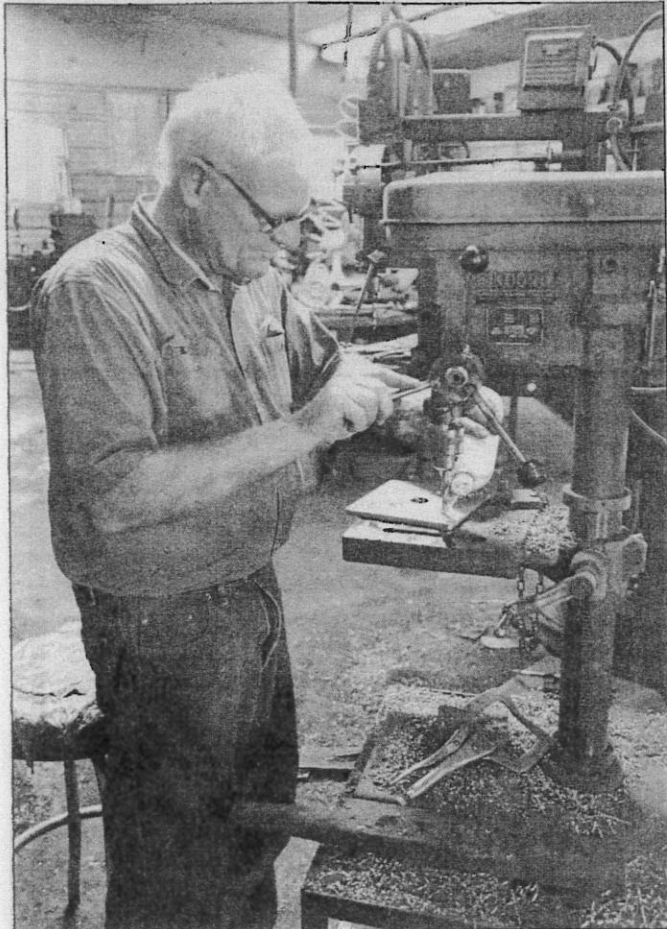


They meant business: Triple R first to be selected for honor roll



Robert Van Beek, president of Triple R Inc. in Primghar, uses a drill press to drill holes into a stainless steel bracket that will be used to hold the light located on top of a wind turbine.

BY MARK MAHONEY
STAFF WRITER

PRIMGHAR—This year marks the first time a business has been inducted into the O'Brien County Value-Added Agriculture Steering Committee's 15-year-old Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Triple R Inc. of Primghar was honored with the 2016 award during the O'Brien County Farm Bureau's annual meeting held Aug. 10 in Primghar. Craig Struve of Calumet was the individual recipient of the honor.

Robert Van Beek of rural Primghar, president of Triple R, was surprised by the recognition for the company.

"It's an honor," he said. "It's good to feel appreciated."

The successful hall of fame candidates — who either call O'Brien County home or engage in agriculture-related activity within the county — must have demonstrated leadership, service, stewardship and community service to the agricultural industry.

Triple R was established in 1973 as a machine shop and custom fabrication company.

The three R's come from the business' founding members: Ron Grothaus of rural Primghar, vice president of Triple R, and brothers Robert

AT A GLANCE:

Business: Triple R Inc.

Address: 855 Third St. S.E., Primghar

Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Monday-Friday; 8:30 a.m.-noon Saturday

Phone: 712-957-1405

Online: www.triplerinc.com

and Richard Van Beek.

Richard left the company less than a year after it started.

"There wasn't enough business at first," Robert said of Triple R. "He started doing trucking, and that's where he ended up."

In 1974, Triple R expanded into providing grain bin construction and drying systems. The business also offered new bins as well as remodeled and repaired existing bins, but that part of the company came to an end about five years ago.

Robert and Ron, who are both 68, and 69-year-old employee Randy Guetschow of Primghar all have experience in hydraulics, fabricating, machining, welding, stainless steel and aluminum, sheering and forming, drilling, custom



Triple R Inc. is the first business to be inducted into the O'Brien County Value-Added Agriculture Steering Committee's 15-year-old Agriculture Hall of Fame. Photos by Mark Mahoney

design, grain bins and equipment, and grain dryers.

"We custom-make things," Robert said. "We sell a lot of parts, hardware, steel. We do a lot of repair work on farm equipment, industrial stuff, elevators, whatever."

Robert said Triple R is performing work for the wind turbines that are being erected throughout O'Brien County.

"They're missing some parts, so we're making parts for them," he said.

Robert handles all of the office paperwork. His wife, Janet, helps him with the billing.

"I do all the ordering and most all the billing and some engineering," Robert said.

Robert said the fact that Randy's first name starts with "R" was just a coincidence when he was hired at Triple R 28 years ago.

"It was accidental," Robert said.

Triple R is located in an approximately 9,000-square-foot facility on the south side of Third Street Southeast. The Primghar Golf & Country Club is situated across the road to the north.

Robert is looking to eventually retire from the business. Triple R has been for sale for about a month and a half.

"I figure it'll take a couple of years to get out of it, anyway," he said. "We'll probably have to help whoever comes in."