

Basic Materials Corp. on a roll with a product that rocks

GREG BROWN /
Courier Staff
Photographer

Sherman Lundy, left, Kurt Behrens, Dave Downey, general manager Chris Dinsdale, Todd Miller, Dan Miller and Leon Koob have all been involved in the process that makes Basic Materials Corporation what it is today.



Open house

Basic Materials Corp. will hold an open house Sunday, Oct. 15, with educational displays and programs for Earth Science Week at its Raymond quarry, 6900 Dubuque Road. The quarry is on the south side of Dubuque Road one mile east of Iowa Highway 297.

Quarry and geology tours will be conducted for adults and children, in conjunction with the University of Northern Iowa earth science department and students. Booths and displays from other agencies will be available and refreshments and prizes will be offered.

'90s, private-sector building picked up. Basic caught the wave and has ridden it hard ever since.

"It was just an opportunity because these quarries came up for sale, and along came the interstate substitution program and the federal aid, the funding programs. Along with the economy and the building progress, it's been overwhelming, really," said Chris Dinsdale, the company's general manager.

One of the company's major recent projects has been supplying aggregate materials for the extension of four-lane relocated U.S. Highway 20 in Grundy County between the Black Hawk county line and Iowa Highway 14 north of Grundy Center.

The company supplies sand and stone for a number of ready-mix concrete and asphalt contractors and companies like Zeidlers Inc., a longtime local manufacturer of concrete piping.

Over the last two years, the company has invested more than \$2.5 million in new equipment and buildings, including a new

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By **PAT KINNEY**
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RAYMOND

Anyone who's driven on a new road, shopped in a new store or moved into a new home locally any time in the past 18 years has been touched by one of the most invisible businesses in Black Hawk County.

Basic Materials Corp. has been one of the most "out of sight, out of mind," yet omnipresent enterprises around. Outside the consciousness of the daily consumer, its

sand, gravel and stone products have been the lifeblood of the local construction industry.

In fact, Basic Materials, and companies like it, are to the construction industry what DNA is to life.

The company plans a "coming out" party of sorts when it sponsors an open house next Sunday, Oct. 15, at its quarry east of Raymond. Schools and Scout troops as well as the general public have been invited for educational programs and tours.

Founded in 1982 as a joint venture between Manatt's Inc. of Brooklyn and

Cedar Valley Corp. of Waterloo, Basic Materials is the dominant provider of "natural aggregates" — crushed stone, sand and gravel — necessary for many of the construction projects in Northeast Iowa.

The company was born when Martin Marietta Corp. decided to sell some local quarry operations. It was founded at an opportune time, just as Black Hawk County saw a major reconstruction of the metro highway system under the \$350-million federally funded interstate highway substitution program.

As the program wound down in the early