

STRUCTURALMOVER features two Directors of the Association in each issue. The purpose is to enable members to become more acquainted with the individuals elected by the membership to provide governance and management for the association and its programs.

Murray Nickel started working for Nickel Bros in 1966, learning the business from the ground up. In 1987 Murray's father Henry retired and Murray became President of the company with his brother Allan as Vice President.



Although Murray left high school in 1966 to work for his father and uncle, he returned to Douglas College in the early 80's to work on his business administration accreditation.

Murray has moved buildings and large structures throughout British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and most recently Washington State. He has developed an expertise in large structural moving both on land and by water. This includes "Vanderzalm's Castle" from downtown Vancouver to Richmond, tanks from Stewart BC to Delta, Lions Gate bridge sections in downtown Vancouver as well as many large offices, ships, gangways, really anything that needs to be taken, lifted or recycled.

Nickel Bros has been a member of IASM since the late 80's when there had been a recruitment drive to reach house movers internationally to join IASM. Murray has served as a director since 2005 and was elected as secretary for 2007.

With fellow house mover Peter Christianson, Murray saw the need for an association of structural movers in British Columbia to work together on worker's comp issues, industry standards, utilities and accountability within the house moving industry, and so the creation of BCSMA occurred in 1992. Murray is the current president.

Murray believes through industrial associations, structural movers are better able to promote their industry through education and improving industry standards. The benefit for individual members is the educational opportunities that such an association can collectively draw from. Not only the education of fellow movers on issues relating to our industry such as work place safety, insurance, moving and raising techniques, but as well educating the public and related industries at large on the benefits of recycling and the need to preserve the past by saving heritage/historical buildings.

Nickel Bros., the company founded by Henry Nickel and his brother Richard (Dick) Nickel, is now managed by three brothers and is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2006. Head office is in Port Coquitlam, with Murray managing company operations from there. Son in law Garry as branch operations manager in Port Coquitlam. Brother, Allan, is branch manager in Nanaimo where his sons' Preston and Conrad also work. Brother, Jeremy, manages the Victoria branch. Murray and Jeremy manage the newest branch operation in Washington State.

Murray and wife Sherryl have been married for 35 years have 4 children, and soon-to-be 8 grandchildren. Murray's interests outside of house moving are: politics (having served as a director on both Federal and Provincial ridings for the Reform now Conservative Party of Canada), hiking, snowboarding, boating, motorcycle riding and traveling.

James D. "Jim" Herman is Owner & President of Herman House Moving, Inc., founded by his father LeVern in 1961 when he purchased Meyer House Moving, a company for whom he had worked for 18 years. The company operates from facilities located at 38677 Cadillac Drive, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401. (T) 605-229-1785, (F) 605-226-0995, E-mail: jherman@abe.midco.net.



Jim married Kathleen "Kathi" Rose Fix of Onaka, SD August 1, 1969. They two sons: Chad and Corey and one daughter, Jamie.

Jim is a 1968 graduate of Aberdeen Central High School, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Herman's company became a member of IASM in 1995 when Jim realized he could learn about the structural moving business in particular and the industry in general through the educational programs offered by the association and by affiliating with other structural movers from around the country. And, learn he, has by also recognizing the most benefits of belonging to an organization come from not only being a member but by being actively involved and attending meetings at every opportunity. As a Director of IASM he serves on the Awards, Membership and Truck Raffle Committees. He has been elected twice as Vice President and President of both the North Dakota House Movers and Mid-States Housemovers Associations.

Herman believes benefits of becoming a member of IASM to be:

- Knowledge of the industry;
- Education on many issues that most movers have ignored most of their lives, and
- Support, where we can apply the facts and information we garner through our relationship with directors, committee members and members in general to our own problems in our businesses, regardless of where we are domiciled.

Jim considers the major issues facing the structural moving industry today to be:

- Excessive governmental regulations
- Insurance, however, through our membership numbers I think we have gained some control over this issue.
- A reliable work force: Labor issues are consuming more of our workday than ever before.

