

Feature

FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY Arrow Tru-Line



Photos

1. Archbold plant, 2005.
2. Dallas, 2006.
3. Las Vegas, 2007.
4. Dave Shaffer, 2005.
5. Harry the Hingeman, 2005.

Source: Arrow Tru-Line files

Milestones

- 1970 ▶ Arrow Tru-Line is founded by Al Marko of Archbold, Ohio, starting in a rented 13,000-sq.-ft. building in Archbold. His primary intention is to supply the housing market with roll-formed "C" section floor joists. His secondary products are roll-formed garage door tracks and struts, but these products soon become the company's primary focus.
- 1976 ▶ The company moves to an existing 32,000-sq.-ft. building in Archbold (its present corporate headquarters location).
- 1978 ▶ The business grows, requiring a 14,000-sq.-ft. addition to the Archbold manufacturing facility.
- 1981 ▶ Another 15,000-sq.-ft. addition brings total manufacturing space to 61,000 sq. ft. in Archbold.
- 1986 ▶ Dave Shaffer rises through the ranks to become president of ATL, replacing Al Marko.
- 1993 ▶ The firm acquires Collier Industries USA of Colliers, W.Va., a manufacturer of garage door hardware since 1955.
 - ▶ Responding to further growth, ATL purchases a 55,000-sq.-ft. building in nearby Bryan, Ohio.
 - ▶ ATL opens its first West Coast distribution and manufacturing facility, a 30,000-sq.-ft. building in Tempe, Ariz.
- 1994 ▶ Another expansion brings total manufacturing space in Archbold to 78,000 sq. ft.
- 1995 ▶ ATL celebrates 25 years.
 - ▶ ATL acquires APCO Power Unit of Toledo, Ohio, a maker of cable drums and spring fittings. The acquisition includes the In Balance computer program for selecting the right torsion spring for every door.
- 1996 ▶ ATL expands their product offering to include customized hardware cartons and track assemblies.
- 1997 ▶ More growth requires the addition of another 22,000 sq. ft. to the Archbold plant, now totaling more than 100,000 sq. ft.
- 2000 ▶ Business growth forces the addition of two facilities just outside Archbold, in nearby Bryan (70,000 sq. ft.) and Stryker, Ohio (91,000 sq. ft.). The new space enlarges all primary manufacturing work centers and adds five new dock facilities.
- 2001 ▶ ATL moves its West Coast manufacturing/distribution facility in Tempe to a larger 50,000-sq.-ft. building in Las Vegas.
- 2002 ▶ Arrow Tru-Line announces its Lockhole knockout and Lockhole plastic cover, two new safety features for their 2" vertical track.
- 2003 ▶ The company announces its exclusive Tru-Trak system, a patented safety design, placing rolled edges on its track.
- 2004 ▶ The ATL market begins to expand overseas.
 - ▶ The firm acquires OMI Industries of Lewis Center, Ohio, a maker of spring fittings, cable drums, lock parts, rollers, and other miscellaneous components for sectional garage doors and openers.
- 2005 ▶ Arrow Tru-Line introduces TrakShield, a track-mounting system that eliminates the need for an add-on safety shield.
- 2006 ▶ The company opens a 48,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing and distribution facility in Dallas, Texas. The building expands to 83,000 sq. ft. in 2007.
 - ▶ ATL acquires Collier Industries of Brantford, Ontario, Canada, a manufacturer of garage door hardware and springs. The acquisition expands ATL's distribution in Canada.
- 2007 ▶ Further growth in the West necessitates the relocation of ATL's Las Vegas plant to a building that more than doubles its capacity. The new 118,000-sq.-ft. facility is also in Las Vegas.