

Mining the Past

Uncovering MLC's Company History

BACKGROUND

MLC, formerly known as Mississippi Lime Company, was founded in 1907 by Harry B. Matthews, Jr., the first member of the family which still owns the company. Today, MLC is an international supplier of lime and calcium products.

While expanding their headquarters, MLC had the opportunity to bring some of their history into the office design, telling the story of the company. Rather than only preserving the pieces that would be displayed in the office design, MLC saw an opportunity to organize, digitize, and preserve their entire archive for future generations. They wanted a vendor that provided a greater degree of care and had experience with preservation of delicate, potentially damaged, materials, and that could scan with a higher degree of integrity than a lot other vendors.

Challenge

MLC intended to use the digitized images as part of their building design, which required a higher dpi (dots per inch) in order to keep the quality of the photo when blown up. In addition, many of the oldest photos had suffered water damage at some point, which caused the stacked photos to harden and stick together. Some photos also had prior mold growth.

Solution

With Anderson Archival's assistance, MLC was able to transform their physical archives into a digital format, ensuring the longevity and accessibility of their historical documents. Our DT Versa's camera was able to capture the photos at 1200 dpi, more than enough to blow up the images for the wall design. We carefully separated the water damaged photos and separated out any with mold on them. Finally, we purchased new archival safe storage boxes for the entire collection and clearly labeled all images for quick, convenient searching.



Results

MLC now has an arranged and preserved collection of photos and documents, important not only to their business legacy but also to the family who founded it.

Some key outcomes include:

- Extremely high-resolution photos that could be blown up for wall display without image pixelation
- Physical and digital collection arranged by year
- New archival-safe storage for the collection
- Comprehensive finding aid listing the location of both the physical and digital photos
- A legacy that now lines their office walls for all to see

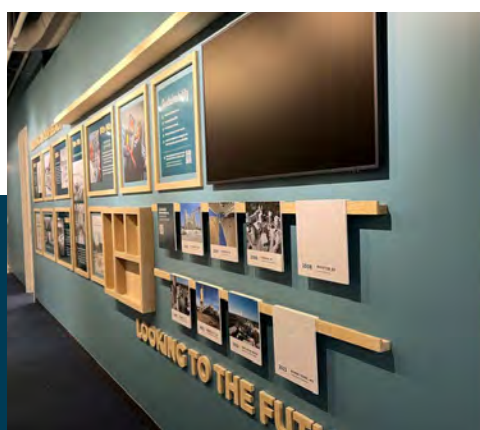
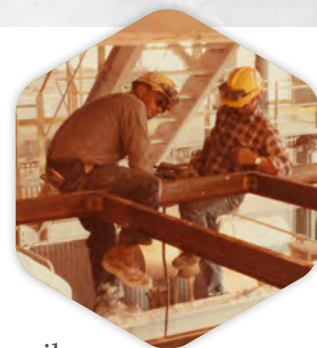




WHAT THE CLIENT HAS TO SAY

“We’ve gotten really positive feedback so far on the installation. There’s been a lot of interest in learning more about our historic archives. We have a lot of multi-generational employees. Our VP of Operations Elizabeth Wilkerson has family members that have worked at the company over many decades, and she found a photo of her grandfather from the 1950s that she had never seen before. I thought that was such a special thing that showed exactly why we needed to preserve that legacy.”

—Jenna Blankenship, Global Communications Director



Outcome

With Anderson Archival’s assistance, MLC was able to transform their physical archives into a digital format, ensuring the longevity and accessibility of their historical documents. The digitization process involved meticulous care and attention to detail, allowing MLC to maintain a rich and comprehensive record of their corporate history.

Anderson Archival, a division of Anderson Technologies, provides digital preservation and archive consulting services to protect, preserve, and share what matters most. To learn more, please contact us today!

andersonarchival.com
314.259.1900

info@andersonarchival.com
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