

TANK OWNER SPOTLIGHT

Gene Shellenbarger has been a Johnstown, Ohio businessman since 1953, operating a service station at the corner of US 62 and ST RT 37. He began leasing the site as a Pure Oil facility and then as a UNOCAL. In 1986, Gene purchased the facility from UNOCAL. Today the facility flies the CITGO banner.

In 1998, Gene began a total rebuild of his facility. He replaced his UST's with composite ACT-100 tanks and Environ GeoFlex piping and installed a complete Veeder-root leak detection system for both tanks and piping. He also installed fiberglass containments for his dispensers and all piping and tank sumps. He exceeded the 1998 requirements for the design, construction, and installation of UST systems.

Gene also replaced the old service station with a new modern C-store, including several booths where the Johnstown "coffee club" meets every morning to solve the world's problems. Following the advice of his lending institution, Park National Bank of Newark, he also built a car wash.

Because he had built up a fairly substantial repair business, he built a separate facility with three bays for repairs and a tire store. According to Gene, the total rebuild cost 10 times more than the original purchase price.

During the rebuild, petroleum contaminated soil was discovered and the most cost effective means of cleanup was excavation. Fortunately, Gene paid for the reduced deductible (of \$11,000) when securing coverage for the tanks. After receiving eligibility and submitting a claim for the corrective action work of approximately \$39,000, he was reimbursed about \$28,000. More importantly, the site has received no further action status from BUSTR and no additional clean up is required.

Gene has eliminated the typical C-store problem of employee turnover by making Shellenbarger Oil Company a family affair. Gene still holds the

position of chief executive officer. His son, Cliff, grew up learning the business and is now the owner and President. Cliff's wife, Sherry, is Vice President and Cliff's children, Spencer and Mandy, are secretary and treasurer.

The refueling operation averages about 130,000 gallons per month, but as is the case with most stations with convenience stores, the majority of the business is from the store.

In recognition for his years of community service, Johnstown honored Gene as the Grand Marshal of their annual 4th of July parade in 1990.

A special thanks to the entire Shellenbarger family for their help in preparing this "Tank Owner Spotlight."

On Page 4 are pictures of before, during, and after the rebuild.

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