



Photo by Josh Jorgenson

Long-time Cascade Manufacturing employee Bob Takes was recently honored for his commitment to the company over the past 50 years.

Takes spends 50 dedicated years at Cascade Lumber

By Josh Jorgenson
Group Editor

It wasn't an Oscar, but nonetheless it was a well-deserved honor for long-time Cascade Manufacturing employee Bob Takes.

Some could argue the award, a replica of the bulldog that serves as a hood ornament for Mac trucks, might mean more than an Academy Award. Instead of serving as an award to note excellence in one project, the bulldog Takes was presented with during the local manufacturers Christmas party earlier this month marked 50 years of continued dedication to the business, according to Mike Noonan, vice president of marketing for the local business.

A tongue-in-cheek memento, the honor serves as a reminder of the type of trucks

Takes so eagerly urged the company to acquire for delivery use.

"I always used to recommend the trucks," recalled Takes, the senior delivery driver for the company. "That's why they gave me the Oscar, so to speak."

However, the honor also means so much more, Noonan said.

"He is the fourth person my father hired in 1956," Noonan said. "Outside of my dad, he is the longest tenured employee."

As the final person customers encounter from the company when he makes deliveries, Takes has often been commended for making lasting impressions.

"Really, the biggest sales person we have isn't the people that work for us who are truly sales people," Noonan said. "It is our drivers because they are the last person

the customer, the contractor, sees on the job site."

Noonan's father, Ray Noonan Sr., the founder of the company and chairman of the board of directors, said Takes has long been a loyal employee.

"He tries to service a customer as much as he can," added Noonan's father, Ray Noonan Sr. "(Customers) are tickled to have him make the deliveries."

Takes, 73, who came to work for Cascade Manufacturing after serving as a hired hand on an area farm, said he stayed with the company for so long because he enjoys his position and embracing its challenges.

Estimating he has driven more than 2.5 million miles over his tenure at the company, Takes said his time behind the wheel

is new and different every day.

"It is never boring by any sense of the word," he said.

Takes said he focuses on customer service.

"I'm always trying to please the customer," the driver noted. "I know where the (pay) check comes from."

Takes feels fortunate to be a part of a successful local business.

"I'm just a small part of the whole picture," he said. "The company is where it is today because we've all worked together."

An age where many people ponder retirement, Takes said he isn't ready to call it a career just yet.

"Retirement doesn't appeal to me," he said. "I think you have to have a reason to get up in the morning."