

Thoughts From the President



Bill Wallace

We are experiencing our first true winter in several years, and our sales reflect it. In recent years, we rarely missed a beat getting foundations in the ground, but that hasn't been the case this season. That said, as conditions improve, we expect to regain

momentum. Based on conversations with several customers, they anticipate the same.

On March 30, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Coloma acquisition. Formerly Hipskind Lumber, the company was 38 years old at the time of the acquisition, making it one of the younger companies we have ever purchased. Since then, the location has undergone several upgrades, including the addition of covered storage, new exterior siding, and a complete interior remodel. More on Coloma will be featured in this issue.

We also just returned from our annual Contractor Appreciation trip, held this year in Costa Rica. More than 280 customers and employees attended, and by all accounts it was a tremendous success. For more than 30 years, these trips have helped create countless friendships. Customers connect with other customers, sometimes even direct competitors, and our employees have the opportunity to strengthen relationships with the people they work with every day.

There's something about warm weather and a relaxed setting that opens the door to meaningful conversations. We get to know one another beyond the day-to-day demands of business and recognize the hardworking people behind the roles. We always advocate for our customers, and it's even more meaningful when those customers are also friends. Some of the finest people I know are in this industry, and I feel fortunate to have chosen it as my profession. Our 2027 trip will be to Secrets Cap Cana in the Dominican Republic.

As we move into the spring season, I hope your days are filled with flowers and warm sunshine.

25th Anniversary of Coloma

We are proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our Coloma, Michigan location joining the Big C Lumber family.

Formally Hipskind Lumber, it was opened by James Hipskind in 1963. Ownership was assumed by James' wife, Mary Ann, and his four sons: Tim, Jamie, David, and Carl. At the time this was our largest acquisition in terms of sales and was our fourth yard in the state of Michigan.

General Manager Jason Ferrier says, "We're fortunate to have a unique, hardworking crew. Our team has grown in ways that allow us to provide a better experience for both customers and employees each time they walk through our doors. With dedicated individuals and a strong sense of teamwork, we're excited to continue growing and becoming an even greater asset to our community and the surrounding area."



Exterior of Coloma location

20th Anniversary of our Truss Plant

When we acquired Michiana Truss on January 13, 2006, there were about 30 employees. Today, that number has grown to more than 65. At the time of the acquisition, Chairman of the Board Roger Foley stated, "We fully expect this operation will become an important cornerstone in the Big C family of businesses," and that prediction has certainly proven true.

When purchased, the facility produced only roof and floor trusses. Since then, we have added a wall panel line and relocated our engineered wood products division to the site, which was then known simply as the Truss Plant. As our product offerings expanded, we later changed the name to SBC (Structural Building Components) to better reflect the broader range of products we now supply.

Over the years, SBC has represented some of our largest investments, including new equipment, saws, truss lines, delivery trucks, and trailers. We have also upgraded the production building, added covered storage, and expanded the exterior storage yard to encompass nearly the entire property.

After eventually outgrowing the original facility, we purchased an office building across the street in 2021 along with several additional acres. This location became our Design Center and now houses all of our designers and estimators.

Roger's statement was certainly accurate, SBC has become a critical component of Big C Lumber's success over the past 20 years and will for many years to come.



Aerial of Dowagiac location



We'd like to welcome the following new associates to the Big C Lumber team:

ADRIAN - Tyler Ward (CDL Driver), **EAU CLAIRE** - George Buffum (Cabinet Sales), **LAPORTE** - Rob Scott (Outside Sales), **EDGERTON** - Kenzie Randolph (Cabinet Sales), **DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS** - Brandon Fisher (Yard & Warehouse), Jesse Szymonski (CDL Driver), **GRANGER CORPORATE** - Lindsay Baker (Accounts Receivable)

THREE OAKS



Big C booth at Home & Lifestyle EXPO

Our Three Oaks and Laporte locations held a booth at the Home & Lifestyle Expo on March 7th.

Held at Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City, this event showcased vendors dealing in all aspects of home ownership. Our employees spoke with various homeowners and gave them some souvenirs to take home, including a hard hat-shaped stress ball.

MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

On March 12th, friends and family joined together at our Mishawaka location for a luncheon celebrating the retirement of Joe Leichtman. Joe has been with Big C for 41 years, and during his time he has served in many roles throughout the company. Serving as our first boom truck operator, he advanced



Bill Wallace & Joe Leichtman

to operations manager, transitioned into inside sales then later served as General Manager of Roseland. In 2015, he assumed the role of General Manager at our Window & Door facility, a position he has held ever since. During his time as General Manager, the Window & Door facility went on to become the largest sales location in the company. His loyalty and dedication to Big C Lumber have left a lasting impact, and he will surely be missed by everyone who worked alongside him.

DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

Dale Killarney's nephew and niece, Owen and Kara, competed in the Heritage Southwest Spelling Bee on February 13th. Children in grades fourth through eighth from the Edwardsburg school system competed in both team and individual competitions. Kara placed second for fourth graders, and Owen placed first for grades fifth through eighth as a seventh grader.



Owen & Kara Killarney

GRANGER CORPORATE

We are happy to welcome Lindsay Baker as Accounts Receivable Associate. She started with us on February 23rd, and her multiple years of accounting experience will make her a great addition to our team.



Lindsay Baker

Mike and Linda Jurgensen's son, Joshua, was featured at the Indiana University Regionals at the

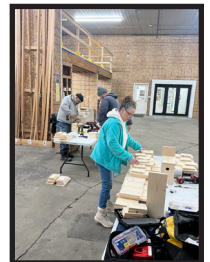
Rotunda event on February 18th. This event, held at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis, highlights research programs by undergraduate students at the regional campuses of Indiana University.

Joshua's research pertains to conducting archaeological monitoring with the Sociology and Anthropology department at IT South Bend.



Linda & Joshua Jurgensen

Members of our Career Development group put on their workbelts to build bird boxes at our Granger location on February 25th. These boxes were crafted for the Center of Growth and Independence in Benton Harbor, an organization dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities improve their quality of life. The group constructed every box from scratch and completed a total of 40. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and skills to support such a meaningful cause!



Group assembling bird boxes



Danny Moser, Caitlin Stone, Tiffiney Sweezey, Jake Johnson, Alec Evans, and Bill Hildebrand

Birthdays

Best wishes to the following people who will celebrate birthdays in April and May.

ROSELAND

Mike Kieffer April 5
James Taylor April 5
Kevin Demaegd April 6
Scott Bunkelman May 16

ELKHART

Cameron Freedline April 28

THREE OAKS

Brenda Zeiger April 9
Nick Woerdehoff April 9
Kevin Schoff April 9
Brittney Tolch May 3

COLOMA

Bruce Hilliard April 14

MISHAWAKA

Andy Williams April 11
Brandon Snider May 27

ADRIAN

Danny Vansickle April 5
Alex Cramer May 3

EAU CLAIRE

Dakota Spruell April 6
Justin Vandenburg April 27
Shawn Williamson May 2

GRANGER

Ryan Beck April 18

LAPORTE

Nicholas Krcilek April 16
Randee Radloff May 8
Wendy Church May 31

MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

Derrick Haines May 17

SCHOOLCRAFT

Nico Kronewetter April 25

FORT WAYNE

Drew Hart April 15
Dora Knuth April 19
Jason Allen April 29

DELTON

Josh Johnson May 7
Kelly Parker May 26

KENDALLVILLE

Chad Ihrie May 14
Matthew Tingay May 16

EDGERTON

Kim Binder May 9

DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

Nathan Buskirk April 9
Jacob Beach April 22
Emily Whitaker April 26
Katelyn Owensby April 27
Tim Craig May 3
Michael Berry May 11
Jonah Brethauer May 12
James Hoff May 18

Birthdays

DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

Kevin Karstetter May 24
Brandon Fisher May 25

GRANGER CORPORATE

Brandy Cox April 6
Holly Oshinski April 9
Mike Jurgensen April 11
Ted Zebell April 21
Jenny Szucs April 21
Brandon Magor May 21
Roger Foley May 31
Steve Strole May 22

FORT WAYNE MILL

Anniversaries

Congratulations to all who will be marking their anniversaries with Big C Lumber in April and May. Those with at least five years of service are recognized.

