



left school to work with my grandfather, full-time.

“At one time, the hardware store was approached for an order of structural steel which the family did not carry. Jack didn’t refuse the order but instead, after due research, sourced the necessary material. Once, because of a mistake he made in the quantities he ordered, he incurred a surplus. So he decided to market the surplus material in the local newspaper, which he then sold for a very good profit. Inadvertently, he had started the D. Ramoutarsingh’s Steel Department. Jack would soon venture on his own by establishing Dansteel, a hardware store he named after his father and new born son. The company motto was in line with the family’s values: ‘People who care about people who build.’

“One day, they were receiving steel products that they bought internationally – in this case, it was re-bar – and one of the bundles they were offloading fell off the truck and the bar broke when it hit the floor. And my father knew something was wrong. He had a feeling that the traders and mills were supplying the country with sub-standard materials on the international market. And he was a very proud man. He was always of the opinion that we should make the very best products.

“Around that time, many of his customers were working for the sugar industry in a state-owned company called Caroni. When Caroni closed the refinery, the entire village of Reform, Gasparillo became unemployed on a large scale. The first Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago had given a speech calling out to citizens to embrace manufactur-

AT A GLANCE TRINRICO STEEL AND WIRE PRODUCTS LIMITED

WHAT: Manufacturer and distributor of steel and wire products for the construction industry

WHERE: Reform Village, Gasparillo, Trinidad

WEBSITE: www.trinricosteel.com