

# Miller Pipeline Marks 50th Anniversary



(from left) Dale, Paul, Don and Karl Miller stand in front of one of Miller Pipeline's first work trucks at the 50th anniversary celebration in Indianapolis. The truck bears the name Don W. Miller Inc., which was based in Green Springs, Ohio.

**F**ounded in 1953 with little more than a willingness for hard work and honest values, Miller Pipeline Corp. has evolved into a leader in the field of pipeline installation and rehabilitation.

The company was founded in the small northern Ohio town of Green Springs by Don W. Miller, a 26-year-old U.S. Navy veteran who was one of 10 children reared on a potato farm.

Miller Pipeline recently marked the 50th anniversary of its founding with an open house at its Crawfordsville, Ind., headquarters.

"The Millers have always been successful farmers and in 1953 Don Miller planted a business with seeds of integrity, quality, safety and exceeding customers' expectations," said Doug Banning, Miller Pipeline CEO. "He recognized that those were the keys to success and they are clearly present at Miller Pipeline today.

"Those values have made us successful for the past 50 years and will make the next 50 years successful as well."

In recognition of Miller Pipeline's 50th anniversary, Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson declared June 26 as "Miller Pipeline Day." Additionally, Gov. Frank O'Bannon honored Dale Miller with the Sagamore of the Wabash award, the highest honor the

governor can bestow. It is given to those who have rendered a distinguished service to the state.

## Getting Started

Founded as Miller & Crum Contracting Co., the company took on pipeline projects in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. In less than a year Miller bought out his former partner to establish Don W. Miller Inc. Over the years, brothers Karl, Paul and Dale joined Don in the family business and the company assumed the name Miller Pipeline Corp.

Miller Pipeline was one of the pioneers of trenchless technology in North America. In the 1970s, Miller Pipeline recognized the need to offer cost-effective alternatives to pipe replacement. "We are always looking for opportunities and different areas where we can get involved," Dale Miller said. "At that time there was a slowdown in the gas market so we were looking for other types of work."

The products and services that Miller Pipeline developed and pioneered included internal joint seals, pipe relining, pipe bursting, vacuum excavation and horizontal directional drilling. These new products and services now account for about one-third of the company's business.

Among Miller Pipelines early clients were Ashland Oil, Indiana Gas and Columbia Gas. Beginning in 1958, the company began to expand out of the Midwest when it landed a major contract with the Jacksonville Gas Co. in Florida.

A steady stream of work in Indiana led the company to establish an office near Indianapolis in the 1960s, which quickly became a base of operations because of its central location and accessibility. In 1986, Miller



Miller Pipeline CEO Doug Banning addresses the attendees at the 50th anniversary celebration.

Pipeline relocated its corporate headquarters to the Hoosier State. Miller Pipeline currently has six offices spread across the United States.

Upon Don Miller's retirement in 1997, with brothers Karl and Paul also in retirement, Dale Miller became chairman of the company — a post he still holds today. Dale Miller joined the company a year after its founding upon turning 18.



Dale Miller, center, receives the Sagamore of the Wabash award from representatives of Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon in recognition of distinguished service to the state. The award is the highest honor the governor can bestow.

"The last 50 years have been very satisfying for all of us," he said. "The reason that we have been able to succeed while most of our competitors have disappeared is because of our quality and integrity. There have been some competitors that have tried to be the cheapest to get the work, but that can lead to trouble. Plus, we have been blessed with really great people within the organization."