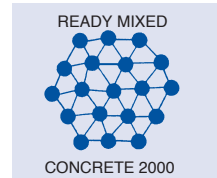


The

READY-MIXER

Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association
630 Country Green Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22902-6478
Phone: 804-977-3716 Fax: 804-979-2439



newsletter

MARCH 2004

Charles Mann to Speak at Spring Convention

Charles Mann, defensive lineman for the Washington Redskins NFL team from 1983 to 1993, will be the guest speaker at the VRMCA Spring Convention to be held May 16-18, 2004, at the Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia.

Nicknamed "C-Ment" by teammates, Mann ranked second in team history with 82 sacks. One of the most physical pass rushers in the NFL, Mann used his size and strength to overpower opponents. When he came into the league in 1983, his number one goal was to earn respect from his peers. He earned it with four Pro Bowl appearances. He led the Super Bowl XXII-champion Redskins with 10 sacks, and compiled over 90 sacks in his career. He has been nominated for the Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Ring of Stars at FedEx Stadium and selected one of the 70 all-time great Redskins.

Most inspired by coach Joe Gibbs, who he said "stood for integrity, character and a work ethic," Mann said he considers himself fortunate to have played for the Redskins.

Off the field, Mann works as hard as he did when playing. After retiring from football, he worked as color commentator for CBS football games. He currently co-owns Merchant Services, a credit card processing company, with former teammate Art Monk.

Speaking on radio, sports, and talk shows (three seasons with Channel 9), and working as a color analyst for the NFL are among his latest accomplishments. If you have visited the Reagan National Airport in Washington D.C., perhaps you have eaten in at the Charles Mann All Pro-Grill.

Mann credits his religion for helping him keep a balance in life. He runs the Good Samaritan Foundation, which works with inner-city children. Mann's public service announcements include the National Kidney Foundation, United Way, and Ronald McDonald children's charities. He has worked with the Read & Achieve Program with the 7-11 stores, the Border Babies Foundation, Lever Brothers' "Why School Is Cool" program, the Metropolitan Boys & Girls Club, Children's Hospital, the Children's Cancer Foundation, and President Clinton's National Service Initiative Committee. He resides in Great Falls, Virginia, with his wife, Tyrena, and their three children.



Charles Mann

Transportation Funding Proposals Run Out of Gas

The highway construction industry took its second hit in two years in March, when the Republican-led Senate abandoned a \$1.6 billion, two-year transportation funding package.

Hoping to end a stalemate with the House of Delegates over taxes and spending, the Senate dropped its push to raise more than \$800 million a year for transportation.

The Senate had wanted to increase transportation spending through gasoline tax increases and higher diesel fuel

See Funding, page 2

Air Cannon Demo Wows Homeowners at Richmond Home and Garden Show

By Keith Beazley
Director of Industry Services

How will your house survive hurricane force winds?

The answer to this, and other questions about the use of concrete in homebuilding, was demonstrated at the Richmond Home and Garden show March 5-7 at the Strawberry Hills Fairgrounds using the Clemson University Air Cannon. The demonstration confirms the advantages of concrete walls over conventional framing to better withstand the impact of wind driven de-

See Air Cannon Demo, page 4

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VRMCA
SPRING CONVENTION
MAY 16-18, 2004

Funding

Continued from page 1

prices, car titling fees, vehicle registration, and other charges.

It also appeared that not only does the Senate action eliminate \$1.6 billion in new highway revenues, the Senate's new Budget proposal would reduce transportation spending over the next two years by as much as \$185 million.

By reducing the sales tax on groceries, the overall sales tax base (of which transportation gets 1/2 percent) declines. This produces a loss of \$110.8 million over the biennium to transportation.

Second, the Senate proposal eliminates not just the insurance premium general funds proposed by Governor Mark R. Warner, it drops the general funding used to pay the Federal Revenue Anticipatory Notes (FRANs) debt, amounting to an additional cut of about \$74.8 million.

Shifting their focus to education spending, senators said they were reluctantly dropping their push for the transportation money.

"We have made concessions that are critically important for my region, and we will feel the pain for years to come," said Senator Janet D. Howell (D-Fairfax).

Senators said they hoped to eventually find a way to pay for more road projects, perhaps by reviving their transportation plan this year once agreement is reached on the rest of the State's 2004-2006 Budget.

But they said their efforts now are aimed at persuading Republican leaders in the House of Delegates to raise taxes to increase spending on public education.

