



Crossroads and Transitions Part I



Twenty-five years ago, America was just coming out of the worst recession since the Great Depression. The overall economy was mired in bank failures and the savings and loan crisis. Like most sectors of the economy, manufacturing suffered. Closed factories and the resulting manufacturing unemployment were the skid marks left by a manufacturing industry that had come screeching to a halt.

It was a time of transition for America and the world.

Computers were beginning to make a broad impact on our lives—with the PC coming into our homes and NC and CNC machine tools beginning to replace older mechanical models in our factories.

During that same period, I was at a turning point in my career. I had grown up in the machine tool business and had success serving the gear industry, but I was ready to do something else—something that would make a lasting difference both to me and the industry I had become a part of.

So, in May 1984, I launched *Gear Technology*, the Journal of Gear Manufacturing.

There were many naysayers at the time, people who said it was the wrong time to launch a magazine, people who said the industry was too small to support its own publication (at that time, the industry bible was still the 200-plus page *American Machinist*). But fortunately we had our supporters, too, including many of you—both readers and advertisers—who have been with us since that very first issue.

Happy 25th anniversary, *Gear Technology*. We've come a long way.

But here we are, in May 2009, and I can't help but notice the similarities between now and then. Some of them are obvious, like the current economic difficulties and troubles among our nation's financial institutions. Other similarities you may not know about.

I find myself, once again, at a turning point in my career. Many of you are probably aware that in addition to my role as publisher and editor-in-chief of *Gear Technology*, I have also been the president of Cadillac Machinery, a worldwide dealer specializing in second-hand gear machinery. We've decided to close Cadillac Machinery and on May 12, we'll sell at auction the company's extensive stock of machinery and tooling.

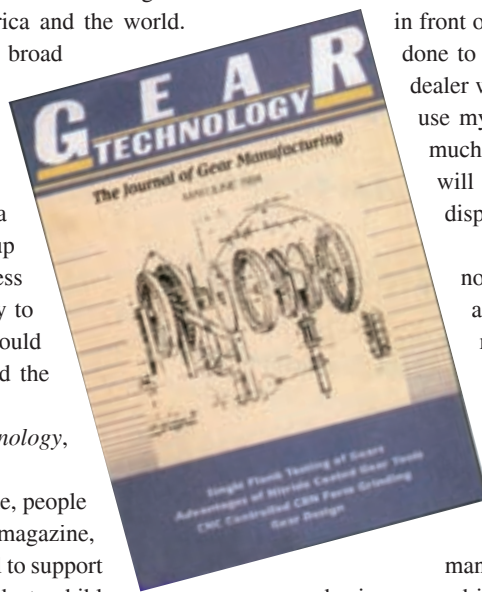
But don't get the idea that I'm moving to Florida to play shuffleboard the rest of my life. Let me make it very clear—only Cadillac Machinery is retiring. I'm not. I'm not going anywhere. In fact, I feel much like I did 25 years ago, when I launched *Gear Technology*. The next phase of my life is approaching, and I'm ready to face it. Moreover, I'm energized by all the possibilities in front of me and how I can build on what I've already done to make this next transition. After 45 years as a dealer with a large inventory and warehouse, I plan to use my knowledge and contacts to begin something much simpler, requiring less responsibility, but which will still allow me to help the gear industry buy, dispose of and appraise its used gear equipment.

The close readers among you will have noticed that this editorial is titled "Crossroads and Transitions, Part I." That's because I have more to tell you about the future of Michael Goldstein and *Gear Technology*, as well as some of the things we have in store for you. Unfortunately, Part II of the story will have to wait until next issue.

But I will leave you with this thought:

Through the last 25 years, there have been many ups and downs, both in the economy, in my businesses and in my personal life. But through that time, one thing has remained constant—and that is my dedication to making *Gear Technology* the best possible information resource for the worldwide gear industry that it can be. That will never change.

Here's to another 25 years.



Michael Goldstein
Michael Goldstein,
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

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