



NEWS RELEASE

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Family-Owned Business Continues To Make Its Mark In Industrial Knife Sharpening

Ely, MN – A small northern Minnesota city is home to a family-owned and operated company that for more than 50 years has been on the “cutting edge” of industrial knife sharpening equipment and customer support.

Razor Edge Systems is well-known among those involved in the commercial meat cutting industry. CEO Mary Graves tells the story about how her parents started the business.

“John and Rose Juranitch formed a team that led to our company’s founding in the mid-1960s. John was the inventor, while Rose played a vital role in supporting the company’s development and product testing.

The Juranitch’s five children all worked in the business as children and adults, learning product development, manufacturing, sales and more. Today, the second generation built upon the decades of progress to develop new edge evaluation to take the company into the future.”

In the late 1950s, the Juranitch’s began studying the art of sharpening including testing techniques and sharpening stones, disproving the myth that oil is necessary to produce a sharp blade.

The next decade the Razor Edge Systems Company was formed and redefined what “sharp” means, producing edges only a rare handful of people, let alone sharpening companies, could replicate.

“The significance of my father’s achievement was our knife sharpening products allowed the average person the ability to create extraordinary shaving edges,” Graves said.

The company however did not rest upon its laurels, but continued with trial and error, resulting new techniques and processes to build upon the success. Razor Edge Systems built a following through -impressive beard shaving demonstrations using both knives and axes at consumer sports shows, as well as meat processing trade shows.

In the early 1970s, having heard of the uniquely sharp edges the company could produce, a meat processing plant reached out looking for a better way to sharpen knives using handheld knife sharpening kits. At that time, workers sharpened their own knives by hand, which took time off the processing floor, produced inconsistent edges, and negatively impacted yield, production, employee health and ultimately, profitability.

“Even with our handheld kits, this process still was too time consuming,” Graves noted, “there had to be an even better way.”

A Revolutionary Breakthrough – The First Centralized Sharpening System

So, Razor Edge Systems took on the never-before-done challenge and developed the very first centralized sharpening system, again through trial and error and constant refinements. The meat cutting industry was intrigued by this innovation, and eventually embraced and accepted this new technology because it was a clearly superior advancement. Competitors popped up, encouraging Razor Sharp Systems to work hard to stay ahead of the game.

A Better Mousetrap?

We all are familiar with the American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson quote: “Build a better mousetrap, and the world will beat a path to your door.” That phrase rings true for Razor Edge Systems’ next major achievement.

The 1980s brought the patented Mousetrap® steel that again revolutionized the meat industry. The product’s steel rods resembled whiskers and the snap reminded line workers of a mousetrap, hence the name.

“Again, our competitors sought to copy this innovation with their own designs,” Graves said, “but borrowing from an old advertising slogan, our mousetrap design was ‘often imitated, but never duplicated.’”

Competitors sought less expensive ways to produce the look-alike versions, but that is where the Made in America advantage came into play.

“For us, *Made in America* is more than the product performance. It is about employing Americans and supporting our country,” she said. “We could certainly have it made cheaper and more profit for us overseas, but that is not our way.”

What’s New?

Automation is the name of the game in industrial blade sharpening today. Razor Edge Systems is launching its automated comprehensive knife program at IPPE 2024. This program approach marries the XCell™ robotic knife sharpening workcell, with The Judge™ edge evaluation system, enhanced by the new ErgoCare® proactive and ongoing customer support service program.

“The new products still rely on the tried-and-true technology and processes we developed back in the 1960s with the handheld knife sharpening kit,” Graves said. “Why? Because our design has withstood the test of time.”

What’s Really Important?

“People!”, Graves emphasized. “Our customers range from the largest, to medium and even small processors. They trust our products, our approach to service, and decades of top-notch consistency and performance.”

“We also appreciate the contributions of our customers’ workers and always keep in mind how we can make their jobs easier and safer. A happy workforce leads to better yields and profits.”

“Finally, we appreciate our own highly skilled and dedicated employees working at our Ely, MN, manufacturing plant, as well as our remote team members,” she said. “We value each of our employees who allow Razor Edge Systems to deliver upon our promise to provide exemplary service to our customers every day.”

For more information, visit www.razoredgesystems.com

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