

Steve Sperling
Mechanical Manufacturing



It's hard to believe that fifty years have passed since we walked the halls of Cass Tech. So much has happened since that time. I graduated from Wayne State University in 1964 with a degree in Business Administration. A day after I graduated I married my sweetheart, Heather who I started dating in 1959. We had four children, Daniel, Mindy, Michelle (Who died in 1975. She was 1-1/2 years old.) and Megan. Each of my remaining three children have two children of their own. From 1964 until 1967 I held a few different jobs in retail and banking management. In 1967 I went to work in management at a small manufacturing company that specialized in the carbide die business. I purchased the company in 1972 after the owner died. My main customers were Delco Products, Saginaw Steering Gear and Monroe Auto Equipment Co. We had many ups and downs during the years. We never went below 45 hours a week and for over twenty-five years we worked a steady 54 hours a week. During these years I spent most of my time working. The only time I took off was one week in the spring and one week in the fall. The business was very successful. In 1997 I had a heart attack and by-pass surgery. I always said that if I was to be off of work for more than one week, I probably will never go back. I did go back to work for nine hours a week for about five months until I was able to finalize a sale of the company in January 1998. Since that time I have kept very busy. I do some work for an accountant and a lawyer. I do quite a bit of volunteer work at local schools and my synagogue. I just finished a two year term of President at my synagogue. That is almost a full time job in its self. Heather and I do travel now. We usual go away during the year for a total of five weeks. We have to work around the school year schedule, since I have a thirteen year old grand son who has lived with us since he was born. We have had at least one child living with us for forty-four of the forty-five years we have been married. We have had a good life and are very thankful.

During my years at Cass I remember the long bus rides each morning and afternoon. It always gave me a chance to do my homework. I remember the itchy pants I had to wear to my ROTC classes. I always seemed to have a class on the first floor and the next class on the sixth floor. The elevator was always packed when I got there and I had to take the stairs. I remember most of my teachers especially Al Bracchiano, who would throw an eraser at your head to get your attention. I remember the foundry with Mr. Padelford and the problems I had making a sand casting of a propeller. Mr. Fountain, who was my shop teacher telling me never to go into the tool and die business because I could not measure anything right with a micrometer. The main thing that I remember was my friends during those years, which I am looking forward seeing again.

Steven Sperling