

The

READY-MIXER



Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association

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newsletter

July 2005

Coming Soon: The Convention!

As you can see from the schedule of events, the Fall Convention to be held on September 11-13 at Wintergreen Resort, is going to be a great one.

Your convention Chair, John Ware, has worked with the staff to line up some very informative speakers.

We will be hearing from Gayle Simons with Palmer and Cay about the results of the health and welfare survey that we participated in and from Tim Cunnane, also with Palmer and Cay, about captive group insurance.

Bruce Ferguson from the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia who will speak on porous concrete, and from Glacier Northwest Concrete in Portland, Oregon, Dave Frentress on "Selling more Concrete with Sustainability."

Last year, we were scheduled to have John Hansen, Director of Safety for Rinker Materials in Florida, speak to us about driver safety, but at the last minute he had to cancel because of one of the many hurricanes that blew destruction through that state.

We thought we would try again this year. Tom Hethmon, V.P. of Safety and Health for Rinker, will be here to address the very important topic of driver safety.

We will again hear from Roy Pearson on the "Goldilocks Economy" and VDOT State Materials Engineer, Andy Mergenmeier, will give us an update on the Materials Division. Lastly, although we have not nailed down all the participants, we will again have an industry roundtable.

Our featured entertainer is a gentleman who, since 1985, has performed in 17 countries, on national television and twice at the White House. Robert Strong is a magician, juggler, comedian, escape artist, pick pocket, and fire eater—don't know if we will do that part! Monday night will

be a night of fun, fellowship and laughter. Watch out or you may be asked to participate!

We have quite a lineup for you at Wintergreen, so you don't want to miss out!

Put September 11th through 13th on your calendar now!

**Convention
Hotel
Reservation
Deadline
August 31**

VRMCA Fall Convention

September 11-13, 2005

Wintergreen Resort, Wintergreen, Virginia

Tentative Schedule of Events

Sunday, September 11

Noon-2pm	Advisory Council Board Meeting and Luncheon
3pm-5:30pm	Board of Directors Meeting
3:30pm	Registration Desk Opens
6:30pm-7:30pm	VRMCA Reception
7:30pm-8:30pm	VRMCA Cookout

Monday, September 12

7:30am	Registration Desk Opens (with refreshments)
8am-8:10am	Welcome and Announcements Gus Lorber, VRMCA President
8:10am-8:55am	Council Update VRMCA Chairmen
8:55am-9:40am	Progress in Porous Concrete Bruce Ferguson, Professor & Director, School of Environmental Design, University of Georgia
9:40am-9:55am	Refreshment Break
9:55am-10:40am	Results of the Health and Welfare Survey Gayle Simons, Senior Consultant, Palmer & Cay, Inc.
10:40am-11:25am	Driver Safety Solutions Tom Hethmon, V.P. of Safety & Health, Rinker Materials
11:30am	Adjourn for Sports
7pm-8pm	VRMCA Reception
8pm-9:30pm	VRMCA Dinner with Robert Strong, Magician/Comedian

Tuesday, September 13

7:30am	Registration (with refreshments)
8am-8:05am	Announcements Gus Lorber, VRMCA President
8:05am-8:50am	Selling More Concrete With Sustainability Dave Frentress, Marketing Director, Glacier Northwest Concrete
8:50am-9:35am	The Group Captive Insurance Model Tim Cunnane, Partner, Palmer & Cay, Inc.
9:35am-9:50am	Refreshment Break
9:50am-10:35am	The Goldilocks Economy, Now and 2006 Too Roy Pearson, Chancellor Professor Emeritus, College of William and Mary
10:3am-11:20am	Update From VDOT Materials Division Andy Mergenmeier, State Materials Engineer, VDOT
11:20am-Noon	Industry Forum Moderated by Morgan Nelson, S.B. Cox Ready-Mix, Inc.
Noon	Adjourn

Visit www.vrmca.com to download convention and activity registration, golf scholarship sponsorship, and hotel reservation forms.

Company Holds a Five-Year Championship Record in Richmond Golf Tournament

by **J. Keith Beazley**
 Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

The Golf Tournament of the Central Virginia Concrete Advisory Council was held at the Hunting Hawk Golf Course in June with a record number of foursomes and hole sponsors.

