

UNDERGROUND PRESS

Celebrating 100 Years Duininck's Century of Progress



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TBD

And Much More...

100 YEARS

Duininck's Century of Progress: Paving the Road, Excavating Underground and Beyond



Nineteen twenty-six was a landmark year for American roads. U.S. Route 66 was designated, and people caught a glimpse of what a connected country could look like. That same year in Minnesota, Amos and Henry Duinick started grading roads. The brothers were shaping a different, but unmistakably related, stretch of the country's future.

A century later, as Route 66 marks its 100th anniversary as an American icon, Duinick marks 100 years of its own – perhaps less flashy but every bit as foundational. The company that began with two brothers and a horse-drawn grader now employs more than 1,400 people across the United States with a heavy concentration in the Midwest. Operations have grown to include Heavy Civil, Golf Course Construction, Concrete, Water Management, and Real Estate fields. Duinick also remains proudly family-owned, a rarity in an industry increasingly reshaped by private equity and consolidation.



WHERE IT ALL STARTED: PRINSBURG, 1926

The Duinick story began modestly in the small farming community of Prinsburg in west-central Minnesota. In 1926, workers earned 23 cents an hour plus food and shelter; horses and mules powered graders, plows, and wagons. In those days, grading a road cost about 375 dollars per mile according to Duinick records, a fraction of the \$1.2 million per mile a comparable job commands today.

Two years in, brother Wilbur joined Amos and Henry, and the three solidified the first-generation partnership that would anchor everything to come. When the Great Depression hit and work dried up, the brothers reorganized. They teamed up with engineer Dave Gilchrist in Renville County, Minnesota, and got back to work.

In 1936, Duinick reached an important moment when it landed its first trucking contract. That change allowed the company to move from horses and mules to



more modern crawler tractors and trucks. This shift marked the company's first major step into new construction technology – and it set a pattern for many more advances to come.



In the 1940s, Duinink Brothers & Gilchrist, as the company was then known, completed its first asphalt paving project in Eveleth on Minnesota's Iron Range. This milestone marked the point when the company became experts at working with asphalt. Minnesota was – and remains – one of the toughest places in the country to build roads. Brutal temperature swings, heavy snow, and constant freeze-thaw cycles put enormous stress on pavement, causing cracks and potholes year after year. Duinink spent these early decades learning from and tackling those challenges. The knowledge and skills gained during that period would shape not only the company's next seven-and-a-half

decades, but also, many of the practices the industry relies on today.

THE INTERSTATE ERA: BUILDING THE BACKBONE OF AMERICA

If there is a single chapter in American history that defines Duinink's rise, it is the interstate era.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act. The act committed \$25 billion to the construction of the U.S. Interstate Highway System and was the largest public works program in American history. For a company

that had spent three decades perfecting the art of heavy highway construction in the demanding conditions of the upper Midwest, the moment marked a defining shift in the industry on which Duinink had staked its future.

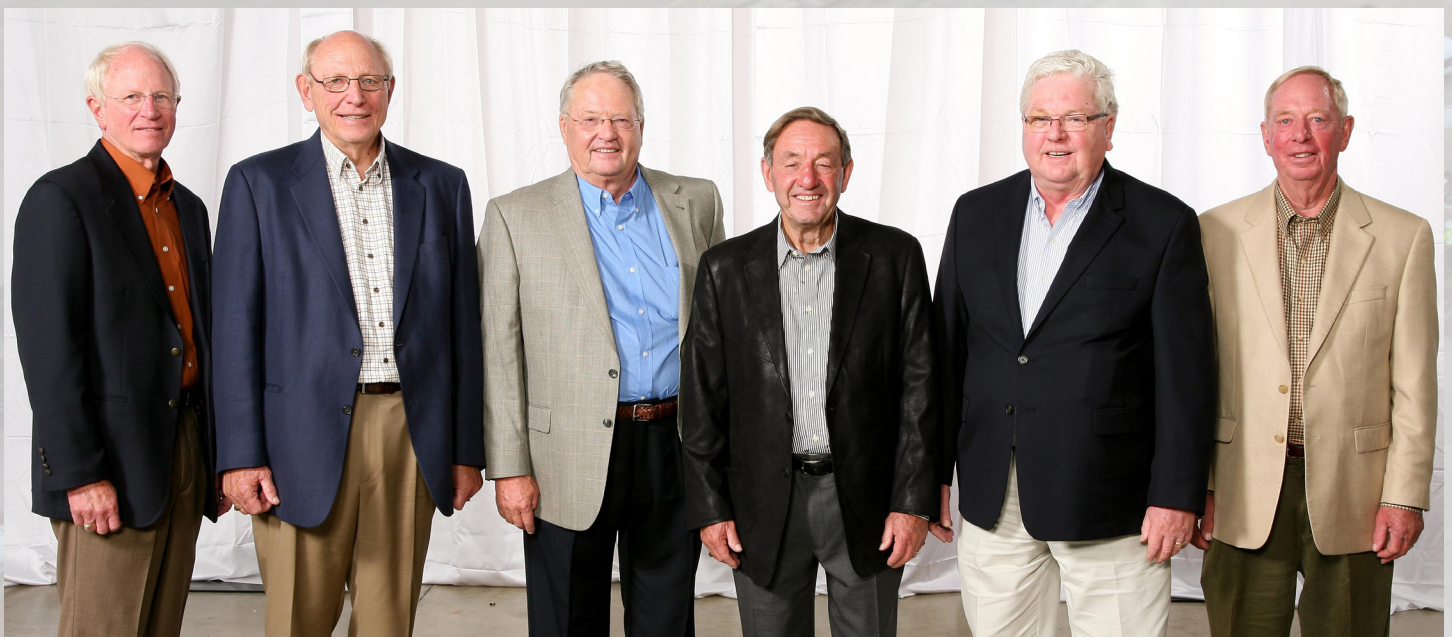
In 1957, Duinink became a member of the National Asphalt Pavement Association. That decision reflected a dedication to high industry standards – a dedication that has remained strong ever since.

