

Always learning

By Steve Hackl, Hackl Pool Construction, Inc.

In 1992, after working for Ford Motor Company as a transmission mechanic for three years, I once again asked my father if I could become part of our family business. This time he reluctantly said yes, but on one condition. I had to start as the lowest of low as anyone else coming in off the street with no family ties to the business would and truly earn my stripes.

So here I sit after 18 years of five to six days a week in field work and I am now trying to learn once again. As I begin to come in daily contact with landscape architects, G. C. principals and engineers I am constantly learning new things. The moral to my story? Like most people beginning in the pool industry I knew nothing. As I labored I learned and I am still currently learning.

We, as a company, do not subcontract any of our work, and we have been lucky enough to have a family member serve as a superintendent on each of our four crews. As supervisors we do not wear nice clothes and point fingers; we bend steel, set tile, glue pipes, and take care of any and all responsibilities associated with the current project under construction.

So after being in the pool construction industry for 18 years, I currently feel as though every day is a brand new unique learning experience. This is what makes getting up early and working long hours exciting and fulfilling even in times when work is a little harder to come by.