A Manager’s Perspective:
Orange County District
by Dan McGrew, Vice President/District Manager

This year has been a busy year for our team in Orange County as our field crews have constructed infrastructure work, parks, landscape improvements and schools in the Inland Empire and Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Superintendents Frank Escalante, Jeff Williams and Mike Olafson, along with our capable project foremen, Scott Goglia, Greg Roelke, Jeff Damon, Gary O’Neill, Clay Arcelus, Ruben Macias, Pedro Guillen, Miguel Prado and Pedro Baez have kept our projects on track, providing the high level of quality and professionalism that our owners deserve.

Some of the projects that have been constructed or are in process include the $24 million Newport Road project for Riverside County Transportation Department, the $6 million Searl Parkway job for Metropolitan Water District, $4 million Jefferson Avenue and $9.5 million Los Alamos Park for the City of Murrieta, the $9 million Culver Drive project for the City of Irvine, and the $9 million Santiago Canyon Community College Rough Grade and Classroom Relocation Project for the Rancho Santiago Community College District. Our landscape crews have also been busy working at the Port of L.A., Faure Avenue for the City of Industry and other projects in L.A. and Orange Counties.

We look forward to 2007 as the outlook for construction is very optimistic in Southern California. With the successful passage of Propositions 1A through 1E, the extension of Orange County’s Measure M Road Program, and the continued growth in the Inland Empire, it is apparent that we will have our hands full building the area’s infrastructure needs. In addition, Griffith Company, after a grueling prequalification effort, has been selected to a short list of bidders for the development of the New Model Colony East Community in the City of Ontario. The infrastructure work will be constructed in four separate contracts totaling over half a billion dollars. Our team is excited at the opportunity to put Griffith Company’s stamp on this new community.
This has been a very exciting year for many different reasons. The first and most exciting has been the completion of some of our most difficult and challenging projects. I was on the site of the Victoria Bridge this week because we are getting ready to submit the project for a Constructor Award. This was a project that had some difficult and high risk work. When we removed the deck from this 1920’s arch bridge the arches rose off of the falsework. At that time the chance of a collapse was at its highest point. It wasn’t until the weight from the retrofit and new deck were put in place that the bridge was completely re-stabilized. Even with the high risk and difficulty, this project turned out great. It is a project that Griffith Company can be proud of. The Ontario Airport runway replacement finished this year. We completely removed, recycled and replaced the main runway. This included the electrical, a new control building and two bridges for additional access. It was great to see how quickly this project came together. It was just a matter of months from the beginning of the demolition to the beginning of the replacement.

The Glendale treatment plant also finished this year. There was a two week shutdown at the plant where we worked around the clock to switch the aeration system over. We scheduled the job hour by hour. The planning was so extensive because all the mechanical material had to be inventoried to make sure it was on the site and ready to put in place. This was a job well done.

Another fast track job was the Ramon Road job. This was a two million dollar job that we completed in ten days. It also was an around the clock job. This project included full removal and replacement of the approach slabs, roadway concrete and a full intersection. The key was for all of the crews to hit their production targets so that the next operation could start. This high profile job was advertised locally for weeks, so the pressure was on. It’s nice to have a plan come together. We finished on time and on budget.

There is no way that I can recount all the successful projects from this year. These are a few of the success stories. You may have heard it said that, If you hit one good golf shot in a round, it will encourage you to come back the next time.” These projects are the ones that remind us why we are in the construction industry. Projects like this give us the satisfaction and the pride to keep working as hard as we do. Congratulations, and keep up the good work.
Newport Road Extension
The Newport Road Reconstruction Project for the County of Riverside extends Newport Road over four miles from Menifee Road to Winchester Road. This important $24 million project connects the growing Hemet valley communities with I-215 in Menifee via a six-lane, high speed roadway. The project began in December 2004 and is slated for completion just before the New Year. The project team of Frank Escalante, General Superintendent, Jeff Williams, Project Superintendent, and Rick White, Project Manager, has worked tirelessly through severe weather, challenging site conditions and late occurring design changes to keep the project on track.

