



The City of Lights

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Goble opens start-up manufacturing business

By Sharon Durham
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Casey's economic picture continues to brighten as another new business opens on the city's west side.

Jim Goble has opened Goble Manufacturing Inc., a

precision machining and light fabrication business, in the former Pool's building on West Main street.

Jim spent

the past 25 years working for Casey Tool and Machine, and when he lost his job due to the closing of the plant, he was left with the choice of moving to a large city or starting his own business. He chose the latter.

Although installation of equipment is not complete, Jim said enough equipment is in place for him to have already

begun working. He is utilizing the services of senior citizens to deliver parts. Initially he is working alone but anticipates the need for several employees in the near future, especially in the manufacturing area.

"Friends have also helped with moving equipment and painting, and I have to thank them along with my family," said Jim.

At present, a high-end lathe and milling machine are in place, and more lathes, another milling machine and a surface grinder are yet to be moved in.

In addition to the workshop, the south end of the building houses an office, kitchen, restroom, and a conference room. The north end has two large rooms, suitable for retail businesses, two restrooms, and another kitchen. The front show room is temporarily

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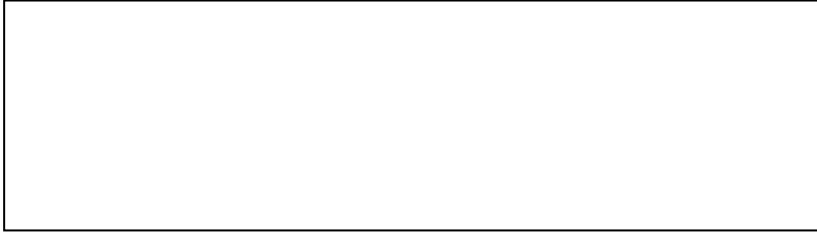


Jim Goble described the work on the building as a "family affair." Pictured (l to r) are his father, Bob Goble, who helped with painting; his brother, Steve Goble, who assisted with wiring, and Jim.

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Jim Goble is pictured with the high-end lathe in his new shop on West Main.
Photo by Sharon Durham



leased to Readers are Leaders Bookmobile and is currently stocked with teacher's resource materials. Once work on the building is complete, Goble will offer retail space for rent.

Jim purchased the building and property from Casey Industries. The purchase includes the storage facilities at the rear of the property which Jim will continue to make available for rent.

Months of work have gone into getting the building in shape, and Jim said it has truly been a family affair. His 88-year-old father, Bob

Goble, has been on a scissor-lift painting, brother, Roger has assisted with the office set-up and tearing out carpet, and brother Steve came up from Texas to help with wiring.

"Friends have also helped with moving equipment and painting, and I have to thank them along with my family," said Jim. "David Hutton's been a tremendous help."

He also thanked the City of Casey for its help, and offered high praise for Casey Industries.

"Casey Industries has been great to work with, especially Jay Markwell," he continued, "and Traci Heffelbower, I have to thank her, too."

Referring to his 25 years at Casey Tool and Machine, Jim said he would be remiss to not

thank the Yates family for allowing him to work and learn with them, recalling how he started working with Jim Yates, Sr. in a small building on NE First Street.

Planning to build on the Goble business name, Jim intends to hang a 60-year-old sign board from the early days of Goble Furniture & Appliance in his outer office.

Cephus Goble was the first Goble to leave his mark in the Casey business community when he opened his drugstore in 1880. For the next 120 years the Goble name was associated with a business in Casey. When Goble Furniture store closed in September 2001, it appeared it was the end of an era. It took eight years, but with the opening of Goble Manufacturing Inc., the Goble tradition continues.