

# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

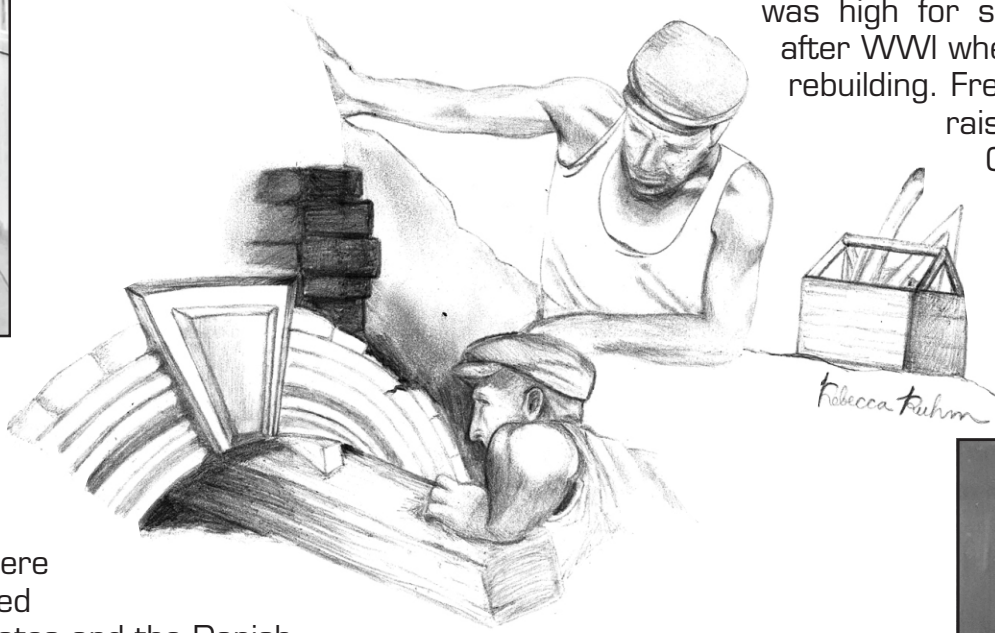
## IN RACINE & 5 GENERATIONS OF FAMILY CRAFTSMEN



This is our 25th year as an incorporated business but we are celebrating over 110 years of family heritage and craftsmanship that brought us here. We celebrate hard work, education, tradition and skill.



**Frederick Andersen** was born in Denmark (1883) and grew up on his family's farm where he learned the business of farming and the skills of a carpenter as many farmers do out of necessity. As an adult Frederick opened his own construction company and left the family farm. Building first in Denmark and later throughout Europe, including Switzerland and Germany, he became known for his excellent craftsmanship. Demand was high for skilled carpenters especially after WWI when much of Europe required rebuilding. Frederick married Kristine and raised seven children. Their son George was born in 1913 and he followed his father's trade, learning the skills of a Master Carpenter.



**George Andersen** and his brother (Ronan) honed their skills in Denmark becoming Master Carpenters. After WWII, there was a high demand for skilled carpenters in the United States and the Danish community in Racine welcomed this next generation of

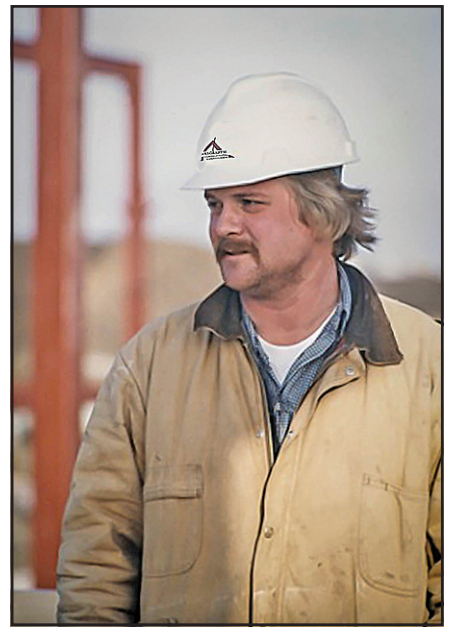
skilled Andersen brothers. George arrived in Racine in 1952 with his wife Mary and three small children; Hanne, Bjarne (John) and Niels. George brought with his carpentry tools as well as three small wooden beds he handcrafted in Denmark. It was important for him to have the tools he needed to support his family and equally important that his children have beds to sleep in. George worked on many executive estates as well as commercial projects including Gateway Technical College and St. Luke's Hospital. He lived a full life and taught his craft and work ethic to his son Niels and his grandson Jeff Stacy. Many of George's carpentry tools are on display at the office of Absolute Construction and one of the small beds along with the original straw mattress is on display at the Stacy home.



