DAMERON NEWS 2000
Pride and Quality for 50 Years
Spring

DAMERON ALLOY FOUNDRIES HISTORY "THE BEGINNING"

Dameron Alloy Foundries began on February 5, 1946 by Jack and Dorothy Dameron as Dameron Metal Sales Company. But to understand the Dameron story, we have to go back farther in time to when the seeds were planted.

Jack Dameron was born on January 18, 1917 in Pueblo, Colorado into a farming family. He learned the lessons of hard work, responsibility and how to make so with little or nothing. His generation lived through the hard times of the Great Depression. This provided Jack the lasting impressions that would establish the foundation and philosophies for his future business.

Starting second from left is Mr. Dameron, followed by Mrs. Dameron and Bill Nelson. Farthest right is Willard Sweet. Photogrphed in 1952.

After being drafted in January of 1941, Jack was given a medical discharge in May and returned to Pueblo to a job selling product and collecting money. The lesson of what could happen if you owed money sunk in very deep.

In the fall of 1941, Jack moved to Vernon, California to run a foundry operation called the W. Wesley Mills Laboratory with a family friend Bill Mills and his partner Paul Mendell. The company had great plans, which were changed forever on December 7, 1941 when the US entered WWII.

The manufacturing base of the US changed to war production overnight. W. Wesley Mills Laboratory was issued the job of producing NiResist manifold balls used on bomber engines. Their first order was for 400/month. By war end, they were producing 25,000/day.

In 1943, after ownership changes, the company was renamed Mir-O-Col Alloy. Jack remained as the plant manager, and was names general manager in 1944.

WWII ended in August 1945 along with the need for war materials – instantly. In January 1946, Jack left to start Dameron Metal Sales selling welding rod. Mir-O-Col Alloy continued in business for a couple of months when the owner asked Jack to return on a part-time basis and to eventually help close it down. During the closing, they received a 40,000-piece manifold ball order from a commercial company.

When the owner decided not to accept the order, Jack felt a strong obligation to this customer and asked permission to fill the order on his own using surplus equipment. That was the real start of Dameron Alloy Foundries and it has never run out of business since.

In December 1948, the company moved to its current site in a building that was 5,000 square feet. They sold welding rod for hard facing oil field drilling equipment and green sand castings. Their first large purchase for Dameron Alloy Foundries was a rocking electric furnace the cost $13,000 and took every bit of money the company had.

Jack started the company with three former Mir-O-Col employees: Bill Neilsen, Willard Sweet and Tommy Thompson. One of the proudest achievements for Jack Dameron was that Bill and Willard retired from the company more than 35 years later, never having another job.

The early years were spent building the business. The company had started with a total capitalization of $2,300, so they had to made do with what they could get at auctions or could build themselves. Jack was the President, Sales Manager, Accountant "and" poured most of the metal in those early years.

1952 photo of original building - 927 S. Sante Fe Avenue.

FAREWELL TO A GOOD FRIEND

From the Entire Staff at DAMERON

With this first newsletter issue of 2000, we are entering to a very exciting and happy time. A new millennium, a new year and new look to our newsletters. Along with this excitement comes some sadness. We are saying Farewell to Jim Sill, a long time friend of the DAMERON organization.

Jim was the founder of SILL & AFFILIATES, a small firm specializing in the art of producing a quality printed product. That fit very well into what we did. Jim and his company was the force behind every piece of literature that DAMERON produced over more than 20 years. From brochures to advertising, and everything in between Jim took care of our needs. Especially our newsletters. It was his complete understanding of our company, its employees and the services we provided to the industry that allowed him to create a perfect newsletter, each time, every time.

He tackled every project with an open and resourceful mind…always up to the challenge. There were many times when we pushed him to the limits. Never once did he push back. He just responded with getting the job done with enthusiasm, confidence and perfection.

So now, Jim has decided to tackle a new and much different project -- retirement! If he goes after retirement as he has his profession, he is going to have one great time.

Jim, you have served us well over the years. Good luck and enjoy your retirement. You have earned it.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By John W. Dameron

It is seems like only a few weeks ago that we were all readying ourselves for the dawn of the new century and millenium. With this Spring 2000 issue of our newsletter, I want to take just a moment to say a special "Thank You" to our customers, our employees and our vendors for your commitment to DAMERON ALLOY FOUNDRIES. Without that commitment, our business would not be as successful as it has been.

As we all look to the future, I am astounded at the technological wonders we have witnessed over the last 54 years of DAMERON history. Today, I hold a computer that fits in my shirt pocket that has many times the storage and computing power of the first computer system we had in 1974 that required its own room. Each of us has countless stories like this on the wonders of technology and innovation we have seen.

