

ASCC Hotline from the Beginning to Now – the 30 years of Ward R. Malisch

Established in 1957, the National Concrete Contractors Association, was reorganized as the American Society of Concrete Constructors in 1963, renamed the American Society for Concrete Construction in the 1970s, and in the 1990s became the American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC). An early ASCC membership benefit was the telephone Hotline, which contractors called for answers to concrete-related questions.

In 1966, Ward Malisch joined the faculty at the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR), where he taught courses in concrete construction. At that time, *Concrete Construction* magazine sent press over-run copies to professors who requested them. Ward was an avid reader of the magazine and regularly provided as many as 90 copies per semester to his students. It was through the magazine that he learned about ASCC and the Hotline.

Ward took a leave of absence for UMR in the late 1970s when he joined Daniel Construction Company as a quality control inspector during construction of Missouri's Callaway Nuclear Power Plant. He joined ASCC in 1978 to get Hotline assistance from Bill Kuenning, then editor of *Concrete Construction*. Ward didn't know at the time that he would be answering the Hotline less than 10 years later, replacing Kuenning who had passed away. Ward continued to answer the Hotline while serving as senior managing director at the American Concrete Institute (ACI) and later as technical director, then concrete construction specialist at ASCC.

For almost 30 years Ward was the voice of the Hotline. Hundreds of ASCC members have benefitted from his knowledge, dedication, and persistence in returning calls and emails. The Hotline has consistently been ranked as one of the foremost member benefits. During his tenure, Hotline questions became more complex and, in the email era, often included photos, drawings, excerpts from specifications, and project correspondence. During the past 10 years, he and I have spent hours on one call, researching ACI documents and other industry sources to help contractors avoid or solve problems.

Currently Ward is the principal investigator for a research project dealing with evaluation of formed concrete surfaces. He is interacting with all four Concrete Industry Management (CIM) schools for data collection. With that work load, and a desire to spend more time on projects without a tight deadline, he is passing the Hotline to me. So if you're calling and don't hear Ward's grizzly voice, I'm afraid it's now Bruce at the other end of the line. I can only hope to live up to expectations.

Please join me in acknowledging all of Ward's efforts on behalf of ASCC. He will still be representing contractor interests at ACI, coauthoring occasional articles, and contributing to the ASCC Troubleshooting Newsletters. He can be reached at (615) 449-4444 or by email at wmalisch@asconline.org.