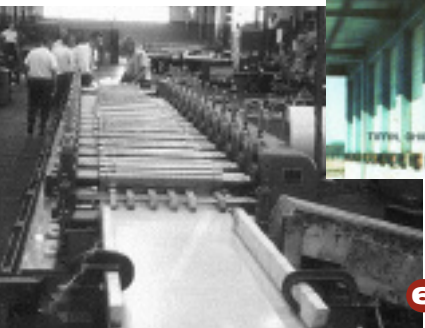


## FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

# Quincy Manufacturing and the Zollers

*Editor's Note: Tom Zoller, a pioneer of the rollformed steel garage door, died in June 2005. This historical sketch outlines key milestones of the Zollers and their firm, Quincy Mfg.*



### Photos

1. Quincy Mfg. in Quincy, Ill., ca. 1925.
2. Quincy Building in Tiffin, ca. 1959.
3. Albert Zoller, ca. 1965.
4. Quincy and Tiffin logo, 1950s.
5. Quincy brochure, 1960s.
6. The Quincy Rollformer, ca. 1965.
7. Tom Zoller, 1959.
8. John Zoller, 1966.

## Milestones

- 1900 ▶ Quincy Mfg. Co. is founded in Quincy, Ill. The firm makes gates for elevators.
- 1915 ▶ Albert Zoller, 28, purchases Quincy Mfg. from his uncle. The firm soon makes electric operators for elevator gates and doors.
- 1928 ▶ Zoller moves the firm to Tiffin, Ohio, to be closer to the company's key markets in Detroit, Chicago, and Pittsburgh.
- 1930s ▶ Albert Zoller starts making Tiffin Operators in the late 1930s. Some operators are hydraulic, for large sliding hangar doors. Some are electric, for residential and commercial garage doors.
- 1938 ▶ Albert Zoller's son, Thomas, gets involved in the garage door business, working for Rowe Mfg. of Galesburg, Ill., as a regional sales manager based in Tiffin, Ohio.
- 1942 ▶ Rowe Mfg. suspends door manufacturing during the war. Tom Zoller leaves Rowe and joins Quincy Mfg., helping run the business with his father.
- 1945 ▶ After the war, Quincy reinvents itself as a wood garage door manufacturer, collaborating with Clarence Veigel of Toledo.
- 1947 ▶ Quincy supplies Tiffin Operators to several door companies, including Raynor Mfg. Co., a new company in Dixon, Ill.
- 1950 ▶ Tom Zoller develops a formula for computing the proper torsion spring for any garage door. Clarence Veigel later publishes a spring book based on Zoller's calculations.
- 1958 ▶ After collaborating with Bert Shemin of North American (Rolling) Door, Lindenhurst, N.Y., and Al Marko of Collier Steel, Colliers, W.Va., Tom Zoller and Quincy Mfg. begin manufacturing rollformed steel garage doors. Quincy soon becomes the first to produce prepainted commercial steel garage doors, eventually supplying sections to Barcol, North American, Raynor, Rowe, and others.
- 1966 ▶ John Zoller, son of Tom Zoller, begins work at Quincy Mfg., managing sales. Tiffin Operators are soon phased out, as commercial steel garage door operations continue to grow.
- 1969 ▶ Albert, Tom, and John Zoller sell Quincy Mfg. to Rowe Mfg. of Galesburg, Ill. At its peak, Quincy has 28 employees and about 300 dealers, mostly in the East. Tom Zoller soon concludes 32 years in the garage door business and enters law school in 1971 at age 56.
- 1972 ▶ John Zoller leaves Quincy/Rowe and begins Dalton International in Dalton, Ohio, on Jan. 1, 1973, making commercial steel garage doors with Willis Mullet of Wayne Door of Mt. Hope, Ohio. In 1982, Wayne Door and Dalton merge to form Wayne-Dalton. Zoller leaves the company in 1990.
- 1973 ▶ Rowe moves all Quincy production equipment and inventories to Galesburg and continues to make steel doors under the Quincy brand name. Later that same year, Rowe sells out to Frantz Mfg. of Sterling, Ill.
- 1986 ▶ Albert Zoller, 98, dies in Tiffin, Ohio.
- 1990 ▶ John Zoller is awarded the Door and Operator Dealers Association's (DODA) Distinguished Service Award. In 1997, he is elected to a 2-year term as president of the International Door Association (IDA). Today, he has part ownership in five garage door dealerships in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Delaware.
- 1992 ▶ Tom Zoller is awarded the DODA Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the garage door industry.
- 2005 ▶ Tom Zoller, 89, dies June 20 in Wooster, Ohio.

Source: John Zoller and Quincy Mfg. historical files.