

Sparks & Chips

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DURCO
by Ascension



Congratulations By Jack Kopczynski



On May 28th our Company was recipient of this year's Niagara County Small Business Day APEX AWARD presented by the Small Business Development Center of Niagara County Community College. The yearly award, which is open to all Niagara County small businesses, is given to a company that demonstrates growth, job creation, vision, community involvement and provides economic stimuli to our regional economy.

By definition, APEX means being at or near the top. To be looked upon by our Niagara County Business Community as a top company within our county is certainly a major achievement for which we can all be proud. I accepted the

award on behalf of all our employees and stated "Without them we would not be where we are today. They give me a reason and purpose to come to work and a reason to keep investing in them!" Thank you all for making the award possible. It is your reward.



The business community recognized us for being at or near the top. Personally I believe that we continually need new mountains to climb to keep us at the top of our game. There is nothing wrong with having higher

goals and expectations. I believe that new "tops" can be reached by continuing to work together in mutual cooperation for a common purpose.



Empire Zone Designation By Wayne Wawrzyniec



As a manufacturing company in Western New York, we continually focus on addressing business issues to further develop and retain a competitive edge both domestically and globally. We continue to work hard to capitalize on the assets of the region and position our company to manufacture product in demand on a domestic and global scale at competitive prices. As such, we are pleased to announce that based on continuing growth Ascension Industries, working in conjunction with the Cities of Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda, has received tentative approval from New York State to qualify as a "Regionally Significant Project" under the New York State Empire Zone regulations. The City of Niagara Falls, which has the only Empire Zone designation with Niagara County, has agreed to extend their Empire Zone to our locations within the City of North Tonawanda. Empire Zone benefits

are applicable for up to 10 years and primary benefits include real property tax credits, sales tax exemptions, wage tax credits for new hires and investment tax credits, all of which should be of great assistance to us in remaining competitive. This is significant not only for our company but also for our region as it is the first project of this type to ever be done in Niagara County and may open the door to similar opportunities for others and pave the way for further economic stimulus to the region as a whole. This Empire Zone status will assist us in controlling our costs to remain competitive within the industries we serve, hopefully for some time to come. We extend our thanks to Mayor Dyster and the Common Council of the City of Niagara Falls as well as to Mayor Soos of North Tonawanda, all of whom were instrumental in our success, for their support and willingness to assist us in this endeavor.



European Pressure Equipment Directive (PED) From the Quality Group



The Pressure Equipment Directive (PED) provides guidelines for the design, manufacture and certification of pressure equipment typical of the pressure vessels built by Ascension. The PED was adopted by the European Parliament and the European Council in May 1997 and became a mandate for pressure equipment coming into the European Union (EU) on November 29, 1999.

Prior to 1997 many countries in Europe each maintained their own standards for the construction of pressure vessels. The many various and differing codes and certifications were cumbersome and often conflicting. This made the import and export of pressure vessels within Europe difficult. It became apparent standardized codes would greatly benefit European commerce - unfortunately making importing into the EU more difficult for manufacturers outside of Europe. This situation of country - specific codes is still typical in Asia as many countries maintain their own codes and requirements for pressure vessels (China Code, the Korean Code, Malaysian DOSH, Singapore SAC...).

With the creation of the EU many codes, regulations and certification requirements, relative to most products, have been standardized. You might have noticed a "CE" mark on some of the items you own. This is a certification mark indicating the item has been manufactured in accordance with an EU standard and is approved for sale within the EU. Manufacturing in accordance with the PED allows the CE mark to be applied to pressure vessels and imported into the EU.

Europe used to be a difficult market for US manufacturers due to the competitive cost of manufacturing, the cost of shipping and the cost of inconvenience of maintaining a PED program. With the strength of foreign currency as of late; American made capital equipment has become more attractive for purchase around the world as it has become less expensive comparatively. Much of what we build is

ultimately installed all over the world. This is where Ascension and PED come together.

