

Transitions

Beginning with this issue, one of the last bits of the "old" *Gear Technology* is gone. From now on we'll be running the new picture of me you see on this page. It was time, my art and editorial staff explained to me, to move ahead with the rest of the updated art and editorial in the magazine. (I emphatically deny that the *real* motivation for the new picture was putting a stop to the ever-increasing number of jabs from certain friends about my "Dorian Gray" look.)

In the overall scheme of things, this is hardly worth noting. Still, when it's one's own photo, the change becomes a bit more personal. Studying one's portrait proofs gives new meaning to the phrase "shock of recognition." If nothing else, it's one more reminder that nothing stays the same forever. Change is the default mode of existence.

Another, far more important change took place recently in the automotive gearing business. Marcello Finateri, after nearly 50 years with Ford Motor Company, has retired. Since 1962, Marcello has been involved in the development of the differentials for all Ford cars and trucks sold in the U.S. market. He was instrumental in developing and maintaining Ford's strong engineering capability in differential gearing. Many of the hot cars we lusted after in our younger (and not so younger) days have had Marcello's design engineering fingerprints all over their drivetrains.

But Marcello has been much more than a brilliant engineer. He's never met a gear he didn't like, and his long hours and killer work weeks were as much a result of his passion for what he was doing as a function of his work ethic.

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Marcello loved his work, and his passion for gears has been infectious. He has left a valuable legacy at Ford, not only in terms of his expertise built into important automotive designs, but also in the lives he's influenced. He has trained scores of other engineers and set an example by his tireless work habits, his boundless energy and, above all, his unfailing good humor. No matter how tense the situation or brutal the schedule, Marcello could come up with a joke or a smile.

The depths of the industry's affection for Marcello were demonstrated when more than 300 of his colleagues appeared at a retirement dinner honoring him. And those of us in attendance were only the tip of the iceberg. People in the gear industry around the world know, respect and admire Marcello Finateri.

Like much, if not most change, Marcello's retirement is a bittersweet affair. We're happy that he will enjoy a well-earned rest and that he can look back on a full, busy and eminently successful career. We send him off with our best wishes for an equally full and rewarding retirement.

But there's a certain sadness about the business as well. All of us who have worked with Marcello in one capacity or another will miss him. The industry won't be the same without him.

No one is indispensable, the sages and our own common sense tell us. But some people are irreplaceable.

Arrivederci, Marcello, vogliamo augurare ad un

eccellente collega di godersi ora il meglio per gli anni a venire con lo stesso stile ed entusiasmo che ti ha contraddistinto nella tua carriera.



Michael Goldstein
Michael Goldstein
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief