



problems on their vehicles. Brake Shoe was approached by one of the truck manufacturers for help because of the company's knowledge in braking trains. Research work was started, based upon the company's experience with asbestos-base railway brake shoes, and eventually a new type of molded friction material was developed, resulting in the formation of a subsidiary company to manufacture and sell automotive brake lining.

Brake Shoe expanded its railroad business in 1928 by acquiring controlling interest in a bronze foundry company. This company was a large manufacturer of bronze bearings for railroads as well as bearings and castings for industrial machinery.

As the methods of mass transportation began to change in the 20's and 30's, and as new machinery and production processes were introduced, the products of the company gradually changed and improved to satisfy the new requirements. A metallurgical research laboratory was established in 1933 to develop and improve foundry products. However, there were no significant changes in the basic types of products made by the company. It was mainly in the foundry and forging businesses.

World War II brought great growth to the company. All of its products were essential to the defense of the country and production was multiplied many-fold to meet the military and essential civilian demands.

The next important event which was to have a strong influence on the growth and direction of Brake Shoe came in 1955. The management of the company recognized a need to diversify further the company's