

As Seen in November 2003 Issue

THE "ROCK TO ROAD" TRADE MAGAZINE



NORTH AMERICAN QUARRY NEWS

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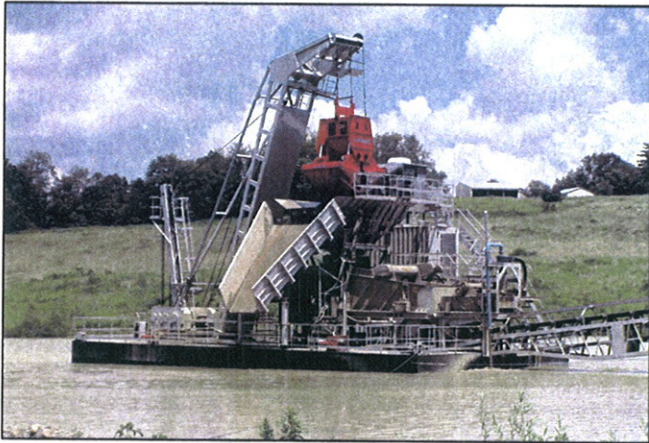
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Brothers David and Neil Hoehler (l-r) began Supreme Manufacturing over ten years ago, completing their first dredge in 1994.

Pennsylvania Company Offers Compact Dredge Design



Unwanted, oversized stones are dumped from the grizzly. Here they are put back into the quarry. In other instances, a barge may be placed along side the dredge to collect the larger aggregate.

by Jon M. Casey
STONEBORO, PA — Earlier this year, Supreme Manufacturing, Inc. commissioned its newest vessel, their 8-Yard, clamshell, modular dredge. Assembled and launched at a western Pennsylvania mining site currently under contract to H&H Materials, Inc. the new dredge has been operating aggressively since startup in mid-July.

"We have been extremely pleased with how well the new dredge has performed," says Supreme Vice President, Neil E. Hoobler.

"This high-producing, compact dredge is ideal for high yield, smaller area sites like this one."

Hoobler explains that the use of clam bucket dredges is comparatively new to North American quarry owners.

"Sand & gravel companies often use draglines or suction-style equipment," he says.

"The clam bucket dredges have become more popular in the last fifteen to twenty years."

Consider a Dredge

"When it comes to operating in small satellite pits, there is no better way," he

says, pointing to the small, water-filled open area in the middle of a grassy field.

"With sites like the one that we have here in Northwestern Pennsylvania, one with a high water table, conventional dragline digging, or mining with an excavator, is not as productive. With one of these bucket dredges in place, mining can go on for as long as the aggregate deposit remains," he says.

"We go down and get it all. We leave no stone behind."

"Quarry owners may not think of a dredge as an option, especially when their sites are inland," says Hoobler.

"They tend to use the equipment that they already have on hand to do the mining, but that requires several machines and more manpower. A dredge like this one only requires one person...the operator!" he says.

"Once they have made the initial investment, the payback is immediate. It doesn't take a very long time to recoup the initial investment, because the cost per ton of aggregate mined is less than with conventional equipment."

"In most scenarios, the alternative to a dredge like this is one operator on an ex-

cavator or a dragline, two haul trucks with two operators, and a front end loader with operator to relocate the material once it is dumped. With a system like this, the material travels by conveyor directly to the plant. One operator can run it all."

Contrasting various methods of mining sand and gravel, Hoobler adds that the clam bucket dredge is also the most profitable over all.

"Typically, conventional mining methods are only able to mine to depths of thirty to forty feet," he says.

"Suction dredges lose efficiency around thirty to forty feet. Draglines lose efficiency at around thirty feet. Excavators aren't able to mine sand and gravel pits much deeper than fifteen feet or so. This style, 8-yard modular dredge, is capable of digging 180-200' deep. It offers quarries more in the way of site development on a long term basis," says Hoobler.

"For example, if a company wanted to mine 800,000 tons per year, they would need twenty-two acres for an excavator, eleven acres for a dragline, and only slightly more than three acres for a clam bucket dredge, and that's mining to a depth of one hundred feet. It would need even less acreage, if the deposit runs deeper."

"And that doesn't even include the lost profits in the material that the two other methods leave behind in unmined materials," says Hoobler.

