

*Hamilton - Business & Industry  
Hamilton Caster &  
Mfg Co*  
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# 80 Years of Excellence



**A Commemorative History  
1907 - 1987**

**The Hamilton Caster & Mfg. Co.**

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80 years of excellence

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REFERENCE--DOES NOT CIRC.

This booklet helps commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Hamilton Caster, founded in 1907 by our grandfather, John A. Weigel. It serves both for us and for our successors, as a valuable pictorial record of "the first eighty years."

The Company's path traced no unbroken line of pure progress. There were obstacles, wrong turns, even setbacks. By the late 1930's, Hamilton Caster was reeling from the Great Depression. Its very existence was hanging by a thread, and John Weigel's health had failed. Saving the enterprise which the founder had risked so much to establish required another great risk during troubled economic times. But rescue it he did, when son-in-law Ralph Lippert purchased controlling interest. By the time the third generation of the family joined the Company in the late fifties, it was out of debt and on solid financial footing.



Hamilton Caster's third generation management team: Larry, Tom and Bob Lippert.

The challenge then was to nurture what was there and "grow the business." This growth involved changes and improvements that are highlighted on the following pages. The product line was broadened and updated. Modern, attractive catalogs were printed. New marketing and advertising programs were launched, and the distributor network was vastly enlarged. Revolutionary PRONTO® service was introduced. Production and office facilities were expanded and modernized, and old production equipment was gradually replaced by new, more efficient machines. As members of the family's fourth generation joined the management team, the pace of these upgrades and improvements accelerated. Today Hamilton Caster is a recognized industry and community leader.

Such progress could only have occurred with the dedicated efforts of Hamilton Caster employees, working together as a team. Additional contributors over the years have been our professional advisors, shareholders, vendors, distributors and, of course, our customers.

While this historical review is primarily intended for our past and present employees and their families, we hope everyone associated with our Company will enjoy looking back with us over the past eighty years. May the heritage of those years, along with God's continuing good graces, inspire us to focus now on today's new challenges and opportunities, as we strive to make our future brighter yet.

**Robert R. Lippert**  
President

**Thomas J. Lippert**  
Vice President

**Lawrence J. Lippert**  
Secretary



Portrait of founder John A. Weigel (president 1907-1938) is admired by Esther Weigel Lippert (John's daughter and President 1939-1942) and Herb Weigel (John's son and employee of Hamilton Caster for 55 years). Ralph Lippert's portrait is in the background (President 1943-1976).

# FACILITIES



Lots of things have changed at Hamilton Caster since 1907. The top photo, taken in the 1920's, shows the original Dixie Highway office. The bottom photo, taken from the same spot, shows our current office (completed early in 1980). Hamilton Caster has occupied three building sites in it's history; the first was behind Deuscher's Foundry, the second on Hanover Street, and the present on Dixie Highway. The following pages illustrate in more detail the changes that have occurred since 1907.





Hamilton Caster's second location was on Hanover Street. Later Liberty Sheet Metal occupied the building; currently it is vacant.



A 1920 view of the Dixie Highway facility. This building stood alone as our sole facility through most of the decade.

## FACILITIES



The Truck Building was added in the late 1920's to accommodate the "Zering" line of trucks which John Weigel purchased and moved to Hamilton from Oakley, a Cincinnati suburb. Until then, Hamilton did not manufacture trucks.



There were no building additions during the Great Depression, nor even during World War II. When this 1946 aerial shot was taken, the front portion of what is now our parking lot was being farmed, and castings were stored outdoors on a concrete pad at the North Dock.