



SUCCESS IS JUST A STONE'S THROW AWAY

This contractor uses a stone spreader truck to make slabs go smooth as silk on the jobsite for the new Mountain View High School in Lawrenceville, Georgia.



Some choices on the jobsite seem relatively simple at the time, but end up saving the contractor both time and money in the long term. That has been the case for Creamer Pearce, a Kennesaw, Georgia, general contractor that uses stone spreader trucks from Cherokee Pumping Company. The spreader trucks can throw stone 60 to 80 feet, enabling the contractor to place stone in slabs that have a large amount of plumbing and electrical penetrations without having to enter the slab area. This eliminates the danger of breaking or moving the PVC or conduit by driving over it or running into it, and the maneuverability of the trucks makes them a perfect fit for four-sided basements, over-excavated jobsites, and hard-to-reach areas.

Creamer Pearce is using these stone spreader trucks to ensure success in building the new 497,000-square-foot, three-story Mountain View High School in Lawrenceville, Georgia. With two gymnasiums and two elevators, Mountain View will be the largest high school under one roof in the state of Georgia. Eddie Whitley, project superintendent for Creamer Pearce, has been there since they started clearing the streets.

According to Whitley, all of the concrete slabs that they

put in the building must have 57 stone beneath the concrete. The crew uses the spreader trucks to shoot the rocks instead of the old way of doing it, which was loading the stone a bucket at a time on a skid steer or skid loader, and spreading it out that way. The spreader trucks shoot the rock out to create the subgrade beneath the concrete in less than half the time the traditional method would take.

Of course, the time saved depends on the square footage involved. This crew likes to pour 30,000 square feet or more at a time, and on 30,000 square feet, the spreader truck can start shooting the rock at 7 a.m., and have it graded out and finished by 2 p.m. that same day. If they were using the traditional method with a skid steer instead, it would take 3½ to 4 days to finish the job. That's a tremendous amount of time saved for both labor and equipment.

Key features of the stone spreader trucks include the following:

- Large-capacity hopper, capable of holding 15 tons of material at one time
- Faster loading, due to the size of the hopper and the fact

FOR more
INFORMATION



Creamer Pearce is a general contractor based in Kennesaw, Georgia. Cherokee Pumping Company is a family-owned company with concrete pumping offices in Atlanta, Savannah, and Miami. Cherokee also offers crane erection services, self-erecting and mini-crawler cranes, crane accessories, and a laser screeding service. For more information, please call 877.620.6094, or visit www.cherokeepumping.com and www.cherokeereciting.com.

- that the loader operator does not have to be extremely precise in placing material in the machine
- Fast setup, with no outriggers and no separate trailers or hoppers that need to be set up
 - Maneuverability (The throw belt can be moved from grade level to 12 feet in the air, and turn to point almost to the front of the truck.)
 - Speed of placement, with the ability to unload 15 tons of stone in under 10 minutes if a large volume of stone needs to be moved in a short period of time
 - Quick setup, with the capability of relocating the machine in a matter of minutes, as it is a self-contained operation

THE DAILY GRIND

Obviously, building an entirely new high school is a complex project. Hundreds of things come up on a jobsite every day, and the project has to be managed so that it runs smoothly and is organized so that the crew can stay on schedule. In this case, the challenges on the site have been met with sagacity.

Whitley is especially tuned in to what the architects on the Mountain View project require. Along the way, there are always times when the blueprints don't exactly coincide with the practical situation in the field. Creamer Pearce's crews don't like to just go to an architect with a problem—they present the problem and a suggested solution for it. This has proven to be a very productive way to move forward and solve problems on the site.

One example of this approach was the way the wind brace was designed for this job. It was designed to go through a door frame, and it would not work, so the crew figured out a way to move it. This changed the structure, so the structural engineer had to get involved to make sure that what they were proposing would be structurally sound. It was, and the problem was solved in short order.

Another example of a design challenge on this job was the roof, which Whitley says was an interesting aspect of the project. It is tapered to the roof drain in an unusual way, and its three round canopies and completely round media center, which had to fit into the square frame of the roof, complicated matters.

"It was literally like fitting a round peg into a square hole," says Whitley. "Though the roof design was quite challenging, we made it work like a dream."

PRACTICAL POINTS

Even with all of the interesting design elements on this aesthetically pleasing project, the most critical key to Creamer Pearce's success, according to Whitley, has to be the stone spreader trucks. "The trucks have definitely saved me the most time and money on this project," he notes.

Before, Whitley would have had to tie up an operator and a tractor, as well as a five- to seven-man crew to spread the gravel and rake it down level. Instead, he put two men on the spreader trucks—one to run the laser and one on a rake to knock down any high spots.

Whitley has decided not to use skid loaders for gravel anymore unless it is in an area the trucks simply can't reach. "There's just no better way to put rock down on a slab," he says. "If that spreader truck can get to it, it will shoot mine. That's my opinion, point blank." ♦





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