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Bob McGregor and daughter, Grace McGregor Kramer, are marking the 100th anniversary of the family business at McGregor Industries Inc. In Dunmore.

Stepping into next 100 years

McGregor Industries Inc. marking its centennial

BY JON O'CONNELL
STAFF WRITER

DUNMORE — Bob McGregor remembers when the prospect of fabricating a five-story tower of stairs made him sweat.

But McGregor Industries Inc. sells more than steel staircases.

He and his daughter, Grace McGregor Kramer, sell a fine-tuned process.

It's one the family business has been tweaking bit-by-bit over the last 10 decades.

Now the company, celebrating its 100-year history in Lackawanna County this year, doesn't balk at hundreds of flights of stairs in a single project — designed, manufactured and installed.

One of its current, most impressive contracts, the W and Element hotel project in Philadelphia, needs three towers stairs, 50 stories each. That's 150 stories of stairs.

The company's come a long way since Bob McGregor took over in



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Bob McGregor and daughter, Grace McGregor Kramer, of McGregor Industries Inc., Dunmore, show a project the company is working on.

1982 thanks to leaps in technology and the expertise of about 40 shop workers and draftsmen, as well as installation crews who all come to the table and help improve processes.

"It can't be me; it can't be Grace. We have it to the point where they're (the employees) driving technology ... We really get the best ideas from the people out here," said Bob McGregor, who is president and chief executive. His grandfather, Robert S. McGregor, started the company in 1919 in Scranton.

The McGregor legacy is

in miscellaneous metals. That includes just about everything but structural steel, or the primary beams that support buildings.

Starting around 2005 as high-rise construction around the country accelerated, the company carved out a specialized corner of the market. It designs, fabricates and installs staircases in major Eastern cities. Grace McGregor Kramer, the strategy and operations director who represents the fourth generation of McGregors running the business, said

maybe two other companies in the U.S. produce finished steel and concrete stairs like theirs.

It has a notable portfolio of showcase stairs, the monumental stairs segment, including installations at the new Comcast Technology Center in Philadelphia, the Encore casino in Boston as well as some local spots like the University of Scranton and Sanofi Pasteur in Pocono Twp.

On the shop floor, a union workforce, many of whom are multi-generation employees and work side by side with siblings and parents, use automated cutters and five-ton overhead cranes to shape and shift giant pieces of steel.

"We've got a century behind us with highs and lows," Grace McGregor Kramer said. "We've built a very agile company based on the people we work with."

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