

Leonard Crawford



Pat Murphy



Ray Tilly



IN 1945, THE *JOURNAL* AND THE *REGISTER* WERE FILLED WITH STORIES OF ALLIED VICTORIES AND ADVANCES AS WWII CAME TO A TRIUMPHANT CLOSE. THAT SAME YEAR, IN LE HAVRE, FRANCE, A STORY WAS DEVELOPING THAT CONTINUES IN SPRINGFIELD TO THIS VERY DAY.



Building a Legacy

A chance meeting by two former University of North Dakota engineering students some 4,000 miles away from Springfield would seem an unlikely impetus for a local success story. Pat Murphy and Len Crawford were both doing their part for the war effort when they were reunited at a PX in Le Havre. Over a cold beer, they discussed their postwar plans. Their plans would include Ray Tilly, another UND alum, who was back in Springfield working as the county superintendent of highways.

They saw an opportunity for three determined and energetic engineers. With the war efforts winding down, attention would be turned towards building the country's infrastructure. Wanting to contribute to this growth, the three decided to partner in a civil engineering firm and determined that Springfield would be the ideal home for Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT).

In 1946 they embarked on their venture, agreeing that if they could stick it out for the first five years, they could "probably make a go of it." It didn't take long for those five years to become 60 and there's no disputing that CMT has made quite a go of it.

During the '50s and '60s, CMT was called on to help develop our country's interstate highway system. The firm's water and wastewater professionals responded to the more stringent environmental standards introduced in the '70s by developing innovative solutions for water and wastewater treatment. CMT added an aviation planning group in the '80s during a time when they were also making significant advancements in airport pavement design. And in the '90s, a land development unit was added and quickly earned the trust of the world's largest retailer.

CMT has enjoyed steady and

healthy growth over the years. Since that fateful day in France, CMT has grown from three partners to a 260-employee, privately owned corporation. Its second floor office at 402 East Adams has long since been outgrown and the firm is now headquartered at 2750 West Washington, with eight other offices spread out over four states. Today, CMT is a nationally recognized and award-winning engineering consulting firm.

Leonard Crawford, Pat Murphy, and Ray Tilly would be proud that the firm still maintains the same values and commitment to integrity that they first instilled in 1946. They'd also be proud that many of the clients that they first brought on board are still with CMT today. A lot will surely change in the years to come, but their legacy will remain the firm's strength as the CMT story continues to unfold.

