

New start for cabinet maker

Pine & Baker brings 60 years of tradition to Tewksbury site

By MARIE DONOVAN
Sun Correspondent

TEWKSBURY — Pine & Baker Inc. turned 60 years old this year and celebrated by relocating — but not to a Florida golf-course community.

The maker of custom wood cabinets and parts recently acquired and set up shop at a 56,000-square-foot building at 166 Lorum St. in Tewksbury. The company makes roughly 100 different wood-based products from start to finish, including about 30 cabinet models.

“We do all our own painting, staining, furniture production,” said owner and president Philip Baker, who lives in Bedford.

Pine & Baker specializes in speaker cabinets, including large units for movie theaters that are typically made of particle board with pine, oak or cherry veneers. The company delivers large orders of 100 to 500 products for an international list of clients that includes Boston Acoustics, Framingham-based Bose, Wilmington-based Aerial Acoustics and Eastern Acoustics of Whitinsville, a company that makes sound equipment for athletic stadiums, theaters and other large venues.

Pine & Baker also makes solid pine plate stands and poplar



Philip Baker is president and owner of Pine & Baker Inc., a 60-year cabinet maker that recently relocated to Tewksbury. The company specializes in speaker cabinets, including large units for movie theaters. Here, Baker poses with racks that are used to display dishes in large department stores. SUN/BILL BRIDGEFORD

store displays for Macy's and Brookstone stores across the country, as well as wooden boards and transfer handles for mobility transfer-type beds.

The privately-held company's 10 employees are multi-taskers trained in construction, sanding, finishing and how to operate CNC machinery. It takes up to two hours to make a typical cabinet, Baker said. Employees must pay close attention to

detail; if a wood piece is cut even 1/32 of an inch off target, that piece won't fit, he said.

Philip's father, Theodore Baker, 92, founded the business in 1946 in Cambridge. His son, now runs what is still very much a family business. Theodore's granddaughter and Philip's daughter, Suzanne, is office manager and a nephew, Jim Baker, serves as mill foreman.

And as for Theodore himself,

“He was still coming into work until last year,” Philip Baker said of his industrious father.

The company relocated from Cambridge to Medford in the late 1960s and remained there until moving to Tewksbury last month. It sold its last headquarters to Tufts University.

“What attracted us to Tewksbury was transportation. We were in the city; you couldn't get trucks in,” Baker said.