

FROM THE PAGES OF
HISTORY

Gene Renner and
Delden Mfg. Co.



Photos

- 1. Delden wood doors, ca. 1964.
- 2. Fiberglass doors, ca. 1969.
- 3. Full line, ca. 1980.
- 4. Lincoln Door Clamp in St. Louis, ca. 1970.
- 5. Gene Renner, ca. 1980.
- 6. New plant in Kansas City, 2000.
- 7. Gene enters retirement, 2003.

Sources

Gene Renner

Milestones

- 1955 ▶ Gene Renner works as a commissioned salesman for Dierks Lumber Company in Kansas City, Mo. Dierks begins selling Ro-Way garage doors by Rowe Mfg. Co. of Galesburg, Ill.
- 1956 ▶ Gene partners with his father, Elmer Renner, to sell garage doors as R&R Garage Door. Gene's wife, Freida Renner, keeps the books. With sales of only \$65,000 in his first year, Gene plans to get out of the business.
- 1957 ▶ A destructive tornado in Kansas City spurs many door sales, interrupting Gene's plans to drop the door business. He changes the company name to Renner Supply, selling builders' hardware and garage doors, installing Ro-Way and Wagner doors.
- 1964 ▶ Renner buys a Lincoln Door Clamp from Berry Door, Birmingham, Mich., and creates Delden Mfg. Co., with Dick Wright, Harry Link, and Elmer Renner as minority partners. Delden is named for Deelayne, Dennis, and Denise, his three children. With the clamp, Delden can make an 8x7 wood door for less than \$30.
- 1966 ▶ Gene and Dick Wright form Renner-Wright Corporation in St. Louis, making garage doors with a Lincoln Door Clamp.
- 1969 ▶ Delden begins producing fiberglass and aluminum garage doors.
- 1971 ▶ Renner-Wright becomes Delden, as Dick Wright sells his share to Renner.
- 1980 ▶ Delden buys a rollformer and begins producing its own commercial steel doors. Renner is elected president of the National Association of Garage Door Manufacturers (NAGDM).
- 1981 ▶ Delden opens Delden of Iowa (now owned by Dennis Renner, Gene's son).
- 1982 ▶ With Renner as president, Delden, Amarr (Winston-Salem, N.C.), and Ankmar (Denver, Colo.) form the Garage Door Group (GDG) to make residential raised-panel steel garage doors in Kansas City, Mo. GDG buys Roll-Easy Springs of Kansas City.
- 1986 ▶ Elmer Renner dies.
- 1989 ▶ GDG moves to Lawrence, Kan., to a plant built and owned by the Brenner family of Amarr.
- 1991 ▶ Renner partners with Rick Vinson to open Delden Mfg. of Illinois, near Joliet, Ill.
- 1992 ▶ Gene Renner purchases Harry Link's and Dick Wright's shares of Delden.
- 1994 ▶ Amarr and Delden buy Ankmar's share in GDG.
- 1997 ▶ Amarr buys Delden Mfg. of Illinois.
- 1998 ▶ Amarr purchases Delden's share in GDG.
- 2000 ▶ Delden builds a new plant in Kansas City with 84,000 square feet.
- 2003 ▶ Gene Renner retires. His daughter, Denise, becomes president of Delden.

Today, Delden has 150 employees and eight branches throughout the Midwest, with installation companies in St. Louis, Kansas City, and Springfield, Mo. Gene Renner credits his success to his earlier management team. Now retired, he's confident that Delden has a strong management team for the future.