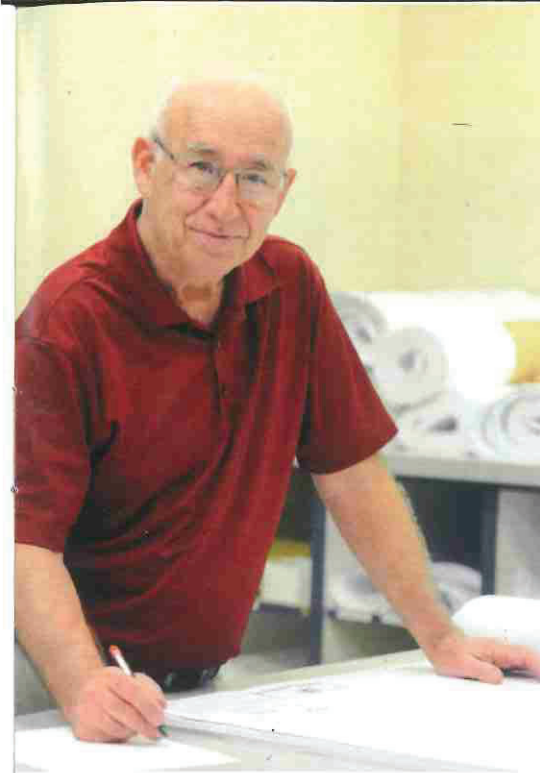


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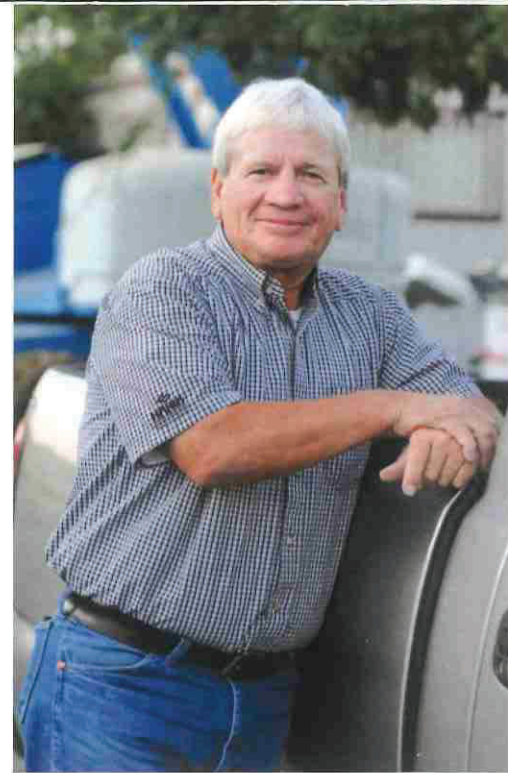




Jim Holman, Director of Estimating



Aaron Sherfield, CHST, STSC, Safety Manager



Pat Wiggins, Project Superintendent

safety glasses and high visibility clothing.

Harris Construction takes safety very seriously. To reinforce this point, Harris employs a full-time Safety Manager, Aaron Sherfield CHST, STSC. Aaron, like Jim, is from a family of contractors, including his father and brother.

Safety on a school campus is especially critical. Harris's project team coordinates with district and school personnel to ensure students and staff are kept safe and the learning experience is impacted as little as possible. Items such as access and egress, emergency plans, noise, fire safety, student/worker interactions, and more are discussed prior to work taking place.

Since Aaron joined the Harris Construction team, the company's EMR (Experience Modification Rate) has dropped every year, going from .96 down to .64. This improvement lowers the cost of workers compensation insurance and reduces construction costs for school districts.

"While cost savings are important," said Aaron, "the real benefit comes from being able to send our workers home safely; that includes our employees and our subcontractors. Without their dedication to safety, we would not be able to accomplish our goal of providing a safe workplace. Safety, like quality and craftsmanship, are truly a team effort."

Safety has come a long way over the years, and now includes ground penetrating radar to check for utilities, video safety orientations, and more. These changes help ensure every worker, student, parent, and faculty member goes home safely every night.

One of Harris' many carpenters on school construction projects is Pat Wiggins, Project Superintendent. Like Jim and Aaron, his father was also a contractor. Pat began helping on his dad's jobsites when he was 18 years old.

Pat appreciates how jobsite safety has improved over the years. As a young carpenter, he had to hand-lift plywood, one sheet at a time. Today machinery lifts an entire stack of plywood up to each person's work area.

Pat recalls the old days with lots of ladders and scaffolding on the jobsite, when Project Superintendents ran jobsites alone – managing phone calls, completing paperwork, and handling safety – all while running an active jobsite. Now there are scissor lifts, booms, telehandlers, nail guns, and a team of support staff on every project making it more efficient – and safe.

Job drawings are on iPads, and instead of RFIs (Requests for Information) during a project, questions are resolved with the architect and software that predicts problems long before construction ever begins.

