

people to know

MUSIC MAN

For more than a decade, Terry Zwick has been one of the leaders of the band for NASCC.

IT WASN'T much of a stretch for Terry Zwick to become a lifelong musician.

His father played the marimba and the piano in the Coast Guard Band during World War II, taught music part-time for years and was even once the organist for the St. Louis Hawks (now the Atlanta Hawks).

"I was brought up with music," says Zwick, vice president and general manager of Atlas Iron Works (AISC member/AISC Certified fabricator).

At a young age, Zwick's father taught him how to read music. His first instrument was the clarinet, and over the years he learned the piano, keyboard, electric organ and bass guitar. He started playing in rock bands in high school, and his first band was called the Coachmen Four. (The bass player was Mike "Supe" Granda, who later became one of the founding members of the Ozark Mountain Daredevils.) While he typically played the keyboard, Zwick was not averse to broadening his instrumental horizons, and he soon found himself a bass player as well.

"In 1971, when I was in college, my father told me that the bass player in his band quit," he recalls. "He asked me if I wanted to learn how to play the bass guitar. I said that since you only have to play one note at a time, I would give it a try. I played my first job on bass guitar the following month and continued to earn spending money playing it through college."

He also played in a wedding band, Celebration, from 1980 to 1987.

"We only wanted to play once or twice a month, but as a wedding band, you're either not getting any gigs at all or you're getting gigs all the time," he says. "We worked a lot."

The majority of Zwick's bands have been cover bands, and he would routinely put together the arrangements, listening to a song, writing the chords and transposing it to match the range of the singer. Though he doesn't play professionally anymore, he is still a member of the local musicians union, the Musicians' Association of St. Louis. And he wrote the song for the father-daughter dance at his daughter's (Katie, who is also a structural engineer) wedding.

Day Job

While music is Zwick's passion, his full-time gig has always been steel. He studied civil engineering at Washington University in St. Louis (where he's lived his whole life), and

one of his most memorable college lessons came while studying under Ted Galambos, who told him that "no engineer should be allowed to put a pencil to paper until he has worked in a steel fabrication shop."

"I took Dr. Galambos at his word and asked him if he could get me a job at Mississippi Valley Structural Steel in St. Louis over the summer," he laughs. "He called a friend who worked there and the rest is history. I worked there that summer and was hired on permanently after graduating in 1973."

At Mississippi Valley, he worked through a training program that included detailing, on-floor shop fabrication, estimating, project management and sales, and he worked in sales until taking over as general manager in 1984. From there he moved on to Hammerts Iron Works (AISC member/AISC Certified fabricator) as vice president of sales and engineering. And in 1990 he came to Atlas Iron Works and has been there ever since.

Stepping Down

For more than a decade, Zwick has helped shape AISC and The Steel Conference. He has served on AISC's Board of Directors since October 2000 and in 2002 began serving on the NASCC Planning Committee; he has been the Board Oversight and Chair of the committee since 2003.

He cites the 2006 San Antonio show as one of his all-time favorites, especially due to having Gene Kranz, perhaps best known for his role as the lead flight director during the Apollo 13 mission, as the keynote speaker.

"He's a hero of mine," says Zwick. "I was impressed with his 'failure is not an option' attitude."

In addition to NASCC, Zwick has long been involved in AISC's education department and was an early advocate for the Night School program.

"People need CEUs, especially for future licensing requirements," he explains. "They need a master's degree or the equivalent. Why not learn about steel while fulfilling the requirements?"

After a decade of planning The Steel Conference, he'll hand over the Chair position to Mark Trimble, CEO of Huntington Steel and Supply Company (AISC member/AISC Certified fabricator), in October.

"It's time to give people a chance to use new ideas and continue moving the conference forward," he says.

And he's going out on a high note. At this year's conference dinner at the City Museum, it came to Zwick's attention that the St. Louis show could potentially top Nashville, the largest Steel Conference to date, with 3,746 attendees. The next day, he made a phone call in an effort to get a few more people to come to the show. He got four commitments and the St. Louis show went on to beat Nashville's attendance—by two. **MSC**

