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MGM INDUSTRIES' CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF WINDOW MANUFACTURING

One of Sumner County's largest employers, MGM Industries, put the phones to voice mail and threw a huge party for employees and their families last Friday afternoon as the vinyl window manufacturer celebrated its 40th anniversary in business with music, food, games and prizes at their plant in Hendersonville.

According to Marshall Gaskins, who incorporated the business with his brother Gene in 1967, MGM's success is a direct result of the dedication and hard work of its more than 200 employees.

"We wouldn't be where we are today if it weren't for you," Gaskins told employees during the festivities, speaking not only for himself and Gene, but also for his sons, Abe, Zeke and Joe, who now run the company.

Taking chances and striking out in new directions is also how they have grown and expanded from a 30,000 square foot building on Maple Drive, in Hendersonville, to over 400,000 square feet on Freehill Road, where they design and extrude their own vinyl frames, cut glass, assemble windows and patio doors and ship to customers in the Midwest, the Eastern United States and the Southeast.

MGM Industries offers customers eight product lines under their Southern Rose brand which includes custom and standard sized vinyl windows and patio doors. Soon, they will roll out their coastal product line to meet new standards of durability set by coastal states after Hurricane Katrina.

A PIONEERING COMPANY

They don't think of themselves as pioneers, but that's exactly what Marshall and Gene became when they decided to switch from manufacturing aluminum storm windows to manufacturing vinyl windows in 1985. Like many companies at the time, they started with replacement windows, but unlike the other companies, they quickly turned their focus to the new home construction market where they made their vinyl windows look like wood.

“At that time, vinyl was thought of as inferior to wood, but we could see the potential because of all the reasons that people buy it now,” explains Marshall. “It just took a little time and education.”

Today, 60% of window purchases for new home construction are for vinyl windows and the market percentage continues to grow each year.

In 2000, MGM made another bold move and began extruding (making) their own vinyl frames, giving them more control over quality, and self-reliance in a market that was becoming dominated by much bigger manufacturers.

And expanding the company meant more jobs for Sumner County.

“When we added our extrusion lines, we started with just two of us working the lines, now we have about 30 people working eight lines 24-hours a day, seven days a week,” says Abe.

Officially retiring in 2002, Marshall handed the reins of operation over to his sons who still value his opinion and honored him with his own street sign during the celebration Friday, marking the main plant entrance as “Marshall Blvd.”

For more information visit them online at www.mgmindustries.com or call 1 (800) 476-5584.

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