

Milestones and Anniversaries

ABC Industries, Inc. Marks 90th Anniversary

In 2016, ABC Industries celebrates 90 years of manufacturing ventilation solutions and industrial fabrics for a diverse clientele across a variety of industries.



out the United States and hard-rock mines found in the Western United States.

ABC Industries, Inc., one of the nation's leading manufacturers of industrial ventilation and fabric products, is celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2016. What began with a single product has transformed into a robust line of industrial ventilation products and high-quality industrial textile fabrics that are recognized around the world in many diverse industries.

In 1926, Dan B. Mikesell Sr. founded American Brattice Cloth (ABC) in a rented garage that he shared with the local highway department. Mikesell's only product was jute brattice cloth, a specialty fabric comprised of burlap soaked in a water solution of calcium chloride. The liquid treatment made the burlap flame resistant, which was required for use in mines. As technology evolved, the construction of brattice cloth transformed to synthetic fibers and pvc films. Although the fabrics are more advanced, brattice remains one of the key components in ABC's mine ventilation product line.

As the mining industry continued to evolve, ABC made several milestone advancements to better serve its customers adding ventilation ducting to its product line. The positive pressure, layflat design was named MineVent®. Later, MineDuct®, a wire-reinforced ducting option, was added for negative pressure applications.

In 1974, ABC added a second manufacturing facility in Grand Junction, Colorado to better address the needs of mining customers in the Western United States. In addition to ABC's existing line of underground mine ventilation products, the Grand Junction facility also produces RigiDuct® filament-wound fiberglass ducting. The fiberglass, "hard-line" ducting is largely used in coal mines through-

The 1980s saw ABC venture into new markets that capitalized on its manufacturing capabilities and vertical integration. First, ABC formed the Industrial Textile Fabrics (ITF) division to produce laminated textile fabrics as rolled goods which, today, serve the recreational vehicle, returnable packaging, and tent/structure markets, among others. Next, ABC's ventilation ducting was adapted for portable heating, cooling, dehumidification, blowing and drying applications. The Industrial Ventilation Ducting (IVD) division serves the construction, aviation, rental, military, and HVAC industries with a variety of ducting solutions. Both industrial initiatives have proven to have tremendous growth opportunities and aided in ABC's diversification from strictly a mine ventilation manufacturer to an industrial ventilation and textile solutions provider.

Steve Fleagle, CEO of ABC Industries, cited the employees as a key component to the company's longevity. "While technology and markets have changed, there is one characteristic that remains constant. For 90 years, the company has been blessed with hard-working, dedicated, and innovative people. This attribute is ABC's foundation for a bright and successful future."

Today, ABC continues to develop industrial ventilation and fabric solutions utilizing the principals of personalized customer service and high-quality products set forth by its founder, Dan Mikesell. With 90 years of experience, ABC Industries looks to continually improve the customer experience for many years to come.

For more information on ABC Industries, visit www.abc-industries.net, email sales@abc-industries.net, or call (574) 267-5166. ➤

Omni Services Celebrates its 40th Anniversary Posting Record Sales.

Omni Services, founded in 1976 by Robert Mitchell, is celebrating its 40th year anniversary by posting record sales in 2015. The company continues to position itself for long-term sustainable growth. 2015 saw



Omni expand locations to include New Jersey and Long Island NY, as well as the acquisition of Carolina Rubber & Specialties in Winston-Salem, NC earlier this year. These are in addition to branches added in South Boston, Maine and Canada over the past few years as well as a move to an upgraded location for their Buffalo branch. Organizationally, Omni continues to strengthen its overall management capability, promoting Jeff Elwell to Retail Sales Director, and Lauren Witter and Mike Russell to MRO Sales Directors. In conjunction with these promotions in Sales Management, Omni has been increasing its outside sales capability, adding five MRO-focused Sales Engineers in the past 18 months.

Within the NAHAD organization itself, the company is pleased to announce that Karen Brandvold, currently Omni's CFO, will be assuming the position of 2nd Vice President / Treasurer Elect on the NAHAD Board effective in April. Karen is Omni's second representative on the NAHAD board, joining Past President Chuck Connors who represented Omni back in 2001.

In terms of physical plant, Omni recently invested in a more than doubling of square footage within its Auburn MA warehouse & production center while at the same time relocating its head office to brand new office space in Worcester MA. And finally, in the virtual world, Omni launched an upgraded, (far more) user-friendly website to help their customers find us faster and learn even more about the company's capabilities.

40 years ago, Bob Mitchell set out to start a company that cared "just a little more" for its employees and its customers. While sadly, Bob ("Mitch") Mitchell passed away in late 2014, he would be proud of the company's continued, ambitious growth and the strong Omni team that is in place to make this ambition a reality. Happy 40th Omni! ➤