

Intro:

Fresh off the plane from a trip camping through Europe, Jerry Olson returned to Vancouver, WA in 1968 with a new plan, he was going to open his own shop, be his own boss and start down a path that has forever changed the careers of many. Armed with a drafting table in his apartment kitchen, a newly purchased truck (funded by cashing in his state retirement) and his Dad employed as chainman, Jerry was officially open for business as Olson Engineering, Incorporated. Read below for the full story.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**August 26, 2008****40 Years? We're Just Getting Started.**

Beginning 40 years ago with a drafting table in his apartment kitchen, Jerry Olson has grown Olson Engineering, Inc. into a multi-million dollar firm, with 45 full-time employees and over 8,000 projects

It all began on a sunny September day in 1968, Jerry Olson sat down at his drafting table, conveniently located in the kitchen of his apartment, and began outlining the future for his newly opened business, Olson Engineering, Incorporated (OEI). In those days Jerry was CEO, party chief and bookkeeper, offering clients a variety of land surveying services in the quiet Vancouver area. Forty years and over 8,000 projects later, Jerry and the staff of OEI have become a fixture in Clark County, volunteering countless hours, taking part in many of the area's defining projects and participating in key business decisions that have helped shape the development community we know today.

Over the years, Jerry and the staff of OEI have not only witnessed the transformation of Clark County but have had a hand in many of this area's defining projects. Uptown Village, the Columbian Building (both old and new) and Clark College are just a few of OEI's projects that have redeveloped yesterday's downtown Vancouver into today's - an urban mixed-use area boasting housing, recreation and higher education. Outside the downtown core, the design professionals at OEI have worked on hundreds of subdivisions, retail centers and medical facilities including; The Cedars, one of the first planned developments incorporating amenities with land development, Hazel Dell Towne Center, the largest shopping center on the west side; Legacy Salmon Creek, Washington's first new hospital construction since 1979; and The Amphitheater at Clark County, the area's premier entertainment destination. It is these projects that have helped put Clark County on the map as one of the fastest growing counties in the state, while improving the quality of life for its residents.

Volunteering his time with multiple boards, task forces and advocacy groups, Jerry has been closely involved with the Columbia River Economic Development Council, Building Industry Association, Clark County Citizens United and the City of Vancouver's Design Review Committee. His involvement has helped improve development opportunities in Clark County including his role as an advisor to Representative Bussy Nutley during the original adoption of the Growth Management Act. In addition, as part of the City of Vancouver's Design Review Committee, Jerry participated in the implementation of the *original* downtown Vancouver Plan, encouraging businesses to provide rain protection, consistent landscaping and historic preservation to promote redevelopment of the downtown core. In 2003 Jerry was named the Pillar of Economic Development for the past 20 years by the CREDC for his advocacy to improve the business atmosphere in Clark County.

With 40 years and thousands of projects completed, Jerry looks to the future with excitement, "Each day we continue to find ways to better serve our clients and stay active in the decisions that affect this community. Over the next 40 years downtown Vancouver and Clark County will continue to develop rapidly, requiring surveyors, engineers and planners to find new, inventive ways to incorporate function and livability into complex designs. I look forward to seeing such innovation."

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