

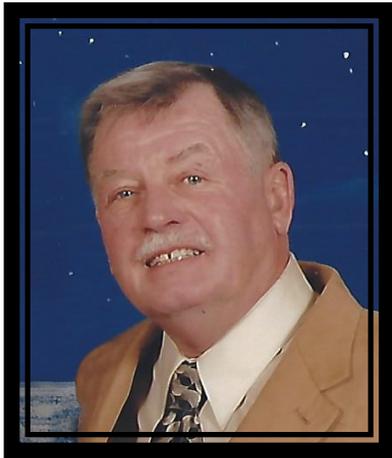
Allan Block

Always Better Wall of Fame

July 2019



allanblock.com



Denny Larsen **Block Tech** *Elk River, MN*

We all know someone behind the scenes filling in the potholes and keeping the train on the track. We want to recognize one of those people for all their support and guidance over the last 30 years. Denny Larsen was the first “blockhead” to run Allan Block at the plant he was working at Friedhiem Concrete in the Minneapolis/St. Paul market. As the years went by, he has been there when someone needed a mold part, a used splitter or even a used block machine. Denny knew where all the bodies were buried, so to speak, and the first one to call if you needed to find something to keep your plant running. Denny started in the concrete products industry in the late 60’s at Madison Silo in Winona, MN. Like most of us in the business he took a deep breath and got some concrete dust in his blood stream and he was hooked. Denny joined the Army Reserves in 1966, was married to Cathy in 1968 and moved to Markle, IN with Madison Silo in 1975, moving back to MN in 1976 working for CMI Block in Medford, MN now part of Amcon Block. In 1978 he took a job with Friedhiem which changed to Sheily Masonry, Aggregate Industries, and Master Block. Denny was there to help make molds other companies were not interested in fabricating. Spending the first twenty plus years, of his time in the block industry, running equipment and making concrete products, created a knowledge base for what came next.

In 1989, after helping work out the kinks for a couple of years running Allan Block, he started his own company, Block Tech, in Elk River, MN, to service the operations side of the concrete block industry. He has seen firsthand how one block plant after another has left Minnesota and Denny was one of the first to realize that these funny shaped specialty blocks were needed if we were going to keep his beloved block industry going. His experience helped him understand the value he could bring by getting used equipment into the hands of the plant owners that needed to replace or upgrade their operations. Moving from making molds to relocating and sometimes rebuilding used equipment, to helping plant owners in an ever more challenging business climate seemed to happen overnight. From repairing molds, to building new molds for funny shaped blocks, to moving and installing plants to remote overseas locations, or walking through a plant problem over the phone, Denny has done it all.

Since he spent 20 + years making block, he knows the needs of the people that keep the plants running and how to make their job a bit easier. He also has been patient with all the questions coming from those that do not have block making experience, helping them understand the what and the why on any given project. Denny stops by the Allan Block office often to show the engineers on our team how things go together and what things they need to take into consideration as they go through a mold assembly process. Denny helped Bob in the early years better understand what changes were required to get the first generation of Allan Block to run efficiently. I first met Denny in 1989 while he was running Allan Block for Sheille Concrete Products. Although we have all aged over the last 30 years some things have not changed.

Denny realized that his passion of fishing and hunting was not going to pay the bills, so he found ways to service our industry. In the industry, that he has been such a part of, he found ways to make molds better, companies better, and manufactured products better. From the look on his face holding his catch, he needed something to make him smile, as it does not appear fishing is getting it done. Maybe it has something to do with sitting in a fish house on a frozen lake in the middle of winter in Minnesota. We have heard that if fishing and hunting does not make him smile a slot machine sometimes does the trick.

When he finally hangs up his tools, he will not be forgotten, as he has passed the baton to his son Jeff to keep Block Tech going. Denny thank you for your friendship to our company and to all you have done to make us *Always Better, Always Allan Block.*

