

# V.J. Stanley purchased by Buffalo firm

Matthew Daneman, Staff writer

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(Photo: GARY MCLENDON/2007 staff file photo )

A new owner for a 63-year-old Rochester company is bringing with it more staff and soon a new home.

Buffalo's Stritt & Priebe Inc. expects to sign paperwork within days on a long-term lease for 40,000 square feet to house its new Rochester location as well as space for new sister company V.J. Stanley Inc. (<http://www.vjstanley.com/>) Stritt & Priebe (<http://www.strittandpriebe.com/>), a distributor of industrial valves and pipes, bought Rochester's V.J. Stanley in August. Since then, Stritt & Priebe has hired four additional staff at V.J. Stanley and is in the process of hiring two to three more.

V.J. Stanley started in 1951. And the past three years have seen first the death of President Dean Stanley in 2011 and then founder Vince J. Stanley Sr. — Dean Stanley's father — in 2012.

Since then, "They've been in kind of a three-year limbo," said Joel Scott, co-owner of Stritt & Priebe. "They have exceptional employees. It's a testament to every one of them they're still there."

V.J. Stanley is a distributor of hot water heating systems.

Scott and business partner Bill Victor bought Stritt & Priebe in an employee buyout seven years ago. Since then, sales have doubled..

"We've for years been requested by some customers to come to Rochester," Scott said. And the V.J. Stanley acquisition opened that door, he said. The two companies will operate side by side in the new Rochester location, and Stritt & Priebe intends to have V.J. Stanley set up some space in Buffalo for similar sister companies approach there, Scott said.

"We're like two pieces of the pie," Scott said. "... We have the same customer base, but we do slightly different things."

Scott declined to discuss the financial details of the acquisition.

V.J. Stanley currently operates just north of High Falls on the city's northwest side. It employs two dozen.

MDANEMAN@DemocratandChronicle.com

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