Two years ago, anti-tax activists defeated referendum campaigns in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads that would have raised billions of dollars through sales tax increases for regional transportation projects.

Warner, who originally proposed about \$200 million a year in additional spending for transportation projects, said reaching a budget accord that meets his goals will help transportation by reducing the temptation to pay the state's transportation fund to pay for the operation of state government.

As the Budget stalemate continued, the Commonwealth Transportation Board issued a draft plan for six years of road and transit construction, but it said some of those projects will be scrapped if the General Assembly does not approve more money for them.

The House now has proposed a \$58.3 billion budget, largely buttressed by repealing sales tax exemptions for a range of industries, including the media, utilities, airlines, telecommunications, shipbuilding and repair, manufacturing, and energy.

The Senate wants to spend nearly \$62 billion, with new revenues for education, public safety and other services coming from higher sales, income, and tobacco taxes.

There has been no perceptible softening of the rival positions between the House and the Senate.

Lawmakers returned home March 21, with House members planning to return March 27. The Senate returned on March 24.

Senators also urged an immediate resumption of negotiations and complained that the House, unlike the Senate, was demanding \$115-per-day stipends for members during the extended session.

The Warner Administration and local government officials have begun contingency planning should legislators again fail to deliver a Budget.

Under the worse case scenario, State agencies may have to shut down July 1 should a Budget not be passed. Lack of State funding also threatens local government spending.

VRMCA / VDOT Team Up for Successful ACI Class in Richmond

By Keith Beazley, Director of Industry Services

The Concrete Field Testing Technician Certification held at Richmond's VDOT Elko Materials Laboratory was given to a record class of 47 people on March 17. The practical section of the examination was given by a combined group of supplemental examiners from VRMCA and VDOT. This cooperative effort was necessary because of the large class and the new requirement that all examiners hold current ACI certification. The certification program has been expanded by an agreement with Andy Mergenmeier, VDOT Materials Engineer, and VRMCA Executive Director Peter Easter, recognizing the concrete industry can greatly benefit from the certification of contractors and testing personal and by having the classes conducted throughout the state.

VDOT employees from the State Materials Laboratory, Hampton Roads District Office, and the Richmond District Office proctored the test. The Hampton Roads Materials Engineer **George Boykin**, Richmond District Asst. Materials Engineer **Jerry Schiff**, and **Kenwood Lipscomb**, Materials Laboratory, helped with the co-

ordination of proctors. The VDOT proctors were **T.E. Saunders**, **David Russell**, **Keith Williams**, **Rhonda Inge**, and **Sheila Harris**. **Andy Mergenmeier** reviewed the testing and was pleased with the activity.

VRMCA member supplemental examiners were **David Key**, Titan America; **Berkley Arrington**, Titan America; **Kevin Goode**, S.B. Cox Ready Mix; **Brad Meyers**, SEFA Group; **Rick Heitzenrater**, TCS Materials; **Joe Rioux**, Ready Mix Concrete; **James Pearce**, TCS Materials; **Bob Nablo**, VRMCA, and **Keith Beazley**, VRMCA. **Glenn Webb**, S.B. Cox, donated the concrete for the test.

The program and the partnership relationship of VDOT and VRMCA will benefit our industry in the future as performance-based specifications are put in place. If you are currently ACI Field Testing Technician certified, VRMCA needs your help. As of this year, proctors must have a current Level One certification. If you can help us meet this need, please call Christina Sandridge at the VRMCA office (434-977-3716), email christina@easterassociates.com or call Bob Nablo (540-460-0181) or Keith Beazley (804-347-7003).

Dulles Expo Center Home and Garden Show Successful

By Hessam Nabavi, R.A.
Director of Industry Services

The Home and Garden Show at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, Virginia, from February 26-29, hosted thousands of people. With great leadership and a lot of planning, the Northern Virginia Advisory Council hosted another successful event to bring various applications of concrete under one roof to educate the public.

The credit for organizing this successful event goes to **Dave Snider** and **Nick Melfi**, (building committee chairman and co-chairman), and also to all the people who were involved in planning, organizing, and running the booth.

In addition to the help from the membership, we benefited a great deal from the assistance of: **Tara Contracting Inc.**, and **Tanglewood Builders, Inc.** for building the ICF walls; and **Stampcon, Inc.** for building beautiful stamped flooring and a polished concrete counter top. Their time, knowledge, expertise, and ef-



Gary Downey of Titan America explains the benefits of ICF homes to an interested couple at the Home and Garden show in Chantilly, Virginia.

fort to promote concrete are greatly appreciated.

