

# POWER CURBER PROFILES

News and information to make you more competitive



Photo by Wayne Irby, Power Curbers Technical Support

The Power Curber 8700 slipforms grooved alleys that dairy cattle will walk on inside barns in Wisconsin. The grooves help prevent the cows from slipping

## Oh, Yes, and the 8700 Helps Keep It Coming

Scott Spiegelberg of Spiegelberg Implement Inc. in Weyauwega, WI, used to consider a barn for 300 cows a large project.

But with the surge in corporate dairy farming, Scott and other contractors who specialize in barn construction are working on projects that house from 1,000 to 5,000 cows.

Scott needed a faster way to build a barn with less labor, and he is using a Power Curber 8700 multi-purpose slipform paver to help take him there.

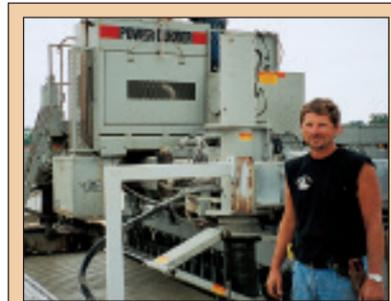
The 8700 in the four-track position, equipped with a paving package, slipforms flat surfaces, or alleys, in the barns that are grooved to prevent the cows from slipping as they walk to and from the building to be milked. Power Curbers' engineers designed a false pan that creates the grooves as part of the slipform process. The grooves extend the full width of the slab and are .5 inch deep, .75 inch wide and 4 inches apart (1.27 cm, 1.9 cm and 10 cm). The false pan is designed to clip on the bottom of the existing paver screed.

There are four walkway alleys in each barn, and they are 7.5 feet apart (2.28 m). After the alleys are finished, the 8700 is used in the offset pouring position to slipform beds for the cows. The beds are poured between the alleys and overlap them. An offset mold is used to slipform the beds. The beds are 7.5 feet wide (2.28 m) and vary in depth from 3.5 inches to 7.5 inches (8.8 cm to 19 cm). Grade is the key to success-

fully pouring the varying thickness. Scott says that the offset mold worked extremely well.

"The machine does the entire floor," says Scott. "It's much quicker and the finished product is more exact. With human error, there's more of a chance of variances. With the machine, it's consistent."

The barn's steel exterior walls are added after the slipformed alleys are in place.



*'The machine will do the entire floor. It's much quicker and the finished product is more exact. With human error, there's more of a chance of variances. With the machine, it's consistent.'*

— Scott Spiegelberg



The 8700, in an offset position, rides on the grooved alleys to pour the 7.5-foot-wide beds (2.28 m) for the cows

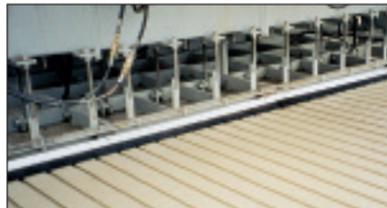
"These barns are getting so large, and time and labor are major factors," says Scott. "With the machine, it takes us one-third to one-half the normal time. We can double our production per day and the machine relieves employee fatigue. The machine takes the labor out and does a nicer job. I can almost go to one-half the crew size and more than double our production."

"We did 4 passes in 2 days pouring time. Normally, it is more than double that with more labor."

Wire mesh is fed through the front of the machine. This serves to ground the cows so that they don't pick up stray voltage that would affect milk production, Scott says. The wire mesh process slows the machine's production, Scott says, and he is working on getting larger rolls. He says it takes 5 to 7 minutes to switch rolls.

Scott says that area farmers are "astonished with the finished product and the amount of time it saves. If we can speed up the construction two to three weeks, that's a lot of money in their pocket because of the interest they're paying," he says.

The barns that Spiegelberg builds range from 200 to more than 1,000 feet long (61 to 305 m). The walkway alleys range from 12 to 14 feet wide (3.6 to 4.2 m), plus the extra width needed for the footing edge. Scott's crew has poured as wide as 16.5 feet (5 m).



Power Curbers' engineers designed a false pan that clips to the bottom of the paver screed to create the .5-inch grooves (1.27 cm) in the alleys

### Slipformed Step Helps Cows Get On Their Feet

Power Curbers, Inc. has also designed a mold for slipforming concrete cow beds that are 6 feet wide (1.8 m) with an 8-inch (20 cm) step attached.

