



# *the* **OUTRIGGER**

R. Baker & Son Magazine - 12 Years Strong  
*Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business*

OCTOBER 2019

## **PIER 42 DEMOLITION - Making Way For The Future**

One cold November day in 1987, longshoremen unloaded a shipment of bananas from a freighter docked on the East River at Pier 42, the last operating cargo pier in Manhattan. It marked the end of an era. Once one of the busiest ports in the nation, rising labor and transportation costs, high demand for river views, and competition from nearby U.S. ports led to its demise. Pier 42 closed for good that day, and would remain abandoned and undeveloped for the next 30 years. Now, the city has begun implementing its plan to transform the eight-acre pier into a public park, and R. Baker & Son has completed demolition of the rusted metal warehouse as part of Phase I of the project.

Equipment utilized to take down the 80'W x 30'H x 240'L warehouse built in 1964 included a 130-ton crane with 170-foot boom, several excavators, and a lull. The first task performed was the removal of metal panels enveloping the building. Heavy equipment was used to remove panels from three exterior walls, but the fourth 240-ft wall facing the river had to be unbolted and stripped by hand because it could not be accessed by large machinery. Regarding: structural framing: the steel structure consisted of moment frame construction. Dismantling required an engineered systematic sequence removal plan in order to ensure that structural integrity would be maintained throughout all phases of dismantlement. The process took three to four weeks to complete.

The project also entailed removal of the sprinkler system, water lines, and conduit from the interior of the building. Also demolished was a two-story cement block structure that stood inside the building. Next, demolition and rigging crews carefully dismantled the steel skeleton of the building and removed sections by crane. An end section of the building was left intact to serve as part of a planned amphitheater. With the removal of all demolition debris, R. Baker & Son completed our assigned task safely and successfully, leaving a clean, open concrete pad ready for the next phase of the project.



*inside this issue....*

**DEMOLITION OF PIER 42 - MAKING WAY FOR THE FUTURE  
WEARABLE DEVICE MONITORS WORKERS & EQUIPMENT  
WHAT IS A MILLRIGHT? - TEAR DOWN THIS WALL**

## Wearable Device Monitors Workers and Equipment, Enhances Jobsite Safety



**Tracking workers and equipment and optimizing safety on busy construction jobsites is an age-old challenge.** Triax Technologies' Spot-r Jobsite Platform provides real-time tracking of workers and equipment and alerts site supervisors when a fall or possible injury has occurred.

Triax first released the Spot-r Clip, a small, belt-mounted device, in 2016. The Clip automatically connects to the Spot-r network when a worker arrives onsite and tracks their movements in real time until they leave. It automatically detects when a worker has tripped or fallen and instantly alerts supervisors to their exact location, distance of the fall, and how hard they landed, improving injury response time by up to 91%. It also includes a feature that allows workers to easily report safety hazards and incidents. The clip helps maintain jobsite security, and certification information for individual workers is instantly accessible, helping to ensure regulation compliance.

The Spot-r EquipTag works in tandem with the Clip to monitor equipment location, usage, and operator identity. The EquipTag can detect when and record workers in proximity to the tagged equipment and sends an alert when an operator is unauthorized or unknown. It also records operational history, such as active and idle time and hours logged by individual workers.



The Spot-r EvacTag is a loud, flashing alarm that can be installed about a worksite. Jobsite supervisors can set off alarms from the Spot-r dashboard to alert workers when an evacuation is required, reducing evacuation times by up to 72%. All Spot-r activity and data can be viewed on the Spot-r Dashboard from any device at any time, providing a comprehensive view of resources, site operations, and safety. WiFi or GPS coverage is not required.

So, how effective is this promising technology? In October 2018, insurance firm Travelers Companies, Inc. partnered with Gilbane to find out. Travelers will review data collected from more than 130 Spot-r-equipped Gilbane employees and equipment on a 60,000 sq.-ft., 6-floor New York City construction site over a 20-month period and will report their findings.

## What Is A Millwright?

**Millwrights are some of the most valued members of R. Baker & Son's team, yet many people are not familiar with what this highly important job entails.** A millwright is a trained professional who is responsible for the dismantling, assembling, installation, maintenance, and moving of stationary industrial machinery and mechanical equipment. Their work often requires extreme precision and finesse. Millwrights can interpret blueprints and schematics and are skilled in steel fabrication, welding, machining, electronics, and fluid mechanics. Accurate match-marking is another essential millwright skill, whether the equipment will be reassembled by the same millwrighting team or by a recipient in a distant part of the world.

R. Baker & Son offers millwrighting as a stand-alone service, and our millwrights work hand-in-hand with our rigging team to play an integral role on dismantling, plant relocation, and plant decommissioning projects, as well as machinery moving and investment recovery.



# TEAR DOWN THIS WALL

November 9, 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall

**The Fall of the Berlin Wall was a momentous occasion that marked the beginning of the end to the Cold War.** Following several years of unrest, ongoing reforms by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and a demand from Ronald Reagan that he “tear down this wall”, the actual event was suddenly and unexpectedly set in motion by a simple slip of the tongue.

On November 9, 1989, in the face of mass protests against the communist regime and asylum-seekers overruning Eastern European embassies, East German leaders decided to ease some of the more stringent requirements for obtaining a visa. The Communist Party official who announced the changes during a press conference, however, inadvertently created the impression that people would be allowed to immediately cross the border unrestricted. Mayhem quickly ensued when thousands of East Berliners flooded border checkpoints, becoming increasingly angry as gates remained closed. When calls to superiors for guidance went unanswered, the overwhelmed commander of Bornholmer Street Checkpoint opened the gates and allowed people to pass through en masse. Other crossing points quickly followed suit. Within a week, more than two million people had moved freely back and forth across the border, and the East German regime never fully regained control.

Demolition of the Berlin Wall began almost immediately, with East German authorities permitting the use of cranes and bulldozers to remove sections to ease the crush at the border. Citizens went to work on the barrier with hammers and chisels, chipping away souvenirs as symbols of their newfound liberation. A number of sections were removed over the next few months until the official dismantling operation began in earnest on June 30, 1990.

Thirty years after the fall, very little physical evidence of the wall remains in Berlin, with only a few short lengths left standing as monuments. While most of the concrete was used as aggregate for building roadways, countless pieces in varying sizes can be found scattered throughout the world. Tourists can buy small chunks for just a few dollars as souvenirs, and entire slabs measuring 10 to 12 feet high and 4 feet wide sell for tens of thousands of dollars at auction. Hundreds of these wall sections now stand on display in museums, memorials, and even private homes. Here in the U.S., three sections of the Berlin Wall can be viewed at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. *During the recent, multi-year \$2.2B renovation of the UN, members of R. Baker & Son's rigging team moved three Berlin Wall sections into storage while work was ongoing and reinstalled them on the UN's North Lawn at the project's close.*

Photo Credit: Wiki (Noir)  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Berlinermauer.jpg>

