

Stone, who has been taking a salary from the business only rarely, said he doesn't want to sound like the situation is dire. But the last few years have been tough, he said.

"I feel a great deal of pride in the business," he said, adding that he could have retired with the money he earned from the business and other investments.

Instead, in 2009, he traded in a portion of his shares in United Glass, a company he helped found that owned several glass businesses, to re-acquire Louisville Plate. He declined to disclose the value of the sale, which was a cashless transaction, he said.

Stone's decision, he said, came after his partners said they were considering closing Louisville Plate Glass and consolidating its business into other holdings outside the state.

The partners sold the other United Glass assets earlier this year to Florida-based private-equity firm Sun Capital Partners Inc. for an undisclosed amount, and Stone now is involved only in Louisville Plate Glass, he said.

Officials with United Glass could not be reached for comment.

Stone said he is taking a "survive-and-advance" strategy with his business until commercial real estate picks up.

"It's not about money," he said. "It's about pride now. It's about making it a success again."

BUSINESS STARTING TO PICK UP AGAIN

Stone said that although there is no clear end in sight to the recession's impact on the real estate industry, he is optimistic that business will return.

The company recently had major projects at William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J., and at an outlet mall in New Hampshire.

Stone said much of the work in the past couple of years has come from the public sector, but he is starting to see more plans coming together for private commercial real estate projects.

There also is a lot of interest in improving the efficiency of windows, which is one of the company's niches.

And Louisville Plate Glass has started selling fire-rated glass that acts as a barrier to heat and is required in many large buildings, such as schools, hospitals and public institutions.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH

Stone has not decided whether he will invest in growth but said the chances are about "50-50" that he will add a tempering plant to his Louisville operation.

The project would require an investment of several million dollars and would add about 15 to 20 employees.

The plant would bring in-house the work, which creates safety and architectural glass through heat treatments. The company currently outsources the tempering work.

Stone said his decision likely will be based on whether he can secure state or local incentives for the project. He added that he has not yet sought help.

"I just haven't decided if, at this point in my career, I want to make that kind of investment."

NOTABLE PROJECTS

The following local structures have used Louisville Plate Glass Co.'s products:

- Churchill Downs
- Fleur de Lis condominiums
- The Green Building
- The Humana Building
- Louisville Slugger Field
- Preston Pointe
- University of Louisville Medical Faculty Building

THREE TIPS TO HELP MAKE IT THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES

Bill Stone offered these suggestions for how small companies can survive when business is off and profits are down.

1. Don't take all the profit out of a business when times are good. Make sure the business keeps a strong balance sheet with cash reserves. "Almost every mistake can be traced to instant-gratification desires," Stone said.

2. "It sounds trite, but build the best product and provide the best service, and the money will follow," he said, adding that young businesses often are too focused on the bottom line.

3. Answer all phone calls, letters and other forms of communication promptly, and clients will take note. "Do not screen calls," he said, adding that staff at his office never asks callers who they are. Instead, he said, he takes all calls if he is available.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, due to the funeral of former Washington State Governor Rossellini, I was unable to attend yesterday's session to vote on the nomination of Cathy Bissoon to be a U.S. district judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Had I not been in Washington State, I would have supported the nomination.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AMERICAN RUSSIAN CULTURAL COOPERATION FOUNDATION EXHIBIT

• Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate and commend the Honorable James W. Symington and the American Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation on the success of their exhibit "The Czar and the President, Alexander II and Abraham Lincoln." Housed in the magnificent Palace of Catherine the Great in St. Petersburg, Russia, and the State Archives of the Russian Federation in Moscow, the display included an impressive collection of documents, art, and personal artifacts of Czar Alexander II and President Lincoln.

The exhibit debuted in St. Petersburg with great fanfare on April 26, 2011, with representatives from the American Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation, ARCCF, and Russian government officials in attendance. Russian Minister of Culture, Mr. Alexander Avedyev, and ARCCF chairman James W. Symington, presided over the ribbon cutting, while the Kremlin's Presidential Band provided entertainment. The exhibit was widely covered by the Russian media, and featured in the Washington Post and the New York Times.

Timed to correspond with the 150th anniversary of the emancipation of the serfs and the beginning of the Civil War, the exhibit explored the commonality of Czar Alexander II and President Lincoln as liberators who ultimately met a tragic end. Although they never met personally, they ex-

changed warm correspondence, and shared a somewhat unexpected friendship. Through a study of these two leaders, visitors became acquainted with the often unexplored history of mutual respect and friendship during the Civil War era.

"The Czar and the President" closed on July 31 after receiving rave reviews. Reviews of the exhibit can be read below. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Symington and the ARCCF, and thank them for their continued dedication in preserving the cultural and historical ties between the United States and Russia.

Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the text of the guest book.

The material follows.

THE GUEST BOOK FROM THE EXHIBITION, THE CZAR AND THE PRESIDENT, ALEXANDER II AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE LIBERATOR AND THE EMANCIPATOR

FOREWORD

Years ago I came across an obscure amount of US-Russia relations during our Civil War. Tsar Alexander II's favorable disposition toward our Union and his friendly correspondence with President Lincoln were pages missing from my school and college textbooks. Even the goodwill visits Russian fleets in 1863 to New York and San Francisco during our time of trial had been erased from memory to say nothing of the eloquent dispatch sent in 1861 by Russia's Chancellor, Prince Gorchakov to his Minister in Washington, Gustav Stoekl which reads in part:

"For the more than eighty years that it has existed the American Union owes its independence, its towering rise, and its progress, to the concord of its members, consecrated under the auspices of its illustrious founder, by institutions which have been able to reconcile order with liberty . . . In our view, this Union is not only a substantial element of the world political equilibrium, but additionally, it represents the nation towards which our Sovereign and Russia as a whole, display the friendliest interest. . .

In all cases the American Union may count on the most heartfelt sympathy on the part of the Sovereign in the course of the serious crisis which the Union is currently going through . . ."

These sentiments*, made manifest by the good will visits of Russian fleets to New York and San Francisco in 1863, had to be reassuring to a President rightly concerned over the possibility of foreign intervention inimical to his cause.

It was the purpose of our Tsar and President exhibit to acquaint Russian citizenry and officialdom with this vivid history of accord and mutual respect. I trust the attached citizen reaction warrants the claim, "mission accomplished".

James W. Symington
Chairman
American Russian Cultural Cooperation
Foundation

*Translated from Russian by Dr. Jay Strickland Ryfa, Counselor to the American Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation

A wonderful exhibition from an educational point of view and as a general idea. The parallel between the Czar and the President is quite unexpected. It was very interesting with a lot of wonderful exhibition items. Thank you from the press.

Editorial staff of Rossiyskie Vesti
Editorial staff of Min Novostey