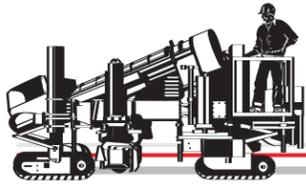
Rubber-filled mattresses are placed on the concrete beds for the dairy cows. The cows brace themselves against the step to get to their feet.

The cows spend 90% of their time in the barn. They move to the alleys and walk to a milking facility and then return to the barn.

Spiegelberg Implement Inc. was started by Scott's dad, Carl, and will celebrate its 50th year in business in 2005. The company handles commercial and residential construction, as well as the dairy barn expansions, and sells farm implements, such as Bobcat products. Scott, who became owner of the company in 1982, says that the 10 to 12 dairy expansions that the company does each year are his most profitable part of the business.

"We are known for doing a quality job and holding the time schedule on dairy expansions, big or small," Scott says. "This is why we are 'subbed in' by a lot of the builders every year."

Using a slipform machine will enable the company to take on more work. "We hope to expand in the area and do more of these projects and turn less down," says Scott. "I wouldn't mind specializing in doing the big litter alleys and offset cow bed pours which are so much easier now (with the machine) and should be more profitable. That's the name of the game." **PC**



## Running Track

Photo by Dan Villa, Jr., Villa Contracting

School architect doubted Villa Contracting could pour track in compliance with standards

## Network Controller Stars in Tight Specification Project

Villa Contracting recently used its 5700-B to slipform curb on the inside and outside of a running track at Payson High School in Payson, AZ. The job specs required  $\pm$  0-inch tolerance in both grade and alignment.

"The reason it was so critical is because of Olympic track size measurements," says Dan Jr. "If a kid breaks a running record of any type – school, local, city or state – before it can be officially recorded as a record broken, state officials always go in to see if the track is in compliance with Olympic standards. They measure off the curb and it can't be off to any degree."

"The architect didn't think it could be done by machine," says Dan Jr. "In years past, it was form work. They were afraid that the machine had too many moving parts and would veer off. We explained that it would follow the string-line."

"Due to the microprocessor and having the string set right on the money, we were able to convince them that the machine would be able to hold the zero tolerance and to let us slipform it."

The architect told the Villas that it would be their responsibility, if the track were out of spec.

"We had confidence in the machine," says Dan Jr. "We

were a Power Curber fan before we were a machine user, and we had no doubt."

Time was a factor, as it is with most jobs. The entire project had a 30-day completion deadline. The Villas were given a schedule of 9 to 11 working days to do the curb by hand. As it turned out, the 5700-B poured the inside curb in 3.5 hours and the outside circle in 7.5 hours. All of it was done under the close scrutiny of the architect and school officials who watched from the sidelines.

"With the curb machine, we pushed the project ahead almost a week," says Dan Jr. **PC**



Dan Villa, Sr.

## The Buying Decision

### 'We couldn't get the whole package without a machine'

Mark Dixon of MSD Contracting in Chesapeake, VA, says that the 100 to 150 feet (30.5 to 45.7 m) of curb his crew previously poured by hand in a day is now a 30-minute job with the Power Curber 5700-B.

"We were doing it all by hand – sidewalk and curb and gutter," Mark says. "But we couldn't get the whole package without being able to do the curb by machine. People want curb in 2 days, instead of 2 weeks."

Mark, in his first year of running a slipform machine, says he is completely satisfied with his dealer, Steve Blalock and Eddie Lanter of Southern Equipment Service. "We started off with the hardest thing – islands in a parking lot but we found that the machine will do what you tell it to," he says. "And Steve walks me through any problem." **PC**

Southern Equipment Service specializes in slipform machinery in the states of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Steve and Eddie can be reached at 704-855-5424.



Mark Dixon

Photo by Steve Blalock, Southern Equipment Service

## Machine Changes Business Outlook Of Kentucky Contractor Family

Rick Witt of Witt Construction Co., in Greenup, KY, describes going from hand curb work to machine work as amazing. "There's no comparison," he says. "You kill yourself to get 400 feet (122 m) (by hand) and then turn around and get 1,500 feet (457.5 m) (by machine)."

Rick is in business with his two brothers, Kevin and Harold. The Witt brothers do flat concrete work as well as curb-and-gutter, but the curb machine is changing their business outlook. They bought their first curb machine, a reconditioned machine, in the fall of 2001 from Central Equipment Service in Cincinnati, OH.

