



SIEG'S MANUFACTURING: THE CULMINATION OF EUROPEAN CRAFTSMANSHIP AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY

When Sieg Kaulbars emigrated from Germany to Canada in the late 1950s, he brought with him, a skill new to Canadian industry – metal spinning. After briefly working for a company building pre-engineered buildings, Sieg began working for a company which recently started a metal spinning production line. In 1972, Sieg realized this spinning technique was relatively unknown among Canadian manufacturers, and started Sieg's Manufacturing in Langley, B.C.

The metal spinning process involves starting with a metal blank, up to 1/8 of an inch thick and forming it, instead of machining it, on a metal spinning lathe. The type of metal

varies from stainless and tool steel, to aluminum and other alloys. Typical parts that are ideal for the metal spinning process are components with a relatively thin cross section yet large in diameter – like reflectors for lighting applications or automotive wheel disks.

Today the company is managed by Sieg and his two sons, Frank and Gerry. The elder son, Gerry, now manages the Company's metal spinning manufacturing and Frank, oversees the company's growing metal fabricating business. "The idea of expanding into metal fabrication was conceived while we were expanding the services of our metal spinning operation," says Frank. "Instead of just doing the metal spinning on a single part, we wanted to manufacture the complete assembly." Today, 50 percent of the Company's business is in the metal fabricating market.

As part of their evaluation of the fabricating job shop market, Frank recognized that to be competitive, modern technology had to be a key ingredient in their ability to win and maintain contracts. When they started fabricating in the early 1980s, Sieg's Manufacturing purchased a manual press brake, punch press and a welder. As jobs were processed with increased regularity and complexity, Frank continued to upgrade his technology. As the market became increasingly competitive, Frank needed to take a giant leap forward for faster, more automated production.

"Since the capital outlay was significant," says Frank, "we took extra time to evaluate existing technology in the marketplace." After attending extensive demonstrations of competitive products Sieg's Manufacturing decided to purchase a new



Metal spinning



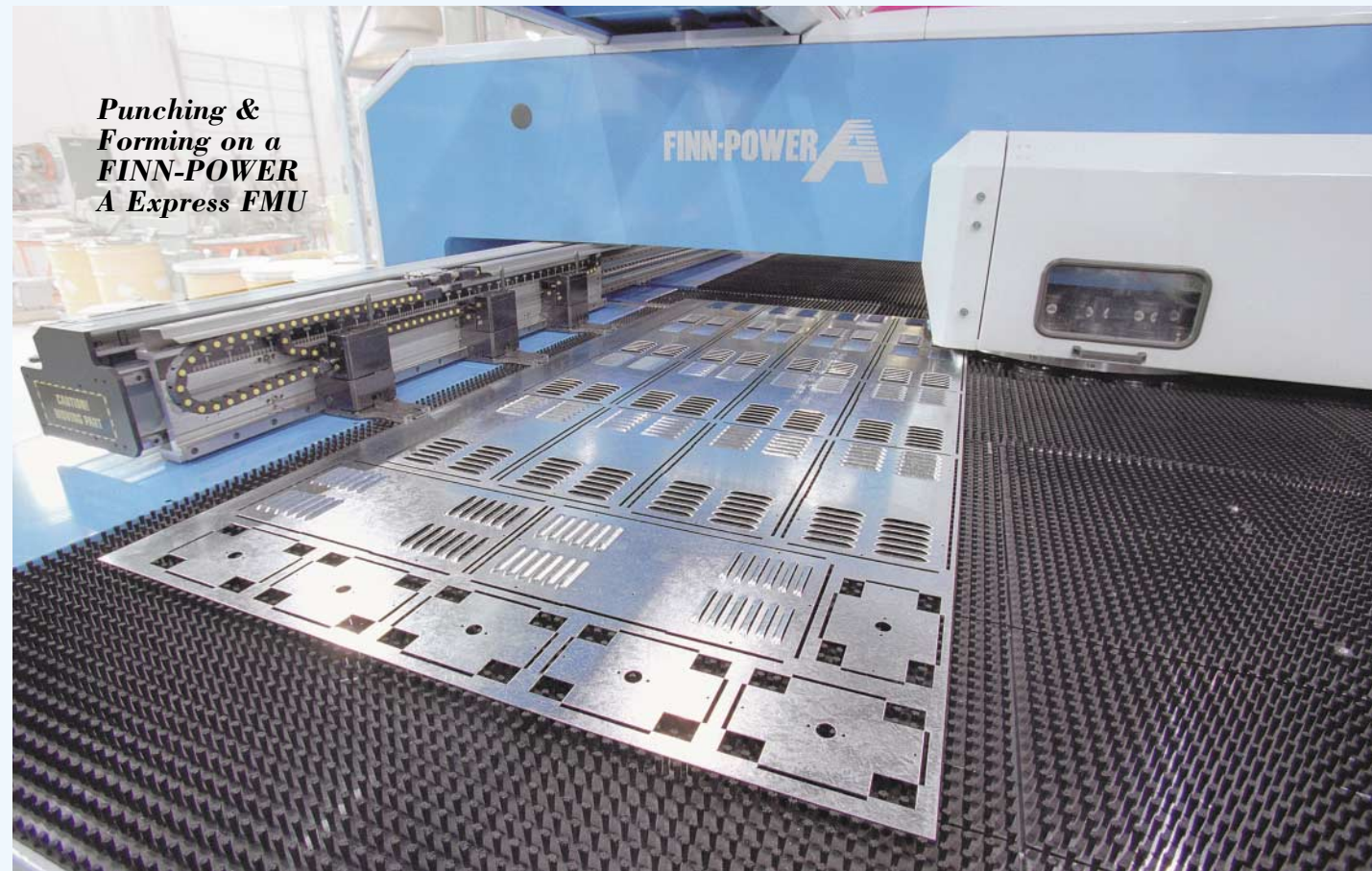
(LtoR): Frank, Sieg, Giesla and Gerry.