Our booth was inviting and offered a lot of visibility. The floor was covered by stamped concrete and some of the walls were constructed in ICF. Different finishes and details were shown on these walls.

Many pictures from the ICF homes presently under construction in Northern Virginia were posted all over the exhibit. Color-coated brochures, literature and magazines were available to enhance our promotional efforts.

All of those who were working in the booth wore a well-designed long-sleeved polo shirt displaying a simple logo to add a more professional ap-

pearance to our organization and to unify our message.

At the show we witnessed a great deal of interest in ICF homes, stamped concrete, and polished concrete countertops. VRMCA members and contractors working at the booth answered many questions regarding the method of construction and the cost associated with use of concrete.

With everyone's help during the show, we created a multi-page list of contacts for post-promotion use and future invitations to the upcoming ICF home open houses.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the event successful!

"Count on Concrete for Value and Performance" Is Theme for Third Annual Concrete Conference

By J. Keith Beazley
Director of Industry Services

VDOT Commissioner Phillip Shucet gave the keynote address at the Third Annual Virginia Concrete Conference, stressing that VDOT, like the theme of the conference, would be counting on value and performance in the operation of the department and in the performance of materials and pavements. Commissioner Shucet stated that budget restraints now and in the future would cause the department to look at lifecycle costs of materials and pavements and to seek pavements that could last up to 50 to 100 years.

The Commissioner also thanked his employees for their dedication and service and stressed the cooperation of industry and the department for new innovations and methods. This positive and co-operative message set the tone for the conference. VDOT Chief Engineer Mal Kerley introduced the Commissioner.

The conference was attended by 220 people in the industry and VDOT organizations and was a two-day event in Richmond on March 11-12. The first day of the conference was a general session of the entire group and was

See Conference, page 7

Air Cannon Demo

Continued from page 1

bris. ICF homes offer unmatched resistance to potential damage by severe storms. The greatest damage during a hurricane or tornado is not from winds but from flying debris.

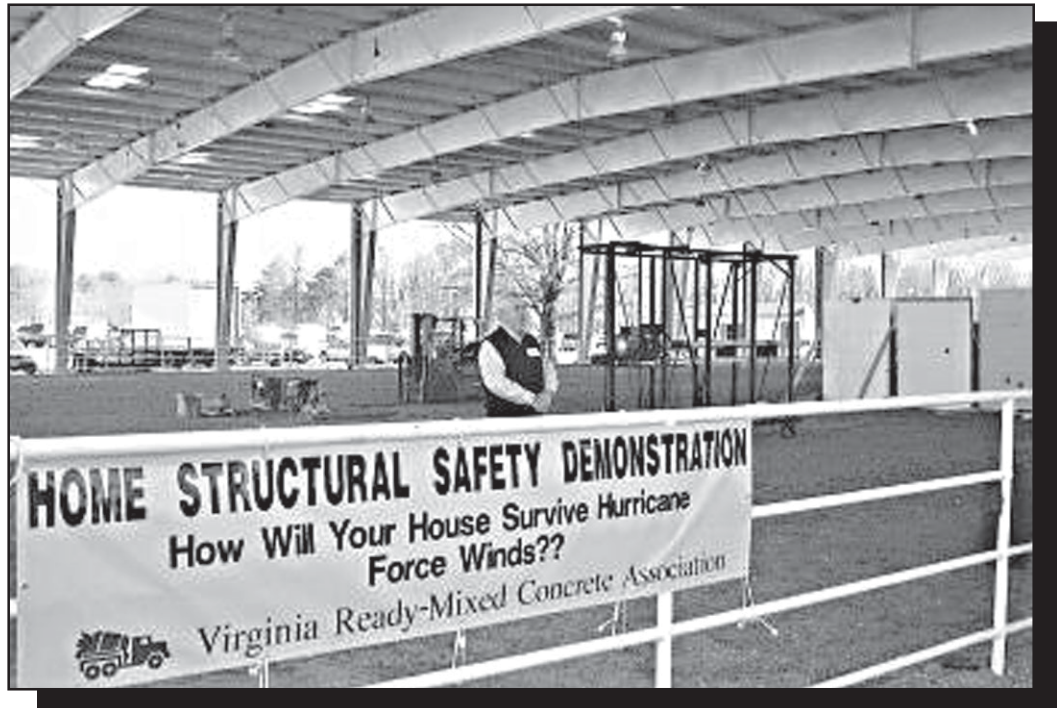
The Richmond Home & Garden Show is one of Richmond's largest consumer shows and continues to grow in size and variety. This year's event showcased more than 325 local companies exhibiting everything to beautify and increase the value of homes. The products and services showcased were home interiors, outdoor living, and building and remodeling.