The tournament had 20 foursomes and 24 hole sponsors and was one of the most successful events in the history of the council.

The winner of this year's tournament was Swope and Associates and this win makes the fifth year the company has won the Richmond event on a new course with a greater level of difficulty than the previous course.



Tournament participants take time out to smile for the camera.

The team members were Bob Swope, Tommy Jones, Dave Brinser, and Dave Anger and this win increases the competitive level of the tournament for other teams to match the level of play.

The event co-chairmanship was directed by Glenn Webb, S.B. Cox and Brad Myers, of Swope and Associates. The committee is developing a plan for the community to benefit from the proceeds of the tournament in the name of the Central Virginia Advisory Council.

Planning is under way for the 2006 Tournament and Bob Swope has his team on the course each week preparing for the challenge.

Southwest Virginia Council Hosts 2nd Annual Picnic and Baseball Outing

by **Bob Nablo**
 Director of Industry Services, Western Region

Members and guests of the Southwest Virginia Council survived the recent hot weather to attend another successful evening of hospitality and fun at the Salem Memorial Baseball Park. The Council hosted approximately 60 members and guests for a picnic of hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks, followed by an enjoyable minor league baseball game.

Although the summer heat has made days difficult, temperatures cooled off enough to make for a pleasant evening. Council members and their families mingled with invited contractors, architects and

construction industry personnel to enjoy good food and quality baseball.

This event, while in its infancy, looks to become a regular mid-summer feature of the Council's schedule. The Salem facility is exceptionally nice for a small-market city, and the local team has been playing well.



Members and guests relax at the game.

The Avalanche staff provides a very fine picnic and the atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. The Southwest Virginia Council thanks everyone for attending, and hopes to see this event grow in popularity.

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ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician Examination Adopts New Procedure

by J. Keith Beazley
Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

The Richmond class of the ACI Concrete Field Testing adopted a new procedure for the performance examination. This has proved to be a great benefit to the supplemental examiners proctoring the students.

The new procedure will divide the class into two sections. The first section will be tested on the performance procedures, while the second section of the class will be taking the written portion of the examination.

This simple change is allowing the examination to start one-and-a-half hours earlier than before and greatly speeds up the time required to hold the examination—benefiting the volunteers serving as proctors.

The written examination covers the seven ASTM Standards and each student is allowed one hour to complete the exam.

The practical portion requires each student successfully perform each of the seven ASTM Standard Methods. The students are required to verbally describe the procedures for sampling freshly mixed concrete.

Each student is allowed two trials on the day of the examination to complete the test successfully at each station and the grading is pass/fail only.

The examiner is not allowed to respond to any question or assist in the performance of each method. Coaching or advice while the examination in progress is not allowed and each student must have knowledge of the procedures.

The proctors for the June Richmond examination held at F & R Laboratory were: Berkley Arrington of Titan America, Bob Strotmeyer of Giant Cement, Steve Kerr of W.R. Grace, Rhonda Inge of VDOT, Kevin Goode of S.B. Cox, Joe Wirt of Swope and Associates and Bob Nablo and Keith Beazley of VRMCA. Richard Steele of VRMCA was the instructor.

The concrete for the examination was furnished by Keith Cooke of Essex Concrete. The proctors were pleased with the time frame of the new procedure and the examination was completed before noon for a complimentary luncheon.

REMINDER:

VRMCA Technical Bulletins Available

The VRMCA Technical Committee is developing a series of Technical Bulletins, in order to address various issues of interest to the ready mixed concrete industry.

The first two bulletins are now available and can be downloaded directly from the VRMCA website at www.vrmca.com. You may also contact the Association Headquarters at 434.977.3716 for printed copies.

Please make every effort to distribute these to contractors, engineers, and testing labs in your area.

Blue Ridge Council Works with Central Virginia AIA

by Bob Nablo
Director of Industry Services,
Western Region

The Blue Ridge Concrete Promotion Council recently attended the summer meeting of the Central Virginia AIA Chapter at a restaurant on the downtown mall in Charlottesville.

The featured speaker, architect Gary Graham of Boston, is a well-known facilitator of workshops and vision sessions for clients, communities and institutions.

