

ALLIED-LOCKE INDUSTRIES

50th
Anniversary



Celebration

1965 - 2015

The Founder



THE STORY OF ROBERT L. CROWSON



Robert Lee Crowson, founder of Allied-Locke Industries, was a self-made man. Born in 1905, the second youngest of ten children, he grew up in humble means near Prattsville, Arkansas. His father died when he was very young, and his mother remarried eight years later.

Crowson attended school part-time but was forced to work many hours in cotton fields to help his family make ends meet. He finally saved enough pennies to purchase a used bicycle. Furious with his step-father for selling his cherished bicycle for a bottle of "spirits," the young Crowson struck out on his own at the tender age of 14.

Crowson worked numerous odd jobs, and after injuring his hand in a sawmill, he received a settlement that allowed him to return to high school at age 19. Afterward he attended Chillicothe Business College and landed a job with International Harvester, the only implement company producing its own chain. He married Mary Catherine Hogan in 1935, and they settled in the south suburbs of Chicago. They raised two sons, Robert L. Crowson, Jr. and William R. Crowson.

Crowson and three of his co-workers from IH realized they could manufacture agricultural chain on their own, so they pooled their resources, (mainly by mortgaging their homes) bought old punch presses and worked evenings and weekends making new dies while retaining their day jobs at IH. Within five months they were ready to announce their new venture of Chains, Inc. in 1946. Although the company experienced the usual ups and downs of any fledgling entrepreneurship, the business thrived for ten years. In 1957 Crowson and his co-owners decided to sell the business and retire.

1965

ALLIED

*The Allied Chains Inc.
logo as it appeared at
the start of the company.*

1978



2015



By 1965, Crowson grew tired of retirement and decided to start another factory manufacturing agricultural chains near Dixon, IL. At age 59, he started his second successful business and called it Allied Chains in the Green River Industrial Park. In 1970, he invited his younger son, Bill, to learn the chain business. Bill had earned a degree in metallurgical engineering and moved from Boston to Dixon. By 1975 Crowson decided to retire to Hot Springs, AR, and hand over the reins to his son.

Crowson continued as Chairman of the Board, traveling to Dixon four times a year for the quarterly board meetings. By 1992 his health deteriorated so that he no longer could travel. Robert L. Crowson died in March, 1995, just two months shy of his 90th birthday.

When Bill Crowson arrived in 1970 to master the chain business, there were about 20 employees. Today Allied-Locke employs 350 employees. Bill has devoted 45 years to managing the company in the spirit of his father's strong beliefs in dedication, hard work and the value of education.

...a self-made man.



*Robert L. Crowson age 25 (above)
Robert with his son, Bill Crowson
at Robert's 80th birthday. (below)*



The History



Plant One ~ 1088 Corregidor Road, Dixon, IL 61021
*The main plant is located within the Green River Industrial Park
and covers nearly 675,000 square feet.*

Allied-Locke Industries was founded in 1965 by Robert L. Crowson as Allied Chains which manufactured steel detachable chain for the agricultural market.

In 1978, Allied Chains purchased Locke Steel Chain Co., a manufacturer of agricultural chains since 1897. With this acquisition, Allied Chains broadened its offering and became one of the major producers of ag chains in the United States. At this time, the name of the company was changed to Allied-Locke Industries.

In 1985, Cullman Industries, a sprocket manufacturer in Wheeling, IL, discontinued operations. Allied-Locke purchased some of Cullman's equipment and hired some of their employees. Since that time Allied-Locke's sprocket offering has grown to complement their chain products.

In 1988, Allied-Locke purchased Chain Engineering Co., a marketer of precision roller chains for 28 years. With this acquisition the company positioned itself to become one of the major suppliers of precision roller chain in the United States.

In 1992, Allied-Locke purchased Moline Corporation, a manufacturer of industrial chain in the Chicago area since 1869. With this acquisition, Allied-Locke greatly broadened its product offering with its fabrication of heavier chain, supplying such industries as road paving equipment, lumber mills and grain handling equipment.

In 1997, Allied-Locke bought Sheldon Engineering in Milwaukee which further expanded the product offering with refined and special metal alloys of chain for unique applications.



**Plant Two ~ 1020 Subic Road
Dixon, IL 61021**

Within 2 miles of the main plant, the new building covers 88,000 square feet.

In 2001, Allied-Locke expanded with the introduction of its environmental products division, which produces and markets products for the water treatment industry.

In 2004, Allied-Locke acquired the building and equipment in Meridian, MS, that had previously been Southeast Chain Inc. In 2013 this warehousing, manufacturing and assembly production was moved to a larger building in Union, MS.

Allied-Locke is proud of its group of experienced and dedicated employees who are committed to serving its customers through excellence in superior quality and service.

