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Focus on Bridges

BNSF Lift Bridge—Burlington, IA

DCCI is substantially complete with the erection of the BNSF two track lift span bridge that is replacing the existing swing span bridge which stood for 119 years in Burlington, Iowa. The new bridge, spanning 350 feet, will double the width of the boat traffic navigation channel on the Mississippi River. The truss steel weighs about 4.2 million pounds. The weight of the Towers is 410 tons and the counterweights are 255 tons. DCCI also set the machinery to run the lift span. Our customer is Ames Construction and it has been a pleasure working with their team.

The replacement truss was erected on four barges floating on the ever-changing Mississippi River.

One highlight of this project was the float-out of the old swing span bridge and float-in of the new lift span during a 30 hour shutdown of train traffic the week of Christmas. The work started on a Monday morning at 1:00 a.m., and as the Ames crews accomplished the float-out, Danny's Construction crews had to remove one set of the jump spans, rework the bearings, turn the girder spans around and reset them, and successfully float-in the new truss, landing it on the bearings. This work was accomplished in frigid weather using three cranes mounted on barges, numerous barges supporting the work, and a team of tug boats to position the work and move equipment and people. Thank goodness for the hot chili served in the food hub!

Ironworkers from the Burlington Local #577, with support from Local #512 and Local #377 Ironworkers and Operating Engineers from Locals #150 and #649 were the foundation for this project's success. Their skill, professionalism and tenacity were highlighted over and over as the mighty river challenged them during the year.

Danny's Construction's management team included Matt, Van, Doug, Eric, Miguel, Mike, Tyler, Ted, Joe and Pat. Vice President, Bob Sisco, dedicated himself full time to this challenging project.

The next milestone achieved was the successful lifting operation of the bridge in time for river traffic. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our team on this project!



EJ & E Vertical Lift Railroad Bridge Over The Illinois River Near Joliet, IL

Danny's Construction's Chicago Division is currently erecting a vertical lift railroad bridge for the EJ & E Railroad over the Illinois River. The new bridge is replacing a bridge erected in the 1890's. The present lift span provides 120 ft of channel clearance and is located near a bend in the river, making it a navigational hazard for the many barges and tug boats that use the river. The replacement bridge DCCI is erecting will have a 350 ft long span, thus widening the navigational channel for all the river traffic.



Andy, Frank, Bill, Carl, and Ironworkers from Local 444 and Local 1 began erecting the towers this past October. DCCI is assembling the new 350 ft long span adjacent to

the old span on the north bank on a temporary trestle system and then will launch the span across the river and slide it into position on a shutdown weekend sometime in summer of 2011. The new bridge will weigh nearly 1300 tons and will be 60 ft tall when sliding over the river across the temporary trestle to its new home.

This is the 26th bridge project the Chicago Division has undertaken in the last 10 years and promises to be one of the most challenging.

South Shore Railroad Over Old Hobart Road In NW Indiana

Danny's Construction's Chicago Division helped upgrade the South Shore Commuter Railroad System with a bridge change out over the weekend of October 22nd. The project began a few weeks before



with Alex, Frank, Todd, Bill, and Local 395 Ironworkers assembling the bridge in the DCCI Gary yard. The assembled bridge was 70 ft long, 18 ft wide and weighed 75 tons. DCCI hired Mammoet Heavy Haulers to transport the bridge on a Self-Propelled Motor

Transport (SPMT) 10 miles to the bridge replacement jobsite. At 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning of the weekend shutdown, the completely assembled bridge left the DCCI yard and traveled down the roads of Northwest Indiana with Indiana State Police escorts. It arrived safe and sound and was staged while the old bridge was demolished. At 3:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, the SPMT rolled the new bridge into position. The South Shore RR crews immediately began installing the ballast and rails allowing commuter traffic trains to roll on Sunday just as planned.

This is the third replacement bridge DCCI has erected for the South Shore Commuter Rail System in the last 10 years. It is an honor to serve the 4.5 million passengers a year who use the transit system.

From the Corner Office



The Team, the Game, the Score:

One of my favorite things to witness as I visit our jobsites is the end of the morning safety meeting as the team of ironworkers, operators, safety and management staff turn from the meeting and head to their workplace. Especially on a day when we are doing an exciting task like the bridge roll-in or float-ins that are featured in this newsletter. Just as the astronauts approach a mission in full gear and walking tall; just as a football team bursts onto the field with excitement and anticipation: I see our workforce, in full uniform, wearing their protective gear and tools, walking with purpose and pride...ready to display their talent. Next time you see a work crew approaching their project, add some background music like "Eye of the Tiger" in your head as they walk and you'll see what I

mean. As the day progresses, our "game" is performance while problem solving. Every construction professional knows that how it looked in the plan, how it worked in the meeting, is different than what we actually face in the field. I am continually impressed with the extraordinary ability of our operations staff to think on their feet and problem solve with remarkable intelligence and skill. People who need absolute and unchanging control of their daily lives, would do well to pick a different occupation. Problem solving and risk avoidance is what we do. The score is measured in the legacy of successful projects completed, which are the result of the contribution of each employee who has been a part of this great team. We get to work on some magnificent structures. We find beauty in a simple stairway as well as an extraordinary bridge. We appreciate safe workplaces and co-workers. To everyone in this challenging industry: thanks for being on the team, play the game well today, and remember to marvel at the score at the end of the day.

Alissa Schneider, President



Meridian Bridge Retrofit Project—Yankton, SD

Danny's Construction contracted to perform the retrofit work on the existing Meridian Bridge in Yankton, SD. Built in 1924, the Meridian Bridge was along U.S. Highway 81 until traffic was re-routed to the new Discovery Bridge, a half mile to the west. This renewed bridge is now a pedestrian bridge for the residents of Yankton.

DCCI's scope of work included the reinforcement of the bottom chord of the bridge by adding new exterior and interior fill plates and gusset plates, along with replacing much of the existing horizontal wind bracing. At the gusset plate reinforcement, all of the rivets had to be meticulously removed and replaced by bolts. Because of the unique layout required at each location, each gusset plate required field fabrication.

Past Projects:

We can't complete a "Focus on Bridges" newsletter without noting our past experience on some of the most famous bridges in the country including:

- * Seismic Retrofit on the **Golden Gate Bridge** South Approach
- * Temporary By-Pass Structure on the **Oakland Bay Bridge**
- * Retrofit on the **Chicago Skyway Bridge**
- * Bartle Hall Convention Center, Kansas City, Missouri
- * Mississippi River Crossing, Hannibal, Missouri
- * Roosevelt Road Bascule Bridge, Chicago, IL
- * Damon Avenue Bridge, Chicago IL

Check out our website www.dannysconstruction.com for photos of some of these projects.

St. Croix Bridge, Hudson, WI

Lead by Dave and Art, Danny's Construction completed a contract this Winter for Era Valdivia Contractors to install over 150 stiffener angles in the existing Interstate 94 St. Croix Bridge.

Trivia Fun: How high was the plowed snow pile in the home office yard this winter?

Answer: 23 feet

Bridge Repair, Clinton, IA

DCCI is working for Ames Construction and Union Pacific Railroad in Clinton, Iowa performing numerous repairs of an existing railroad bridge. The repairs involve removal of existing steel members, re-fabrication and re-installation of those members. Foremen Ryan and Tom are leading the two crews on this project.