AIA Chapter President Jim Boyd also spoke briefly about an upcoming project sponsored by the City of Charlottesville and the local Habitat for Humanity, whereby the city has donated an entire residential property block for Habitat to build at least six new homes.

The Blue Ridge Concrete Council is looking into ways in which we might participate in this project.

The Council also attended the annual Design Awards Announcements meeting at the Albemarle County Historical Society.

Blue Ridge Council Sponsors ACI Field Testing Exam

by Bob Nablo
Director of Industry Services, Western Region

A somewhat smaller ACI Field Technician Grade 1 class was recently hosted by the Blue Ridge Council at Massanutten Technical Center in Harrisonburg. Eighteen students attended the class instructed by Richard Steele and local Council members acted as supplemental examiners for the practical exam.

Massanutten Technical Center (MTC) was again kind enough to provide the classroom and space for concrete testing, although recent increases in the number of students attending MTC may cause the space to become unavailable in the future.

Thanks again to Blue Ridge members Jack Osborne and Bill Crummett of Superior Concrete, Duane Laughlin of Crider and Shockey, Ronnie Smith of Fredericksburg VDOT and Keith Beazley of VRMCA. Richard Steele and Bob Nablo also acted as proctors, and Rockingham Redi-Mix supplied the concrete sample.

We always appreciate these volunteers, as the testing certification process would not be possible without them.

Shucet Takes Job at Real-Estate Company:

Former Transportation Chief Will Be President of Development Firm

by Peter Bacque

The following article appeared in the Richmond Times-Dispatch on July 24, 2005.

Former state Transportation Commissioner Philip Shucet has taken a job with a Hampton Roads real-estate development company.

Shucet, who lives in Virginia Beach, will become president of Dragas Management Corp. tomorrow.

"I'm fortunate that I've been able to find something right here in Virginia Beach that combines working with great people, with exciting new challenges and opportunities," Shucet said in e-mail Friday to newspaper reporters.

"Dragas has not had and does not presently have any foreseeable dealings with [the Virginia Department of Transportation]," he said.



Shucet

The family-owned firm's chief executive officer is Helen E. Dragas, who is a member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Starting in mortgage business in 1968, the Dragas companies have built condominium communities in Hampton Roads for more than 3,500 homeowners, according to Shucet and the Dragas companies' Web site.

Dragas has built projects "where the infrastructure to support them already exists," Shucet said, and the company's "currently developed streets have been privately built and are privately maintained."

"Being VDOT commissioner was a rewarding capstone to a 33-year career in transportation," he said. "Now, I can set my sights on new opportunities."

"I hold Helen's integrity and leadership ability in high regard. She's the kind of person that I want to

work with, and now I can continue to learn from," Shucet said. "I also look forward to working with all of the very talented people at Dragas."

Shucet, 55, stepped down as head of VDOT on June 30.

He was responsible for the nation's third largest state-maintained highway network, overseeing a budget of almost \$3 billion-a-year and the work of more than 9,000 employees.

Shucet was widely praised for opening VDOT to the public and ensuring the highway agency built the state's roads and bridges when and at the price it said it would.

Working in Richmond, but living in Virginia Beach for the past three years, he said, "didn't give me much of a time to be a community citizen. I look forward to changing that."

Whirley Is Interim Commissioner

Governor Mark Warner appointed VDOT Inspector General Gregory A. Whirley to serve as VDOT's interim commissioner, succeeding Philip A. Shucet, whose resignation was effective July 1.

Whirley, a 17-year VDOT veteran and inspector general since September 2000, brings to his new position "experience and fiscal integrity," Warner stated. His appointment "should signal to everyone that we remain committed to the successful reforms we have implemented at VDOT."

Whirley, a certified public accountant, has nearly three decades of public and private experience in auditing, investigations and financial management. As inspector general he has coordinated VDOT's antitrust, internal and external audit functions to safeguard against waste, fraud and abuse.

"Greg has the leadership experience to insist on public accountability and individual responsibility within VDOT as we continue to improve VDOT's on-time and on-budget performance," Warner added.

