

## Garrott Bros. celebrates 60 years in Sumner County

### Family business has success, cherished history

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In August 1950, two brothers — E.H. Garrott Sr. and John B. Garrott Sr. — decided to found a ready-mix concrete company. Then called E.H. Garrott and Son, the pair traded the bulldozers from their previous excavating business for a small cement mixer.

They got their first job pouring sidewalks for Gallatin's Main Street, and 60 years later the company handles projects ranging from residential, road and bridge construction to large commercial projects. And now Garrott Brothers employs about 60 employees and has more than 50 ready-mix trucks.

E.H. Garrott Jr., and Tommy Garrott joined their father and brother in the business in 1952 and the company was renamed Garrott Brothers Continuous Mix Inc. in 1966. When the original Garrott brothers retired, two of their sons, Johnny Garrott and E.H. Garrott III, purchased the family business from them in 1989.

Business boomed for Garrott Brothers in the '90s, and in 2000 Johnny bought out his cousin and is now the only member of the Garrott family still working in the business. However, his son-in-law is now on board with the company.

"When Dad and his brother started out, if they had 50-100 yards it was a big day because they couldn't haul but 2.5 to 3 yards at a time," Johnny Garrott says. "Now we do 1,000 yards in a day and can haul 10 yards at a time."

After staying true to their motto that there are no jobs too big or too small, the company now has six plants in Sumner and Macon counties, including a new plant on Lower Station Camp Creek Road.

"It is in its first full year of production and doing very well," said Johnny Garrott, the son of John B. Garrott Sr.

Working in a family business isn't for everyone, and

it takes a lot of hard work, compromise and understanding for it to work for anybody. For those thinking of getting the family together for a business venture, Garrott encourages them to think long and hard before rushing into it.

"There is only room for one leader," he says. "Someone has got to be in charge. It never works by committee."

### Hard work; good service

As for the company's continued success, Garrott chalks it up to hard work and good service. A drive to do his father proud also keeps things going in the right direction. Daily staff meetings help identify problems and get them solved as soon as possible.

"My greatest inspiration is to keep up the legacy my father created and to fill that pair of shoes in my own way," he says.

He says he is proud of the legacy and the history that has gotten the company to where it is today.

In fact, for him there was never a question whether he would go into the family business.

"This is what I was born and raised to do," Garrott says. "I'm 51 and have been doing this since I was 18 or 19 years old. Each day we try to do it better and learn from our mistakes."



Johnny Garrott, son of Garrott Brothers founder John B. Garrott Sr., says the key to a successful family business is hard work and good service. Garrott Brothers Continuous Mix Inc. is celebrating 60 years of business. (HOLLIE DEESE/Gallatin News Examiner)