With the dawning of the new Millenium there seems to be a sense of optimism and renewal that is catching fire. As we look ahead to what the next 50 plus years will mean to our company, we are enthused. As the same time, we must also look back on the last 54 years, take note of those incredible changes we have seen, learn from them and apply them to our future.

We have decided to begin a new feature in our newsletters that will trace history of our company. We believe you will find in interesting because it is truly an America success story. From a small foundry operation in Vernon, California in 1946, DAMERON has grown in size many times over in our 54 year history. Starting with this issue and in a number of subsequent issues, we will walk you through these years and share with you what DAMERON was and is today.

DAMERON is off to a fantastic start in 2000 and with the continued support from our customers and our vendors and the commitment of our dedicated employees, 2000 will be a banner year for DAMERON.

So again, a sincere "Thank You" to each and everyone of you for your commitment to DAMERON ALLOY FOUNDRIES.

DAMERON TAKE OUTS ...THEY ARE BACK!

By Oscar Espinosa and Dave Baron

Actually, they never left. Dameron Take Outs have been around for many years providing endless service to the glass industry.

DAMERON Take Outs offer superb wear resistance & thermal characteristics and many other advantages not found in any of the conventional take out materials currently available.

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Single, double and triple gob take out castings. - Photo by Roger Schultz

PEOPLE PROFILE

Meet Sharon Fadale… Receptionist/Staff Support

From the moment she answers the phone, you realize Sharon Fadale exemplifies the family values so rooted in the Dameron tradition. Sharon came to Dameron from pageNet. She was a sales and marketing administrator for the company when they began restructuring the organization. Sharon made a decision to leave because she felt "life is too short to be so complicated".

She came to Dameraon 3 years ago quite by accident. By answering a blind ad, she interviewed for the receptionist position. Both her and Dameron were so impressed with each other, she was offered the job and she accepted on the spot. According to Sharon, Dameron attracts a team-oriented person, which translates into a great group of people to work with. She enjoys the people she works with and says, "we are all supportive of each other."

Sharon loves her job a Dameron and wears many hats. Her job responsibilities include answering the phone and she knows most people on a first name basis. Sharon likes to talk to everyone and is a self-described "Chatty Cathy". She also assists with data entry for accounts payable as well as supporting customer service.

Her family life includes her husband Jerry and son Christopher with a new baby on the way. Weekends are spent with Jerry's big Italian family eating homemade "asparagus" sauce made by her father-in-law which she pronounces is "to die for"!

Over the past few ears, Sharon has committed herself to adding more balance in her life. As a working mother, she feels it is important her employer believes in the same family values as she does. Dameron has given her the ability to reconcile her priorities by understanding her need to be a mom as well as having a career. Dameron supports bother her professional and personal goals with their continued support and encouragement which helps stabilize the balance between work and family. She even needed to bring her son Christopher to work one day, "I appreciate how supportive Dammeron really is and I am thankful to work here!

Sharon brings her nurturing qualities to all she does… to both her "Dameron" family and her "home" family. Her philosophical approach to how she leads her life is based on a quote by Mary Kay Blakely, "One life stamps and influences another, which in turn stamps and influences another, on and on, until the should of human experience breaths on in generations we'll never even meet". Sharon certainly has left her "stamp" on Dameron.

Meet Ron Noblett… General Manager DAFTEC

Ron lives by the words, "Life is in session NOW! Are YOU present?" After being laid off at his former job, a friend of his suggested he "check out" Dameron. He did, and since 1992 Ron has worked his way up from making tooling to becoming the manager for DAFTEC.

He credits Bob Grubb's (who recently passed away) trust in him and Bob's recommendations for the many growth opportunities he has experienced at Dameron. Ron oversees the many production aspects at DAFTEC, which include machining, scheduling and improving cycle times. The machine shop strives for fast turn around times and in many cases parts can be machined in 1-2 days. Downtime is also kept to a minimum because Ron can make many of the repairs himself.

Ron also manages the human element. Ron enjoys the production side of the job but also relates with the people who work with him. When he interviewed with Joe DeJulio and Darlene Dameron for the position, he told them his machining skills was a given, but he was also positive about his ability to communicate with people. He trains and mentors employees and delegates responsibilities, he says, "If I can make things better, I will". His goal is to expand the hop at DAFTEC not only to create additional revenues, but also to give his employees the same opportunities he has experienced during his career at dAmeron.

Ron is self-taught and self-motivated. He became interested in machining when his first job consisted of pushing a button on a CNC machine. He had never before seen how parts were machined and was fascinated how a component could be made from raw materials.

