a laboratory aide at Redford Community Hospital.

Miss Payne said she likes all her classes, having no particular favorites.

Of the honor, she said, "It's mainly because of my parents' attitude. They naturally want me to get good grades, but they've only asked that I do the best I can."

She added her teachers have been "extremely helpful" along the way. Miss Payne attended MacGowan elementary and Hilbert junior high schools.

Miss Mushna wants to major in physical therapy at the University of Michigan.

A Girl Scout for the past 10

years, she also belongs to the choir at Our Lady of Loretto parish. She joined the National Honor Society last year and is a stock worker in the Livonia Mall.

Unlike many students, both English and math are her favorite subjects, she said.

"My parents and the teachers at this school have been

fantastic," she said, referring to her academic record. "The teachers really care."

Miss Mushna attended MacGowan and Our Lady of Loretto elementary schools and Pearson Junior High.

There were 15,000 students named semi-finalists this year and 38,000 who received letters of commendation.

Ice Rink Will Require ID Cards For Residents

Effective Nov. 11, residents will have to present an identification card for public skating sessions at the Redford Arena in order to pay reduced resident rates.

Ken Lerg, manager of the arena, said the card will be good for two years. A \$1 fee for the card will be used to defer costs of materials and processing.

The fee will include one free admission to any skating session. Persons not present-

ing the photo I.D. will have to pay non-resident rates, Lerg said.

Identification cards may be obtained in the meeting room of the Redford Arena, 12000 Beech Daly, on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, Oct. 17 and 24 from 8 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 13, 20 and 27 from noon to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, Nov. 3 and 10 from 3 to 5 p.m.

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