FINN-POWER A Express Flexible Manufacturing Unit (FMU). "We were convinced this machine outperformed the others for our particular type of work," he continues. "The FINN-POWER FMU can automatically load and unload 4 x 8-foot sheets for increased productivity. Now that we can

previous turret machine and productivity has increased by a whopping 30 percent."

The main frame of the FINN-POWER machine is referred to as a closed "O" frame or bridge frame. The frame is a welded box type design, offering superior alignment between the punch and die, resulting in longer tool life. Its one-piece construction eliminates flexing and yawing of the frame and angular deflection during punching. A bi-directional rotating turret is the heart of FINN-POWER machine's flexibility and simplicity. It is completely hydraulic, offering automatic overload protection, eliminating the need for "break-through" plates or "shear-pins". The FINN-POWER A Express can, in nibbling, hit speeds up to 600 hpm and speeds up to 320 hpm on 25 mm (1-inch) centers.

The increased productivity of their new capital equipment has Sieg's Manufacturing Ltd producing complete assemblies for the heating, lighting, vending, restaurant and security systems industries. "There is enough business for everyone in fabricating industry in Western Canada," says Frank. "The reason for our success is we specialize in only some key markets and we do the complete job. For example, in the vending machine market we basically manufacture the complete machine except for the electronics. Our customer can rely on us to tweak the design before production, to improve the fit & finish and pos-



Punching & Forming on a FINN-POWER A Express FMU

work from a 4 x 8 sheet, we can sometimes punch two different jobs on the same sheet. The FINN-POWER machine has an 80-station turret with four multi-tools and three auto-index tools. Now we can preload tooling for up to three or four different jobs which can be scheduled, either back-to-back or simultaneously, without stopping the machine for re-tooling. Accuracy and edge quality has improved significantly over our

sibly, the overall functionality of the vending machine. Today we run an 8- or 10-hour day shift and an additional four-hour lights-out shift on the FINN-POWER."

For more information contact Sieg's Manufacturing in Langley, B.C. For information on FINN-POWER visit www.finnpower.com.

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