

Carnes-Miller Gear: A Backbone of Precision Manufacturing in Stanly County

For fifty years, Carnes-Miller Gear (CMG) has quietly and consistently served as a cornerstone of Stanly County's manufacturing sector. Operating out of Stanly County since 1974, CMG specializes in precision gear manufacturing for a wide range of original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and industrial clients. Their work supports industries spanning from mining and transportation to agriculture, rail, construction, and even aerospace.

At the heart of CMG's mission is a commitment to delivering exceptional craftsmanship. The company doesn't chase trends or overpromise on capabilities. Instead, it excels at doing the fundamentals right, by manufacturing custom gears to exact specifications, reverse engineering obsolete parts, and providing grind-teeth-only services for highly specialized needs. Their components have been used in equipment as large as aircraft carriers, a testament to the trust placed in their expertise.

Custom gear manufacturing requires not only technical knowledge but also time and training. It can take years for a machinist to become proficient in the kind of specialized work CMG performs. This level of precision and customization naturally presents challenges in recruitment and workforce development. While CMG has worked with local colleges to support machinist programs, finding and retaining qualified talent remains a challenge. As Dan Tweed, the company's owner, pointed out, housing affordability and competitive wages across industries make it difficult for younger workers to stay local and grow into these roles.

Despite those hurdles, CMG remains invested in the broader manufacturing ecosystem within Stanly County. Collaboration, not competition, is a value embraced by the company. The focus is on doing good work and being a reliable partner in the marketplace. "You need to have good gears, not just a good story," he shared. It's a fitting motto for a company that has earned its reputation through five decades of dependable service.

CMG's longevity and continued presence reflect the strength and resilience of Stanly County's small business and manufacturing community. As the county works to attract new investment and grow its economic base, companies like Carnes-Miller Gear remind us of the value of homegrown expertise and the role it plays in keeping our industrial sector thriving.