We presently do not have any contracts pending in the EU. However; a number of our big customers do regular business in Europe. We assume it will only be a matter of time before we are asked to fabricate pressure vessels for them that will be exported into the EU. With that in mind, and realizing PED certification is not quick or easy; we have begun taking small steps in preparation for the time when we may decide to obtain PED certification. The first and most involved part of PED certification is the qualification of PED compliant and approved weld procedures and welder qualifications. As it was time for us to update a number of our weld procedures we decided to re-qualify them so they would be PED, as well as ASME, compliant. This is why some of you may have seen our ASME Authorized Inspector monitoring the welding of test plates recently. Our Authorized Inspection Agency is also accredited by the EU as a "Notified Body" which allows them to perform PED activities on behalf of the governing EU agency.

PED has more stringent requirements for weld procedures and welder qualification than ASME. PED requires the AI to watch every weld pass where ASME does not. This is why the recent weld procedure testing may have seemed unusual to you. It also has very specific certification requirements for the labs that test the weld test plates. Testing also, on some occasions, has to be witnessed by the AI. We cannot use our regular local labs for the physical testing of the plates as they are not PED certified. We have to send our PED test plates to a lab mid-State or in Ohio. We are hoping to have 3-4 PED qualified weld procedures completed in the near future.

This is our first step as we approach PED. Hopefully PED will also open the door to new market opportunities for Ascension within the EU.

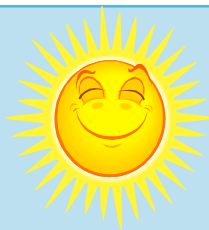
Answers to Word Jumble: Garden, Hammock, Sunny, Flower, Beach, Sprinkler. Final Answer: Swimmer (17 Suns)
Answers to Entertainment Trivia: The Terminator, Oliver Stone, ZZ Top, Wisk, Coppertone, The Penguin.

Welcome Back:

Jim Dinkuhn: Is now our Electrical/Control Systems Engineer. He had 25 years experience with Duriron Company.

Lenis Benzant-Ozoria: Is back in our Fabrication Department.

William Dunlap: Finally, we are pleased to announce his safe return from Iraq. He obtained his Industrial Technology degree and is now a part of our Engineering Department.



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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

By Frank Pastore



Ready For Shipment:

Durco Model PTE Filters featuring Teflon lined back-washable tubular filters, Teflon lined piping manifolds with automated valves.

High Bay Activity:

Multiple Large packaged systems under final assembly.



NEWBIE POINT OF VIEW

By Gail Sanderson



Manufacturing? I do not know anything about it. But what I see in the shop is truly amazing: the bench work, welding and manufacturing. Sales, Project Managers, Engineering may all start the project rolling, but it is the people behind the scenes that pull the jobs together. It's the welders, fitters, machinists and assemblers that keep those jobs evolving (who in their own right should be considered artists). It is their part of the manufacturing process that seems so very important to me.

I find it exciting to watch a structure of welded steel start to grow; getting higher and wider right before my eyes. Everyday for weeks I would see parts being installed, things being welded and wires running back and forth. Then one day - poof, it's gone - packaged, wrapped and shipped. Plop, in comes the next project and it starts all over again.

I sit in this office working on labor hour reports, schedules, drawings and the

general processing of information while outside this office door so much activity occurs. I step out of the office having to zigzag, bob and weave my way to the front office wondering what all this work is about. Steel frames, piping, coolers, motors; this being moved here and that being moved there. Walking down the shop floor hearing the sound of fitting, welding, machining and just general metal banging sounds. It reminds me of the commercial on TV where the construction workers make "music" with their tools. Sometimes I think that goes on here, too. I would have to say, from a newbie point of view, there's rarely a dull moment.

How can I forget watching a 65 ton compressor system travel down Niagara Falls Boulevard on two large trucks carrying skillfully crafted machinery to Niagara Falls Airport? These systems were flown half way around the world on the second largest cargo plane, the Russian Antonov 124. What an inspiring and proud time.

How exhilarating, Ascension's hand work going to another part of the world! If you think about it, it really is incredible.

