FAMILY CONTRACTOR MEETS CHALLENGE

FREDRICK HAND, CONTRACTOR

SPLIT SHIFTING

"The single best feature of our Mauldin 1750-C asphalt paver? I'd have to say that it is probably the all-new, power extendable Symphony Screed. It allows us to pave out seamlessly from 8 to 13 feet wide.

The quality of the mat is, after all, what most people see when we are finished with a job. In many cases, the quality of a mat is also what gets us paid faster and generates those all important word of mouth referrals," said Frederick "Mike" Hand.

"The conveyor system on the 1750-C is equally as important. This enables us to go up and down local hills without having to stop and shovel asphalt to the augers. This is a benefit, especially when paving down hill, where our older machine would be level and not dump to the screed well. Going into narrow hilly driveways is much easier, as well. We don't have as much spillage in the front of the machine now. Once the truck stops dumping, we can pull the asphalt to the augers and, as a result, lower the amount in the hopper so it doesn't over flow.

"I like the new asphalt mixes. We have had no problems using them in our Mauldin 1750-C Superpaver. Normally we use whatever the plant has for a surface course mix or is set aside for external customer use. This includes both types SF and 9.5mm Superpave with 64AC oil.

"It's a tough way to make a living, but I'd have it no other way. Being a small, independent, family-owned asphalt paving company does have its rewards. Not many families get to work together on a daily basis. Today's new equipment, like our Mauldin paver, helps reduce the amount of handwork that we had to do in the past. That really lightens our load," he continued.

"The largest paving project we have done so far was an 800 ton parking lot and mini-storage facility in Mechanicsville, MD. The largest driveway we have encountered was about 800 feet long. It was roughly 7,000 square feet in size and required about 125 tons of asphalt.

"About the smallest job we would consider would be a three to five ton turn around in existing driveways. We are headquartered in Prince Frederick, Maryland and work out to about thirty or forty miles from there," continued Mike Hand.

"Mike and my sons, Walter and Joe, work a split shift to help keep things together. They drive asphalt trucks for the Prince George Asphalt Company in the morning while my other son, Chris and I prepare our own jobs. Then, when we have them ready for asphalt, we call my husband and sons. They then bring us asphalt and help finish the job," commented Alice Hand.

"We started our company, Frederick Hand Paving, several years ago as a way to help supplement the family income. Back then we had a smaller Mauldin power box paver that had no conveyor system or automatics like our new one. Now we also have more power to help push our trucks up the many hills that we have in this part of southern Maryland. The new 1750-C's screed really is a symphony in steel in that it orchestrates a host of factors into laying an award-winning mat.

"That gives us a major advantage; it puts down a mat that we can be proud of with far less effort and handwork. Especially when we pave driveways, small to large parking lots, and self-storage facilities. The majority of our work is in the private sector. However, we also do a small amount of work, (5%), in the public sector.

"An example of this would be where we are working on an industrial parking lot and its driveway intersects with a state or federal highway. That intersection must meet their specifications. For all of this, we need a high quality paver to do this successfully. But our typical mat is put down three inches thick and then compacted," continued the wife of the owner.

"I do most of the mat consolidation. I'd rather be out here than sitting at home. After all, this is a family operation. We have three rollers, an Ingersoll-Rand DD-24 (3-6 ton) with vibration on both drums, a Wacker RD11A (1 1/4 ton) with front drum vibration, and a Mauldin 1450 (1 1/4 ton) with full vibration," she added.

"Just because we are a small contractor is no reason to expect the demands on our work to be less than a larger company. The customers that we work for today are very sophisticated and know what they want. In some cases, we even encounter an architect's representative on the job," said Mike Hand.

"We recently completed a 4,500 square foot, L-shaped residential driveway for a half-a-million dollar new home that fronts on the Chesapeake Bay in the Chesapeake Ranch Estates of Maryland. It required 70 tons of MDOT Type SF mix. We put down a three inch unconsolidated mat that was compacted to 2 1/2" thick," continued the owner of the company.

"The driveway included a steep uphill turn-around that the Mauldin 1750-C had no trouble pulling.

The 160-foot long section from the two-car garage of the $500,000 new home was about 20-feet wide, narrowing down to about 13-feet before it curved around the front of the house and yard. That section was about 166' long and was about 10-feet wide," added Alice Hand. "We do not have all the shop facilities as some of the larger contractors. Instead, we depend heavily on our Mauldin dealer, George Associates and Mike Moses in particular, for assistance. They helped us; for example, when we wanted a remote screed operating device to allow our men to walk beside the 1750-C when we are working in confined areas. And, as usual, Mike came through with it.

"We do not do the initial subgrade preparation but, when, whatever we are going to be paving is brought up to grade, we will do the final profiling with our John Deere skid loader. That way we know that our mat is going to be put down on a proper surface to support it. The skid loader is an important part of our equipment inventory, just as is our Mauldin paver. Each machine complements the other, and it would be almost impossible to do our jobs without both of them," she continued.

One of the many things that Alice Hand also does to help the company maximize the use of its time is to operate "Alice's Famous Restaurant" on a daily basis. Because they work in an area where good food emporiums are few and far between, the owner's wife loads a large ice chest with all kinds of healthy food selections so her men don't have to shut the job down to go elsewhere for lunch.

"The "pause" feature on our new Mauldin paver is very nice. This locks the machine in place. It stops the machine from traveling backward or rolling forward on hills. It stops the screed vibration immediately so no mat marks or striations are made. Then toggle the pause switch once again and the machine resumes where it left off. It remembers what it was doing. That's nice when something comes up quickly and the machine has to stop right then. Get the situation fixed and just hit the switch and resume the paving operation.

"Other features I like about this machine is the number of burners on the screed. There are four burners on the main screed with one burner on each extension. This gives us a more evenly heated screed with no warping. The Mauldin operation manual advises you not to heat the screed for more than 10 minutes, and they're right. It's that quick," concluded Frederick "Mike" Hand.

CALDER BROTHERS CORPORATION
48 Donkle Road
Greenville SC 29609
864-244-4800 phone
864-244-5007 fax
WWW.4AMAULDIN.COM