

Sunday, May 24, 2009

## Salt of the Earth

**Peavey Co. ships salt, grain, fertilizer and more to the world --  
from the Port of Dubuque**

**BY CRAIG D. REBER TH STAFF WRITER**



**Photo by: Jeremy Portje**

Peavey employs 22 people during its busy season.

A huge salt pile -- several stories high -- sits along the Mississippi River. The Port of Dubuque is a busy terminal -- a part of international commerce, from the Mississippi to the rest of the world.

The Peavey Co., a subsidiary of Gavilon Grain, has played a vital role in the local economy for many years, according to Delbert Uhlik Jr., Peavey Co. general manager.

Uhlik has been with the company for 27 years. A typical day begins at 6:45 a.m. and concludes around 6 p.m.

“It is especially important to the agricultural industry, providing a key link in the supply chain between farmers and overseas markets,” he said.

The company operates three docks in the city of Dubuque on the Mississippi River. It’s a commodities clearinghouse, and during the peak season it employs 22 people.

Uhlik said Dubuque is a major transportation hub for shipping products.

“Peavey plays a prominent role in the industry, conducting business through barge traffic, railway and truck shipments on the Mississippi River,” he added.

Each day, Peavey is responsible for loading and unloading a variety of shipments, including:

- \* Grain produced by area farmers being shipped to overseas markets.
- \* Dry and liquid fertilizers being delivered from overseas markets to area farmers and businesses.

### Peavey Co.-Gavilon Grain

Gavilon Grain, LLC is a subsidiary of The Gavilon Group, LLC.

The Gavilon Group, headquartered in Omaha, Neb., provides essential services in the physical distribution, trading, merchandising, and risk management of raw materials and value-added products moving through the global supply chain of grain, feed ingredients, fertilizers and energy products.

It formerly was ConAgra Trade Group.

It has 930 employees worldwide, with as many as 22 in Dubuque, and 144 facilities on six continents. Source: The Gavilon Group

\* De-icing salt coming from national suppliers to local municipalities (including the city of Dubuque and Dubuque County) and businesses (Peavey is the sole handler of bulk road salt to the tri-state area).

\* Steel rebar being shipped from domestic and international mills for use in local and tri-state construction projects.

\* Coal from national mines to local businesses, including John Deere Dubuque Works.

"I'm very proud of the fact we service the businesses and the people of the tri-state area," Uhlik said.

"We handle the fertilizers for all of the farmers in the area. When the crops are harvested, we handle them and send them overseas."

Uhlik noted that Peavey has maintained a strong presence in the community for a number of years.

Many Peavey employees are involved in community organizations, such as the Jaycees.

Uhlik, an Eagle Scout, has served as a scoutmaster for Boy Scouts Troop 19 at St. Joseph's the Worker Parish. He continues to be involved in parish activities.