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Polich Sees Room at Top for Foundries

Richard Polich, general manager of Foundries division, Teterboro, N.J. has a goal, and that is to see his division become the top foundry in the country.

This uncomplicated yet lofty ambition is typical of Polich, who at 34 is the youngest general manager in the corporation. He figures if you're going to do something, you might as well not only do it right — but best.

And if you're going to bet, it might be best not to bet against him.

Because Polich, who took the helm at Foundries last November, has a rather unbeatable quartet of qualities going for him; that is: knowledge, enthusiasm, dedication and daring.

And whatever Polich has, Foundries is getting.

Long Road

The road that brought Richard Polich to Foundries division was far from a straight one.

The young general manager attended Yale from 1951 to 1954, lettering in football, wrestling and lacrosse, getting above average grades and obtaining a bachelor's degree in economics.

Upon graduation, he went to work as a sales engineer for the Engineered Castings division of Abex Corporation in Rochester, N.Y.

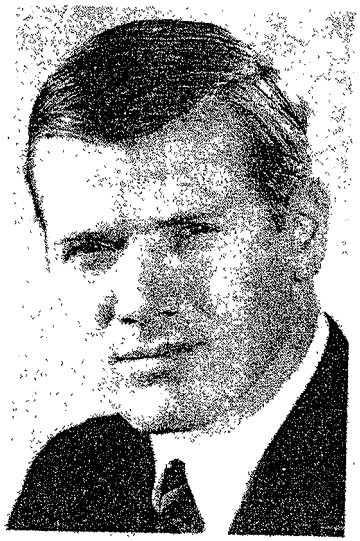
From 1956-1959, Polich was a pilot in the U.S. Naval Reserves.

Back to School

Then, in 1961, he hit the books again, while also working full time at Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a research associate. He graduated in 1964 with a master's degree in metallurgy, a single "B" having slightly marred an otherwise all-"A" academic record.

Polich then joined Hitchiner Manufacturing Company of Milford, N.H. where he became chief metallurgist.

In April, 1966 the winding road to success brought him to Foundries division as director of metallurgy and quality control.



RICHARD POLICH
. . . His Hopes Are High

His first reaction: "I'd been in foundries that were like caves, where you almost literally couldn't see anything. This was relatively clean. I was impressed."

Meanwhile, top management was obviously impressed with Polich's performance and capacity for hard work —enough to make him general manager when Werner Lob left to take a similar position at Environmental Science division, Towson, Md.

The first thing that impresses one when talking to Polich is that he is out of fashion, refusing to wear that blase facade considered by many to be a chic substitute for a sense of dignity and self esteem.

Richard Polich gets excited.

Not erratic, hand-waving excited, but intensely so — about castings.

He gets excited when tracing their history back to the early Greek sculptures, when painting a verbal picture of the high drama inherent in the pouring of white-hot molten steel, when describing the expansion his division is making in the production of aluminum castings, in its embarking on a new product line of steel castings and in its possible entrance into the field of titanium castings.

He gets excited when discussing the problem of abstracting from empirical observation in the manufacture of castings, when explaining the difficult task of making castings "consistent," when stressing the skill and ingenuity necessary to produce some of the division's more complex castings, which contain a maze of twisting passages.

But Richard Polich becomes most excited, most unihibitedly enthused, when he looks to the future, and sees what it might hold for Foundries division.

"We want to become the best foundry in the country," he says.

To accomplish that feat, Polich says he's trying "to build a team, combining those people with craft and skill, and those with technical know-how.

"In other words, 'mens' et manis' — the mind and the hand."