

Lenexa Centennial

Front Page
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Brothers find common bond in local business

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When Bill Dean purchased Miller-Stauch Construction in 1962, it was after 10 years of working his way up the company ladder.

Dean started with the company as a laborer in 1952, and at that time the business he would own already was entrenched in the Kansas City community. Though Bill Dean passed away in 1998, the standard of excellence he fostered is one continued today by his three sons: Randy, Gene and Duane.

Though to hear them tell it, "keeping

it in the family" wasn't part of the plan. "For me, (working for Miller-Stauch) just evolved," said Duane Dean. "It just happened. It was never preordained. It was never something that was suggested by our father or even discussed amongst ourselves."

Each of the sons started out in the same fashion as their father — as laborers who eventually became co-owners. Raised in Lenexa, the brothers have seen the city literally transform before their eyes.

Brothers keep business focused on excellence

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"What I remember out here in Lenexa is when Dad built the Ford Parts Depot (in 1972), it was the largest job Miller-Stauch had ever built at the time," Gene Dean said. "It was out here, and there was nothing."

The company has been in the city since 1976, but only within the last year did it move to its current location at 10600 Lackman Road. Duane Dean said the company had outgrown its old location on 87th Street Parkway and needed an

image upgrade.

"There was no more room, it was inefficient operations, and the profile wasn't very good," Duane Dean said of the old office.

Sometimes, navigating familial relationships can be complicated in the most relaxed of environments.

So what about running a large-scale construction business together?

The brothers have been successful, they said, thanks to the high level of respect they have for one another and the individual

niches in which they work. Duane handles sales, Gene is accounting and legal, and Randy controls operations.

While Duane Dean said they sometimes are more careful with what they say to one another because they're family, Randy Dean said it's a system that works.

"It works well because we all know how to do what we do," he said. "I'm going to do my part, and they're going to do theirs, and it works out really well."

Miller-Stauch has developed the Community

America Headquarters, Gill Studios and the aforementioned Ford Parts Depot. Though they couldn't get into specifics regarding current projects, the brothers said they always had looked to continue development in Lenexa.

Randy Dean said the longstanding relationship with the city allowed them to work more efficiently.

"It really helps us do our job because we know the people, and we can work with them," he explained. "Put together packages

that we know will work. So we're really comfortable with them."

Duane Dean said that Miller-Stauch contributed to Lenexa's rapid growth by helping companies expand as they, too, outgrew their current facilities.

"What we do is facilitate the entire process, from helping them look for ground, select the ground, design the building, build the building, and help them close it out and own the facility," he said. "In that way, we're helping facilitate

(the city's) expansion."

Much as it was with their father, the brothers said they're not pressuring their children to become part of the family business.

Randy Dean's son, though, already works for the company. Only in their 50s themselves, the Deans said they recognized they still have time to address the future.

"We really don't know," Gene Dean said. "We haven't decided what the future is yet, really."

Jim Arnold/John Green

Brothers, from left, Gene, Duane and Randy Dean took over the family construction business from their father, Bill, who purchased it in 1962.

