



GOSSETT CONCRETE PIPE COMPANY

Gossett operates from a 30-acre site that houses two manufacturing plants—one designed for production of small- and mid-range-diameter concrete pipe and one for box culverts and large-diameter pipe. The company utilizes materials handling equipment to move pipe within the manufacturing facility, transport it to storage areas across the yard, and onto flatbed trucks for delivery.

“Keeping our people safe is a top priority. The lifts running in the plant are moving fast, backing up and going forward to move pipe from the forming machine to the curing room, and we have to have good visibility. Likewise, when trucks are being loaded on the yard and a lot of people are moving around, you want to have top visibility.”

A.C. “BO” GOSSETT III, GOSSETT CONCRETE PIPE CO.

CHALLENGE: Gossett Concrete Pipe Co. needed durable and reliable lift trucks that could quickly and efficiently move concrete pipe and box culverts weighing up to 12 tons and help the company keep pace with the infrastructure needs in growing communities within a 150-mile radius of its Greenville, SC area facility.

SOLUTION: Gossett Concrete Pipe Co. looked to longtime supplier, Hyster Company, for new equipment that could handle its flourishing box culvert and large-diameter pipe business. Gossett’s most recent purchase, the Hyster H360-48HD, features the load capacity, durability, visibility and ergonomic features required for its heavy duty applications.

RESULTS: Optimum uptime and low maintenance costs have been the result of Gossett’s decision to purchase tough-built Hyster® trucks that are ergonomically designed for high visibility and driver comfort. Dependable equipment with reliable dealer backup from LiftOne has made Gossett Concrete Pipe Co. a loyal Hyster customer.



GOSSET CONCRETE PIPE COMPANY

When Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Gossett, Sr. founded Gossett Concrete Pipe Co. in 1944, hand-cast concrete pipes were loaded onto delivery trucks by rolling them up timbers. Forklifts have made the job faster, easier and safer, especially when moving today's precast concrete pipes and box culverts which can weigh as much as 5,000 pounds per foot.

In 2011, with A.C. "Bo" Gossett III at the helm, the third-generation company added a dry-cast facility and expanded its operations to include production of rubber gasket precast box culverts and large diameter pipe. This expansion, coupled with the company's existing automated pipe-making capability, makes Gossett a leading supplier for highway and commercial projects within a 150-mile radius of Greenville, SC. Working with commercial contractors across the region, Gossett has been involved in major construction projects including BMW Manufacturing Co. in Greer, SC and three Michelin NA tire manufacturing facilities.

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// CHALLENGE

Gossett operations require a wide range of dependable lift trucks to accommodate applications within its manufacturing facilities and to move finished concrete pipe around its storage yard under challenging conditions.

"Concrete is a tough application. We're in a dusty environment, running a heavy product across a surface that is not a smooth floor like a manufacturing plant," Gossett said. "We need trucks that hold up well, perform well, and are easy to maintain."

The Gossett fleet includes Hyster S120FT and S135FT trucks for handling smaller pipes and an H360-48HD to load box culverts and large diameter pipe. Diesel-powered lift trucks are used in manufacturing plants to move freshly formed concrete pipe housed inside steel cylinders to the kiln—a process called off-bearing. Forklifts then "tip" pipe from a vertical to a horizontal position once they are cured, transport them to the storage yard, and ultimately load them onto delivery trucks.

In 2011, Gossett added a dry-cast facility that would allow on-site production of rubber gasket precast box culverts and large diameter pipe. New lift equipment was required to handle the larger and significantly heavier products.

// SOLUTION

Gossett purchased the Hyster H360-48HD to move box culverts weighing up to 12 tons and large pipe that measures up to 120 inches in diameter. The truck's 48-inch load center allows it to lift considerably more weight. But lifting capacity was just one of the features considered in the purchasing decision, according to Gossett. Durability, visibility, ease of operation and ergonomic features all played a part in the selection of the Hyster high capacity truck.

Daily activity across Gossett's 30-acre site can be hectic, especially in the morning when freshly cured pipe is being moved from manufacturing facilities to designated storage areas throughout the yard. At the same time, pipe that is ready for delivery is being lifted onto flatbeds. High traffic across the yard makes visibility a critical component in maintaining a safe work environment.

// RESULTS

Optimum uptime, low maintenance costs and a safer workplace are all results of Gossett's decision to purchase tough-built Hyster trucks that are ergonomically designed for high visibility and driver comfort.

Having bought hundreds of forklifts over the years, Gossett said he quickly realized that getting his production manager and drivers involved in the selection process was important. "We look at the specifications and demonstrations together, and we let our guys have a voice in it," Gossett said. "We've tried other trucks over the years, but we've always come right back to Hyster. Our guys prefer it."

Dependable equipment with reliable dealer backup from LiftOne, a certified Hyster® Dealer, has made Gossett Concrete Pipe Co. a loyal Hyster customer. Ease of maintenance, low maintenance costs and good dealer service all help contribute to efficient operations, according to Gossett.

"LiftOne has a great sales support staff and a good service department. They react to us quickly," Gossett said. "If we lose a truck in the plant, we have to swap it out and it stops our production. So fast service and the backup the dealer gives us are vital to our operation. We've just been very pleased with LiftOne over the years."