"We're going to try to get more in the line of curb," says Rick. "It's easier and you don't have to have as many finishers. Concrete finishing is time consuming. We're hoping to venture just into curb. Curb is better money. We've actually done better in the last three months with the curb machine than we ever had. The machine turned over \$200,000 for us in the last three months and we haven't worked the machine every day." **PC**

Contact Tim Meyer of Central Equipment Service at 513-226-5598.



Rick Witt



Kevin Witt

## Pennsylvania Contractor: Preventive Maintenance Saves Money

D'Amico Concrete Inc. debated taking the big step from hand work to a curb machine for two years before buying a Power Curber 5700-B four seasons ago.

The father-and-son business, located in Morton, PA, specializes solely in curb work and was pouring around 100,000 feet a year by hand.

The work was labor intensive and hard on the crew.

The 5700-B has made the work easier and increased production by at least 50%, according to John D'Amico Jr. "The machine has improved our business," he says. "We've stepped it up."

Today, 99 percent of the work is done by the machine, John Jr. says, with a small crew available for hand setting odds and ends.

"There's a lot less wear-and-tear on the crew," says John Jr. "We get it done. We've got a great crew. We acquired a couple of guys with a lot of experience and they have boosted us where we need to be."

John Jr. says the company was at a roadblock in the business when he and his dad were debating the merits of a curb machine. "We couldn't go any further in the business without a machine," he says. Customers wanted to hire sub-contractors



*'We couldn't go any further in the business without a machine.'*

— John D'Amico Jr.  
D'Amico Concrete

with a curb machine to meet their own schedules, he says.

D'Amico Concrete has been in business 25 years, but John Jr. is quick to point out that it is the employees who make the company successful. "It's not me and my dad," he says. "It's the people that we got working for us that make it happen."

The D'Amicos believe in preventive maintenance and bring in Terry Duncan, service manager for Eastern Equipment Service, at the beginning and end of each season to check out the machine. "It's a policy," says John Sr. "Maintenance is a big thing. You can really cut costs by having the machine serviced on a regular basis."

Eastern Equipment is great to work with, says John Jr. "Terry responds. He answers his phone 24 hours a day. Whenever there is a problem or question, he's there," John Jr. says. "The whole Power Curber organization is great."

Eastern Equipment Service sells and services slipform equipment in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and northern Virginia and West Virginia. **PC**

You may contact Terry Duncan, service manager of Eastern Equipment Service, at 610-509-6636. Jay McNally, general manager of Eastern Equipment, may be reached at 301-633-1200.

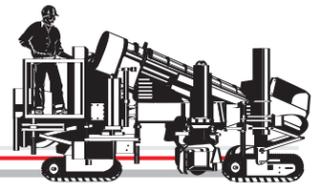


Photo by John Manning, Central Equipment Service

## E-Stop Option Available to Crews Inserting Rebar

We now offer an "E Stop Kit" for 5700-Bs that use molds built with rebar ports. The E-stop allows the crew member who is inserting the rebar to stop the machine from his position in front of the mold.

Rebar is inserted in curb-and-gutter in areas where the ground needs more stabilization, or the freeze/thaw cycle or heavy-transportation use could negatively affect the life of the curb-and-gutter.

You may order the kit by contacting your dealer or David Shoe at the factory, 704-647-6159; e-mail [dshoe@powercurbers.com](mailto:dshoe@powercurbers.com).

Please reference A572745-46 and include your machine's serial number.

## Power Curbers CEO Testifies Before Senate Finance Committee

### Says Tax Incentive Critical For Small Exporters; Foreign Sales Support Economic Expansion

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Dyke Messinger, president and CEO of Power Curbers, Inc., recently appeared before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee on behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers. The organization urged Congress and the Bush Administration to keep the competitiveness of small manufacturers in mind in crafting tax and trade law. A portion of his speech is printed below.*



WASHINGTON, D.C., July 30, 2002 - A member of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) today told the Senate Finance Committee it is imperative that a tax incentive for the competitiveness of America's small exporters be maintained if they are to continue to survive and grow.

The Extraterritorial Income Regime (ETI) "is critically important if we're to continue encouraging export activity by small companies," said Dyke Messinger, president and CEO of family-owned Power Curbers, Inc., of Salisbury, North Carolina. "Of all exporting manufacturers in America, 93 percent are small and mid-sized manufacturers. They collectively employ about 9.5 million people, and those that export their products add jobs 20 percent faster than firms that remain solely domestic.

