**Industry Report Project**

By: Alex King

I chose to research the company Laidig for my project. The company is located in Mishawaka, Indiana off of Dragoon trail and specializes in designing, manufacturing, and installing storage and reclaim systems. While there are multiple designs and styles for storage and reclaim systems, the most prevalent example that we see around our area are the silos often seen on local farms. Their systems store things like grain then use a corkscrew-like device rotating around a central point to pick the grain back up and remove, or “reclaim” it.

The company was started in 1964 by Jon Laidig. Today, Laidig has grown to 90 employees and has over 100,000 square feet of manufacturing space. In this massive building, they design, test, and manufacture systems for large agricultural companies such as ADM, a company that is one of the largest agricultural processors in the world.

The manufacturing of Laidig’s systems involves many processes from machining, to forming, to welding, to powder coating. The majority of the material that Laidig uses in their systems is low carbon steel. They do work with stainless steel sometimes too, but it is far less common for them.

Welding is a large part of Laidig’s manufacturing process for all of their systems. Welders at Laidig are all AWS certified and weld to the D1.1 code. The welding processes that Laidig implements are GMAW and Flux core. Electrode diameters for both processes range from 0.035” up to 3/32”.

Most large parts are manufactured inside their massive warehouse with the assistance of lift trucks and overhead cranes. Large jigs and fixtures are used to set up weldments and assure proper fit-up. The design of these jigs and fixtures is such that roughly eighty percent of the in house welding done at Laidig is in the flat or horizontal position. When they are assembling and performing field assembly and maintenance though, welders and technicians may have to use other positions such as the vertical and overhead positions.

If somebody were to apply for a job as a welder with Laidig, they would first have to pass a pre-employment weld test. The weld test that Laidig issues to potential welders covers both the GMAW and flux-core processes.

For the GMAW test, welders will be welding on 3/8” low carbon steel. The welder will first weld t-joints in the flat and horizontal positions, with both single and multiple passes. Next, the perspective welder will be required to weld a lap joint on 3/8” low carbon steel plate.

After the GMAW portion of the weld test, welders move on to the flux-core test portion. In the Flux-core portion, welders will be required to run welds on ½” and 1” low carbon steel plate. The ½” and 1” plate will be brought to a full bevel and welded, and t-joints as well as lap joints will be welded.

Welders that end up passing all the necessary interviews and weld tests and are employed by Laidig will then work for their certification in the D1.1 code. Welders will likely be welding in Laidig’s shop but may also become a field technician who performs maintenance. Also there is an opportunity to travel and install these systems in places as far off as some foreign countries where the systems are used in the mining industry.

Laidig is a company that takes care of their people. Everyone that I talked to at the company was very helpful and knowledgeable. I have heard nothing but good reviews from friends of employees and employees themselves. The company even goes so far as to fly all of their employees plus their families to Disney world every Christmas and pay for the entire trip.

The company has a very inspiring success story rising from an idea for a better reclaim system in 1961 by founder Jon Laidig to a massive state of the art company with a large and impressive clientele. Overall, they are a cutting edge and prospering company that values quality as well as profits. They rose from honest beginnings and are now a company that is proud of what they do and the people who make it all possible.