

# Employee Spotlight

## the **Marr Mirror** Lou Giunta

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*John MacDougall*

As a thick fog over Boston Harbor began to push inland, a young man by the name of Louis Giunta began his first day of work at Saf-Lok Scaffolding Company in Quincy, Massachusetts. The day was Tuesday, August 1 and the year was 1967— and as Lou remembers it, the “Year of the Impossible Dream” for the Boston Red Sox won the pennant that year.

Working as a certified welder and then as foreman, Lou was at Saf-Lok until 1990 and saw the company grow from a two-person operation to a 10-person company. Their main job was to produce and repair all the scaffolding for Marr Scaffolding Company and some of it is still in use today.

After 23 years with Saf-Lok and at ‘Big’ Dan and Bob Marr’s urgings, Lou joined Isaac Blair. While he was reluctant at first to make the change, Lou says that Bob Marr believed in him more than he believed in himself and that made all the difference. He trained for a few years under Frank Cogliano, a long time Marr employee and company Hall of Famer.

Founded in 1820 and purchased by Daniel Marr & Son in 1969, Isaac Blair has earned a distinguished reputation for solving unusual shoring and rigging problems; it has grown in stature and has thrived under Lou’s leadership. John MacDougall, also a long-time Marr employee and close colleague of Lou’s, says there isn’t a more honest, hard-working and dedicated man on the job, “Lou is an interesting guy to be around; he is an excellent fabricator/designer and can talk to anyone, anywhere, at any time.”

With projects ranging from historic, landmark structures to large commercial buildings to the rescuing of vehicles from the Charles, Isaac Blair has done it all and Lou Giunta, whose very name seems synonymous with Isaac Blair, is first on everyone’s call list for either planned or emergency shoring work. Literally hundreds of projects fill the Isaac Blair archives but Lou’s most notable ones include Quincy’s Masonic Temple, Fenway Park, North Station, the Southeast Expressway and the recent Ohlin’s Bakery in Belmont.

It is often the case that multiple contractors bidding on the same work will have included Isaac Blair as their partner in a proposal; sometimes Isaac Blair is really the only game in town.

Thanks in large part to Lou and what he has built over the years, the days of hiring off-duty firemen as laborers for Isaac Blair is just an amusing anecdote. The company is an important fixture in the industry.

One might expect that, with energy enough to burn, Lou has a very active life outside of Marr and he does. An elaborate hobby raising and showing English Budgies (a relative of the American Parakeet) keeps him on the fly and he currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the RI Budgerigar Society and is the District Director of the American Budgerigar Society for New York and New England. A consuming pastime, Lou’s award-winning Pine Tree Aviary has won Best Novice Breeder in the northeast for the past five years.

Lou fully enjoys his work and is also the complete family man, not to mention a total baseball fan. He is coming up on 50 years with The Marr Companies; the number of years a real testament to his enthusiasm for his work.