"With Supreme's fully-computerized control system, the computers assure that every square foot of the pit's surface is thoroughly excavated. The only material that is left behind is the material that the operator designates."

"And think of the environmental benefits," he continues.

"With an onshore power generator or commercial power, and the quiet dust-free mining that this dredge offers, quarry owners that are faced with environmental concerns are looking more closely at floating dredges more than ever before. Compact units like this one are perfect."

"Test Drive"

Supreme's 8-Yard Dredge Hoobler says that customers who are interested in taking Supreme's newest dredge for "a test drive" are encouraged to contact



Water drains from the 8-yard, Spade Nose Bucket as it moves into place for dumping. Photos by Jon Casey

them.

"We offer customers the opportunity to visit us here and tour the equipment," he says.

"They are free to see for themselves how productive our modular dredge truly is. Al Woodley, who is operating the dredge today, will show them how easy it is to operate. Once they decide to purchase one, he will oversee its assembly and train their operators how to manage the equipment as well," he says.

"We have designed this dredge for transportability," says Hoobler.

"The component parts are designed to be hauled by conventional transportation. Most sections are within load and size limits and can be transported anywhere in North America on conventional tractor-trailers," he says.

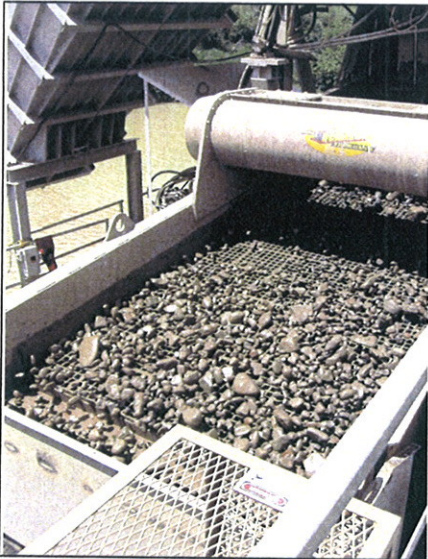
"That greatly reduces the moving costs later on as well, when a quarry owner wants to move the dredge from one pit to another."

Hoobler says that Supreme Manufacturing not only custom-manufactures dredges to meet specific needs, but they offer support equipment as well.

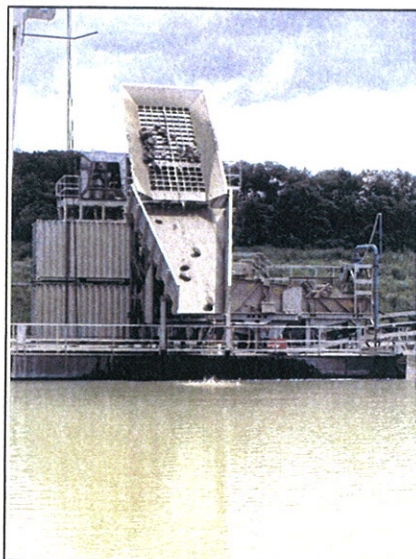
"We have a full line of custom manufactured floating and land based conveyors, dredge buckets, rock barges, and work boats," he says.

"We also design and fabricate storage tanks and hoppers and other specialized equipment."

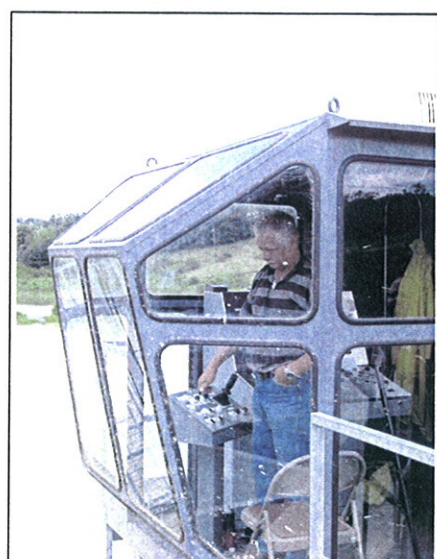
For more information on Supreme Manufacturing, Inc., contact them at 724-376-4368 (ph) or online at www.suprememfg.net



This Deister vibrating screen is used to dewater the mined aggregate.



Large aggregate tumbles from the dump grizzly and splashes into the water between bucket loads.



Manufacturer's Rep and Dredge Operator, Al Woodley, prepares to dump the grizzly during mining operations.