

Autumn 2007

## **High Quality construction by GD Heil & the Brokk 180**

In July of 2006 G.D. Heil, Inc. was awarded the prestigious re-modeling job at the Dessert Springs Marriott Hotel in Palm Springs, California. The job involved demolition of the lobby while the Hotel remained open. This job was unique for GDH due to the two large concrete fountains hanging six feet over a pool that connected water to another large lake on the premises. The circulating water would have to remain running throughout the duration of the project. The removal of all flooring in the lobby area, the concrete and soil from planters, and low concrete walls near the pool were also part of this huge contract.



The GDH team evaluated several methods considering safety, productivity, time and the owners' schedule. There were three main methods considered; laborers with jackhammers, skid steers with breakers or the Brokk with breakers. Multiple crews with jackhammers seemed attractive at first but was quickly ruled out as it would require too much man power and co-ordination with double shifts, and noise concerns to get the desired productivity level. The risk of injuries and fatigue was also an import aspect against the hand held option. Skid steers with breakers or the Brokk with breakers appeared to be

the next best solution; however diesel fumes in an operating hotel, the tight access areas and the lower productivity of the skid steer made the Brokk the best option.

With a significant fleet of Brokks, Gary Heil put his dedicated team to work. Concrete walls, footings and fountains were waiting to be demolished and dirt was ready to be excavated. GDH used two Brokk 90's and three Brokk 180's to pulverize, break and dig their way through approximately 623 cubic yards of concrete and 376 cubic yards of dirt. Multiple conveyors with men at the turns to maintain the flow of debris helped quickly remove the debris from the Hotel. About half way thru the project an 1100' by 15' wide and 6' deep concrete footing was discovered. Needless to say the GDH team got a little worried about the schedule and removal of this obstacle, calling Gary Porter at Brokk for advice he quickly delivered a Brokk 330 which demolished the huge footing to oblivion.

After six weeks G.D. Heil, Inc. and the Brokk's completed the Marriott Dessert Springs project ahead of schedule, even with some obstacles, and in respectable fashion, leaving nothing more to ask of performance; or as Mark Barella, GDH's project manager put it "The Brokk cracked the rock!"

