

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - DATED MATERIAL

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EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS PLEASE NOTE: GIVEN ITS LONG HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE COPPER COUNTRY, GUNDLACH CONSTRUCTION IS SUITABLE FOR A VARIETY OF IN-HOUSE FEATURES. POSSIBLE ANGLES INCLUDE HISTORICAL (a photo archive is available from the company), BUSINESS and LIFESTYLES (The family has a very colorful legacy). THIS GENERAL NEWS RELEASE IS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE COMPANY'S IN-HOUSE CELEBRATION ON FRIDAY, JUNE 19.

Gundlach marks a century of success

HOUGHTON - Business continues to be great in 1998 for a long-time Copper Country construction firm that will formally celebrate its 100th birthday Friday.

In 1898, Herman Gundlach Construction began a tradition of building landmark projects that, like its founding family, would stand the test of time. Today, operating as Gundlach Champion Inc. from its waterfront offices in Houghton, the company continues to expand its horizons. With a \$5-million annual payroll, the company is the largest construction firm in the Upper Peninsula - and one of the 100 oldest construction companies in the nation.

Gundlach Champion Inc. President Dan LeVeque says past and present employees will be hosted at a special dinner Friday, looking back at a lengthy list of accomplishments and looking forward to a bright future.

To understand Gundlach's influence on the community, one need only look around at Keweenaw cityscapes and industrial sites. From the shining D&N Bank headquarters in Hancock to the Michigan Tech and Suomi College campuses, literally hundreds of buildings are a testament to the company's longevity and innovation. Regionwide, the company is responsible for numerous buildings and other projects in lower Michigan, northern Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ohio.

Innovation and adaptability are major cornerstones for company success. Gundlach was a pioneer in winter construction. Working year-round not only kept projects on schedule. It also allowed the company to keep the skilled tradespeople it has traditionally relied on for quality, dependability and excellent workmanship. The company was also an early leader in reinforced concrete construction. Gundlach Champion continues to set the pace in its industry. Its latest project at Michigan Tech, for example, is breaking new civil engineering ground in structural steel and foundation technique.

Gundlach joined forces with Champion in 1985, officially becoming one of its four construction divisions. The move was designed to accommodate today's changing U.P. market, where a regional approach is netting big results. Notable current projects include the Dow Environmental Sciences & Engineering Building under construction on the Michigan Tech campus, a new school in Crystal Falls and the recently completed Baraga County Jail. A tribally operated casino in Hannahville and erection of a state-of-the-art performing center at MTU are among upcoming undertakings. The multi-million-dollar building projects are only one aspect of the multi-faceted company's operations. A long history of interesting and innovative mine and mill projects continues with construction of a pellet load-out facility at Cleveland Cliffs' Empire Mine.

Herman "Winks" Gundlach Jr., the 85-year-old patriarch of a family known for its philanthropic projects as well as its construction innovations, is retired - supposedly! His notion of relaxation includes continuing to serve on the company board of directors as an Emeritus of Counsel, keeping abreast of all the latest company developments. Lively, enthusiastic and eagerly looking forward to new challenges, Gundlach is understandably proud of both the company's past and its continued commitment to service and quality.

For more information, contact the company's headquarters at 1-906-482-2480.