Before becoming inspector general, Whirley was

administrator of the department's Fiscal Division for 12 years. During that period he launched a new financial management system to provide tighter controls over spending and to gather reliable financial data.

A resident of Chesterfield County, Whirley is a 1974 alumnus of Virginia State University. He worked as an auditor for a private accounting firm in Washington, D.C., from 1974-77, controller for the National Mental Health Association Inc. from 1977-83, and as controller for the National Governors Association from 1983-88. He joined VDOT in April 1988.

"Governor Warner and the 2005 General Assembly pushed through innovative measures and significant new funding to strengthen the Commonwealth's system of transportation," Virginia Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer commented. "I am confident Greg and the VDOT team will continue to work hard on our efforts to implement these initiatives."

Following his appointment as interim Commissioner, Greg Whirley said that his priority will be

"to stay the course" set by the departing commissioner.

"Commissioner Philip Shucet has laid a solid foundation based on proven business practices. Those practices will allow us to continue the programs we've already made," Whirley continued. "My job is to improve on those processes."

Whirley emphasized, "This is a time for focusing on the fundamentals, building and improving our present processes that will sustain our progress over the years."

Commissioner Shucet commented, "When Governor Warner charged me with reforming VDOT, I turned to Greg to help me shape the fiscal and management reforms."

I am proud that Greg and the rest of the VDOT executive team have worked hard over the past three years to implement new and better ways of doing business."



Whirley

Upcoming Event at NRMCA International Center for Concrete Research

October 20, 2005

by Hessam Nabavi, R.A.
Director of Industry Services, Northern Virginia

Sammy Davis, John Swart, Hessam Nabavi, Jim Russ, Colin Lobo and Tom Evans recently met at NRMCA International Center for Concrete Research, as part of a joint effort by NRMCA, MRMCA and VRMCA to plan a promotional event.

The target audience includes: architects, landscape architects, interior designers, school facility planners, owners/municipal consultants, grocery/department store owners and large residential builders/developers.

The message that we hope to deliver will be the application of colors and textures for concrete, (surface applied or mixed throughout), interior and exterior applications, horizontal and vertical placements, existing or newly placed concrete, and specifications.

This event is scheduled for October 20, 2005 at the NRMCA International Center in College Park, Maryland from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

The format of the event will include two classroom seminars, an on-site viewing of various concrete samples and lunch. The two seminars will discuss, integral colors in concrete (W.R. Grace) and surface applied colors for existing and new concrete (Degussa).

This event will offer two AIA credits to the licensed architects and will be promoted by VRMCA, MRMCA and NRMCA, as well as the local AIA chapters in Northern Virginia, Washington D.C. and Maryland.

(See photos for representations of the various types of concrete that will be discussed at the event.)



VRMCA Board Member Profile: Gus Lorber

Name?

Gus Lorber

Title?

I am the president of VRMCA and Allied Concrete Company.

Where is your company located?

Allied Concrete Company has locations in Charlottesville, Orange, Greene County, Culpepper and Zion Crossroads.

Where is your place of birth/hometown?

I was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana.

What college or university did you attend?

I attended the University of Virginia. I majored in English Literature.

How many years have you been in the industry?

I have been in the industry for approximately 16 years. I had worked in the oil industry since college and wanted to start something new.

What current project or activity are you working on?

We are concentrating on how we relate to our customers. Specifically, we help homeowners design and solve problems and find qualified contractors. In turn, these contractors and homeowners use our products. Also, we are developing our website to reflect and advertise these new services.

What is the accomplishment you are most proud of?

The way in which we have changed our company's focus—we are now proactive in helping homeowners execute the projects they envision and find the contractors to do the work. We are very involved in this respect.

What is the best thing about living in your area?

I enjoy having access to so many wonderful things—the ocean, the mountains, UVA—and all that it affords, such as a health care.

The best part of the job?

The people in the industry and in the area.

What did you do before this job?

I worked for Tide Water Marine—an oil service industry that towed drilling rigs off shore around the world and on location. I lived in Asia during this time as well.

Mentor?

Al Newman, of Lehigh Cement Company. He is a wonderful person, has commanded a lot of respect and has done a lot for this industry.

Hobbies?