ROSELAND

April 18 Mike Swartz 24 Years
May 22 Kevin Demaegd 7 Years
May 31 Chris Baker 23 Years

ELKHART

April 30 Dewayne Gangwer 34 Years

COLOMA

May 1 Forrest Loihle 9 Years

MISHAWAKA

April 22 Sean Wood 31 Years

ADRIAN

May 6 Alex Cramer 7 Years
May 29 Cal Deline 11 Years
May 29 Josh Edinger 11 Years
May 29 Brian Follis 11 Years
May 29 Dave Noffsinger 11 Years
May 29 Aaron Stewart 11 Years
May 29 Randy Stewart 11 Years
May 29 Rufus Tovar 11 Years
May 29 Manuel Valdez 11 Years
May 29 Danny Vansickle 11 Years

EAU CLAIRE

April 15 Emily Feirick 7 Years
April 20 Justin Vandenburg 11 Years
May 31 Mark Demski 31 Years

GRANGER

April 2 Scott Dudeck 47 Years
April 19 Mark Manuszak 37 Years
May 7 Cyle Milewski 22 Years

CROMWELL

April 8 Brent Yoder 7 Years

LAPORTE

April 22 Travis Coleman 7 Years

MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

April 14 Tiffiney Sweezey 12 Years
April 24 Alan Guerra 30 Years
May 24 Kurt Gibson 27 Years

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Anniversaries

SCHOOLCRAFT

April 8	Tom Klutts	13 Years
April 13	Chris Maze	11 Years
May 10	Steve Waldron	22 Years

FORT WAYNE

April 30	Steve Torrez	14 Years
May 19	Chris Huffman	23 Years

KENDALLVILLE

May 15	Jason Wehri	9 Years
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EDGERTON

April 13	Eric Culler	16 Years
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DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

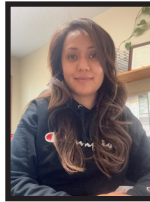
April 3	Mike Dorman	20 Years
April 15	John Morales	13 Years
May 4	Logan Luthringer	6 Years

GRANGER CORPORATE

April 16	Holly Oshinski	11 Years
April 18	Randy Huff	10 Years
April 23	Mike Jurgensen	19 Years
April 29	Chris Cook	11 Years
May 7	Matt Magor	44 Years
May 9	Jenny Szucs	8 Years
May 20	Bill Wallace	24 Years
May 21	Blake Upham	8 Years

Caught in the Act

In this issue of The Big Scene, we would like to feature Jordan Wojdula's submission for Gricel Roman. Gricel demonstrated great urgency, teamwork, and one of my personal most important virtues, COMMUNICATION! An upcoming job has some special order hangers that have a huge lead time. The trusses have not been approved or even reviewed by the customer yet, and Gricel still took the time to look ahead, see what was needed, and informed me (and therefore my customer) of a crazy lead time. This could save the customer and me a ton of grief by getting in front of it. Rather than waiting until it was time to order, she took the initiative, looked ahead, and made the difficult phone call with hard news that some people don't take well. Exactly the type of action I would try to emulate myself, and so should we all.



Contractor Trip in Costa Rica

It was a beautiful and sunny getaway for our employees and loyal customers in Costa Rica in early March. There were 280 people in attendance who got the time to step away from their busy schedules and enjoy a relaxing week of fun activities like golfing and ATV excursions. In a previous issue of The Big Scene, we told the story of a shirt that has been handed down to a new person since 1998. This year, the shirt was given to Scott Dudeck. We look forward to next year's contractor trip in the Dominican Republic!



Group of Cyle Milewski's customers



Bill Wallace giving Scott Dudeck "the shirt"

HBA Event in Three Oaks

Our Three Oaks location held an open house event for the Home Builders Association of Southwestern Michigan on March 19th. After a year of construction and remodeling the store, we were happy to showcase the new showroom and storefront. This event was also special for the HBA because it was their first event held at one of their member's stores, and they plan to hold an event at a new location each year. Bill Wallace gave a speech on the build process of the new showroom and gave praise to the contractors who made it happen and the Three Oaks crew that continued to operate the store at its fullest capacity.



Attendees enjoying the new showroom



A basketball game set up for attendees



Employees bowling at outside sales meeting in Kalamazoo

INDIANA

CROMWELL • ELKHART • FORT WAYNE • GRANGER
LAPORTE • MISHAWAKA • ROSELAND •
SHIPSHEWANA • KENDALLVILLE

MICHIGAN

ADRIAN • COLOMA • EAU CLAIRE
SCHOOLCRAFT • THREE OAKS • DELTON

OHIO

EDGERTON

MANUFACTURING

CUSTOM MILLWORK & CABINET FACILITY
WINDOW & DOOR FACILITY
STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS FACILITY

NEXT ISSUE IS SCHEDULED FOR

May 24th
2026

The Big Scene is a bi-monthly publication.
Submit stories to news@bigclumber.com or contact
Alec Evans at the corporate office.

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