



# DESTINATION DANCE

LEARN TO DANCE | HAVE FUN | MAKE FRIENDS | BE HEALTHY

by Susan E. Hohman

Nearly fifteen years from the time she moved away, Ashley Minzes returned to her hometown of Dixon, Missouri. In those intervening years, she perfected what she already knew about dance, added new techniques to her repertoire, and brought that level of expertise to her studio, Destination Dance.

choreographed adult fitness routines. A discounted monthly fee is available when taking classes on both evenings.

Dance classes help build confidence, coordination, and even social skills, according to Ms. Minzes. Her passion for teaching dance to others is integral to her life. On her website, [www.ashleyminzes.com](http://www.ashleyminzes.com), she affirmed, "Although there are many other things I enjoy, dance, and the teaching of dance, is the only one that I truly cannot do without." She continued, "I love to touch people's lives, to bring them together, to introduce them to the emotions of dance."

Located in the LIV Studio, at 406 North Elm Street in Dixon, Destination Dance offers

Ashley earned teacher certification in Ballroom and Latin Dancing from Dance Vision International Dance Association. Although the students she currently teaches in Dixon keep her busy on Tuesdays and Thursdays, she is available for one-on-one training the other days of the week. Many couples preparing for their wedding take private lessons to practice for the "first dance" at their reception.

classes in ballet, tap, hip-hop, ballroom, Latin, and swing dance two nights per week. Suitable for both adults and children, and both genders, the studio's lessons encompass a comprehensive dance program.

Some classes offered to children are ballet and tap lessons for the very young, and ballet, tap, Hip-Hop, Ballroom, Latin, and Swing for those a little older. Adults (age 13+) can register for group classes in Ballroom, Latin, and Swing on Tuesdays and Salsa and Bachata classes on Thursdays. Recent additions are

For more information about Destination Dance, please contact Ashley at 904-803-5458, her website, [www.destinationdancestudios.com](http://www.destinationdancestudios.com), or through the studio's Facebook page: Ashley Minzes Destination Dance.

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Owners: Jamie and Dena Johnson

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# CZ Engineering

by Susan E. Hohman



Ron & Anne Calzone

Having begun his business while still in college, Ron Calzone of CZ Engineering started his small steel fabrication shop in a 24' x 32' shed with a dirt floor, located one mile down Highway E six miles outside of Dixon. For the first several years, Ron concentrated primarily on building and selling heavy equipment trailers for bulldozers and backhoes.

gave a leg up is help you never forget."

The change from manufacturing equipment trailers to telescopic pole trailers was a lucrative move.

With this change, CZ went from a commodity product to a specialized product. Although it was a good move, Ron knew that he needed to stay competitive, as some forms of competition can make business more efficient. And, as Ron said, "Efficiency is always important to focuses."



As the business grew, Calzone knew he needed three-phase electric power to successfully manufacture the items. Local electric company, Gascoage Electric Cooperative, brought three-phase power to Ron's location, and made it easy to install, proving to be "an electric utility that can meet business needs," as Ron said. That initial interchange between the utility company and the manufacturing company also sparked the idea for another design and production need that Ron could satisfy. Gascoage requested CZ Engineering to build a couple of pole trailers. "Because they had been good to us, I couldn't say no," Ron concluded.



The other equipment trailers were produced and sold using a coast-to-coast dealer network. Approximately 20-30 pole trailers per year were "squeezed in as a sideline," according to Ron, until about 1996. After much research and development, Calzone knew that if he would be changing the focus of the manufacturing plant, more space would be needed.

They built the new building on a shoestring budget. With help from locals like Charles Bassett's construction company—who allowed them to use concrete forms free of charge, and who brought a truckload of new two-by-fours for whalers, also loaned free of charge—the current building at 33863 Hwy. E was erected. In bemusement, Ron still recalls, "He wouldn't take a penny." He added, "A couple {of folks} like this who

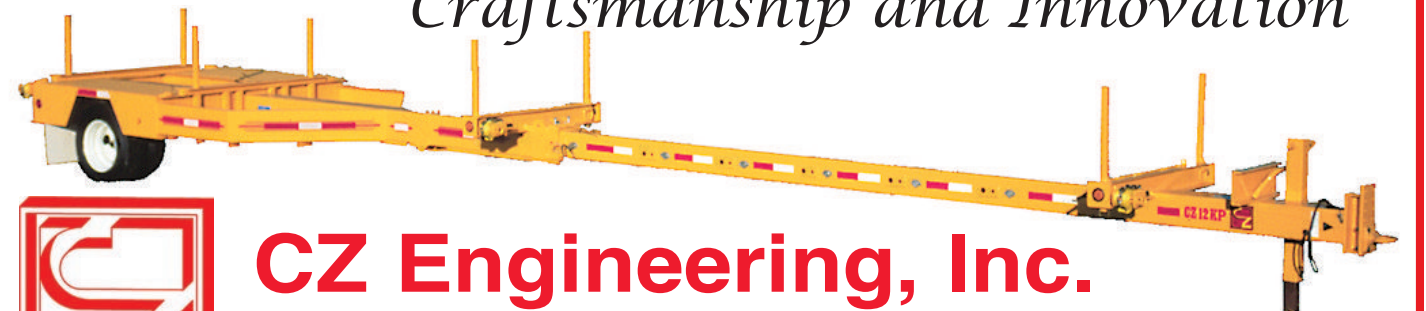
In addition to the pole trailers, CZ Engineering also manufactures two other products: the Deck Mate™ drilling and screwdriving system, and Safe-T-Post Caps™. The Deck Mate™ is a system for drilling holes in trailer/truck body beds and is a labor-saving device on flatbed equipment. Trailer and truck body manufacturers are the primary users of Deck Mate™.

Safe-T-Post Caps™ came about from a personal experience that Ron and his oldest daughter, Niki (Calzone) Calvert had. One of the family's quarter horse mares had cut its head on the sharp edges of a steel fence post. The duo decided it would be prudent to find a way to cover these sharp edges, so no further horses were damaged. Two-three years later, CZ Engineering developed Safe-T-Pole Caps™, and 10-11 million of them have been sold to date.

CZ Engineering currently employs nine employees, including some family members. Wife, Anne, and daughters Megan, Grace, and Lydia help at various times when needed. With 3-D software for structural analysis, CNC (computer numeric control) equipment, and computer integrated machining technology in operation at the business, Ron declared, "We are pretty automated for a steel fabrication business."



Craftsmanship and Innovation



CZ Engineering, Inc.

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