I enjoy drawing, painting, playing golf, hunting and fishing—mostly fly fishing. I also spend a great deal of my time raising my teenaged son.

Favorite Vacation Spot?

Montana. I go there to fly fish.

Family?

I have my wife Virginia, my oldest son Jean, who is 28 and my youngest son Taylor, who is 14. Jean has a son, so I am a grandfather as well.

UVA or Tech?

One day of the year I pull strictly for UVA, but I usually cheer for both, as my oldest son has received two degrees from Tech.

Last Book?

Peter Ward's *Gorgon: The Monsters That Ruled the Planet Before Dinosaurs and How They Died in the Greatest Catastrophe in Earth's History*.

The perfect day off?

A day spent outside (in cooler weather) in a beautiful trout stream or in the mountains, preferably with my family.



ACPA Chapter Hosts 3rd Highway Workers Memorial Charity Golf Tournament: VRMCA Attends Tournament and Sponsors Prizes

by Bob Long, Regional Director, ACPA-Northeast Chapter

On Thursday, June 9, 2005, the American Concrete Pavement Association—Northeast Chapter, Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance and the Virginia Department of Transportation held the 3rd Annual VDOT Workers Memorial Golf Tournament at the Golf Club at Brickshire in Providence Forge, Virginia.

The event provided a wonderful day of golf, food, and fellowship for the this year's 80 golfers. For the first time in most people's experience, there was a hole-for-hole exact score tie for first place and congratulations go to:

Tied for First Place

Jeff Minnix, URS Corporation
Billy Green, VDOT
Dick Turner, VDOT
Ken Aducci, HDR, Inc.

Tied for First Place

Jim Tanner, Denton Concrete
Jan Morehead, VTCA
Allen Ramer, TCS Materials/ Florida Rock
Frank Payne, P.D. Brooks

Most importantly, a big thanks for the generous support of the industry sponsors listed below. The event raised over \$8,000 for the Highway Workers Memorial Fund.

The continuing support of this event is indeed a testament to our industry considering the continuing tough economic times.

Double Eagle

Denton Concrete Services
Sanders Saws & Blades

Birdie

3M Company
James River Equipment, Inc.
Roanoke Cement/Titan VA Ready-Mix

Par

American Highway Technology
Central Atlantic Contracting Company
Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.
Lafarge North America
Lehigh Cement Company
Moore Brothers Company, Inc.
R.J. Smith Cos.
RK&K Engineers
Swope & Associates, Inc.
TCS Materials, Inc.
URETEK USA
Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance
Volkert & Associates
Vulcan Materials Company
Wel-Co Metallurgical Corporation
Wilbur Smith Associates

Additionally, the following companies sponsored skill prizes and/or provided door prizes: American Concrete Pavement Association Northeast Chapter, Boral Materials Technologies, Inc., Commonwealth Insurance Center, Essroc Cement, NXL Construction

Services, Inc., Titan America VA Ready-Mix, Adams Construction, Degussa Admixtures, Inc., Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Inc., HDR Engineering, Inc., Lang Brothers/US Bridge, Martin Marietta Aggregates, McDonough, Bolyard & Peck, Inc., Sanders Saws and Blades, Site-Blauvelt Engineers, Inc., Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association, Vulcan Materials Company, and WEL-CO Metallurgical Corporation.

VDOT Deputy Commissioner Don Askew conducted a ceremony during the awards cookout and presented plaques of recognition to the top sponsors of the tournaments.

A very special thank you goes to these companies for their ongoing support:

Denton Concrete Services
Essroc Cement
James River Equipment, Inc.
Lafarge North America
Lehigh Cement Company
Sanders Saws & Blades
Titan America

Although the VDOT Workers Memorial has been built and dedicated, the money raised this year and henceforth will establish a fund to honor ALL highway workers killed on the job.

Plans therefore are underway for the Fourth Annual Highway Workers Memorial Golf Tournament, tentatively to be held in June 2006. Watch for more details.

Again many thanks to all of our generous sponsors for making the event such a tremendous success!

VRMCA STAFF PROFILE: VICKI STEC, MEETING AND CONVENTION SERVICES

Name: Vicki Stec

Title: Director of Meeting and Convention Services.

