

## Controlled Demolition 1997

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### **JACK FROST SUGAR FACILITY** *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

At 8:00 AM on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1997, Controlled Demolition, Inc. (CDI) of Phoenix, Maryland used explosives to implode the balance of the Jack Frost Sugar Facility in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. CDI is a specialty explosives subcontractor for LVI Demolition Services, Inc. of Orlando, Florida who was hired for the demolition for its affiliate, LVI Environmental Services, Inc. of Exton, Pennsylvania. The site is currently being cleared by LVI Environmental Services, Inc. for The LHTW Corporation to make way for future development of the river-front property, strategically located on the up and coming Penn's Landing/Columbus Avenue.

On June 28, 1997, another explosives demolition contractor failed to drop another building at the Jack Frost Sugar Facility, causing shutdown of I-95 in the general area of the Jack Frost site. Problems with the contractor's effort caused Philadelphia's Licensing & Inspection Department (L&I) to place a moratorium on explosives demolition operations in the city. After several meetings with L&I, CDI was able to obtain permission to proceed with Phase II of the project. CDI has imploded over two dozen structures in the Philadelphia area in the last twenty (20) years; most recently felling eight (8) structures at the Raymond Rosen House for the Philadelphia Housing Authority.

CDI designed and supervised implementation of preparations for the implosion, the work being completed by LVI's local crew. Almost 4,000 separate explosives devices, totaling just under 700 lb. were placed at various locations to bring the remaining structures at the site to grade for removal by LVI's crew. Three processing structures, one (1) boiler house, two (2) steel chimneys, one (1) steel water tank and one (1) radial tile chimney were felled in a single sequence that lasted almost twenty-four (24) seconds. The debris pile was well below the expectations of LVI, and they moved early the next morning to begin work on the estimated 8,000 tons of steel salvage and the concrete rubble from the debris pile. It's expected that (2) months or less will be necessary to finish one of the largest projects ever undertaken by LVI.

The eight (8) structures felled by CDI at the Jack Frost Sugar Facility were added to eleven (11) other projects in Portugal, two (2) in New Zealand, one (2) in Connecticut and two (2) other blasting projects in the Baltimore/Washington area by CDI in less than a 2-1/2 week period. That's a total of 24 structures felled in 24 days on three continents! CDI will be demolishing structures in West Virginia, Illinois, Virginia, Washington D.C., Maryland and Poland in the upcoming weeks.

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**OF**  
**Atlanta**  
Photographs taken by J. Stoll (770)



At 6:53 Saturday morning, the 26<sup>th</sup> of July, Controlled Demolition Incorporated (CDI) of Phoenix, Maryland imploded the Omni Arena in Atlanta, Georgia. Controlled Demolition Incorporated was the explosives demolition design and performance subcontractor to Olshan Demolishing Management Company of Houston, Texas. Olshan had previously stripped out the interior of the arena and removed adjacent parking/plaza decks, removing over 1,000 loads of demolition debris from the site for recycling. The demolition project and the construction of the new arena on the Omni site is being managed by Barton Malow of Detroit, Michigan for Turner Properties of Atlanta.

Controlled Demolition Incorporated's crew began placing the first of 2,844 separate explosives devices in the structure on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. A total of 484 lb. of explosives were detonated over a 5.5 second interval, separating the space-frame roof from the four support walls, allowing the roof to fall to the arena floor 100 feet below, pulling three of the four walls inward. The fourth wall, on the west, was allowed to fall outward into an open area.



Controlled Demolition Incorporated is owned and operated by Mark and Doug Loizeaux of Phoenix featured on U.S. television specials including *National Geographic Explorer*, *The Learning Channel* over the last 15 years. In their 50<sup>th</sup> year, the Loizeaux Family has been recognized and honored explosive demolition technology. Some of their most dramatic work has been featured in movies "Child's Play", "Lethal Weapon 3", "Demolition Man" and most recently, "Mars Attacks"! Although like the 24-story Dunes Hotel in Las Vegas for Steve Wynn in 1993 and the 1996 New Year's Eve have entertained millions worldwide, the Loizeaux Family is best known for its' quiet professional Building in Oklahoma City to provide closure for the people who suffered personal loss, and their 26 earthquake damaged buildings in 1985.

The Loizeaux's have imploded several structures in Atlanta, starting with the venerable Henry Gr Marietta Building, Lulwater Building, Continental Life Building, Bailey Supreme Coffee Warehouse Loizeaux's explosives expertise.

Mark Loizeaux, President of Controlled Demolition Incorporated, describes the Omni as one of their international group. The interdependent nature of the roof and wall structural elements methods would present unacceptable risk to both workers and the general public who work in CN through the Marta Station just meters away on three sides of the Arena site. A dismantling approach methods would have taken at least six months and cost two to three times that of Controlled Demolition Incorporated. The fast-track turn-around time required to meet the construction schedule for the new arena.