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Allied-Locke Industries, an employee open house is being held at the main factory on September 19th. Employees and their families are invited to tour the facility, have lunch and receive door prizes.



**Plant Three ~ 226 Industrial Circle
Union, MS 39365**

The warehouse and manufacturing facility in Mississippi covers 80,000 square feet.



The Manufacturing Process



Engineering



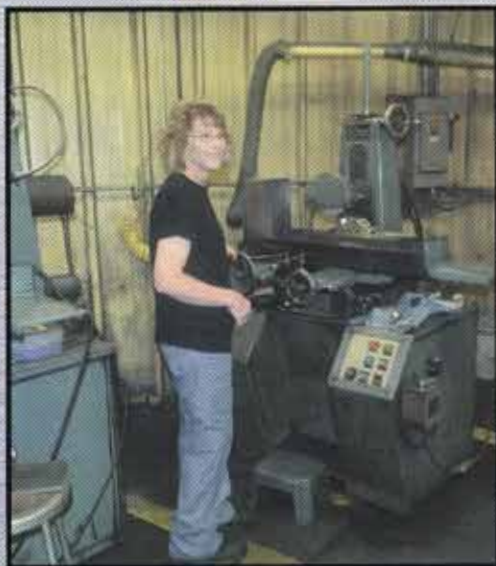
Customer Service



Cold Heading



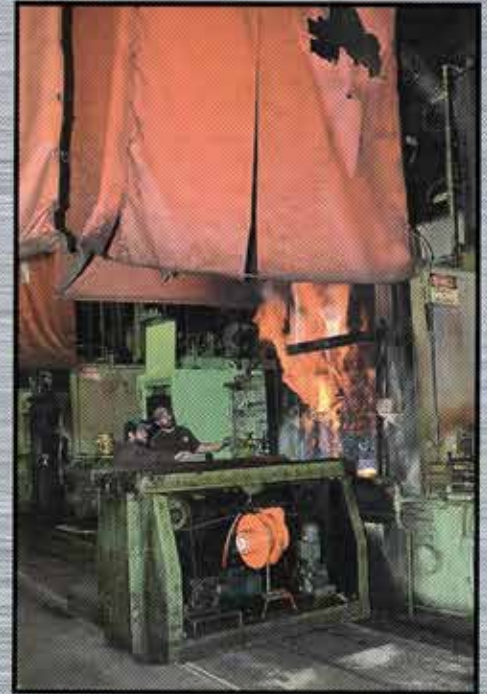
Tool & Die



**Round Bar
&
Vertical Turning**



Heat Treat Furnace



Stamping



Allied-Locke has five divisions: Precision Roller Chains, Agricultural Chains, Engineering Class Chains & Buckets, Environmental Products, and Sprockets. ALI starts out with raw material and ends with finished product. The company does all its own heat-treating with a continuous line furnace. The stamping department has punch presses with capabilities of up to 1,000 tons. ALI is an ISO 9001 registered company and is approved by the American Petroleum Institute.

Assembly



The Industries Served



Agricultural Industry



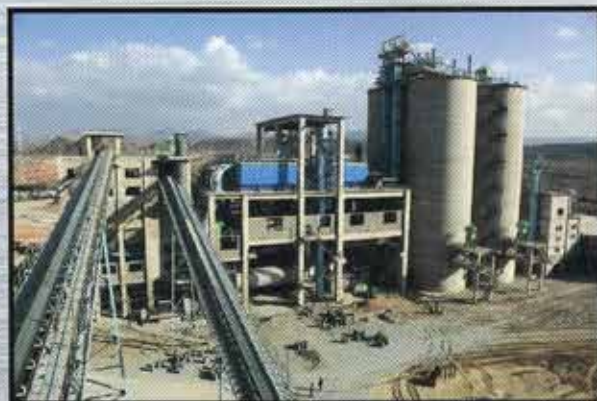
Allied-Locke Industries is one of only two manufacturers in the U.S.A. that produces ag chain. In the industrial and sprocket sectors, however, "there are many competitors, and that makes things more interesting and challeng-

"The keys to success are quality products and going the extra mile for the customers. The link between the two is the people in the company," - Jeff Shoemaker.

ing," according to Don Crawford, V.P. of Marketing. "Collaboration and communication between customer service, the engineering department and production staff are vital to customer satisfaction and growth."

"The keys to success," according to Jeff Shoemaker, V.P. of Manufacturing,

Cement Industry





Reach for the star of quality



“are quality products and going the extra mile for customers. It involves a team effort with veteran staff teaching newer employees. Keeping current equipment in good running order and updating with state-of-the-art equipment is vital to ALI’s success as well,” Jeff points out. “Our maintenance department is always busy and faces new challenges every day.”