The project required the remedial grading of 500,000 cubic yards of native material, all while receiving over forty inches of rain. In addition, the roadway excavation and embankment exceeded 1,300,000 cubic yards and required the drilling, blasting and removal of 150,000 cubic yards of rock. This material was hauled to a stockpile site where Griffith Company produced Class II Aggregate base and bedding sand for use on the project.

While coordinating the Orange District’s work crews, the team worked hand in hand with our Underground Division for the installation of water, sewer and storm drain pipe; our Concrete Division for the placement of curb and gutter; and our Material Division for crushing aggregate base.

To coordinate with the residential construction and anticipated model openings, we accelerated half of the project by almost five months, and in the process incorporated a myriad of developer-initiated changes. We finished the accelerated section ahead of schedule and remain ahead of schedule for overall completion.

Culver Drive Widening and Realignment
The Culver Drive project is a $9 million roadway and soundwall project for the City of Irvine adjacent to the University of California at Irvine. The widening project connects Campus Drive with Bonita Canyon Drive as it approaches the San Joaquin Hills Corridor. To prepare the roadbed our grading crews will excavate and fill over 100,000 cubic yards of earth, place almost 30,000 tons of aggregate base, and lay over 10,000 tons of asphalt concrete. Our Underground Division will install storm drain and reclaimed water improvements and our Concrete Division will pour curbs, gutters, sidewalks and bike trails. Along with the roadway improvement our contract calls for over 6,000 lf of new masonry soundwall. The new wall is a collaborative effort between the grade crews of the Orange District, the footing form and pour crews of our Structure Division and the specialty work of our rebar, masonry, and glass wall panel subcontractors.

The project team of Frank Escalante, General Superintendent, Scott Goglia, Foreman, and Luke Walker Project Manager has done a great job managing the changes brought about by unknown site conditions and providing the City with a quality project constructed with expertise and professionalism.

Once again Griffith Company is improving the quality of life in the communities in which we work by alleviating traffic congestion, providing sound mitigation, supplying recreational facilities, and returning a beautiful landscaped corridor.
Victoria Bridge — Another job well completed

Griffith Grapevine

As some of you may know, Joe Carattini of our Los Angeles District ventured out on a missions trip this past September with his group, Smiles. Many of you generously supported him, including Griffith Company, and we received a great report from him.

Joe and his group traveled to Venezuela where they ministered to children in the poorest parts of the country. They passed out new clothes, school supplies, toiletries, backpacks and food. He shared with us about a young man whose shabby old shoes were stolen, and he was afraid to go home and tell his parents because they were his only pair. In another community, they put on a puppet show and free haircuts for all of the children. They also delivered many supplies to an orphanage there.

Joe, his wife Sandi, Greg Argandona (also from our L.A. District) and their team have a strong Christian faith, and believe that Smiles is not only an excellent means of helping children who are in tremendous need, but is also a great way to share the love of Jesus Christ.

For more information about Smiles, and to see the video of Joe’s trip, check out www.smileslatinoamerica.org

Griffith Company News

The Griffith Company News is published four times per year in order to keep our employees better informed of Griffith Company events and accomplishments.

Safety Corner

Focusing on next year’s goal

by Carl Jones

As this year quietly comes to a close, we reflect back on the accomplishments of the outgoing year. As a company we can be proud of the jobs we have completed and the safe way we performed. If you were fortunate enough to work all year without an injury, you should be very proud. You performed your job the way it was intended to be done.

Unfortunately, some of us were not so fortunate. It’s time to put this year behind us and set our goals for next year. Our goal again this year is to have everyone go home at the end of the day injury-free. We can do it. Let’s pull together and recommit ourselves to meeting this goal. Remember - YOU are one of Griffith Company’s most vital assets.

If you have any questions or comments concerning safety, feel free to contact me, Carl Jones at (562) 519-1872. Happy Holidays!

Victoria Bridge — Another job well completed