Okay you say to yourself this girl needs help, but you see I have an appreciation for the hard work and dedication that goes into these jobs. Sometimes we take things for granted after building so much equipment.

Chris Noble

Folks,
We do get so caught up in meeting delivery dates, scheduling hours, expediting materials, rushing around and moving parts, that we overlook what has been accomplished. Gail views the work being done from a different perspective. She sheds light on our abilities, talents and magnitude of what this company manufactures. Manufacturing by Ascension - "Skillfully Crafted Machinery". I could not have said it better.





HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE



Tips From You:

How to Improve on Communications. From: Wayne Wallace of Sweeney Street

It is always a problem in any plant. Write down what you want to communicate. A lot of time verbal gets forgotten. Also, communicate daily. "You can tell someone something interesting and before you know it, it is all around the shop." Now that is communicating. Sometimes the person you tell forgets to tell the intended person, so write it down.

SAFETY NEWS

Congratulations to Shawn Mott, Tony Schultz and Ken Hutchinson who were the monthly winners for March, April and May in the Safety Incentive Program. Let's all keep up the good work!



NEW HIRES	JOB TITLE	HIRE DATE
Dennis Martin	Welder/Fitter	3/3/2008
Shawn Mott	Machinist	3/3/2008
Lenis Benzant-Ozoria	Welder	3/10/2008
Aaron Hoyer	Welder	3/10/2008
Brian Muck	Welder	3/10/2008
Jeffrey Rossi	Assembler	3/10/2008
Ronald Seidel	Welder	3/10/2008
William Browne	Welder/Fitter	3/17/2008
Rose Kramer	Accounts Receivable	3/24/2008
Susan O'Connor	Contract Admin. Sup.	3/31/2008
Eric Freeman	Welder	4/7/2008
Paul Keefe	Buyer	4/14/2008
Jim Dinkuhn	Elect./Con. Sys. Eng.	5/3/2008
Mark DePaolis	IT Intern	5/13/2008
Edward Fritts	Machinist	5/27/2008

Puzzle Corner

Word Jumble

NEGADR _ _ _ _ _
MACHOMK _ _ _ _ _
YNUSN _ _ _ _ _
WOLERF _ _ _ _ _
ACEHB _ _ _ _ _
KRIPESNRL _ _ _ _ _

Now unscramble the letters with the * under them to reveal the final answer.

(Answer on page 4)

How many suns did you count in the whole newsletter?

Entertainment Trivia Questions

- What movie's signature line was: "I'll be back"?
- What director earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart during his tour of duty in Vietnam?
- What rock group's only beardless member is Frank Beard?
- What laundry detergent got lots of mileage out of the ad line: "ring around the collar"?
- What suntan lotion was developed by Dr. Ben Green in 1944 to protect pilots who bailed out over the Pacific?
- What animal travels at 25 mph under water but finds it easier to toboggan on its belly on land?

(Answers on page 4)



EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

June

- Alex Keil - 6/1
- Chan Sounevongsa - 6/5
- Alfred Romus - 6/6
- Gordon Allan - 6/14
- Martin Sherman - 6/18
- Timothy Lopat - 6/20
- Wesley Czajkowski - 6/30

July

- David Smith - 7/1
- Susan O'Connor - 7/3
- Wayne Reichert - 7/3
- Matthew Schroeder - 7/4
- Gary Vincent - 7/7
- David Cudahy - 7/9
- Jennifer Smith - 7/9
- James Kirk - 7/10
- William Browne - 7/11
- Mario Rojas - 7/12
- Cynthia Lombardo - 7/17
- Paul RieXinger - 7/19
- Peter Montante - 7/26
- James Cudahy - 7/29
- Kevin Hughes - 7/30

August

- Jane Krupp - 8/2
- Ronald Richards - 8/8
- Donald Rolfe - 8/8
- James Stoelting - 8/14
- Robert "Greg" Boone - 8/16
- Venkat Venkataraman - 8/22
- Mark Schieb - 8/27
- John Gardner - 8/30

