

A Trip Down Memory Lane

READING THE ARTICLE from Progressive Surface reminded me of my efforts to write memoirs of the Electronics Incorporated journey that started in 1974. I had a project to supply Boeing with media flow rate controls for a very large peen forming machine. That was my introduction into the shot peening community. I had discovered a niche industry that looked to be very interesting. I had no idea how exciting (and sometimes frustrating) it would be.

I cultivated relationships with wheelblast and airblast equipment suppliers and then media manufacturers. From there I wandered into membership of SAE and got involved with the Surface Enhancement Division of the Fatigue Design and Evaluation Committee. I started to understand issues with media: Cast steel shot, cut wire media, glass bead, ceramic bead, and so on. It's the media that does the work. You cannot do good shot peening with not-so-good media—right, Kumar? (Don't miss Kumar Balan's excellent article on page 12 about the crucial role media plays in a quality shot peening program.)

I developed a magnetic valve in early 1980 and since I couldn't find a suitable place for advertising, I launched *The Shot Peener* newsletter (now *The Shot Peener* magazine). To offset the cost of this free publication, we started selling Almen strips.

The sales axiom "You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make him drink" was followed by "It's your job to make him thirsty" so I decided to hold a shot peening workshop in September of 1991 in Atlanta, Georgia. That was our chance to educate users about the process. If they could appreciate it and respect it they may wish to control it (it's called a MagnaValve). I guess the rest is history. If you joined us in Orlando, I suspect you heard more of my EI stories. ●



JACK CHAMPAIGNE

THE SHOT PEENER

Editor

Jack Champaigne

Associate Editor

Kathy Levy

Publisher

Electronics Inc.

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The Shot Peener

56790 Magnetic Drive

Mishawaka, Indiana, 46545 USA

Telephone: 1-574-256-5001

www.theshotpeenermagazine.com

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