



WINTER 2013

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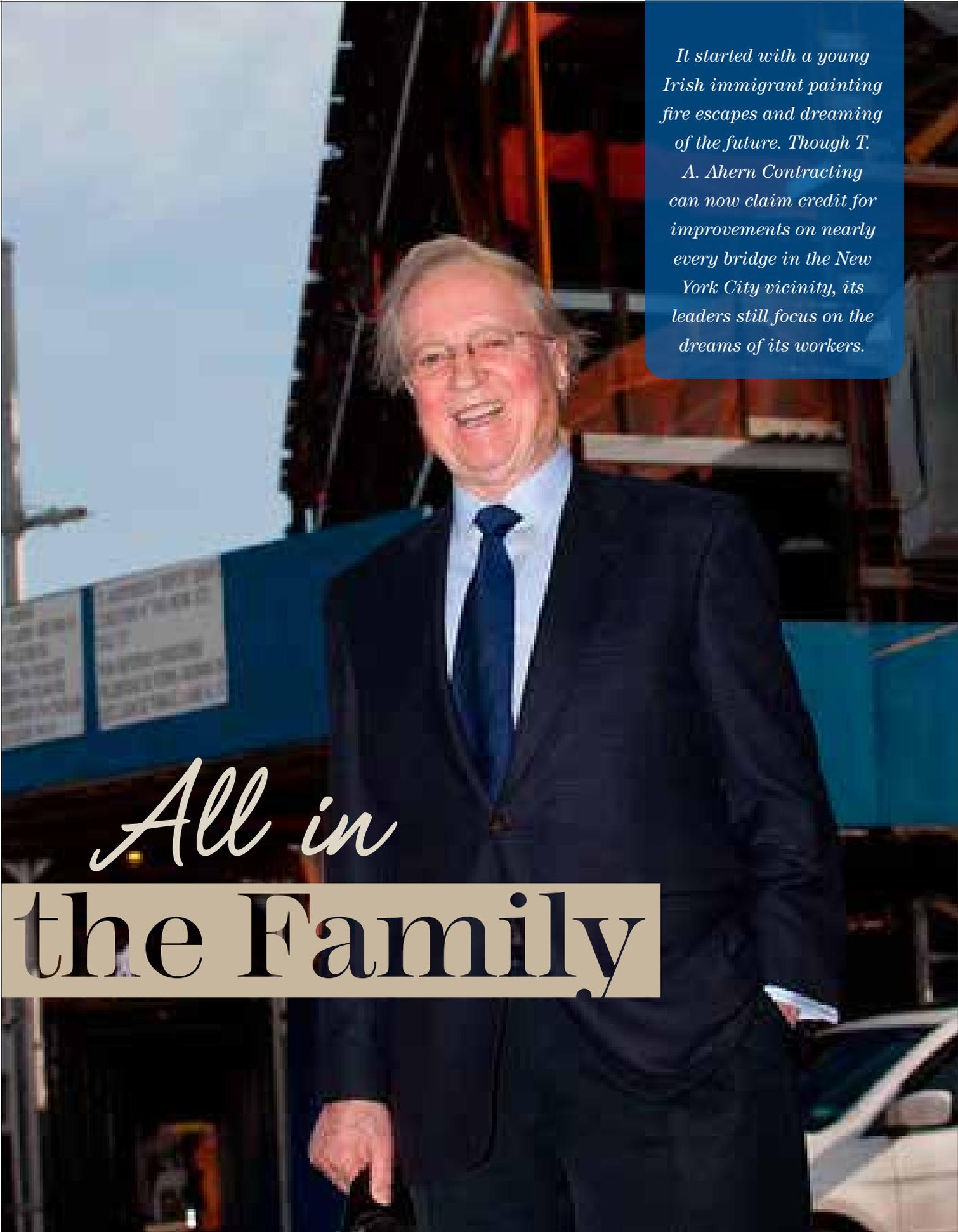
Timothy Ahern

Building From
the Ground Up

Provident Bank



It started with a young Irish immigrant painting fire escapes and dreaming of the future. Though T. A. Ahern Contracting can now claim credit for improvements on nearly every bridge in the New York City vicinity, its leaders still focus on the dreams of its workers.



All in
the Family

Timothy Ahern came to New York at the ripe old age of 17 and started building the company that his children now run. His business, T. A. Ahern Contracting, takes on large general contracting jobs and includes the more specific painting branch, Ahern Painting Contractors, Inc. In the more than 40 years since its beginning, the company has built schools from the ground up, taken on several government projects, and performed painting and industrial coating operations for bridges, factories, and smoke stacks throughout the region.

“I find it interesting to be able to drive around New York and point at different things and say, ‘I painted that,’” says Kieran Ahern, Senior Vice President of Ahern Painting Contractors. “Even though we’ve grown quite large in the past decade, we still try to run the company as if it’s a mom-and-pop-business.”

FAITH IN THE WORKFORCE

Having built the company on hard work and perseverance, the leaders at T. A. Ahern Contracting recognize the importance of giving workers opportunities to succeed in life. Since all the laborers at Ahern are unionized, they can count on open dealings with management, and the treatment they’ve received reflects a culture of trust.

