



COLUMBUS

CONNECTION

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KOMATSU®

Eslich Wrecking Company

(Left to right) Richard Eslich Jr., Company President Richard Eslich and John Eslich, Onsite in Downtown Canton, With A Komatsu PC200LC And Allied-Gator MT 20 Shear



Eslich Wrecking Company .. THIRD-GENERATION FAMILY BUSINESS

Eslich Wrecking Company has been in business since 1956, growing from a small company that tore down houses and small buildings around its base in Louisville, Ohio, to one of the most respected names in demolition in Ohio and beyond.

company gained expertise by starting small and learning from experience.

Eslich Demolition provides a number of services, including total and selective demolition, high-rise demolition, interior demolition, scrap processing, and site prep, grading and drainage. The company works both on public projects and for private owners in Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Kentucky. The mix of work is about half public and half private, with many repeat customers, Eslich noted.

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When it comes to demolition, each project is unique, and “they are all challenging,” he observed. Asked about the most challenging demolition Eslich Wrecking has performed, Eslich named the Detroit-Superior Bridge in downtown Cleveland. “We had to undeck the bridge” so new decking could be installed. “Underneath the bridge, there’s a waterway, so we had to watch for barges and be careful not to drop anything; we had to secure the people below.”

The company’s biggest project was the demolition of the Brown’s Island coke plant, which stretched over 40 acres in West Virginia. Eslich Wrecking removed the coke ovens, the crushers that crushed the coke, smokestacks, storage bins and adjacent buildings in a project that took a year and a half to complete.

Other notable projects include the demolition of the historic Cleveland Courthouse, and the demolition of Richland Correctional Institute in Mansfield—which involved 26 structures, including a stone wall, guard towers, gates and water tower. Private projects have included demolition of the Goodyear vinyl plant in Niagara Falls, New York, and several projects for PPG Industries.

The Eslich Group of Companies includes several



The company’s story is one of changing with the times and seizing opportunity as it came, said company president Richard Eslich, whose father Michael Eslich started the company. “We tear down major factories, 14-story buildings, bridges, we implode things,” he said. In each of these specialties, the

• BUSINESS THRIVES ON DEMOLITION EXPERTISE



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smaller businesses that grew out of the demolition business—landfills in Akron and Canton that accept construction and demolition materials, and a crushing/recycling business. “They were a natural growth out of what we do, and when they came available, we purchased them,” he noted. The company has also experimented with services, such as environmental remediation—it's simply cheaper to hire the work out than to do it themselves, Eslich found.

While the size of the company's demolition projects have grown over the years, the process has also changed, Eslich noted. “When I first started, there were no shears—we did everything with a torch. There were no grapplers—we didn't use backhoes, just track machines. Now we mostly use excavators. And with the longer sticks on excavators, we can reach up higher, where we used to have to use a cable crane. It is so much safer than it used to be.”

For 20 years, Eslich Wrecking has counted on one brand of excavator—Komatsu. The company currently owns about

a dozen Komatsu excavators, ranging in size from the PC35 up to the PC400. “The machines hold up very well, they are durable and reliable; that's why we use them,” Eslich said. The company typically keeps an excavator for six years, putting 15,000 to 20,000 hours on the machine.

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He's equally loyal to Komatsu dozers; Eslich Wrecking owns three dozers, from the D65 up to the D135. “They are durable and powerful as well,” he said.

Eslich has been buying his Komatsu products from Columbus Equipment Company for 20 years. He finds the dealership to be very responsive to his company's needs. “If we break down and call them, they come out as soon as they can get there, even on a Saturday.”

“Paul Stevens, our sales rep, is tremendous,” Eslich said. “If I need something and tell him ahead of time, he'll find it



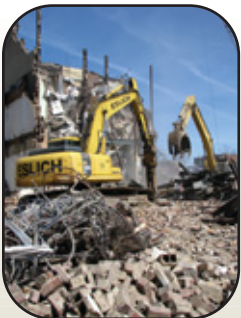
(Bottom left) Richard Eslich pictured in 1973 with his father and company founder, Michael Eslich, and (top left) his father's first piece of equipment, with philosophy proudly displayed. (Right) Demolition work recently underway on Tuscarawas and Walnut in downtown Canton. (Inset) The company's Stark C&D landfill location on Lisbon Street in Louisville, Ohio.

for me. If something goes wrong with a machine, he goes to bat for me."

Several years ago, for example, the rail on a PC300 cracked, Eslich recalled. "Within five days, Paul had two brand new rails for us. I expected one, but he said he didn't want to take any chances. We were very pleased with them."

The family atmosphere is prevalent among the entire workforce, which numbers about 90, Eslich noted. "We are a very strong, family owned business. When employees come here, they stay for a long time. We have employees with up to 32 years experience with us."

Looking to the future, Eslich said he would like to see



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Just as Richard Eslich worked with his father, his three sons have a role in the business. John Eslich is the accountant and handles some bidding duties as well as overseeing the landfills. Matt Eslich handles the scrap end of the business, finding buyers nationally and internationally for scrap and doing scrap estimations for jobs. Richard Eslich Jr. does bidding and works as a project manager.

his three sons continue the business and grow it to the next level. With 55 years of growth behind them, they certainly have a solid start.