

## **Where Did We Come From?**

The company was founded in 1927 by Louis J. Chartier. He was a roofer that had learned his craft from his older brothers; he came from a large family in Central Falls, and had worked as a laborer and foreman for well established roofing companies of the day, working on local projects and mansions of the wealthy of the time.

In 1927 there was a strong need for talented people in Newport that knew how to work hard and knew the aspects of the business inside and out, to meet the challenges that were required. Knowing how to build it right the first time, how to work with copper, slate, wood shingles and tar and gravel roofing provided an opportunity that Louis took advantage of.

The 1938 hurricane provide opportunity for any roofer, and it was a time for Newport Roofing to rise to the occasion, grow, and become a well respected company throughout the state. So much so that Newport Roofing was chosen, as were many of the biggest roofing companies in Southern New England, to help build the enormous projects at the Newport Navy base during World War 2. Newport Roofing put on almost 50% of the roofs in Newport and Quonset and was sought after by the Navy to do work in Greenland on Government facilities.

After the war Louis branched out to purchasing many of the empty mansions in the Newport area and converting them into luxury apartments, which became condominiums shortly after he passed away in 1984. Louis also started buying vacant land and creating housing developments in the 60's and 70's. What he was most known for, other than roofing of course, was renovation and restoration work. That experience and talent was passed down to his grandson William O'Hanley in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

Eventually Bill and his wife Sabra bought Newport Roofing and Newport Builders Supply in 1985 and changed the name to Newport Roofing and Construction. At that time Bill was an expert in built up tar and gravel roofing, slates, and copper work. Some notable projects of the last 25 years were the copper roofing at the old Providence train station building, the comfort station near Roger Williams College in Providence and the museum addition barrel vaulted copper and slate roof at Rhode Island School of Design.

There are hundreds of other projects having exceptional significance over the last 30 years and Bill would be more than happy to discuss those projects if you ask when you speak with him. For marketing reasons the name became Newport Construction Services to meet the needs of their customers and their employees.

Bill O'Hanley was ahead of his time in the mid 1990's bringing low density spray foam insulation to Rhode Island and Southern New England with Icynene foam insulation. Icynene is a Canadian green product designed to meet and exceed the needs of the insulation market. Through this endeavor, Newport Construction became an expert in energy efficiency, controlling air infiltration, moisture movement and ventilation, using modern technology to meet the needs of the community of the day. We have used low and high density insulation in multiple

applications throughout the state, leading the construction industry towards energy efficiency while facilitating a healthy home.

Today we are a leader as a solution provider in solving all of the issues that older and modern contemporary homes encounter, based on heating and air conditioning, withstanding the rigors of day to day living as well as conquering the challenges of keeping the out door environment outdoors. Today our structures require a holistic approach when it comes to making every aspect of property and their components to perform to the best of their ability. Choosing the right course of action to solve an issue is as much of an art form as the talent needed to follow through with the specifications needed for success.

As you know the demographics of Aquidneck Island have changed considerably in the last 30 years with a significant number of second homes owned by people from out of state and the hundreds of condominiums making up the dozens and dozens of condo associations throughout Newport County. In the last 25 years Newport Construction has performed over 15,000 jobs, averaging 600 to 700 jobs per year, centering on all aspects of repairs and restoration of the architecturally significant properties in our state.

In 2003 Bill O'Hanley decided to get his Real Estate license after seeing so many of his customers experience issues with their property shortly after a purchase. Bill is presently working with Prudential Prime Properties on Bellevue Avenue Newport helping buyers and sellers alike, providing critical information about the properties that they own or are thinking of buying. His real estate clients find that his back ground and experience in construction is instrumental in making the right choices when it comes to buying and selling real estate.

Over the last 20 years Bill has worked with Architects, Engineers, Property Managers as well as absentee landlords in providing comprehensive reports on various properties including analysis of present conditions and expectations of life expectancy of materials and designing the proper methods for remediation, then prioritizing that information so that it can be budgeted and acted upon. This ability has also been found to be priceless in the Real Estate market and working with investors and property owners.

The focus over the last 10 years has been with every aspect of residential and commercial property repair and maintenance including solving issues with wet basements and any type of water infiltration. New kitchens and bathrooms, redesigning attics and basements, replacement windows, you name it. Newport Construction Services has developed a reputation of dealing with the most difficult and complicated projects, because they are successful when they attack a problem, providing solutions based on expectations. When people are able to recognize that the issue at hand is difficult, technical and very expensive if not done correctly, they will contact Newport Construction Services to get the job done right the first time. And we do the easy stuff as well.