



# Fallen Leaves

The change of seasons at this time of year fills us with complex and often conflicting emotions and ideas. Fall is both a time of reflection and a time of expectation for the year that's about to come. We find comfort in the warm fall colors as the trees turn to red, orange, yellow and brown, but we're also reminded that the vacation's over and it's time for harvesting and hunkering down.

Life is often colored by the season, and the cornucopia of feelings that's natural at this time of year seems particularly relevant in light of recent news and events in the gear industry. While I had originally planned to write this editorial about the positive feeling I got from visiting Gear Expo, we've also received sad news over the past few months about the passing of some close friends whom the gear industry will miss dearly.

Irving Laskin passed away at age 85. Irv was an expert in fine-pitch, plastic and powder metal gears who helped us many times as an author and guest technical editor. He was also a great contributor to AGMA and its technical community. His leadership on the committees he served has left a void that will be difficult to fill.

Georges Henriot passed away at age 87. Henriot was already a giant

of the gear industry when I got into the business in 1964.

In 1946, he helped found l'Institut de l'Engrenage et des Transmissions (IET) in order to disseminate technical gear information via training and publications. He helped organize several world gearing congresses and was highly involved in the development of ISO 6336 and other gear standards. Even today he is known the world over for his book *Traite Theorique et Pratique des Engrenages*, a seminal reference in the field of gearing.

With the passing of these two men, the end of a season also marks the end of an era.

We also heard about the sad passing of two who were too young to go. Kyle Dean Haley, president of Haley Marine Gears, died in October. I didn't know Kyle, but I've known Ray Haley, his father, for 40 years, both in business and through his involvement in AGMA. Ray was AGMA chairman in 1994.

Most recently, Bennie R. Boxx, Jr., president of B&R Gear, died suddenly at age 53. I've known the Boxx family for most of my career. Bennie L. Boxx (Bennie Sr.) worked for my father when I was first starting out. His children, Brenda Sudzum and Bennie Jr., I've known since we were all kids.

All of these men are part of our

industry's heritage. Their passing is a reminder that none of us knows how far out our horizon is, so we should all learn to live life as if there is no tomorrow.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Haley, Haley Marine Gears, Boxx, Sudzum and B&R families, as well as to the Laskin and Henriot families.

Sincerely,

Michael Goldstein, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

P.S. You can learn more about our positive experience at Gear Expo by reading our recap on page 79. Although many exhibitors and attendees I talked to before the show were apprehensive, I found most people in Indianapolis to be in good spirits—even optimistic. They seemed to feel that the worst was behind us. Cutting tool sales are inching up, and suppliers of tooling and fixtures are quoting a lot of jobs. There's a sense that the gear industry is in for a change of seasons, too, and we're ready to climb out of the economic doldrums.