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Powering Business Worldwide

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Eaton Corporation has been serving the needs of its customers for nearly 100 years. During this time, we've progressed from a small truck parts supplier to a multinational diversified industrial. Follow some of the key historical events that contributed to Eaton's transformation below.

Major Milestones

1911 – J. O. Eaton, brother-in-law Henning O. Taube and V. V. Torbensen incorporated the Torbensen Gear and Axle Co. in Bloomfield, NJ. The company built seven axles by hand in 1911. Just six years later, axle production had increased to 33,000.

1914 – Torbensen Gear and Axle moved to Cleveland on the advice of Edith Eaton, J.O. Eaton's wife, and was incorporated in Ohio as the Torbensen Axle Co.

1917 – Torbensen Axle Co. was sold to Republic Motor Truck Co., the nation's largest truck manufacturer and Torbensen's biggest customer.

1922 – J. O. Eaton bought back his original company, Torbensen Axle Co., from Republic Motor Truck Co.

1923 – Company changed name to The Eaton Axle and Spring Co.

1923 – J. O. Eaton bought The Eaton Axle Co. plant at East 140th Street in Cleveland, The Perfection Spring Co. (chassis leaf springs) and other properties from the receiver of Standard Parts Company.

1923 – The Eaton Axle and Spring Co. acquired Cox Brothers Manufacturing Co. Inc., Albany, NY (bumpers).

1930 – Acquired control of Wilcox-Rich Corp. (engine valves, tappets, valve seat inserts, hardened and ground engine parts), making Eaton the largest manufacturer of auto valves and tappets in the world, and the Peterson Spring Co. (coil springs). Both acquisitions were from Detroit.

1932 – Changed name to Eaton Manufacturing Co.

1935 – Acquired Detroit Motor Valve Co., Detroit (engine valves).

1946 – Acquired Dynamatic Corp., Kenosha, WI (eddy current power devices).

1949 – J.O. Eaton died in his home in Cleveland at the age of 75.

1958 – Acquired Fuller Manufacturing Co. (heavy-duty truck transmissions), subsidiary Shuler Axle Co. and Unit Drop Forge, Kalamazoo, MI.

1963 – Acquired Yale & Towne Manufacturing Co. (locks and hardware, and materials handling equipment) and Dole Valve Co. (appliance and automotive valves).

1963 – Fuller Transmission Division introduced the Roadranger twin-countershaft truck transmission.

1966 – Company changed corporate name to Eaton Yale & Towne Inc., reflecting the 1963 merger with Yale & Towne Inc.

1968 – Acquired Fawick Corp. (clutches, brakes and compound rubber golf club grips) and American Monorail Co. (overhead conveyor cranes and stackers), both of Cleveland.

1969 – Chairman E. L. Ludvigsen retired; E. M. de Windt named chairman; William Mattie elected president.

1969 – Sold Dearborn Marine, which had been acquired in 1960.

1969 – Acquired Tinnerman Products, Inc. (fasteners), Cleveland, and McQuay-Norris Manufacturing Co. (automotive parts distribution), St. Louis, MO.

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