

Barcol Overdoor Company

September, 1945 137



Install Barcol OVERdoors with Electric Door Operators

BARCOL

NOW is a good time to think about next winter. If you will install BARCOL OVERdoors with Electric Operators, you can reduce time now wasted in opening, holding, and closing heavy doors, you can reduce heating expense by keeping un-

necessary door-open time to a minimum, and you can help to maintain your employees' health by cutting down on needless drafts and blown-in dirt. Get details from your Barcol Representative now on Barcol OVERdoors & Operators.

FACTORY-TRAINED SALES and SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES in PRINCIPAL CITIES

BARBER-COLMAN COMPANY
124 MILL STREET • ROCKFORD • ILLINOIS

Writer: "As Advertised in MOTOR SERVICE Magazine"

A 1945 Barcol ad from Motor Service magazine, courtesy of Mike Lewis of Denver.



The Barcol plant in Sheffield, Illinois, circa 1975.

Milestones

- Established in 1924 as the Overdoor Division of Barber-Colman Company of Rockford, Illinois, based on the engineering of Howard Colman with funding from the Barber family.
- In 1963, moved all door and operator operations to their plant in Sheffield, Illinois.
- In 1967, Barcol was sold to R.C. Mahon Company of Detroit.
- In 1984, Barcol was sold to Plycraft of Conneaut, Ohio.
- Closed around 1989-90.

Products

Commercial and residential garage doors and operators, but primarily commercial.

Claim to Fame

In 1924, they introduced an automatic residential garage door opener.

In 1929, Barcol developed Cam-Action hardware that seals the door "18 times tighter than conventional wedge-type doors."

Heyday

In 1964, they employed 150, annual sales exceeded \$4 million, and they exported to several countries in Europe and South America. Their U.S. market was primarily in the Midwest and the East.

Decline

Around 1976, they were late entering the growing steel door market. With Cam-Action hardware, their door and operator products tended to be well built, but higher priced. In the recession of 1983, their commercial business dropped 25-30%.

Sources

Thanks to Ron Himes of Princeton, Ill., former Barcol president; and to Brent Anderson, Jim Ralston, and Roger Radant of Barcol Doors of Loves Park, Ill.