

# Savant Labs Celebrating 50 years and going strong

### The Early Years

In 1969, the same year as the lunar landing and Woodstock, Theodore Selby made a tough decision to leave a well-paying job as a chemist to pursue his passion for problemsolving in the field of lubrication. In an increasingly industrialized world, it was evident that lubrication would continue to play a critical role in shaping the advances of civilization. From this entrepreneurial spirit, the Midlandbased consulting firm, Savant was born.

With the support of his wife Jean, ten children, three dogs, and a menagerie of other pets in tow, the one-man consulting firm grew into a globally recognized laboratory and research center, housing chemists, R&D specialists, engineers, and technicians, serving customers around the world.

Selby's problemsolving mindset and creative thinking, coupled



Theodore W. Selby, 1980

with his technical background, sparked the creation of Tannas Company in 1981, a manufacturer of advanced laboratory testing instruments used by companies around the world for analyzing the properties of fluids.

Two years later, in 1983, the Institute of Materials (IOM) was formed with the mission of providing unbiased technical information to the lubricant industry. Today, IOM publishes the world's largest independent compilation of engine oil data, with online access to almost 18 million data points on over 18,000 engine oils collected from the retail market worldwide.

King Refrigeration was purchased in

1996 to complement
Tannas' line
of laboratory
instruments. King
Refrigeration
specializes in
manufacturing
low-temperature
laboratory
instruments with
sophisticated
refrigeration
capabilities.

Fifty years later, the name Ted Selby has become synonymous with lubrication in the industry. At 91 years old, Selby is still in the consultant mode, with over 50 active patents, more than 250 technical papers, and numerous awards. He continues to participate in industry and customer discussions while enjoying just a small taste of retirement.

When asked the secret to success, Selby gave credit to not only the dedicated employees of Savant, but to his wife Jean, who passed away in 2018. Together, they traveled the world observing, listening to customer needs, and making creative

### **Today**

The companies continue to grow strong and remain healthy, providing an expanding line of innovative products and services to an increasing customer base in the lubrication, transportation, energy, and manufacturing industries.

The family of

companies has grown by two. The Center for Quality Assurance (CQA) was established in 2005. This company supports the advancement of fluid performance through the administration of fluid licensing and quality control programs designed for technologydriven industries and equipment manufacturers. In addition, a local machine shop was recently purchased, specializing in machining precision parts for instruments, equipment, and machines. More information about this new acquisition the near future.

Truly a global enterprise, the companies operate in more than 70 countries and have grown to almost 100 employees.

Selby's daughter
Rebecca Cox, who
worked alongside
her father as a child,
and son-in-law
Gordon Cox, joined
the companies in
the early 1990s.
In 2012, Rebecca
became President
of the Savant Group
companies, now
woman-owned and

operated. "We feel incredibly fortunate to work with such a diverse group of highly skilled, committed, and creative individuals. There is a lot of pride in what we have accomplished so far and a determination to keep improving. This is a pretty special place," said Cox.

## The Future

With the recent announcement of the new Savant Group global headquarters, Cox commented again, "Our employees are our greatest asset.
None of this would
be possible without
them. Likewise, the
local community has
been encouraging
and supportive of
our expansion and
growth." The new
headquarters is to be
completed in 2021
and a 40% increase
in job creation is
anticipated for the

# Supporting the Community

area.

Over the last 50 years, the Savant Group family has contributed time and talent to many community events and fundraisers, including United Way, Support the Troops, Food Pantry, The Sharing Tree, Breast Cancer Walk, Arbor Day, Midland Blooms, and many more. "Our Savant employees are our ambassadors in the community. They recognize that Midland is a great place to live and work and are committed to sharing their passion for excellence and hard work. This is the cornerstone of our mission and values," said Cox.



One of Savant's early locations on Larkin Street in Midland, Michigan.



For more information about the Savant Group and the Center for Quality Assurance, visit SavantGroup.com and CenterForQA.com.



Rebecca Cox, Ted Selby, Gordon Cox at Savant's 50th Anniversary Celebration, 2019.