



MODERN METAL
PROCESSING INC

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Modern Metal
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- Aluminum Anneal
- Brazing and Heat Treatment
- Steel Weldment Stress Relief
- Stampings
- Forgings
- Castings
- Extrusions

Metal to Metal

From the desk of Ed Wesolek

Chet, Chester and Ed.

Welcome to the first edition of our monthly newsletter. It's a way for us to keep in touch, let you know of unique discoveries on our part and more. Oh, in the photo, that furry fella in my arms is my newest four-legged best friend, Jake. In the short time Shell and I invited him into our lives, I'm convinced he was placed on earth for two reasons. 1) To bring us joy. 2) To lick everything and everybody. You just can't be in a bad mood around this guy!

I know some of you have been valued customers of ours for many years. For that, I am eternally grateful. Others are fairly new friends, we appreciate you more than words can express, too!

When the idea for this newsletter hatched, we pondered what to put into it. I want this to be something you look forward to each month; a means of communicating ideas and to share some of our solutions which could be of benefit to you, your projects and your clients. A good idea should be shared.

I'm often asked how Modern Metal Processing got started. For this issue, I wanted to share the very personal story of

how MMP began. See, this is a family business. My wife, Shelly, my nephew Nick and longtime employee Mark are vital to the successful operation of MMP.

I wish I could take credit for the formation of this enterprise, but that distinction goes to Chester "Chet" Wesolek, my late father.

For the record, although I go by Ed, legally, I'm Chester Wesolek, III. You can thank my mother for my adopted name. My grandfather's name was also Chester. *Do you see a theme, here?*

When I was a kid, he came to my parents house one day—the house of Chester—to assist in painting and other rehab projects. That day my mother yelled for "Chester," the three of us—my grandfather, my father and I—all came running. Confusing? Yep!

So, on that day, my mom designated grandpa as "Dad", my father, "Chet" and I became "Ed." How Ed was derived from Chester remains a mystery to me. But I digress...

My dad's background was mostly in metallurgy and pow-

dered metals. He eventually started a company in Bay City called UniMet, which specialized in powdered metals. The company had a bumpy ride and was closed when my dad was offered a really nice job down here in Williamston with Jet Die. Dad took over their furnaces and did their brazing and furnace work; all aircraft stuff.



My dad, Chet Wesolek, standing outside his first business, UniMet.

Chet had the entrepreneurial bug, however and in November of 1978 he launched Modern Metal Processing.

Whether dealing with customers, vendors or employees, my dad counseled me to be upfront, be fair, be truthful, be honest. It's how we continue to operate MMP today.

The "Chet Advantage."

My dad started MMP, thanks in part to Dick LaLon in Alma, who worked for Lobb-Dell Emery. Through Dick, dad secured aluminum reinforcement work on the Chevy Impala. That led to work with Oldsmobile, Ford and, eventually, the military. I'm condensing here for space, but that was how this started in late 1978.

I was not employed here at the start of MMP. Back then I was working as draftsman/foreman for a company in Jackson. Dad eventually talked to me about joining him and by the start of 1983, I landed at MMP.

I know there are people who think working for your old man is a breeze. If that's you, you didn't know Chet Wesolek! He was a fair man, a great dad, but a tough boss. He was

harder on me than anyone else. Still, I was comfortable with him as the boss and did things his way. That's not to say we didn't butt heads from time to time. *Oh, yes we did!*

My dad, Chet, taught me much about life and how best to treat people and to always operate with integrity on all matters, business and personal.

He also taught me the different alloys we use, how to look at a part and learn how to properly handle it. He taught me how to expertly quench a part to get the best results out of the material and the most hardness from that finished product.

My dad instilled a sense of obligation in me with this business. When a client calls, it's vital to take the time necessary

to understand how the part will be used in order to deliver the highest quality product. Period.

Through my father, I received more than hands-on experience. I learned this business as a journeyman learns from a master craftsman. That's an important distinction here at Modern Metal Processing.

