

*Sound
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In the spring of 1939, two brothers, CBS alums, along with their wives, fulfilled a long held dream and founded Slakey Brothers, a small wholesale business on the then northern edge of Sacramento. Roger Slakey, class of 1920 & Bill Slakey, class of 1922, with spouses Marie & Georgia made up the entire staff of this fledgling company dedicated to serving sheet metal and heating contractors of the greater Sacramento area. The founders' vision carried the operations well beyond their original boundaries.

The business quickly grew in sales, geographic coverage and, of course staff. One of the guiding principles of the founders, as they added employees, was that loyal employees, being at the heart of the success of any business, were entitled to a share of the profits. They initiated early on an employee profit-sharing program consisting of year-end cash bonuses, based on performance, years of service and, of course, the company's bottom line. For many years Slakey Brothers made charitable donations of 5% of its net profits.

Over the years, Slakey Brothers expanded its product lines to include plumbing, piping and, later, central air conditioning. Geographically, Bill and Roger (Marie & Georgia having retired from active participation), expanded throughout Northern California. With the establishment of branches, they developed a policy of giving each manager a part of the ownership in his branch through a sharing of its profits.

One of the first new hires, in 1940, was another CBS grad, George Biaggi, class of 1940, who succeeded Roger Slakey as president. He in turn was followed by Bob Slakey, CBS class of 1948, who along with brother Noel, CBS class of 1951, were a major part of the management team into the early 1990's. Under their leadership, Slakey Brothers continued to expand into more of California, Reno, Nevada, & Oregon.

Looking toward retirement, Bob, Noel and the then company directors, initiated an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), allowing the employees, as a group, to assume full ownership as they bought out the interest of the Slakey family and other retired shareholders. The employees have for some 20 years now owned 100% of Slakey Brothers. As employees retire, their interest is purchased by active employees. Frank Nisonger currently serves as President.

Slakey Brothers today is headquartered in Elk Grove. At the height of the recent construction boom the business had sales of almost \$300 million and some 450 employees. While sales and staff have been reduced, the company continues to prosper.

To Jerry R.
3/12/12

COMPANY FOUNDED – SHARED WITH EMPLOYEES

The Slakey family has had four generations attend Christian Brothers High School – 21 students to be exact. In the first generation, Roger Slakey, Sr. would have graduated in 1920 but had to leave when his father died. But with the help of his mother, he put three younger brothers through CBS who would be the first generation of the Slakeys, with more to come.

FIRST GENERATION

Bill - 1922; Louis - 1925; Ralph - 1929.

Roger and Bill founded Slakey Brothers, a small wholesale business dedicated to serving sheet metal and heating contractors of the greater Sacramento area. Roger, Sr. was president of the company. This two-man small operation grew quickly in sales, geographic coverage and of course, staff. The company initiated early on, an employee profit-sharing program consisting of year-end cash bonuses. For many years, the company made charitable donations of 5% of its net profits. The company expanded its product lines. Branches were established in Northern California and a policy of giving each manager a part of the ownership in his branch through a sharing of its profits was developed.

SECOND GENERATION

(Sons of Roger, Sr.)

Roger, Jr. - 1945; Bill - 1946; Tom and Bob - 1948; Noel - 1951

(Son of Ralph)

Jerry - 1953

Bob Slakey was the company President in the early 1990's, with Noel being a major part of the management team. Under their leadership, the company expanded into more of California, Reno, Nevada and Oregon. Looking toward retirement, Bob, Noel and company directors initiated an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) allowing the employees to assume full ownership as they bought out the interest of the Slakey family and other retired shareholders. At the height of the construction boom, the business had sales of almost \$300 million and some 450 employees.

THIRD GENERATION

(Sons of Bob)

Bob, Jr. - 1969; Douglas - 1972; John - 1974; Steven - 1976; Mark - 1981

(Son of Roger, Jr.)

Francis, 1981

FOURTH GENERATION

(Sons of Steven)

Christopher - 1996; Danny - 2002; Andy - 2005

(Son of Mark)

Devon Cromwell, 1997

(Son & Daughter of Bob, Jr.)

Matthew - 2002; Sarah Slakey Colwell - 1999

MARILYN SLAKEY CARMAZZI, sister of Roger, Jr., Bill, Tom, Bob and Noel had five sons attend CBHS: Dan - 1971; Peter - 1972; Paul - 1974; Bill - 1977 and James - 1979. Paul's son Paul, Jr., 2010 and his daughter Megan, 2011 also attended CBHS.