

# THE INNOVATOR

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**BEGNEAUD  
MANUFACTURING  
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*Innovation Through Common Sense*

## Contributing to the Community... Peli-can Top the World

Don Begneaud has always been an artist at heart. He began creating sculptures at age 14 from brass and copper to sell at his father's store. So it may come as no surprise that one of his latest projects was a design submission for the Pelicans on Parade project sponsored by the Acadiana Arts Council. Don, a member of the arts council board of directors, was immediately enthusiastically involved in the innovative public art promotion. He chose not only to sponsor a pelican, but also to design and fabricate his bird of steel at BEGNEAUD.

The project was designed to raise funds and community support for the arts council's Primary Academic and Creative Experiences (PACE) program. The Pelican originated as the mascot of the PACE program, which brings artists into Lafayette Parish classrooms. The artist in residence formulates an art project to complement a teacher's lesson plan in order to stimulate hands-on learning. Presently, the PACE program is in 12 of our Title I schools. The Lafayette Parish School Board co-produced Pelicans on Parade, Acadiana's largest temporary public art project to date.

In order to create the pelican model, the designer, artist David Fox, began with a framework that acted as the bird's skeleton. The armature was covered with wire mesh

and then plastered to create a "plug." A mold was cast using the plug as a model, and the resulting mold has been used to create each fiberglass pelican - except for the BEGNEAUD bird. Don used Fox's skeleton as a reference and pulled apart the designer's cardboard model. He then scanned the frame and transferred the design into the BEGNEAUD CAD modeling system to develop a 3-D model.

### He chose not only to sponsor a pelican, but also to design and fabricate his bird of steel at BEGNEAUD.

The parts were laser cut out of steel, assembled, and then allowed to oxidize to feather the pelican's rust-colored coat. The pelican is perched on a steel globe, thus fitting the title: Peli-can Top the World. Most of the pelicans were unveiled during Festivals Acadiens, and will remain part of a collective group until Mardi Gras 2002, when there will be a public auction of the birds. In addition to assisting the PACE program, proceeds from the auction will benefit local non-profit organizations.



▲ Alan Breaux preparing the Solid Edge files for the laser cutting of the Peli-can parts.

► Mike McWilliams and Mike Doucet fabricating the globe portion of the Peli-can project.



*continued...*

Coming to the Community . . .  
 Peli-can Top the World continued...

In an effort to support art and education going hand in hand, Don chose to donate the Peli-can Top the World to The Children's Museum of Acadiana. The children of Acadiana will be able to see, learn, and play with the Peli-can by Peli-can Top the World for many seasons to come.



▲ Erin Begneaud utilizes the Virtek Laser to scan the frame of David Fox's model.

◀ The BEGNEAUD Peli-can Team: Don Begneaud, Erin Begneaud, Alan Breaux, Mike Doucet, Chris Guilbeau, Jay Herpin, Roxanne Hymel, Martina Joseph, Mike McWilliams, and Bubba (Brent) Reinhardt. ■

## T B E G N E A U D Touch

Member of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for many years, and we recently joined forces with the Inn to host the Chamber's monthly Business Networking social. The event took place Thursday, at the BEGNEAUD facility.

Even the delicious food and drinks provided by the catering service, featuring the crawfish, were a highlight.



## Partners to Success

*The name American must always exalt the pride of patriotism. - George Washington*



Don Begneaud  
 Owner/President, BEGNEAUD

September 11, 2001 is a date that many of us will never forget. Although I may never fully understand the "why", I will never forget the unified camaraderie of which I experienced.

At the time of the attacks I was in the security line of an airport in Stuttgart, Germany preparing to board a flight to Hanover, Germany en route to a worldwide machine tool trade show (EMO). I (along with members of my group) became aware that security was more stringent than in past trips. Peter Riehle, a German native, as well as the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for TRUMPF America, asked, "what's going on?" The security personnel informed him of the hi-jacked planes that crashed into the World Trade Center, as well as somewhere in Washington – they were not positive of where. A few of the Americans that were traveling with my group phoned their businesses to acquire more information. However, it wasn't until that evening that I was able to view the actual events on CNN in the hotel lobby in Hanover.

The emptiness that I felt was somewhat eased at the EMO show. I witnessed vendors from various countries displaying American flags throughout their booths. In conversation, the vendors would offer their condolences and sympathies for the victims of the tragedy.

Flags draped from the windows of apartment buildings. I was touched by the display of candle light vigils held throughout Germany.

At a private press conference for TRUMPF, Ray Hundsdorfer, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for TRUMPF Germany, began with condolences to not only the American people, but also the world for the tragedy that occurred.

I would like to extend an American "thank you" to all of our friends overseas. The warmth that you have demonstrated in this time of confusion has been overwhelming. May God Bless

# New Tool Corner

The most recent addition to the already impressive array of production equipment at BEGNEAUD is a TRUMPF V85S Press Brake. The V85S's advanced features make it the most flexible precision press brake on the market today. "This machine is a Cadillac," says Mike Doucet, fabricator and press brake operator. To date, BEGNEAUD operates the V50, the V85, the V130 and now the V85S, offering a wide range of tonnage and length bending capabilities.

BEGNEAUD is always looking for technology that will offer greater flexibility, increase production and efficiency, plus maintain high quality.

