

FROM THE PAGES OF  
**HISTORY**

# The Chamberlain Group, Inc.



## Photos

1. The Chamberlain Machine Works plant in Waterloo, Iowa, 1928.
2. This Chamberlain logo was used in the 1950s and 1960s, until 1966.
3. A GDO remote control from Wagner, 1969.
4. Electro Lift Model 6440, 1973-1979.
5. Chamberlain headquarters in Elmhurst, Ill., 2002.
6. The Chamberlain plant in Nogales, Mexico, 2002.
7. The new LiftMaster Estate Series 3/4 HP Model 2575 garage door opener, 2002.

## Sources

Chamberlain archives and Colin Willmott, director of engineering, international liaison.

## Milestones

- 1900** ▶ Andrew M. Chamberlain and son, Floyd, establish the Peerless Cream Separator Co. in Waterloo, Iowa.
- 1906** ▶ Andrew starts Waterloo Rope Belt Co., later renamed Chamberlain Machine Works. With 50 workers, the firm's rope belts are used on large power cream separators.
- 1955** ▶ The Perma Power Corp. of Chicago is formed by Richard Goldstein and Norman Ackerman, producing battery eliminators. (See 1968.)
- 1956** ▶ Perma Power produces its first garage door opener (GDO) radio controls, providing them for H.W. Crane, a GDO manufacturer in Chicago.
- 1958** ▶ Perma Power produces its first GDO.
- 1960** ▶ Perma Power begins selling GDOs to Sears under the Homart name and introduces the industry's first transistorized radio controls for GDOs.
- 1964** ▶ Chamberlain purchases Wagner Mfg. Co., a maker of wood and fiberglass garage doors in Waterloo, Iowa.
- 1967** ▶ Corporate offices are moved to Elmhurst, Ill. The LiftMaster brand of garage door openers and accessories is introduced.
- 1968** ▶ Chamberlain acquires Perma Power of Chicago.
- 1972** ▶ Chamberlain sells the Wagner door division to Clopay.
- 1974** ▶ Doors open at the new Chamberlain GDO manufacturing facility in Nogales, Ariz., and Nogales, Mexico. The division is called Perma Mex S.A. de C.V.
- 1975** ▶ Introduces the world's first digital radio controls, with 512 codes set by DIP (Dual Inline Package) switches.
- 1979** ▶ Chamberlain introduces the industry's first 1/2-HP GDO and the first infrared sensors for residential GDOs.
- 1983** ▶ Duchossois family becomes the sole owner of the company.
- 1989** ▶ Chamberlain Group, Inc. (CGI) introduces the industry's first wireless keyless entry system. Chamberlain enters the commercial door operator market.
- 1994** ▶ CGI acquires Wecla Gasselschaft in Germany and Wecla France, a maker of gates and GDOs. Chamberlain GmbH, its European operation, is born.
- 1995** ▶ CGI buys Link Door Controls of Ronkonkoma, N.Y., a maker of commercial operators.
- 1997** ▶ CGI purchases Sentex, a maker of telephone entry systems in Chatsworth, Calif.
- 1998** ▶ CGI acquires The Clicker Corp., a maker of universal transmitters in Carlsbad, Calif., and Moore-O-Matic, a garage door opener and gate operator manufacturer in Waupaca, Wis.
- 2000** ▶ CGI buys ABL Enterprises of Newburgh, N.Y., a maker of commercial door operators and specialty products.
- 2001** ▶ CGI acquires Solid State Security of Hazleton, Pa., a maker of fire door release devices and control panels.
- 2002** ▶ CGI buys the assets of Atlas commercial door operators from Clopay Building Products Company. David Rolls is appointed CEO/President.