

Business News

ROBBINS MANUFACTURING CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF BUSINESS

by Jay Pateakos, Fall River Area Chamber

Over the last few years, Fall River, like many struggling mill cities, has become known more for the companies who have left or closed than those that have stayed behind.

But for Robbins Manufacturing, located in the heart of the Fall River Industrial Park, manufacturing is still very much alive and well—even thriving, in our area.

Robbins is a specialty manufacturer of stainless steel and non-ferrous fasteners and cold-formed special parts, all which include things like machine screws, sheet metal and tapping screws and a broad line of standard fasteners built to military specifications.

“A good part of the industry has gone overseas but we have managed to exist and do quite well with our own line of products and we continue to deal with customers in the U.S. and around the world,” said President Barry Robbins, 81, who is still involved in the day to day operations of the business as he has for all of its 40 years of existence. “Everything we do is made on site. We make what we sell and sell what we make. The only thing we buy is raw materials that go into the products but much of that we buy domestically. We make corrosion resistant fasteners for every industry, nautical, aerospace, food, nuclear, chemical. Our product just doesn’t

rust.”

With 39 full-time and 4 part-time employees, with more than two-thirds of them being employed with Robbins for more than 15 years, it’s obvious they are doing something right. Robbins Manufacturing originally opened in the Durfee Union Mill in July 1970, in 8,000-square-foot of space where the current Registry of Motor Vehicles is located. They moved out of their downtown location in 1974, to Airport Road in the Fall River Industrial Park, where Pella Windows is now situated. Opening up their current spot in 1980, right across the street from Pella’s, various expansions have seen the facility grow to 106,000-square feet.

“There’s really no secret to our longevity, we just keep working. We’ve managed to do it for the past 40 years and aren’t going to stop now,” said Robbins. “To be successful, you just have to stick to business, keep improving and getting much more efficient.”

Robbins Vice President Peter Shuman said they have to look no further than Barry Robbins himself to know where the success of the company is derived from.

“Barry is the number one reason why this company is still here today. It starts from the top with strong leadership and the quality of employee skill

that comes in here everyday,” said Shuman. “Barry and the Company are one in the same. The Company is a reflection of him as a person.”

“It’s surely had its ups and downs like it is in life but I have never thought for a minute that we weren’t going to succeed,” said Robbins.

“Sometimes it gets aggravating but I always knew that if we kept doing things correctly, we would be here tomorrow and the next day.”

And you can add 14,600 days to that equation and counting.

“We’re looking forward to the next 40 years,” Robbins added.



Little known fact: *There is a place called Fall River, Wisconsin; there’s a business called Robbins Manufacturing there too. But that’s not where the similarities end. The village of Fall River, Wisconsin, established in 1845, was founded by A.A. Brayton, whose family, had already established deep roots in the creation of Fall River, Massachusetts as well.*

“It was a relative of the Brayton family that came from our Fall River and moved out there,” said Fall River Historical Society Curator Michael Martins. “The Brayton family had a pretty large family.”

Small world huh?

“We discovered it when the Patriots were in the Superbowl against the Green Bay Packers. We bet 10 gallons of clam chowder against them. They offered 25 pounds of cheese,” said Robbins. “But we all know how that turned out.”