David Posner, President of Royal Productions, the company that produces the show, was very supportive of the Air Cannon concept and excited about the possibility of an on-site demonstration of wall safety and design. Posner, who lives in an ICF house, saw how the demonstration would benefit consumers attending the show.

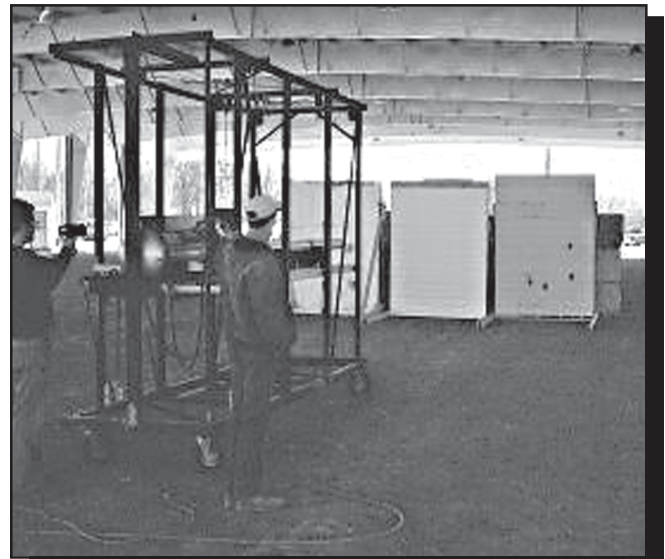
The Richmond Concrete Advisory Council sponsored and participated in the Home Safety Demonstration using a scientific device designed by the Clemson University Department of Civil Engineering. The Wind Load Test Facility's director and professor of the Clemson University program is Timothy A. Reinhold, Ph.D., PE. The research using an air cannon demonstrates the advantages of different types of framing and which walls can better withstand the impact of wind driven debris. The air cannon is designed to shoot 2-inch by 4-inch missiles (2x4s) at different types of wall panels to show the potential for damage, which is an eye opening demonstration. This demonstration of built-in safety was very timely since the recent Hurricane Isabel experience in Virginia where many homes and businesses suffered damage from wind and flying debris. Also, Virginia has an average of 34 tornados a year with

four of these storms causing major damage.

The week before the Home Show, the Building Committee of the Richmond Council built six ICF walls at the fairground site. **David McIlwain**, Creative Building Systems, and **Steve Borgenson**, Mid-Atlantic Foam, furnished the materials. **Doug Clarke**, Solite Corporation, **Glenn Webb**, S.B. Cox Ready Mix, **Tommy DuBose**, Oath ICF Constructors, **Dave McIlwain**, Creative Building Products, and **Keith Beazley**, VRMCA, built the wall panels. **Keith Cooke**, Essex Concrete, donated and delivered the concrete for the walls and supplied the Essex concrete pump truck to fill the forms with concrete. The walls were 6-inch by 8-inch and constructed a week before the demonstration so that the con-



Keith Beazley surveys the demonstration set-up.



Scott Markley (left) uses a radar gun to measure the speed of the 2" x 4" shot from the air cannon while Jon Lamb looks on.

crete could cure before the shoot. **Cindy Garrett**, Colonial Concrete, furnished concrete barrier blocks for the backstop that was a great item for safety.

Beazley visited Richmond television and newspapers with a press release about the demonstration and a video from PCA about the cannon

See Air Cannon Demo, page 5

Air Cannon Demo

Continued from page 4

demonstration and a press day time and demonstration was announced. Also, special signs were designed for the VRMCA and Richmond Council announcing the Home Structural Safety Demonstration. CBS Channel 6, came to the fairgrounds with reporter Wayne Covil for extensive filming and interviews and featured a segment about the safety of concrete walls. NBC Channel 12 will do a story during National Tornado Week about wall safety. Many visitors attending the demonstrations had watched the piece on television.