In 1994, BEGNEAUD purchased the very first TRUMPF press brake shipped to the United States, the V50, enabling us to manufacture a greater range of high quality parts with complicated bend sequences and tight tolerances. What the V85S brings to BEGNEAUD is greater flexibility. The back gauge consists of two three-axes stops that operate independently, allowing BEGNEAUD to bend parts that have odd-shaped contours. In the past, parts that were not square or rectangular required a fixture to hold the part in place while it was being bent or required a break-off tab that made the part fit squarely in the press brake and was later removed.



...BEGNEAUD purchased the very first TRUMPF press brake shipped to the United States...

The Programmable Logic Controller on the V85S is network ready and has 3-D programming capabilities, allowing the operator to view a three-dimensional drawing of a part as opposed to the numbers and codes of 2-D controllers. This capability enables the operator to control placement of the back gauge stops, review the bend sequence for a part, and see possible "crashes" in the bend sequence, allowing for programming editing before any part has actually been cut. The network ready capability allows for seamless transfer of offline programming from the more sophisticated TOPS 600 software to the V85S, which in turn enables the creation of bend sequence programming during the design and drawing processes of a part.

BEGNEAUD is always looking for technology that will offer greater flexibility, increase production and efficiency, plus maintain high quality. In mid-fall BEGNEAUD will receive yet another piece of equipment from TRUMPF, the TC6000L, which combines a punch head and a laser head in one machine using

one table. This purchase will accommodate growing requests for parts that require punching, forming and laser cutting processes. The TC6000L will include a Sheet Master for full automation manufacturing capabilities. Look for details on the TC6000L in future editions of The Innovator.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Figure 1: The back gauge "fingers" are moving into position.

Figure 2: The upper tool moving with no pressure applied yet.

Figure 3: The bending takes place when the punch (top) moves down.

Figure 4: After the bend, the punch moves up.

Figure 5: The bend is complete.

## The Lingo

**"Back Gauge"** A mechanical device that can be either manually or servo (computer cut) positioned to stop a blank piece of metal in the proper relationship with the tooling, which helps maintain accuracy and repeatability. ■

Contributing writers: Don Begneaud, Andy Begneaud, Dawn Comeaux, Martina Joseph, Doug LeBlanc, and Tiffany Privat.

Photography: Doug Dugas and Tiffany Privat.

# Technology Transfer Seminar TRUMPF User Group

Exchanging information is not a new concept or practice in business and industry. So why should the first biennial Technology Transfer Seminar be of interest? Because this seminar was the first among TRUMPF equipment owners that offered individual companies, even competitors, the opportunity to come together and share innovative solutions and creative designs used in the manufacturing industry. For Don Begneaud, President of BEGNEAUD and seminar host, the end-of-April event was a dream come true. In addition to companies from the host state of Louisiana, the list of attendees included businesses from Texas, Mississippi, California, North Carolina, Florida and Alabama.

Initially, it may not have been extremely beneficial to BEGNEAUD, but in time, our company, as well as all TRUMPF users, will reap the benefits.



◀ Dan Ellison, Don Begneaud and Bob Macaulay discuss the benefits of using TRUMPF equipment.



Bob Macaulay presents the advantages of the Virtek Laser to the TRUMPF User Group. ▶

At first mention of the seminar, Don was met with reasonable skepticism from a few TRUMPF employees. Don's belief that a TRUMPF User Group could only unite manufacturing companies was the motivating force that compelled him to ensure the seminar would reach fruition. As Don states, "Someone had to initiate the TRUMPF User Group. Initially, it may not have been extremely beneficial to BEGNEAUD, but in time, our company, as well as all TRUMPF users, will reap the benefits."

In addition to guest speakers from various industries, the seminar included breakout sessions covering an array of topics from the beginning phase of manufacturing design to how to best utilize one's TRUMPF equipment to achieve the most efficient results.

Surveys completed after the seminar indicated a desire for fewer guest speakers and more breakout sessions; all attendees expressed the need to continue the development of the TRUMPF User Group. David Williams, of Daws Manufacturing, has taken on the responsibility of creating a

web page for TRUMPF users. Users will be able to pose questions regarding difficulties they may be faced with on a project and offer solutions to problems they have overcome. The site will provide a tremendous resource for enhancing the relationships created at the seminar. Businesses with TRUMPF equipment will be encouraged to utilize this site. ■

## Calendar of Events

October 31	23rd Anniversary of BEGNEAUD
November 1	All Saints Day
November 11 – 14	FABTECH International Machine Tool Trade Show (Chicago, IL)
November 14 – 15	LOBOS (Gonzales, LA)
November 22	Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
November 28 – 30	Workboat Show (New Orleans, LA)
December 25	Closed for Christmas Holiday

## Employee Anniversaries

October	Jim Ousse	3 years
	Mark Faul	14 years
November	Dawn Comeaux	2 years
December	Joe Cagle	4 years
	Brooke Vincent	1 year

Member of:



Louisiana Association of Business and Industry



National Federation of Independent Business



American Welding Society



Society of Manufacturing Engineers



Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana



Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce



Mothers Against Drunk Drivers



LAFAYETTE EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Fabricators and Manufacturers Association



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