Birthplace: I was born in Roanoke, Virginia.

How long have you been with the company? Two years.

What are your job responsibilities? I coordinate meetings and conventions, including working with hotel properties, developing programs and speakers, managing event marketing and registration, and providing on-site support during events.

What brought you to Charlottesville? My husband's job brought us.

Family? I have three grown children, my husband Steve, snakes, bearded dragons, cats, birds and fish. I have a big family!

The best thing about living here? I love living in the mountains.

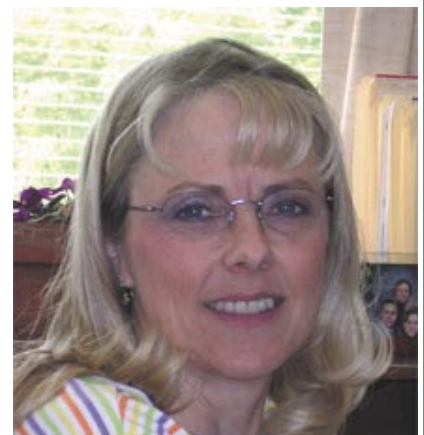
The best part of the job? I like the people I work with and the members of the association.

What did you do before this job? I worked in human resources at Technicolor, a local company that packaged CDs and DVDs for the entertainment industry.

Hobbies? I enjoy reading and camping.

UVa or Tech? Go Hokies!!!!!!

The perfect day off? Reading a book on a sunny, warm day.



HEAT STRESS :

Four Smart Rules for Working Safely in Hot Weather

Reprinted from RegMinder, a publication of Wimmer Baldwin Associates, Inc., safety and environmental consultants to the vehicle service industry.

It's here, that special time of year when heat indexes in the south, west and midwest routinely climb into the low 100's—and even higher. Service, Pa.

Heat stress is no laughing matter

It causes symptoms including dizziness, weakness, vision problems, cramps and nausea that can seriously interfere with an employee's ability to work safely. Under the influence of heat-induced stress, mistakes and misjudgments are more frequently made.

If ignored, heat stress can evolve into much more serious heat exhaustion which is analogous to running a fever of 101 degrees F or more. This condition is accompanied by excessive sweating, chills, clammy skin, extreme weakness, dizziness and rapid pulse. Heat stroke is an emergency condition which occurs when the core body temperature rises to 105 degrees F.

Heat stress need never evolve into a serious medical condition, nor occur in the first place, if employees are taught to respect the heat and work smart.

The following rules provide a good guideline:

RULE #1: Drink Smart:

A glass of water once an hour, not just when you're thirsty. That's H₂O, not cola or other caffeinated beverages. Caffeine acts as a diuretic and will actually cause fluids to be removed from the body.

RULE #2: Eat Smart:

Hot, heavy meals add heat to the body and send blood away from the skin to the digestive system. Stick to small, light meals.

RULE #3: Be Smart:

Alcohol, caffeine, blood pressure and allergy medicines increase your risk of heat stress. So do medical conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure. If you have a condition that puts you at risk, let your supervisor know.

RULE #4: Work Smart:

Set up a fan to blow through a radiator. Put a cool rag on the back of your neck. Many companies allow employees to wear shorts to make them a little more comfortable during the summer months. Most importantly, don't ignore the signs of heat stress. You can't work safely under the influence of heat-induced stress. And if ignored, heat stress can develop into a serious medical condition.

For safety related links,

**please visit the safety committee section
of the VRMCA website:**

www.vrmca.com/about/safety.aspx





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THE **RIGHT** PRODUCT & SERVICE
IN THE **RIGHT** PLACE
AT THE **RIGHT** TIME

Roanoke Cement has supplied ready-mix producers and the construction industry with consistent, dependable, high quality cement for over 50 years.

A superior product, backed by excellent customer service, the latest technology, and reliable distribution shows our commitment to serve our customers.

When so much depends on your cement, choose Roanoke Cement. Call 800-782-7622 or 540-992-1501 today.

The Smart Road bridge, at 175 feet tall, is Virginia's tallest bridge. Approximately 9,647 cubic yards of high-strength concrete were used to construct the 2,000-foot long bridge.

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