Jon Lamb, a graduate student in Engineering at Clemson University, and **Scott Markley**, a fellow research assistant, operated the air cannon. The cannon is designed to shoot 2x4 missiles that have a measured weight and length with a force of air pressure at a measured speed. The 2x4s were fired at wall sections that are identical to types of walls in residential construction. The targets were designed with Hardiplank, vinyl, Masonite siding with sheathing, insulation, and sheetrock. The ICF wall panels were also constructed using typical construction methods for ICF walls. The speed for the demonstration for the conventional walls was 40 to 50 miles per hour, and for the ICF walls the speed was 125 to 130 mph. The 2x4 missiles penetrated the conventional walls and traveled through the entire wall; even at a lower speed (20 mph) the conventional walls were penetrated. The missiles did not damage the ICF walls at the high speed; only a small section that the 2x4 hit was damaged, which was a 6-inch circle of foam insulation. The individuals watching the demonstration were impressed as to the difference in the strength of the walls and the lack of safety in conventional construction. A number of individuals watching the demonstration have changed the plans for their homes as a result of this demonstration and plan to build with ICFs and were furnished information about ICF



Steve Borgenson of Mid-Atlantic Foam (left) and David McIlwain of Creative Building Systems talk in front of the air cannon.

distributors and builders. Every dollar spent on ICF forms for the building industry represents about one-half dollar of ready-mixed concrete used in the forms. **David Nunnally**, Hydracrete Pumping, while helping to stage the various shoots, stated that this demonstration was impressive even to a person that works with the forms everyday.

The Hampton Roads Advisory Council will feature the air cannon in the Virginia Beach Home and Garden Show sponsored by the Tidewater Builders Association. This four-day show will have a major impact on the area because of the location on the coast.

The air cannon will be a part of our marketing program for concrete walls and Bob Nablo and Beazley, field representatives, plan to hold demonstrations at the Architectural and Engineering Schools at VPI, VMI, UVA, and ODU. Demonstrations will be planned at the Corps of Engineers offices, the AIA Seminar in Virginia Beach, a tilt-up wall demonstration on commercial applications, to facility engineers on military bases, and at local Home Builder Association programs. The air cannon is a scientific instrument and can be gauged to simulate a category one to five hurricane or tornado. En-

gineers may conduct wall strength test using the instrument.

Graduate student **Jon Lamb** of Clemson University is one of our own; his family owns and operates Roxbury Concrete in Charles City County. Lamb will graduate in April and join the family business. He has stated that he will support and help our activities in any way that he can. He has helped develop the program at Clemson University and is well versed on storm disaster and the damage that occurs.

The Concrete Homes program that the advisory councils have adopted will grow in the market, and this feature for public awareness is a step to achieve continued growth and success in this market segment.

Visit the
www.vrmca.com Calendar of Events for scheduled Lunch-Box Presentations in Northern Virginia featuring ICF discussions.

Russian Delegation Tours Area Ready-Mix Plants

By Hessam Nabavi, R.A.
Director of Industry Services

Cardinal Virginia Concrete and Newington/New Rock Materials hosted 17 people from the former Soviet Union and provided a tour of their concrete plants in Springfield, Virginia, and Gainesville on March 3. The road-building officials were from the U.S. Department of Commerce Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT) Program. The attendees were from Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Yerevan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan.

They also planned to tour asphalt plants, a steel fabrication plant, and visit aggregate suppliers to learn about these operations in the United States.

Both Cardinal/Virginia Concrete and Newington/New Rock Materials were contacted by the Virginia Ready-Mixed Association to offer this tour, since we were so close to Washington, D.C., and used different technologies to produce concrete.

Also, the Newington plant is brand new (under one year old) and built with the latest in concrete production technology.

The SABIT Program is sponsored through the U.S. Department of Commerce, which is designed to provide a unique low-cost, low-risk opportunity to facilitate U.S.-Eurasian partnerships.

SABIT helps American organizations form relationships with potential customers, distributors, or partners who can assist in facilitating profitable international transactions. The SABIT participants come to the United States for a three-week long program.

The SABIT program provided two interpreters, which were necessary since most of the participants spoke very little English. All spoke Russian. Those speaking had to stand next to an interpreter who translated the languages.



The tour group examines a ready-mix truck.

Mike Newman, Chairman of the Northern Virginia Concrete Advisory Council of the VRMCA, answered questions for one group while eight people at a time went on the tour of the plant with one of the interpreters. Some of the things that we discussed and were different about making concrete in the United States are:

- In most of their countries, a ready-mix producer must find enough space to mine their own coarse aggregate, fine aggregate, and even make arrangements for cement to be produced nearby.

