

fabrication business thrives 1960s

1970s



In 1960, 16 sheetmetal workers form what will become Ace Metal Crafts. They pool their funds and begin with a simple service offering and specialty: stainless steel fabrication.

Operations such as saw cutting and grinding are mostly performed by hand. Cutting is done on a single band saw.

The industry sees several technology improvements during these two decades, including the introduction of the inner-shield electrode, which creates welds resistant to cracking and reduces the preparation to fit up workpieces before welding.

Holes are punched on a Strippit Punch Press one hole at a time. For layouts, most calculations are performed on HP calculators. Layouts are made from paper templates and serve as the only instructions sent to the shop floor.

The development of the combo punch/laser machine improves how intricate parts are made.

Food industry dramatically expands their plants to meet increasing demand.



During the 1960s...

The Beatles invade in 1964, and change our music forever.

American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walk on the Moon.

Light Emitting Diodes - LEDs - are invented, which change the way we see things.

During the 1970s...

The 26th Amendment to Constitution is certified by President Richard Nixon, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18.

Expenses:

New Car: \$3,742

Gallon of Gas: \$0.36

New House: \$28,300

Minimum Wage: \$1.60 per hour

IBM invents the 8-inch floppy diskette, and uses it first in 1971 on the IBM System/370 Model 145; disk holds 80KB.

technology deployed 1980s

In 1982, Jack Lichter buys Ace Metal Crafts and invests heavily in new equipment and technology.



In 1983, Ace adds a press brake and CNC turret punch press with 48 tooling stations to speed fabrication.

In 1989, Ace invests in Symix scheduling system to track jobs and optimize on-time delivery.



Full-time sales force added to expand visibility.

Auger work becomes a specialty.

Jean Pitzo begins her tenure at Ace.

Industry benefits from significant technology advancements in areas of computer numerical controls to speed the process and improve accuracy; computer-aided design reduces design-to-manufacture time and prototyping time.



During the 1980s...

Inflation rate hits 13.5%; the prime rate hits 21%.

The first test tube baby is born.

The first artificial heart is implanted in Barney Clark.

In 1980, U.S. speed skater Eric Heiden wins the most Gold medals ever won by an athlete in a single Olympics.

The Titanic is discovered on the bottom of the north Atlantic floor.

expansion continues 1990s

In 1991, sisters Jean Pitzo and Mary Lichter buy Ace from Jack Lichter.

In 1993, Ace buys its first laser; two years later, adds second laser.

In 1999, the company invests in Solid Edge engineering software.

Ace expands to a second building to meet increasing business demand.

In 1999, Ace goes online with www.acemetal.com.



In 2003, Dale Ball becomes President of Ace.

Ace installs 6-axis laser for processing structural components, and flat laser with automated material handling.



During the 1990s...

OEMs and their suppliers leverage the revolution of the World Wide Web, participating in online exchanges and performing global business transactions.

The Soviet Union is dissolved and the 15 separate republics are now independent.

Dolly the cloned sheep is born at the Roslin Institute in Scotland. She is the first mammal cloned from an adult cell.

lean journey begins 2000s

Substantial investments in technology and implementation of Lean Manufacturing techniques that help Ace reduce lead time and cost for customers.

Ace brings glass beading in-house to improve speed, quality and value to sanitary applications.

Two advanced press brakes added to line-up.

Ace relaunches www.acemetal.com.

Ace continues its Lean journey, shares lessons learned, operational best practices, and cutting-edge technology with visitors from around the world.

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During the 2000s...

Terrorists attack America in September 2001, and forever change the nation. U.S. War on Terrorism begins on two fronts: Iraq and Afghanistan.

U.S. space program rattled after Space Shuttle Columbia explodes in early 2003.

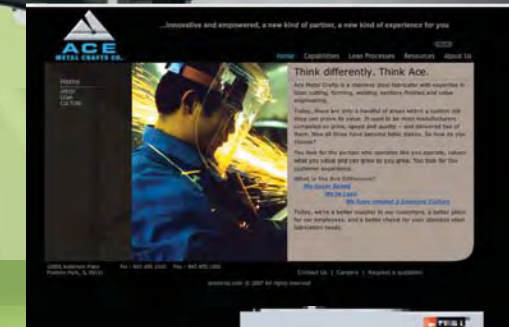
Social media becomes the rage (Myspace in 2003, Facebook in 2004, Twitter in 2006).

Toyota launches the Prius, the first four-door hybrid car.

Barack Obama is elected President of the United States.

market leadership 2010...

We fabricate possibilities!



Celebrating our first 50 years!