"On behalf of my firm and the National Association of Manufacturers, I can tell you we believe it is very important that, in crafting a proposal to address the ETI issue with our WTO partners, the U.S. strives to maintain approximately the current level of benefits for all exporters and continues to work toward a level playing field and competitive environment for U.S. companies. At this point, it appears likely that the long-term solution will have to involve a combination of negotiations and legislation.

"The current ETI and its predecessors have been integral factors in increasing export activity by U.S. manufacturers," said Messinger, whose firm employs 130 men and women making specialized machines used to build sidewalks, curbs, and gutters in more than 80 countries. "These types of tax incentives - created over the past three decades - were designed to neutralize some of the tax advantages enjoyed by foreign competitors located in countries with territorial tax systems, which generally exempt income earned outside the country from income tax and exports from value-added (VAT) and other consumption taxes.

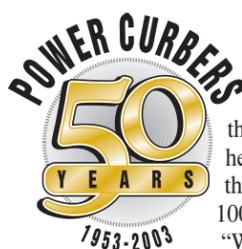
"International sales account for 20 percent of my company's revenue and 12 percent of our profits," Messinger said. "We credit our survival and growth to exports. And surely there are thousands of similarly situated small- and medium-sized exporters. The NAM urges Congress and the Administration to keep the competitiveness of these important companies in mind as you work both domestically and internationally toward a fair solution to this complicated and difficult tax and trade problem."

The full testimony can be found at <http://www.nam.org/messingertestimony>

## A Pioneer: Operator of '1st Automatic Curb Machine' Praises Service

Junior Duncan started slipforming curb in the San Antonio, TX, area more than 30 years ago. "I pioneered the first automatic curb machine in San Antonio," he says.

He's still at it and now works for Niznik Concrete Construction who runs four Power Curber 3500 curb-over-dowel machines.

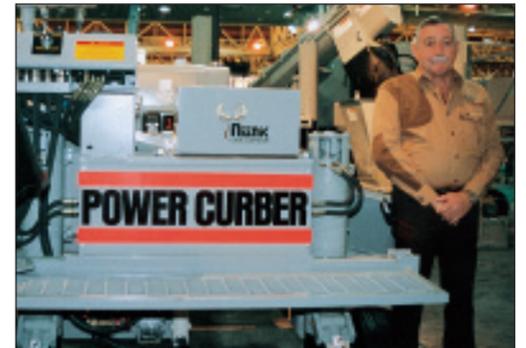


"Power Curbers makes a good product," says Junior. "I like the new auger system on the 3500." The auger helps keep the mix consistent in those high-heat days in south Texas when the temperature goes over the 100-degree mark.

"With the belt conveyor, we were spraying water on the concrete on top of the belt and it would lay on top of the concrete," Junior says. "When it fell into the hopper, it messed up the curb. The auger is another mixer and with it, you don't get wet spots in the curb."

Junior says that the machine is operator-friendly and dealer service is excellent in his area.

The area is served by Randy Wadsworth of Republic



Long-time Power Curber 3500 operator says new auger keeps mix consistent

Equipment Service.

"Randy is extremely helpful and he knows the machine," says Junior. "He can problem-solve over the phone. He's a sales rep, but he is also an adviser." **PC**

You may contact Randy Wadsworth at Republic Equipment Service at 210-410-0996.

Chris Manire, who handles service, can be reached at 830-931-3612.

## Riding on Their Success: Center Pour, Barrier Work Under Way in Australia

Warren Scattergood of State Wide Kerbing in Bradbury, Australia, designed and built the underbody paving kit to pour an 8-foot (2.5 m) path leading to a playing field in the city of Bradbury.

Warren, son of the founder of the company, Brian Scattergood, was instrumental in the company's decision to move to slipform work and purchase of a Power Curber 5700-B several years ago.

Brian says that the center-pour project was a 100 percent success. "All that had anything to do with the project were very happy with the end result," he said.

The path is 4 inches (100 mm) thick and on a steep incline. Paving downhill was the only way to get the concrete successfully to the machine, Brian said.

After several years of handling curb and other applications, Brian says that he and Warren are "very confident that we can achieve almost anything with this machine."

