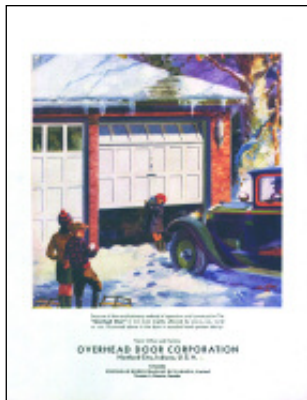


## FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY Overhead Door Corporation

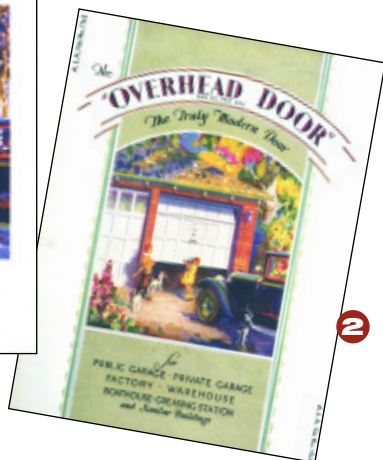
*Editor's Note: In 2006, Overhead Door marks its 85th year in the garage door business and its 80th year in the garage door opener industry. Here's a look back at its beginnings and key milestones.*



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**The Genuine. The Original.**



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### Photos

1. This Ford truck promoted the new Overhead Door in Boston, ca. 1928.
2. Early ads showed the advantages of easy lifting, instead of pulling a swing door outward over the snow.
3. Overhead Door's listing in 1938 Sweet's catalog listed 56 distributors nationwide.
4. This early two-page ad in The Saturday Evening Post helped build awareness of the Overhead Door.
5. The Overhead Door ribbon logo has been in use since the 1930s.

### Milestones

- 1921 ▶ C.G. Johnson of Detroit, Mich., invents the "Overhead Door," selling this new product to a prospering nation that was exchanging the horse and buggy for the automobile. Partnering with attorney Forest McKee of Hartford City, Ind., the company starts its first plant in Detroit, Mich. To market the product, Johnson mounts a small prototype of his door on the back of his Model T Ford and drives around the country signing up distributors.
- 1923 ▶ The company opens its plant in Hartford City, Ind., which soon becomes its headquarters.
- 1925 ▶ Overhead Door introduces the Miracle Wedge, the first graduated-track closure system that ensures a weather-tight seal.
- 1926 ▶ The company introduces the first electric garage door opener.
- 1931 ▶ The first graduated spiral drum is introduced by Overhead Door. The drum guarantees an evenly weighted counterbalance system for torsion-spring assemblies.
- 1935 ▶ C.G. Johnson dies; Forest McKee becomes company president.
- 1956 ▶ The firm establishes TODCO, an acronym for The Overhead Door Company, making sectional cargo-access doors for trucks and trailers.
- 1965 ▶ The company moves its headquarters from Hartford City, Ind., to Dallas, Texas.
- 1970 ▶ Overhead Door acquires Horton Automatics, a manufacturer and the developer of the first automatic sliding pedestrian doors in America. Horton is based in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 1972 ▶ Overhead Door designs the first Posi-Tension drum with an inner retainer ring that helps cables from back-lashing on the lifting drum.
- 1985 ▶ After purchasing several diverse companies in the early 1980s, Overhead Door changes its name to the Dallas Corporation to reflect the varieties of these companies.
  - ▶ Overhead acquires the Insoport factory in Williamsport, Pa., a Swedish-owned manufacturer of foamed-in-place steel sectional garage doors.
- 1987 ▶ The firm acquires the W.B. McGuire company, a maker of loading dock levelers, seals, shelters, and traffic doors. McGuire is based in Hudson, N.Y.
- 1990 ▶ The firm becomes privately owned when it is purchased by Bessemer Holdings L.P., a New York investment firm that includes several members of Overhead Door's management.
  - ▶ The company changes its name back to Overhead Door Corporation to reflect its return to an emphasis on doors and to take advantage of its widely recognized name.
- 1991 ▶ Overhead Door introduces the first CFC-free polyurethane insulation for foamed-in-place doors. The technological breakthrough makes the manufacturing process environmentally safe.
- 1994 ▶ Overhead acquires the Genie Company, a residential garage door opener manufacturer in Alliance, Ohio.
- 1996 ▶ The firm is acquired by Sanwa Shutter Corporation, a leading Japanese manufacturer of steel building materials for commercial, residential, and industrial construction.
- 2002 ▶ Overhead Door opens a new 220,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing plant in West Dallas, Texas, the hub for manufacturing and shipping of the Banner Collection, a line of pinch-resistant garage doors.
- 2003 ▶ The Novoferm Group, the second-largest manufacturer of garage doors and operators in Europe, is purchased by Sanwa Shutter, the parent company of Overhead Door.
  - ▶ Overhead Door introduces the Ranch House Collection to offer a line of custom wood carriage-house garage doors.
  - ▶ The Renaissance Collection of steel carriage-house garage doors is introduced.
- 2006 ▶ The firm relocates its headquarters from Farmers Branch, Texas, to Lewisville, Texas, expanding available space by 50 percent.
- Today ▶ With 20 manufacturing plants and facilities throughout North America, Overhead Door sells its products worldwide through more than 400 Overhead Door distributors.