Mark Loizeaux shared speaking duties at the July 23rd meeting of the Georgia section of the American Society of Professional Engineers, of Prybylowski & Gravino of Atlanta. Andy discussed his associates' approach to the demolition of the Omni Arena. Mark Loizeaux discussed Controlled Demolition Incorporated's application of 50 years of historical data

worldwide to bring about the arena's demise.

In pre implosion interviews with both television and print media, Controlled Demolition Incorporated and Turner Properties stressed the fact that this was not an event to be attended by the public. It suggested that people stay home and watch the demolition on TV.

The implosion was a tremendous success according to CNN and Turner Property Representatives operators which were carefully scheduled around the implosion were uninterrupted, and operator site were back to usual less than an hour after the demolition. Also See [Periodical - Space Frame](#)

Olshan expects to complete debris removal in approximately six weeks.

For further information about the Omni project, contact the following parties:

Turner Properties/Turner Sports  
Arthur Trich  
TEL: (404) 827-3821

Turner Properties / Barton Malow  
Dave Seaverns, Project Manager  
TEL: (404) 827-5975

Olshan Demolishing Management Company  
Bill Bartlett, President  
TEL: (713) 867-9200

Controlled Demolition Incorporated  
Mark Loizeaux, President  
TEL: (410) 667-6610

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**PLUESS**  
*Stamford,*



At 6:30 AM on Sunday, July 13, 1997, the CDI/Loizeaux Team initiated the implosion of the major office/parking garage complex in Stamford, Connecticut. The demolition was performed by Stamford Wrecking Company.

Over 500 explosives charges were placed throughout the structure. The implosion was initiated to pull the structure away from the new \$168 million, 15-story, walled, Swiss Bank North American Headquarters set to open in 1998.

Not a window was broken in the 2nd successful implosion by the CDI/Loizeaux Team in Stamford this year.

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**SEARS CATALOG W**  
*Kansas C*



When completed in September of 1925, the 1.1 million square foot Sears Mail Order Center in Kansas City, Missouri, handled catalog sales for Mid Western America.

Shortly after 7:00 AM, Central time, on June 01, 1997, Controlled Demolition Incorporated (CDI) of Phoenix, Maryland felled the massive 8 and 12-story tall Warehouse to clear the site for new development.

Approximately 2,700 lb. of explosives were placed in 2,918 holes on six levels of the structure. On the detonation of charges, the product of 50 years of explosives demolition experience, pulled the massive warehouse structure away from a U.S. Post Office facility only 18 -ft away without damage.

CDI acted as a specialty explosives subcontractor to Spirtas Wrecking Company of St. Louis, Missouri.

For additional information, contact:

Doug Loizeaux, Vice President - Controlled Demolition, Inc. @ 410-667-6610  
Eric Spirtas - Spirtas Wrecking Company @ 314-862-9800

Photo's available from CDI on request.

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## 500 WOOD STREET Pittsburgh, PA



At 3:50 PM on May 25, 1997, Controlled Demolition Incorporated (CDI) of Phoenix, Maryland, demolished the massive 12-story tall building.

#500 Wood Street Building and its signature mural of Pittsburgh sports figures in the first phase Pittsburgh's "Urban Mall" revitalization concept. #500 Wood Street was the tallest building in Pitt completed in 1902. CDI's implosion of the 344.5 foot tall office building eclipses the world record explosives demolition of urban steel buildings which CDI has held since October 1977 for its' den 28-story, 245-foot tall Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

CDI worked as a specialty explosives subcontractor to IWSS of Buffalo, New York. IWSS was a su to Turner Construction Company, the construction manager and general contractor for the new L Department Store and Parking Garage which is part of a \$78.9 million project being built for the Pittsburgh.

After two (2) months of preparation, CDI's 13 person crew needed seven (7) days to place 1,590 charges totaling 595 lb. of explosives on steel columns on 11 levels of the 27-story structure. CD of the structure yielded vibration levels of only 0.58 inches per second Peak Particle Velocity as r adjacent structures less than 70 feet from the base of the building. Other than a few broken win were no damages to adjacent utilities or properties. Debris was so well fragmented by CDI's imp that the IWSS contractor's project manager said he was considering demobilizing the steel shear 245B excavator he had originally brought on site to handle the debris. He feels the shear will be during the fast track, round-the-clock removal of the 37,000 tons of debris over the next four we

CDI's 15-second implosion was a widely photographed end to a controversy over the destruction mural painted on the southwest wall of the structure by the late Judy Penzer, an artist, who peri: crash of TWA Flight 800. Her images of Mean Joe Greene, Jack Lambert, Roberto Clemente, Mari Bill Mazerowski melted before the eyes of thousands of spectators who braved a nagging rain whic implosion twenty (20) minutes beyond the shot which was originally scheduled for 3:30 PM.

*Photos were taken by Robin Rombach, Darrell Sapp, Peter Diana - Pittsburgh Post Gazette*

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