“The team effort and family atmosphere at ALI are what makes it pleasurable to work here,” Art Albee, Quality Control Supervisor, states. Art is a 35 year veteran employee whose father, Bruce, also worked at the company for 38 years until his retirement. Bruce passed away this year but father and son both have enjoyed seeing the company grow and prosper.

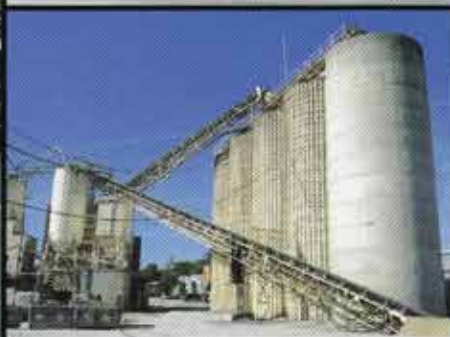
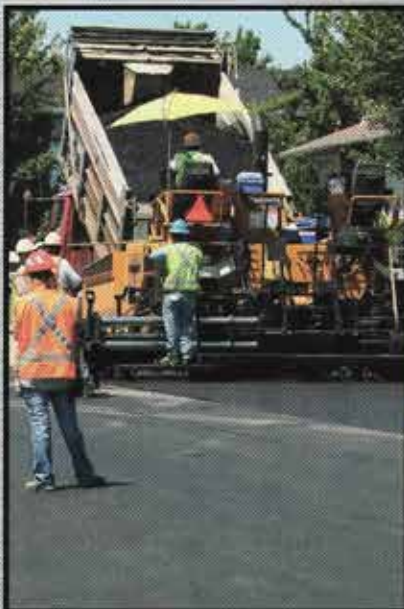
Sugar Industry



Waste Water Industry



Road Maintenance Industry



The People



Perfect Attendance

16 years

Donna Cochran, Dean Kessel

15 years

Steven Kofoid

12 years

LeRoy Dukes, Rick Peikert

11 years

Aaron Harden, Randy Johnson,
Gary Lauer

10 years

Matthew Cornwell, Garry Nelson



23 years

Sherry Hoyle in 2013 (top left)

21 years

Doug Marschang (top right)

20 years

Walter Kant (bottom left)

.....and the link of family in the business.



Married Couples Standing: Adam & Heather Davis, Kim & Mike Stram, Josh & Jessica Coppotelli, Amber & Daroll French. Seated: Eliseo & Maria Carmona, June & Andy Moore, Melanie & Deron Hughes and Heather & Tiffany Lechler.



Family Members Standing: Jodi Scully, George Scully (son) & Nicole Powers (daughter); Brandon Horner (son) & Greg Horner; Nick Warren (son), Will Warren (son) & Marv Warren. Seated: Josh Kant (son) & Walt Kant; Sandra Werner & Jason Henley (son); John Lightner & John Lightner II (son); Rebecca Dickey (daughter) & Patricia Dickey.



Family Members Standing: Mark Ballard & John Ballard (son); Kori Whitely (daughter) & Dave Marschang; Andrew Downing (son) & Rich Downing; Pam Gardner & Ben Burger (son); Trevor Ullrich (son) & Harold Ullrich. Seated: Jim & Catherine Decker (husband & wife) & Darius Decker (son); Stephanie Stitzel & Samantha Miller (daughter); Kelei (wife), Brandon Rundall (son) & Kevin Rundall (husband).

Allied-Locke Core Management



(left to right) **Jeff Shoemaker**, Vice-President of Manufacturing; **Cindi Payne**, Director of Finance; **Bill Crowson**, President; **Don Crawford**, Vice-President of Marketing

25 Years or More of Service

Orville Shoemaker	45 yrs
William Crowson	45 yrs
James Decker	37 yrs
Brenda McLaughlin	36 yrs
Teresa McCrary	36 yrs
David Johns	35 yrs
Arthur Albee	35 yrs
Vicki Bonnell	34 yrs
Joanie Knoll	34 yrs
John Surratt	34 yrs
Eliseo Carmona	34 yrs
Andrew Moore	34 yrs
Paul Gierhart	32 yrs
Thomas Latta	31 yrs
Dean Kessel	30 yrs
Greg Dickson	30 yrs
Richard Conderman	29 yrs
Sue Otto	29 yrs
Neal Pitzer	29 yrs
Dan Cover	29 yrs
Craig Kessel	29 yrs
Thomas Blackburn	28 yrs
Loree Brooks	28 yrs
Gary Lauer	27 yrs
Kim Stram	27 yrs
Sherry Hoyle	27 yrs
Frederick Pohl	27 yrs
Leonard Springer	26 yrs
Randy Johnson	26 yrs
Curtis Clayton	26 yrs
Gregory Horner	26 yrs
June Moore	26 yrs
Felicia Wade	25 yrs
Rick Peikert	25 yrs

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