The Scattergoods also poured open back barrier in Sydney with a mold designed by Warren. "We were told by everyone that the machine would move off line, but it did not budge at all," Brian says. The barrier is 32 inches high



Photo by Shane Dunstan, Aran International

8-foot (2.5 m) center pour application in Australia (820 mm) and 9 inches wide (230 mm).

"We are all very proud of Warren," said Brian. Warren and his sister, Maria, are directors of State Wide Kerbing P/L. **PC**

Power Curbers' dealer in Australia is Aran International Pty. Ltd., Queensland; telephone: 61.7.3206.3782; e-mail: [aranint@bigpond.com](mailto:aranint@bigpond.com)



## New Gear Box/Clutch Combination for 440-XL

The Power Curber 440XL extruder is sporting a new gear box and clutch combination for fewer adjustments in the field. The machine also features a larger fuel tank, and it has been relocated to the front of the machine. Fuel capacity is now 4.75 gallons (18 l), up

from 2 gallons (7.5 l). The 440XL extrudes asphalt or concrete curb up to 18 inches wide (45 cm) and 12 inches high (30 cm) at a speed of up to 30 feet per minute (9.15 m).

## 'How-to' Video Available on Pouring Tight Radius

We now have a "how-to" video available that walks you through the steps for setting up and pouring a radius under 5 feet with the Power Curber 5700-B.

The video is designed for experienced machine operators who already know the basics of safe 5700-B operation.

The video covers:

- Stringline set-up, which is crucial.
- Adjusting the tight radius steering sensor for machines equipped with either analog or network controls.
- The importance of undercutting the sub-grade.
- What to do when the front grade sensor comes off line during the turn.
- The importance of the "dry run."



• And the critical element of knowing when to switch back to the front steering sensor when the machine has completed the turn.

Most contractors consider tight radius the most difficult part of curb-and gutter work. But once you've mastered it, you'll save a lot of labor. There will be just a few feet of handwork to do on the straight ways.

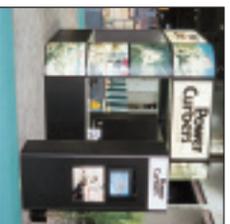
- Other "how-to" video available from the factory:
- 5-foot (1.52m) offset sidewalk
- Set-up and pour 8-foot (2.44m) sidewalk in the center-pour position.

Contact Chris Yelton at the factory at 704-647-6170 or [eyelton@powercurbers.com](mailto:eyelton@powercurbers.com) if you'd like a copy of one of the videos.

## WORLD OF CONCRETE

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## 2 For 1



In More Ways Than One

*Idaho contractor is pleased with production with his interchangeable monolithic mold*

A monolithic mold that pours a combined 5-foot (1.5 m) sidewalk and a 2-foot (.6 m) curb-and-gutter application is saving time for an Idaho contractor.

The mold is also a 2-for-1 deal in another innovative way: It's interchangeable and will do either standard or roll curb.

It takes 30 minutes to unbolt the curb portion of the mold and bolt on the other curb, according to Doug McCoy of Doug McCoy Construction of Twin Falls, ID.

Most importantly, it's saving expense, he adds.

"It would be quite a job, changing that big of a mold on the machine," he says. Much better to change the 2-foot (.6 m) curb portion.

Doug says that he is pleased with production, having recently completed a 1,500-foot monolithic pour (457.5 m) in one day in a Twin Falls subdivision.

(See cover photography)

## 2003 Schedule for Service Schools

Here's the schedule for our next round of service schools:

- Jan. 6-7: 5700-B analog
- Jan. 9-10: 5700-B analog
- Jan. 13-14, 5700-B analog
- Jan. 16-17, 5700-B analog
- Jan. 20-21, 5700-B, micro
- Jan. 27-28, 5700-B, micro

The two-day schools are held each winter in Salisbury, NC, USA. You may contact Chad Hedrick at 704-647-6158, [chedrick@powercurbers.com](mailto:chedrick@powercurbers.com) or Lee Myers at 704-647-6139, [lmyers@powercurbers.com](mailto:lmyers@powercurbers.com), for more details.

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Fall 2002

Power Curbers, Inc.



## Mastering Monolithic

This 7-foot (2.1m) monolithic curb-and-gutter and sidewalk application, poured with the 5700-B, is the work of Doug McCoy Construction in Twin Falls, ID. The curb-and-gutter section of the mold unbolts from the sidewalk part of the mold, leaving Doug with a 2-foot (.6m) roll-over curb mold when needed.

(See '2 For 1', Back Page)