From that initial period with my dad to all the seminars and commitment to continuing education on best practices for brazing techniques, MMP has developed a distinct advantage in the marketplace.

I call our difference the "**Chet Advantage.**" It's our commitment to deliver the highest quality parts for your job. I take it seriously. My name is on it... and so is Chet's. Thanks, dad!

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“At Modern Metal Processing, we’re about over promising and over delivering.”

The Magic of Relationships and Solving Problems.

As you can tell by reading this newsletter, my dad was so much more than a father to me. When he passed away in 2009, I lost a mentor, a great friend, someone I could go do stuff with. We’d go to watering holes, sales meetings, seminars—he was someone I could share everyday life with. Losing that type of friend really knocked me for a loop.

Dad taught me what this company has come to represent in our business community and the people we’ve formed relationships with over the years.

Modern Metal Processing does more than provide a living for myself, my family and our employees and their families. MMP is a team of dedicated professionals who have a passion for excellence. I’m blessed to have a team here who, like me, constantly strive to find better ways to serve you.

We’re more than an outfit that heat treats and brazes. We’re problem solvers. We’ve been fortunate to work on parts for jets, racing bikes, solar-

powered cars...you name it. Whether a job is big or small, MMP boasts a dedicated and focused team of professionals who understand your need to get a job done correctly and on time.

Our process is thorough from initial discussion of a job to walking through the steps, engineering and processes required to meet customer specs.

I sit down with clients and really listen to their objectives on a project before the work begins. Questions? I usually have plenty during such meetings because it’s imperative that I fully understand the project starting with this opening conversation.

If we see a problem with client specs, we say so. We have to. Sometimes that might mean we walk away from a piece of business. There’s Chet’s influence at work here. It’ll never leave. The job must be done one way, the right way!

I’ve had a lot of compliments from people telling me, “Man, you’re the most honest guy I

know.” I’m thankful for kind words like that, but these are basic life tenants and morals my dad instilled in me. His morals and his honesty were high and I saw that on display in every aspect of the mans life.

As a result, that’s how I treat my customers, that’s how I treat my employees, that’s how I treat my vendors. I welcome the opportunity to discuss your upcoming project and how we can help you look like a hero to your client. That’s the magic of solving problems together.



Me and my dad, Chet Wesolek

With a Little Help From Some Friends...

I’ve mentioned that my dad was also my mentor in this business. When he passed, I was fortunate to find a whole other level of mentorship through networking and associations. I’m not sure I can ever fully explain how beneficial these associations have been to me and you as a customer.

To illustrate, I’ll use my association with MTI, the Metal Treating Institute, as an example. I’ve been on the board of this organization for about six years and it has become a valuable resource.

Where I once collaborated with my dad on project issues, through MTI, I now have hundreds of combined years of experience at my fingertips which ensures proper provisioning and processing of your job.

I have trusted alliances with professionals in Pennsylvania and California who’ve helped me with brazing problems. I have a contact in Florida who

has proven to be a tremendous asset with heating problems. It’s not a one-way street either. I help my peers in such networks with my advice, too.

As a customer, these alliances are an important component to the operation of MMP which you should feel good about. Not everyone in this field has been able to cultivate such a Rolodex™. This exchange of knowledge and experience is part of the quality guarantee we offer.

I want each and every one of our customers to know their parts were processed correctly and that the whole transaction went as expected...or better than what they expected.

I don’t believe in the concept of under promising and over delivering. That sets the quality bar too low for my standards.

At Modern Metal Processing, we’re about over promising and over delivering. Our clients expect to get the results they

were looking for and know that everything went smoothly. The job is completed and delivered on time, or sooner than they expected.

That reminds me of a comment from a client who said: “I don’t know what I’d do if you disappeared.” Relax. Good Lord willing, I’m staying put as long as possible!

Speaking for everyone at MMP, thank you for your business and trust. It’s an honor to work on your behalf.



Jake says: “See ‘ya next month!”