

In The Spotlight

Chuck Walkner, founding owner of Nor-Fab Manufacturing, recently accepted the Business of the Year Award entitled "Sweet Smell of Success" at the 2007 Delta County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner.

Nor-Fab, a provider of sheet metal fabrication and machining solutions for a wide variety of industries, prides itself in providing the highest quality sheet metal and machined parts as well as complete fabricated solutions at competitive prices. Nor-Fab demonstrates excellence through creativity and innovative thinking to serve customer needs, accuracy and productivity through the technology of their computer integrated shop and their full commitment to customer satisfaction.

Nor-Fab is committed to community involvement through its work with high school and ISD students to offer real life opportunities in a manufacturing setting. Chuck Walkner is also a founding member of the Upper Peninsula Regional Industrial Manufacturing Skills Alliance.

It was pure entrepreneurial spirit and determination that drove Chuck to pursue his dream of self-employment. And so, Nor-Fab got its

Chuck Walkner Created Entrepreneurial Success with Nor-Fab

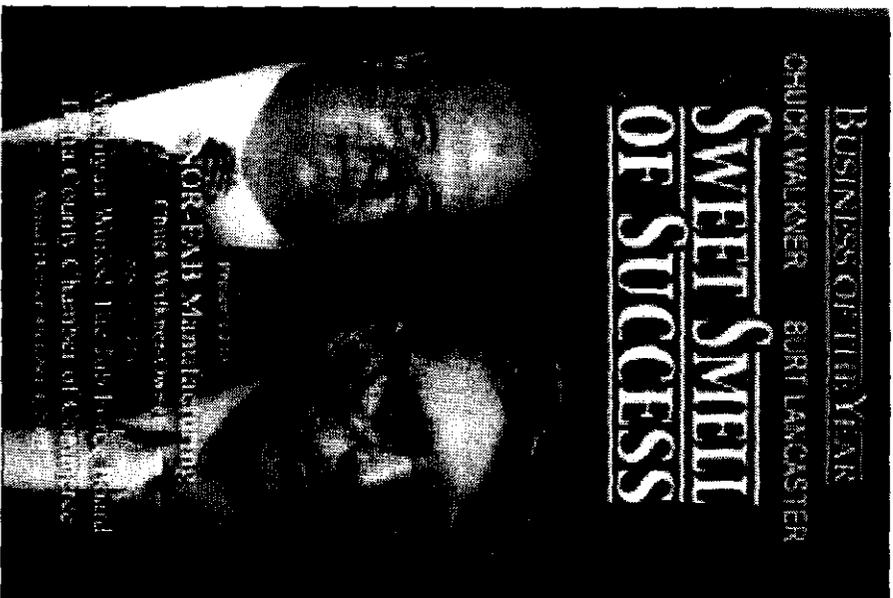
start out of a garage in Cornell about 13 years ago. In 1998, Chuck and his crew outgrew the garage and moved into a small shop in Bark River. Not long after that, they were again busting at the seams. Seeing the potential of his business, and the short time it took to grow the Bark

stone Industrial Park. Currently, there is 5,000 square feet of production floor that includes 3 CNC Vertical Machining Centers, 3 CNC Turning Centers, a Laser and a CNC Press Brake as well as a fully equipped fabrication department.

Nor-Fab's focus is on quality products. From simple to complex operations, their integrated approach makes them a one-stop shop. In the near future, Chuck would like to expand in sales and add more advanced technology. He is currently working on attaining ISO Certification.

Chuck hired his first employee in 1995 and has now grown to 12 employees with two working shifts. He provides a clean, safe and healthy working environment by working with the M-TEC Center in developing and maintaining continuous improvement programs, communicating expectations to staff and involving staff in decision making processes.

"It is really an honor for all of us at Nor-Fab Manufacturing to be recognized for our years of hard work and the pursuit of excellence in our industry. We will continue to do our part to elevate the standards of manufacturing in the Upper Peninsula. I would specifically like to thank Michigan Works! The Job Force Board for their ongoing support of the business community, the Delta County Chamber of Commerce Center for their acknowledgement of our company and the UP Manufacturing Skills Alliance for their work. Manufacturing is alive and well in the UP," stated a very humbled Walkner.



River location, Chuck decided to relocate once again. This time, he chose to move to the Glad-

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