

Roxsand



Pictured above is the outside of the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

What's in a Rock?

Written by Ben Gadberry, Plant Engineer

Sioux Quartzite is the namesake rock that covers much of our Midwest division and is the geological feature that is the source for four of our quarry operations. Sioux Quartzite has many characteristics that made it particularly desirable for erecting beautiful buildings that serve as centerpieces for our downtown areas today.

The biggest reason we see Sioux Quartzite in our historic buildings comes from its unique physical properties (and proximity!). Sioux Quartzite is hard, abrasive, and extremely inert when dealing with weathering processes. Quartzite breaks in a certain way, known officially as subconchoidal fracture (very similar to flint knapping).

This fracture type is favorable for stonemasons as its break pattern is almost entirely controlled by the stress or impact applied, compared to a rigid structure highly dependent on the formation of the rock, allowing for more consistent shaping of the stone to whatever the mason requires. This allows for something as hard and abrasive as quartzite, that regularly gives miners headaches when dealing with its biweekly crusher liner changes, to be built into something as striking and timeless as the Washington Pavilion or the U.S. Courthouse, two neighboring buildings by the L. G. Everist Sioux Falls office.



Quartzite paver cobbled together by Gadberry. In his own words, "a far cry from an experienced stonecutter."

The fracture type and the unique texture that creates, paired with its iconic pink hue, amplifies the beauty of many of the most iconic buildings in the Siouxland area. After 150 years as a company, for 100 years L. G. Everist has been involved with quartzite (including dimension stone with the purchase of the Jasper, MN, quarry in 2004). We can take pride in knowing that the material that gives us daily headaches with its high silica content and notorious abrasiveness is ultimately what built many of the landmarks of our community, and will continue to be the foundation of the greater Siouxland area for generations to come.

Audio Version

Birthdays This Week

Kevin Mayer - Sioux Falls | Brandon Ostert -
Henderson | Dylan Arndt - Dell Rapids Shop |
Bruce Rohwer - Washta | Doug Wermerskirchen -
Washta | Mickey Johnson - Horse Creek |
Rodolfo Molina Rascon - Firestone |
Adrian Rodriguez Avalos - Fort Lupton

Milestone Anniversaries

David Cardwell - Summit

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Weekly Throwbacks



Pictured above is a striking photo of an employee working on a 7' Cone Crusher while completing work at the Dulles Airport outside of Washington DC in the early 1960s.



Pictured above is our founder, Lucius Garland Everist, who brought his business west to Sioux City, IA - a jumping point for expansion. In the far back is his son Hubert Everist, who diversified the business into paving operations, as well as aggregate production. In the front left is Rick Everist (Sr.), who took L. G. Everist operations out to the West Coast with a California maritime construction company. Many more in this family have run family businesses, such as Western Contracting and Intercontinental Engineering, and contributed to important infrastructure projects that have built our country.



Pictured bottom left is Andesite Rock in Lyons, Colorado. The bulldozer can be seen moving rock to carve a road sometime in the 1960s or 70s.

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