

# MASONRY HALL OF FAME NOMINATION EXAMPLE

**First Name:** Glenn

**Last Name:** Sipe

**Company:** Glenn W. Sipe & Sons, Inc.

Profession: Journeyman Mason and Masonry Contractor

Company Location: Conover, NC

Age and Birth Date: August 15, 1920 (92)

Glen came from a farm family in Catawba County, North Carolina where he has lived his whole life.

He worked in a CC camp for two years when he was 16, until 1939.

Went to work for Herman-Sipe Construction Company, Conover, about August 1939, who offered him a job helping as a laborer for \$0.25 an hour. Later was promoted to the concrete gang, mixing and placing concrete by hand. He asked to be trained as a brick mason, because they made as much as \$0.70 per hour. The next summer he started his masonry training. Was a regular mason by the end of 1940, and was in charge of a masonry crew by mid 1941.

In 1954, after being the masonry superintendent for Hickory Construction Company, he took on his first masonry contracting job doing a unit-priced project in Asheville, NC. Continued to do unit-price masonry work with his own crew through the fifties and early sixties. He incorporated "Glenn W. Sipe & Sons" in 1966. Mr. Sipe retired from the business in 1987 at age 67, leaving it for his sons to manage, (Ken, Wayne, Randy, Steve.)

Glenn W. Sipe & Sons was one of the first companies in the south to use mechanical scaffolding (Hoist-o-Matic) and to do masonry work with lump-sum, turn-key masonry contracting. The firm continued to be one of the most innovative and progressive masonry contracting firms in the southeast through the late sixties, seventies and early eighties.

Regarding trade associations, Mr. Sipe says, "An educated competitor was a good friend, not an enemy." Helping each other was important to everyone's success. He was instrumental in forming the Western Carolina Masonry Contractors Association (Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton-Statesville, NC) about 1968, which later became the Western Carolina Chapter of the Mason Contractors Association of America. The Western Carolina Chapter was among the first non-union chapters of MCAA and Mr. Sipe worked hard to gain acceptance for the group from his union counter-parts. Mr. Sipe has served several terms as president of the Western Carolina Chapter.

He was a regular participant at MCAA conventions and tradeshow through the years and credits much of his firm's innovation to ideas he brought home from those meetings.

Mr. Sipe and others from the Western Carolina Chapter traveled all around North Carolina in the early seventies to encourage other groups to meet and establish local chapters. In April 1974, the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association was chartered and Glenn W. Sipe was elected as the new association's first president.

Later, Mr. Sipe was instrumental in forming the Carolina Masonry Council, a promotional group that included material providers, masonry contractors, and equipment suppliers active in North and South Carolina. He later served as president of the Carolina Masonry Council.

**Submitted by:** Larry Kirby, Deanie Kirby and Lynn Nash