

The Noon News

August 6, 2007

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Waterloo Exchange Club

Progressive Tool Company Overview - Don McGriff introduced our speaker, Carl Meyer - Owner and President of Progressive Tool Company in Waterloo - who just happens to be Don's brother-in-law.



Carl Meyer from Progressive Tool Co. visits with members

Carl began his presentation by giving us a brief history of the company. He said his father, an immigrant from Germany who came to Waterloo in 1929, started the company in 1950. It's grown to the present level of 49

employees today. They design and build dies used in large metal working presses to make sheet metal parts used in appliances, cars, electrical distribution equipment, etc. Carl described the manufacturing operations that use the dies his company provides and showed us sample parts. One part was the front panel from a washing machine and another was a fuel door for a Toyota Sequoia SUV.

But, the main topic Mr. Meyer wanted to share with us was a new technology his company is using, waterjet cutting, to supplement their traditional metal cutting processes. Carl explained that waterjet cutting utilizes a ultra-high pressure(60,000 psi) water and an abrasive stream forced through a tiny (0.040") orifice to quickly and accurately cut a variety of materials such as metal, plastics, wood, rubber, etc.

In a near brush with disaster, Mr. Meyer almost lost the membership when, shortly after a lunch served up with of generous portions of Orange Roughy and the room darkened for the slides, he launched in a detailed technical explanation of the rigorous computer controls applied to speeds, tolerances, accuracy and finishes. It's not clear whether it was the obvious bobbing of several heads at Wendell Wexter's table or the glazed expressions clearly visible at Rich Nelson's table or a couple of members at my table in obvious pain, but in any case, Carl quickly moved to remedy the worsening situation by passing around sample parts from the waterjet process. This simple physical exertion was sufficient to get the members' attention once again.

Carl gave us a good summary of the advantages of waterjet cutting in his operation including: (1) produces very little heat; (2) can accurately cut thick cross sections; (3) is a clean operation and (4) allows waste materials cut away from one part to be re-used as raw material for other parts.

Mr. Meyer is obviously and justifiably proud of his company. He invites us to contact him for a tour. He is making a real effort to keep increasing their productivity in order to survive in an industry facing extreme competitive pressures from all over the world now. We wish him well in this endeavor.

NEXT MEETING LOGISTICS

Program : Closed Business Meeting
Invocation : Bill Senn
Pledge : Diane Neebel

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

Aug 13: Chicken Fried Steak
Aug 20: Chicken Marsala
Aug 27: Beef Stroganoff
Sep 03: Labor Day - No Meeting
Sep 10: Roast Beef

Order Chef Salad one week in advance

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Aug 13: Closed Business Meeting
Aug 20: River Renaissance Project Update
Aug 27: TBA
Sep 03: Labor Day - No Meeting
Sep 10: TBA

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 06: Jeff Danielson
Aug 08: Larry Prohaska

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

President Neebel offered the following supplied by Bernie Moine: "If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all."

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Family Picnic - The annual Family Picnic (yes, bring the kids too) will be held on **this Thursday** at *Exchange Park*. We will gather at 5:30. Members are asked to bring their table service and a covered dish to share.



Kids have fun at the Family Picnic, too.

Mr. Cole reports that even though he didn't remember to bring the sign-up sheet again and you've not signed up - not to worry. He's already anticipated your participation and made

the necessary arrangements. See you there.

Guests - There were no guests today. Next week is a closed business meeting, so there probably won't be any then either. The following week, August 20th, Don Temeyer will give us an update of Waterloo's River Renaissance Project and we'll have a great meal - Chicken Marsala - so this will be a great day for guests.

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