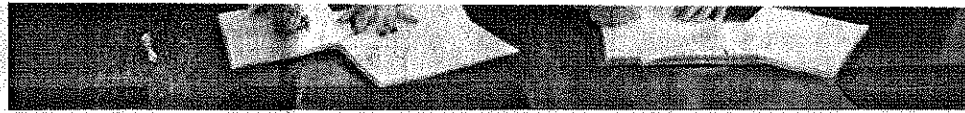


Vaz said.  
Under the two agreements, students from North China will take courses at LTU

enroll in English language preparation classes.  
— Staff writer  
Diana Dillaber Murray



# Family-run speedometer business celebrates 60 years

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Most people work with numbers as a consequence of life.

Carl Scott Sr. was different. "I'm just fascinated by numbers," he said.

By age 16, he focused that love on speedometers. Word got around to auto dealers that Scott had a knack for repairing the devices and he opened his own business.

On May 19, that business — now Scott and Son Speedometer Service Corp. in Pontiac — will celebrate its 60th anniversary.

Carl Scott Sr., 75, works with his son, Carl "Bean" Scott Jr., 44. Bean started working with his father in 1985.

Their business at 196-198 W. Walton Boulevard caters to people who need repairs on speedometers or tachometers dating from 1940 to the present. The devices they work on originate in cars, trucks, motorcycles or tractors.

The Scotts even manufacture their own casings and cable.

Inside the spic-and-span building with the all-green exterior ("It doesn't fade," said elder Scott) in Pontiac, Carl Sr. often greets customers as they come in the door.

He started years back by taking his bicycle speedometer apart.

"My first (repair) job paid \$2," he said. "I thought I was

## FYI

Scott and Son Speedometer Service Corp. is at 196-198 W. Walton Blvd. in Pontiac. Call 248-338-4148 or visit [www.scottspeedometer.com](http://www.scottspeedometer.com).

really rich then."

Auto dealers sent customers to Scott and the business grew through the years.

He bought the building on Walton in 1964. Scott began decorating his shop with stickers from various businesses in the mid-1950s. Today hundreds of silver logos line the walls.

"I've traveled to all 50 states," he said.

A serious toy collector, the elder Scott said the passion began when he was a boy.

In the 1940s, his neighbor owned a \$10 metal Mayflower truck. Carl Sr. wanted one, too.

"I told myself I was going to have a toy like *that*," he said. His parents, who were farmers, couldn't afford it.

Now the pristine Mayflower is on display along with other metal vehicle toys. Carl Sr.'s wife, Carol, also loves collecting and specializes in Coca-Cola memorabilia. Carl Jr. collects action figures.

The shop is busy year-round, the elder Scott said.

"This time of year people are getting their hot rods out and we'll see people coming

in for them," said Carl Jr., called "Bean" by his family for loving green beans as a child.

"We'll get a lot of motorcycles in the winter. It can vary."

Carl Jr. said occasionally they'll get a customer who wants the Scotts to check a speedometer (called "speedos" by Jr.) because the customer received a speeding ticket.

More often than not, he said, there is nothing wrong with the speedometer.

Carl Jr. is handling most of the incoming work now. His mother was surprised he enjoyed repairing speedometers.

"I thought he was going to be an artist," Carol said. "He quit school, came here and has worked her ever since."

Speedometer faces line the wall above the shop's workbench. Carl Jr. likes the flexibility of his work, where one day he might work until 9 p.m., but leave the next at 3 p.m.

"Some jobs might take a day, others a month," he said. "It depend on how much cosmetic work it takes."

His biggest challenge, he said, is working with older parts that can be rusty or "nasty" from being neglected for years.

"Mechanically I've got to make it work. Sometimes I have to tell people it isn't going to work out," he said.

While no Carl Scott III exists, Carl Jr. said his 10-year-old daughter, Jade,



The Oakland Press/VAUGHN GURGANIAN

Carl Scott Sr. and his son Carl Jr., with some vintage speedometers at Scott and Son Speedometer Service Corp. in Pontiac, pictured Thursday. This month, they will be celebrating 60 years in business at the same location.

often helps him in the shop. Jr. has another daughter, Julia, 16.

Perched on a stool by the workbench, Carl Sr. looked around the shop.

"I love this place," he said sincerely. "I've spent more time here than at home. It's my life. I love people."

He gestured toward a group of speedometers. "These are my babies.

"I'm highly attached to them because I know them and how they function and what they fit and what they don't fit."

He advises people who want to get into a business to learn from his experience.

"Don't just put lettering on your pickup," he said. "Get a building, put a sign on it advertising sales and

service. Put a big 'Open' sign out front, advertise in your newspaper and stick with it.

"Don't bounce around. Don't keep changing your name."

He referred again to having his distinctive green building for dozens of years.

"People know where to find me."