

All in the FAMILY



Irena Pastorello / Journal Inquirer

From left, John, Jae, Brian, and James Meyer at Meyer Gage Company in South Windsor.

It's all the gage ... Precision is the word for the Meyers

By Jim Tierney

Journal Inquirer

SOUTH WINDSOR — James Meyer, vice-president of the Meyer Gage Company, says the key component of the 45-year-old family business is a basic tool known as a plug gage.

"It's a precision measuring instrument used by other manufacturers for fabricating products," he says. "People in the medical industry, aerospace, and metal working industries use them. We always used to say it's used for drilling holes. It's a real basic tool to know if your product is within certain specifications or guidelines."

John Meyer, James' elder brother, is the company president. Their father, Albert, who started the company in 1960, died in 1992.

"John and I are co-owners, but he being the older brother is the president," James Meyer says.

John Meyer has two sons, Jae, 29, and Brian, 27, who make up the third generation in the family business located at 230 Burnham St..

"We've actually just this year basically reinvented our whole product line," James Meyer says. "The reason being the low cost of imports, which are knockoff or duplicate products. We've introduced the entire product line, doubled the quality of it, and maintained the same price."

James Meyer says his family always reinvests in the business, something that is not lost on their customers.

"We've been very big in reinvesting in the equipment," he says. "We invest in labor-saving technology. We've always stayed on top of that. My brother and I started here when we were kids."

In June, the Meyers started a second shift to help speed up

product deliveries.

"There is a time sensitivity to the business," James Meyer says.

Meyer Gage Company has 24 full-time employees and operates in a 28,000-square-foot plant near Route 5.

The Meyer Gage Company was the first to introduce Class ZZ gage pin sets. Al Meyer knew that reliable accuracy is essential. World manufacturers depending on Meyer did not happen by chance. At Meyer, their reliability is based on dedication to one field — plug gage manufacturing, continuing investment in state-of-the-art equipment, and their quality assurance inspection program.

Al Meyer knew from experience in the 1950s that there was a need for a better standard in convenient hole and bore measurement. He had access to some of the best machinists in the Hartford area, and he had rigid demands for quality, which were met early and recognized quickly by industry.

James Meyer says the key to the company's success revolves around a "market that demands the most consistent high level quality at sensible prices," and "we're always looking for ways to better serve our customers."

As the company slogan reads: "We at Meyer Gage firmly believe in the phrase 'great companies are built upon the input of their customers.'"

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