

2007 IN MEMORIAM

M.J. "Mike" Heller, Sr.

Michael J. Heller was the founder and president of Continental Heller Construction and teamed with Swinerton & Walberg to form a joint venture to lead the construction of the State Capitol Restoration. Heller served as the Joint Venture's Principal in Charge and was often present at the Restoration site.

Heller was an astute businessman who grew his company to national prominence, developed and owned buildings in the area and started other companies in related construction fields. He was a knowledgeable builder with a fast mind. He could be intimidating, pressing down deeply on issues to uncover uncertainty. When he left his office on Capitol Mall to visit the jobsite, friends would call ahead to alert the Superintendent, who would just say, "Jiggers" as he walked through the office site trailer.

An engineer himself, Heller would lead designers and builders to develop the careful sequence for replacing the brick structure with reinforced concrete, while leaving the cast iron elements in place.