- There are no large-scale aggregate or sand production facilities in many of these countries. Cement has to be shipped in from Turkey or Greece.

- Concrete is a very expensive building product. One participant from the Ukraine said that the very rich have large pleasure boats where the hull is made out of concrete and a polypropylene mesh. This makes the hulls very strong and last a long time. It is a sign of wealth in his country to have a concrete boat.



Members of the tour group take a break.

Supplemental Examiners Help Make ACI Certification Programs Successful

By J. Keith Beazley and Bob Nablo, Industry Services Directors

The VRMCA Certification Program for Concrete Field Testing Technician-Grade I has been developed for the purpose of certifying concrete technicians who have demonstrated the knowledge and ability to properly perform the basic field tests on freshly mixed concrete.

The increasing demand for certification by many governmental agencies has made it desirable for ACI and VRMCA to accept leadership in creating and maintaining a certification program to improve the accuracy and reliability of field-testing of freshly mixed concrete.

The VRMCA conducted a training and testing program in February in Hampton Roads for a class of local participants, and the following individuals provided great service as supplemental examiners for the performance examination. The list includes:

Richard Steele – Registered professional engineer;
Doug Hogge – Titan;
Jim Holland – Titan;
Kathy Carpenter – Titan;
Tony Martin – Branscome;
Jimmy West – TCS;
Lee Fleming – Lafarge; and
Bob Nablo and Keith Beazley – VRMCA.

Without the help of these qualified individuals our program could not be successful and the help of industry personnel is needed as the program moves throughout the state.

The new Roanoke-Salem area ACI Field Technician Class was

New Roanoke-Salem Classes Well Attended Despite Bad Weather

held January 26-30, 2004, with the classroom portion held in the Roanoke Cement Co. training facility and the practical exam at F & R Inc. Richard Steele returned from his recent injury to conduct the instruction for 27 students. Due to the snow and cold weather, the practical exam was moved indoors,

and **Paul Ackerman**, Branch Manager for F & R, was generous to let VRMCA use the Roanoke facility. The practical exam, always a lengthy event, was headed by **Robert Marek** of Roanoke Cement and the Southwest Virginia Council.

After much begging and cajoling, Robert arranged for 11 proctors - an exceptionally large number - to give the hands-on exam. This allowed all students to be tested in only four hours and got everyone headed back to work at a reasonable time. The proctors were:

Dave Sowder – ESSROC Cement;
George Koss – ISG Resources;
Carl Graves – Boxley Corp.;
Corey Brice – Marshall Concrete;
Roy Heaps – Titan America;
Chip Scruggs – Chandler Concrete;
Larry Necessary – Roanoke Cement;
Bill Carwile – Lynchburg Ready-Mix;
Robert Marek – Roanoke Cement;
Bob Nablo and Keith Beazley – VRMCA.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this program a great success, and special thanks to the staff of F & R.

Conference

Continued from page 3

moderated by Bob Long, ACPA, and Bob Nablo, VRMCAC.

Highways for Life, Use of Concrete Air Void Analyzer, Full Depth Precast Panels, Virginia Experience with Self-Consolidation Concrete, and End Result Specifications were the topics of the day.

On the second day, two concurrent sessions were held on pavements and bridges. Pavement sessions reviewed topics of Preparation for Quality Concrete Pavement Construction, Characteristics of Award-Winning Concrete Pavement Construction, Concrete Pavement Technology, and Concrete Paving in Virginia.

The other session was on Bridge Design and Construction. Topics were Fiber Reinforced Concrete, Ultra High Performance Concrete, Woodrow Wilson Bridge Construction, High Performance Grouting, and Lightweight Concrete.

Andy Mergenmeier, VDOT Materials Engineer, closed the conference with an address about working together to achieve our goals and working with the department in the cooperative committees established for the exchange of ideas. Mergenmeier has endorsed the conference as one that plays a very positive role in the education of the employees of the department and industry.

The American Concrete Pavement Association, Federal Highway Administration, Precast Concrete Association of Virginia, ACI-Virginia Chapter, and the Virginia Ready Mixed Concrete Advisory Council sponsor the conference. The Virginia Ready Mixed Concrete Advisory Council was a Conference Exhibitor and sponsored a door prize for the event. Keith Beazley, VRMCAC, has served as a Planning and Steering Committee member for each of the three events and plans are underway for the next conference in March 2005 in Richmond.

ACI Field Technician Class Report



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