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New Products hosts 'Vette genius

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Posted: Sunday, August 31, 2014 6:00 am

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BENTON HARBOR - New Products Corp. in Benton Harbor recently hosted a special guest to help celebrate the company's 60 years of making Corvette parts.

Dave McLellan, chief engineer for the Chevrolet Corvette from 1975 to 1992, visited the plant to watch parts being made for the 2014 Corvette and meet many of the workers. New Products owner and CEO Cheryl Miller said that as McLellan signed autographs, many of the workers joked that they hoped his genius would rub off with a handshake.

McLellan was in town in early August for the 2014 Concours d'Elegance, sponsored by New Products. McLellan was the car show's featured designer and contributed to the narrative as vintage cars paraded along Lake Boulevard in downtown St. Joseph. Miller was a judge for the event.

New Products also hosted a tent where people could drive remote control Corvette Stingrays, win prizes and learn about the family-owned company, founded in 1922 in Benton Harbor. Miller is a third-generation owner.

New Products is a global supplier of custom, precision die cast aluminum and zinc parts for thousands of applications in a variety of industries including the military, industrial machinery, medical instruments, household appliances, transportation equipment, furniture and fixtures, and has made car parts for more than six decades, Miller said.

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