Ron feels blessed with his family, which include his wife, Grace as well a children Tyler and Nicole. The family likes to camp together and enjoys sports activities. Grace and Nicole add some culture to the family with their interests in dance and piano. On occasion, Ron likes to hit the craps tables in Las Vegas. His goal is to guide his family through this life and help them stay on the right track and make good choices. With his track record… there is no doubt about it!

"DAMERON TAKE OUTS ... ". CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Your choice to use the DAMERON Take Outs provides you with the following advantages and operating conveniences:

- Excellent Wear Resistance
- Superior Thermal Characteristics
- Check reduction or elimination
- Reduced machining due to near net shape castings
- Some "cast to size" configurations (no machining required)
- Enhanced cooling feature with DAMERON's Through-Air-Flow Concept
- Cast clearances for 100% mould time
- Reduced down time
- Reduced overall mould costs

DAMERON Take Outs are produced from tooling to make hundreds of single, double and triple gob designs (See photo). Specific customer designs can be achieved with a minimal tooling charge.

Through the use of the "original" DAMERON HR Alloys or selection of our specialized stainless steels, immediate positive results are seen with DAMERON Take Outs.

YesÉÉ..DAMERON Take Outs "ARE" back …..and doing what you need a Take Out to do -- provide excellent service, decrease checks, reduce your mould costs and help increase your plants pack to melt percentages.

Join the many satisfied glass plant customers currently using this magnificent product. Contact Dameron directly @ 1-800-421-1985 (toll free) or 1-310-631-5165 with your design requirement.

INVESTMENT TOOL CONSTRUCTION

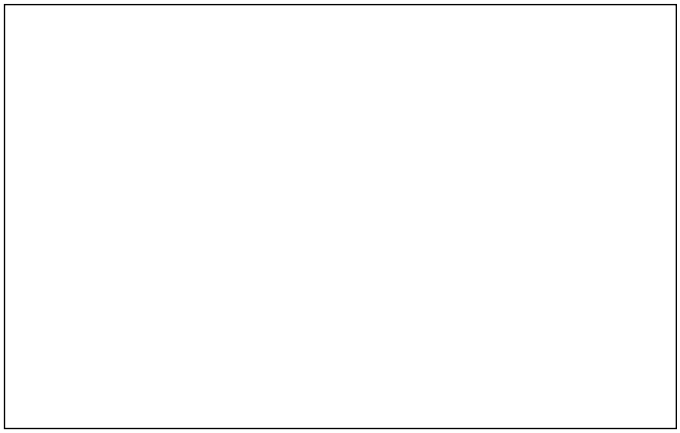
By: Harbeer Chahal (DAF)
& Jerry Russell (Engineered Precision, Inc.)

Investment casting starts with an expendable wax pattern usually made from an injection die (tool). That pattern, with others clustered together, is coated in ceramic material. That ceramic material eventually forms the mold into which molten metal is poured.

The physical shape of the wax pattern is a direct result of the injection tool. It is therefore imperative that the tool be accurate, well finished and durable. Assurance of a high quality functional tool starts with a clear understanding of the requirements set forth by the foundry engineers.

Among other things, the foundry engineer will specify qualified, estimated shrink factors based on experience and empirical data. The shrink factor is the sum of wax shrinkage at injection, ceramic growth during preheat, metal shrinkage during solidification and other process variables. Simply put, the wax pattern is larger than the finished casting.The foundry will further specify certain standards that they require for their tools, i.e. injection holes, location pins, mounting features and internal coring if required. Once this information is identified, the toolmaker may proceed with tool construction.

The use of hardened aluminum alloys is paramount for a high quality tool. Adequate sized die bases constructed square and parallel will allow for future design modifications. Die bases are an assembly of blocks/plates into which the cavity and other operational features are cut. High quality tools will have a minimum of sharp edges that are subject to wear and damage in operation.



Wax patterns investment tool with plate. - Photo by Roger Schultz

In addition to the shrink factors noted above, actual geometry of the wax pattern cavity in the tool is the result of the end customer's requirements communicated by blueprint or digital file. Most tool cavities are produced via CNC machinery with the aid of CAD/CAM software. After the cavities are cut, the component surfaces are polished by hand to allow for wax pattern release and to insure a smooth surface on the finished casting.

After tool component assembly, it is checked for proper fit and operation. It is inspected dimensionally and the toolmaker will witness and supervise the initial use to verify that it functions properly.

Proper planning, accurate data, qualified personnel and good communication with the customer will result in an investment wax pattern tool capable of producing excellent patterns for many years.