By the 1970s, Minnesota had become a national leader in raising the quality of asphalt roads and developing stronger standards for how pavement was tested, produced, and laid. Duinink played an important role in that progress and formally joined the Minnesota Asphalt Pavement Association.

FIFTY FAMILIES HEAD SOUTH: THE TEXAS EXPANSION OF 1985

In 1985, Duinink took a carefully calculated risk by expanding far beyond its home base in Minnesota and launching operations in Texas.

What makes this story remarkable is not just the expansion itself, but how it happened. Fifty families, Duinink employees and their households with deep ties to Prinsburg and west-central



Minnesota, packed up and relocated to Texas. They built the division from the ground up. This wasn't a top-down order from leadership. People wanted to do it because they cared about each other and the company.

Decades later, many of those multigenerational families are still part of Duinick's Texas operations. The same names that made the journey south in 1985 are represented in the workforce today, evidence of deep and lasting loyalty – the kind that develops in organizations where people genuinely feel they are valued and belong.

The Texas division's early work in highway and government airfield construction resulted in national recognition. In 2003, Duinick Texas received the Sheldon G. Hayes Award from the National Asphalt Pavement Association, the award given to the highest quality asphalt project in the nation.

UNDERGROUND UTILITY LEADERSHIP



As the company expanded and built what people could see and drive on every day, another equally important chapter of Duinick's work was taking shape. This chapter ran quietly, steadily, and critically beneath the surface.

The company has applied the same rigor, craftsmanship, and problem-solving mindset that defined its early highway work to underground utility construction since the early 1980s. Today, Duinick is a trusted partner in the construction, repair, relocation,



and replacement of sanitary sewer, water main, and storm sewer infrastructure for both public and private sector clients across the region.

This underground expertise is an enduring part of Duinick's portfolio, supporting communities in ways that are just as essential but often unseen. From aging municipal systems to complex utility coordination on major infrastructure projects, the company's crews bring experience and a strong safety culture to some of the most technically challenging work in civil construction.

That depth of experience is why Duinick has been an active member of DIGIN Midwest, formerly the Minnesota Utility Contractors Association (MUCA), for more than 30 years. Leadership engagement has defined that relationship. In 2004, Duinick leader Jerome Vikse served as president of the MUCA Board of Directors. Vikse testified at the Minnesota State

Capitol and worked directly with industry stakeholders to help advance critical amendments to Minnesota Statute 216D Gopher State One Call. The "Call Before You Dig Law" mandates that anyone digging – whether a professional or homeowner – must call 811 or visit gopherstateonecall.org at least 48 hours before starting.

Vikse's efforts strengthened protections for contractors, utilities, and community members alike and made a lasting impact on how underground work is planned and executed across Minnesota.

FOUR GENERATIONS, ONE NAME

One of the most striking facts in Duinick's centennial story is the consistency of family ownership across one hundred years and four generations. The founders' sons, Curt, Harris, Larry, Lee, Norm, and Willis, joined the business in the 1950s, carrying the second



JOIN THE CELEBRATION

July 25, 2026

Willmar, Minnesota

Reaching 100 years calls for truly honoring all those whose talents, hard work, and support helped to build DuinincK.

On July 25th, 2026, the company will host a community celebration in Willmar, Minnesota.

The event is open to employees, customers, partners, and the surrounding community, a gathering that reflects the spirit of a family company that has always believed its strength comes from the people around it.

The event will honor the past and embrace the next hundred years with fellowship, a meal, and a presentation tracing the full DuinincK journey: from Amos and Henry's horse-drawn graders to a multi-state operation at the forefront of Minnesota's construction industry.

Everyone is welcome!

generation's energy into the company's most formative growth decades. Willis DuinincK would go on to serve as Chairman of the National Asphalt Pavement Association in 1987, a role that reflects the company's credibility, influence, and long-standing commitment to doing its work with expertise and care.

The third generation, Chris, Jamie, Jason, Jeremy, Judd, Kyle, Ryan, and Trevor, assumed ownership in the late 1980s through 2003, guiding the company through its most significant diversification, including the 1988 launch of the Golf division and the 2004 acquisition of Central Allied Company that brought DuinincK into the concrete market. The 2020 JME acquisition further expanded that concrete reach.

The DuinincK Family connects in new and meaningful ways through annual events and development opportunities. In 2026, the first slate of fourth-generation owners joins the company, marking an important milestone in the intentional, long-term transition of stewardship to the next generation: Elise, Hans, Jeff, Lauren, Maddie, and Sam. The original founders, who built the company with simple tools and literal workhorses in 1926, could never have imagined how large, advanced, and successful the



company would become under the stewardship of their modern-day successors.

Every generation also understands that this century of growth is not a family achievement alone. For 100 years, thousands of employees across the company – past and present – have contributed their skill, grit, and dedication to every mile built and every project delivered. Most were not family members, yet each played an equally critical role in shaping the company's success. This centennial is both a celebration of family legacy and leadership, and an equally important moment to honor and thank all those employees whose hard work, loyalty, and skill helped build DuinincK into the company it is today.

As DuinincK enters its next century, the spirit of family, teamwork, and shared commitment remains the company's greatest strength, fueling a future built together by generations to come.