**Niels Andersen** was a young boy when he arrived in Racine from Denmark but already knew the family trade was fine carpentry. His father George and his uncle Ronan were willing teachers and Niels learned the skills of a Master Carpenter from them as well as participating in a formal apprenticeship. After high school, he joined the US Military and served his new country while stationed in Germany and Korea. When Niels completed his military service he returned to Racine and began his career in construction. With his highly developed carpentry skills already in place, Niels quickly learned the business aspects of the construction industry and advanced from carpenter to field manager, estimator and soon president of a Racine based company.



**Jeff Stacy** was inspired by the old world craftsmanship of his grandfather George and by the "big picture" construction management skills of his uncle Niels. Jeff was early to finish high school and entered the university to study Architecture but quickly realized that he truly preferred the business of construction. He began his carpentry apprenticeship at age 18 and soon after married Tracy whom he had met in Park High School drafting class. Tracy went on to study architecture and civil engineering while Jeff completed his apprenticeship. They have three sons; Joshua, Zachariah and Jacob. Jeff, like his uncle, moved from field work to



the management of construction and eventually becoming the president of a large local construction company. Tracy interned at a Racine based architectural firm (Butterfield & Seitz) and shortly afterward opened her own design firm (Absolute Design, Inc.). "We were a great team from the beginning" says Tracy of Jeff and herself. "And that is why it made so much sense for us to work together. Absolute Design became Absolute Construction Enterprises. Today our team includes many talented and creative people. We have built schools, churches, businesses, homes, fire stations, museums, libraries and more."

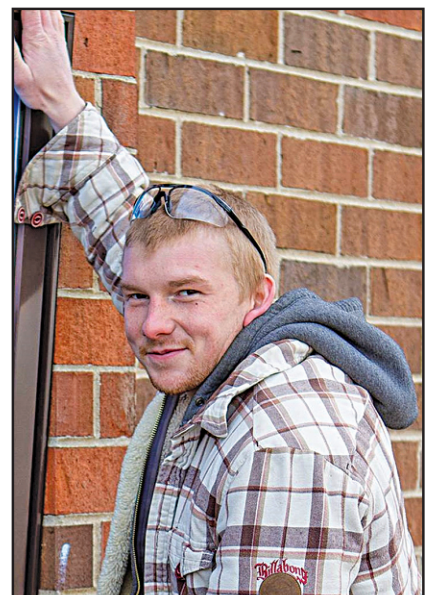
### BUILDING

### A LEGACY

Racine Water Dept. Facility, Gateway Technical College, St. Mary's Hospital, St. Mary's Church, St. Paul's Church, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee - Golda Meier Library, Racine Public Library, Christian Life School, Assembly of God Church - Kenosha, Civil War Museum-Kenosha, Menards - Racine, Racine Unified School District, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Kenosha Transit Facility, South Shore Fire Department, Lincoln Village, Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church, JI Case Facilities, Workforce Development Center, Johnson Bank, WISCON, SCJ Facilities, Waukesha Area Technical College, Pewaukee Fire Department, St. Francis Library, Waterford Library, Racine Bible Church, Racine Courthouse, Robert Rohner Training Center, Lakes Community High School, Antioch Public High School, SHOC Business Condos, Midwest Urgent Care, RUSD Administration Office, Fratt Elementary School, Park High School, Case High School, Mitchell Middle School, Racine City Hall



Recently generation 5 has joined the Absolute Construction team. Though they were practically born with hammers in their hands **Zachariah** and **Jacob** both completed formal 4 year carpentry apprenticeships. Zachariah added concrete to his training and Jacob will soon finish a business degree. Together they will continue the legacy begun by Frederick Andersen with foundations laid by George and Niels and a business built by Tracy and Jeff.



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