"I like working with the subcontractors and inspectors. We become a team, helping each school district project get the best campus for the buck. We give a good product. My favorite thing is finishing on-time. It's a challenge I enjoy – to work with the subs to coordinate the schedule and have it all work. Building a school is like raising a kid... they start out little with not much knowledge, and over time they grow slowly, coming up out of the ground, when you get to the very end, it's a beautiful masterpiece," said Pat. "I like working with the school principals with their different ideas too. Some have had their vision for many years; we get to help make their dreams a reality."

But "building schools" is more than just estimating, safety, hammers and nails. It takes a community to really BUILD our schools. Our schools need people who care enough to get involved. People and companies need to donate their time, talents and money to support and encourage our students of today. These kids are our community's future employees and employers. Join Fresno Compact, have a booth at the Fresno County Office of Education's annual Career Tech EXPO, and invite schools and their students to your place of business so these young people can start learning about their future and your needs. The team at Harris Construction does all of that and more. Join the fun and you too can help truly BUILD OUR SCHOOLS for this community's successful future.



Building Our Schools — Then & Now —

Central Valley schools just aren't what they used to be - they're WAY better! With vision, funding, and motivation, Central California school districts are upgrading their campuses more than ever to encourage students, attract faculty and provide better, safer and more enriching learning environments for our youth. All with the goal of producing graduates, who are more employable and have experience in their chosen career path.

The days of monotonous corridors of classrooms with bad heating and dusty chalkboards are methodically being updated or replaced. Today's school districts are committed to modernizing older schools, designing and building new schools, incorporating state-of-the-art technology, ergonomic work stations, safer playground equipment, seismic upgrades, ADA accessibility, better lighting, heating and air conditioning, and improved food service areas.

New and updated schools are the work of many people, including progressive superintendents, school boards, facilities staff, school principals, tax payers, architects, builders, and subcontractors.

Building new schools and career education centers, as well as modernizing older schools, takes a lot of knowledge and hard work. Harris Construction is one of the top go-to builders of educational facilities in Central California. From the company's beginning in 1914 until the mid-1980s Harris Construction built/upgraded over 100 schools. Since those early years, the Harris team's quality, workmanship, teamwork, experience and dedication to the education sector has grown stronger. The company has modernized or built hundreds of more schools in these past thirty years, with an average of 5-10 educational projects in progress at any given time for multiple school districts.

"Our team loves working on school projects," said Jim Holman, Director of Estimating at Harris Construction. "Each project starts in our Estimating Department. We like to be involved early in the process - in the initial concept, or design, phase. That allows us to help the school district and its architect understand the constructability aspects of

their ideas. Often times we can help a district get what they want, but in a more affordable way for them. Or we may have suggestions on how to improve future maintenance, accessibility, or make other facility improvements. We pride ourselves on our proactive approach to offer money-saving options and a century's worth of construction experience to back it up. Some school districts love our "value-engineering" suggestions, others use the money we help them save for other things, and some choose to stay with their original design. We make sure they are happy with whatever choices they make, all the way through to their completed project.

"Another reason school districts enjoy working with us is because we help solve a lot of problems early on. New clients initially may not understand how our pre-construction efforts can help their district save money or fix potential problems before they arise, but once they've built something through us, they understand that we are on their side. Our clients often say they wish we could be the builder on all of their projects! That always makes me happy to hear."

Jim Holman followed the career path of his father and (maternal) grandfather, and became a carpenter in 1964. After a 3-year stint in the Army (Heavy Weapons Infantry), Jim returned to construction and moved to the project estimating side of the business. His carpentry experience helped him understand the project plans and made him a better estimator.

Since those early years, Jim has embraced new technology as it arrived - each helping him work faster and provide more accurate project pricing for the owners/clients. He remembers how excited he was the day he received his first hand-crank adding machine in the 1970s. That was followed by an electronic adding machine, then one that could also do division! Next the mainframe computer came with key punch cards and rooms full of computing power in the 1980s with a black screen and green text. Then project estimating software in the 1990s. Once these computerized capabilities were brought into his estimating department, his team's production doubled. These days, builders' exchanges are online, subcontractors are just an email away, and bidding is done on giant spreadsheets on 60" monitors.

Blueprints were all hand drawn (and used to actually be blue), and they were printed in a room that reeked of ammonia. Now, project drawings are created on computers, handed out on CDs or by email, and printed as giant copies. Jim has enjoyed seeing the building materials evolve as well into better and more efficient products, including windows, insulation, flooring, roofing and ceilings.

"I've always liked driving by completed projects that my team and I estimated," said Jim. "It's our job to get it all right from the beginning, and seeing a finished campus, even years or decades later feels good. To see people and kids enjoying each facility, seeing how the buildings add to the neighborhood. I am proud of every school we've ever built."

Safety is another aspect of building schools that has changed over the years. 102 years ago, when Harris Construction was just starting out, construction workers were wearing fabric hats and no eye protection. Visit any Harris jobsite today and you'll see everyone wearing hardhats,