

Proverbs

My father, Harold Goldstein, was born in 1917 and came of age during the Great Depression. Like many of his contemporaries, he had to drop out of school to go to work. But my dad didn't allow his lack of formal education to hold him back. He had an insatiable desire to learn, devouring all kinds of books, teaching himself accounting, law, marketing and all the things he needed to become a successful businessman. Working as he did, he learned a thing or two not to be found in schools or textbooks.

My father often spoke in proverbs, and his words of wisdom have guided me my entire life.

"You don't know what you don't know."

"The more you study what seems to be a simple subject, the more complex it becomes."

"If we live in a land where everyone is a taker, then we will live in a very dreary, unhappy society."

That last one was especially significant to me. My dad taught me that I had an obligation to use my knowledge, experience and talents, especially as a small businessman, to give back to our society. He taught me that most people are willing to volunteer at their schools, at their churches or synagogues, or in their communities, but he felt that those with special skills were especially obligated, and he encouraged me to see where I could use my unique skills and experience to give back.

In the beginning of my career, as a used machinery dealer with Cadillac Machinery Company, I volunteered at the Machinery Dealers National Association (MDNA). There, I eventually became president of the board of the association's for-profit publishing company, which published *The Locator*, a monthly magazine listing all the used machinery available on the marketplace. Effectively, each month we put out the equivalent of a printed telephone directory with over 32,000 listings of machinery and mailing over 100,000 copies per month. It was during my eight years at *The Locator* that I became fascinated by the publishing business and where I realized the unique skills that could allow me to give something back to society as more than just a volunteer.

My stewardship of *The Locator* ended 1983, when the United States manufacturing community was in a very deep recession. But at the same time, the CNC revolution was just beginning, first in turning, forming and drilling, soon to be followed by the more complicated machines used in gear manufacturing. At that time, the gear industry was thirsty for knowledge. Gear manufacturers needed to know how to use these new and changing technologies, and they needed to understand the specific engineering concepts of gearing.

While there were technical conferences, produced by AGMA and others, all around the world, the information from those conferences was disseminated to only a few—maybe the owner, president or engineering manager who was able to attend. He'd come home with a stack of technical papers in a blue binder, which would end up on a shelf and often known only to him.



Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Michael Goldstein

So I started *Gear Technology* as a means to distribute all of this technical information directly to the companies and individuals who needed it—from the executive office to the shop floor.

To make *Gear Technology* a commercial reality, I had to convince some advertisers to support my efforts. The first person I visited was Marty Woodhouse of Star Cutter, who cut off my spiel almost as soon as I began it, saying simply, "I'm in." I said, "Marty, don't you want to hear my ideas?" And he replied, "I've heard enough. I love the idea. I know you can do this, and the industry needs what you're trying to do. You've got the support of Star Cutter Company." I talked to my friend David Goodfellow, who at that time was president of American Pfauter. His immediate reaction was, "I want the inside front cover." My next supporter was Hank Boehm of Liebherr America, who was followed by Klingelnberg and Gleason. Without those early supporters, this magazine would never have gotten off the ground.

I'd like to thank those early supporters, as well as the other companies who have advertised over the years and all of the authors who have so generously given their time to help make *Gear Technology* a reality.

Our first issue was published in May/June 1984, and so, with this issue, we celebrate our 30th anniversary. From the beginning, my vision was to build a body of knowledge that future generations could rely upon—and we continue to take that very seriously. All of our technical articles are vetted for accuracy and relevance, and we include authors from all around the world, many of whom now seek us out for the prestige of publishing in *Gear Technology*. That vision was also to create a continually evolving reference set that was available to anyone who wanted it. Today, because of the Internet, that's truer than ever. All you have to do is visit www.geartechology.com to access that body of knowledge free of charge. You can download any issue from 1984 to today, and more importantly, you can search by keyword for any article from the past 30 years that is relevant to you.

When I look back at all the issues we've published and all the subjects we've covered, I'm somewhat in awe of the sheer volume of information and the value it represents. I can honestly say, now, that I have given back, and I'm sure my dad would be proud of what I've accomplished as a legacy.