“We understand that our employees have lives outside of work, so we work with them if they have any scheduling conflicts,” Ahern says. “My father has given probably 15 to 25 percent of the workforce interest-free loans to make ends meet, because he knows what it’s like to go through difficult times.”

And difficult times have shown up now and again in the company’s history. With so many government contracts, bureaucratic red tape sometimes slows reimbursement for work, and deciding to take on new projects in that situation involves more than a little risk.

“Nearly every job we undertake is a substantial risk,” Ahern explains. “But, as our growth shows, the risk has all been worth it.”

GIRDED WITH FLEXIBILITY

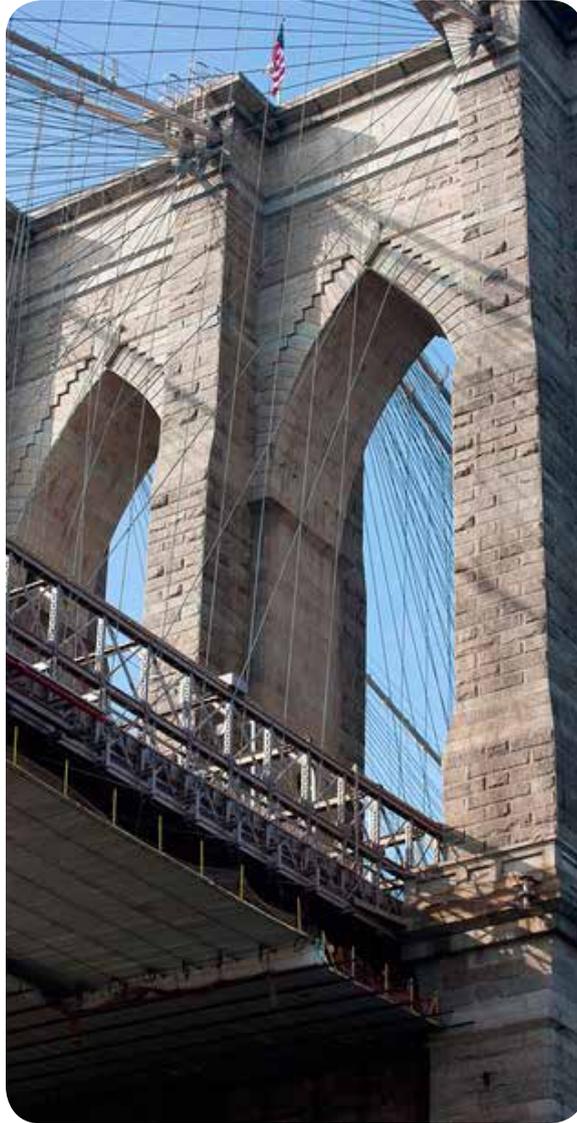
If the foundation of T. A. Ahern Contracting is its focus on workers, its girders are the flexible tactics that shore up decisions. When government checks don’t arrive on time, managers face difficult choices about taking on new projects.



“If we had a bank that only looked the way our accounting books read, they wouldn’t have been able to help us secure the jobs we have,” Ahern says. “Instead, the people at Provident Bank view our business as a relationship, and they look at our whole situation and work with us to find ways to move forward.”

This relationship has afforded T. A. Ahern Contracting the power to take on massive projects, including painting the Brooklyn Bridge and constructing Bellevue Hospital’s state-of-the-art DNA lab. The relationship has helped keep the business in the family and an average of 140 workers employed each week.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT T. A. AHERN CONTRACTING, CALL 718.639.5880.



The Good Old Brooklyn Bridge

"The Brooklyn Bridge is the iconic bridge of the East Coast, and my father always wanted to get the company to the point where we were big enough to paint it," says Kieran Ahern, Senior Vice President of Ahern Painting Contractors, Inc. "It's the largest scale project we've had to date."

The Brooklyn Bridge renovation, running until 2014, contracted Ahern for a complete repaint. This job will prevent the steel from corroding and improve the look of the 140-year-old landmark while meeting the stringent requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Once complete, the repainting will ensure greater safety for the more than 120,000 vehicles, 3,000 cyclists, and 4,000 pedestrians who use the bridge each day. The repainting budget stands around \$150 million, an impressive number for a company that began a few short decades ago as one man's dream.

Garnering Praise on the Jersey Turnpike

The New Jersey Turnpike Authority nominated Ahern Painting Contractors, Inc. for the Society for Protective Coatings' George Campbell award, a recognition of "outstanding achievement in the completion of a difficult or complex industrial or commercial coatings project." The outstanding achievement: painting the more than 1.6 million square feet of steelwork on the Washington Memorial Passaic River Bridge.

To perform this massive task, Ahern Painting Contractors installed nearly 600,000 square feet of debris containment platforms to the bridge to protect environmental conditions. This meant placing the platforms high above the Passaic River, active roads and railroads, and the Turnpike Ramp. The result was a complete modernization of the bridge.