

35 Years In, Speedie & Associates Proudly Looks to the Future

By Roland Murphy
for Arizona
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Many engineering and construction companies would like to be one-stop shops. As it celebrates its 35th year in business, and with a history of organic expansion in the services it offers, **Speedie & Associates** has come closer to the mark than many.

Jim Speedie and his wife Henrietta founded the company in 1980. With 13 employees and 10 clients, they set out to create a firm that provided top-tier geotechnical engineering, construction inspection, materials and laboratory testing, and civil design to clients looking to tap the state's rich development potential.

The Speedies eventually sold their interest to a partnership comprised of four of their key division leaders in 2001. By that time the company had grown to more than 100 employees with offices in Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff.

Since each partner had his own area of expertise, their diverse knowledge bases let them expand their services into more and more sub-sections of the construction engineering market. Today the firm provides:

- ▶ Geotechnical investigations and site development reports
- ▶ Materials testing and construction quality control and assurance
- ▶ Specialized geotechnical, structural and architectural inspection
- ▶ Specialized testing services
- ▶ In-house geotechnical and materials laboratory testing
- ▶ Environmental Engineering and site assessment
- ▶ Asbestos inspection, management plans and abatement oversight, and
- ▶ Other engineering and consulting services to clients and projects in commercial, public, educational, transportation, water, power and recreational development.

Speedie & Associates now has a staff of 125 and handles more than 2,000 projects every year.

35

SPEEDIE AND ASSOCIATES

Geotechnical ▪ Environmental ▪ Materials Engineers



Partners Gregg Creaser, Brett Creaser, and Donald Cornelison celebrate 35 years.

Expanding Services and Resources to Put Client Needs First

Company President Gregg Creaser says the growth in services stems from the company's dedication to maximizing how it meets clients' needs. "Take, for example, Phase 1 environmental assessments," he said. "Nobody ever used to do those years ago, but a client would call and tell us the bank said they need one. Since we were the first people on the site to drill a hole, they thought we should take care of that issue for them. Often, someone would need a service that we may not have done at the time, but we'll decide that's a natural fit for the work we do and we get people trained on how to do it."

Creaser explained there is an inherent benefit to the client in having one firm provide or manage as many components of the engineering process as possible. "They know they don't need to be dealing with a bunch of different companies. They can call one or two people here and we will take care of whatever it is they need."

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Speedie performs concrete quality assurance on the mat slab at the Downtown Phoenix Luhr's Center project.



Gregg Creaser, President

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Speedie's dedication to putting clients' needs above all other considerations even extends to referring work to competitors in some cases if they can't fit a project into their current workload. "We don't ever just tell a client, 'We don't do that work.' We'll refer them to someone who will.

"Hopefully our client will come back to us knowing that we were honest with them and helped them out with that particular project. It's worked for us the last 35 years. It's better to miss out on one opportunity but keep the relationship."



A Speedie employee ensures anchors are installed properly on the Marina Heights project in Tempe.

The 35th Year Celebration and Looking to the Future

Creaser sees the upcoming anniversary events as another service opportunity for Speedie's clients. "We have been successful due to some great clients, and we really just want to say thank you in person and reward them with another opportunity to network among themselves and with us."

The "Spooktacular" event will be a gala in the latter part of October.



Speedie & Associates performed construction materials testing and special inspections on the Downtown Phoenix Maricopa County Court Towers project.