

Steel Door Pioneer Remembered

On May 15, Aldo Romanelli died at the age of 85. He has long been recognized as the engineer who co-developed the industry's first steel raised-panel garage door and the first Stanley raised-panel entry door.

Romanelli came to the U.S. from Italy in 1928 and hung his first door in 1936 in Detroit, Mich. In 1958, he started working at Berry Door, which was bought by Stanley around 1964. He was an engineer for Berry Door and then served as a project manager at Stanley until his retirement in 1992.

Romanelli helped develop an operator and the first steel entry door for Stanley. Around 1974, Stanley engineers Aldo Romanelli and Jim Sealy began working on a prototype for a steel raised-panel garage door. In 1978, Stanley introduced the industry's first steel raised-panel (SRP) garage door. According to best recollections, the door was 1-3/8" thick and named the Sta-Lite 500.

Within the next five years, every garage door manufacturer in America rushed to make its own SRP door. Today, that type of door can be found in virtually every town in America and throughout the world.

Romanelli died in Pompano Beach, Fla., the home of Allied Doors, which was founded by the Romanelli and Santa Lucia families in 1966. The business is still family-run and has three locations with more than 50 employees.

We extend our sympathy to Aldo's wife, Evelyn, and to the families of his four sons, Allen, Dennis, Steven, and Michael. ■



Romanelli

Inventor of GDO Remote Dies

Richard Goldstein of Wilmette, Ill., one of the founders of Perma Power, died on May 17 at the age of 90. He was known for helping develop the first remote control for garage door openers in the 1950s.

Working with Norman Ackerman, Goldstein started the Perma Power Corp. of Chicago around 1955. In 1956, Perma Power produced its first garage door opener radio controls for H.W. Crane, a GDO manufacturer in Chicago.

Seeing the potential, Goldstein and Ackerman then produced Perma Power's first GDO of its own in 1958. Two years later, the company introduced the industry's first transistorized radio controls for GDOs and began selling its openers to Sears under the Homart name. Goldstein and Ackerman sold Perma Power to Chamberlain in 1968. ■

Iowa Spring Hires National Sales Manager



Hybels

In April, Iowa Spring announced the hiring of Cameron Hybels as national sales manager to oversee the sales teams at Iowa Spring and Southern Atlantic Spring.

Hybels previously served as an inside sales representative for Iowa Spring

and then served as a territory manager for a steel service center before returning to Iowa Spring. ■

Hörmann Flexon Adds Canadian Sales Manager

In April, Hörmann Flexon announced the addition of David Pike as Canadian sales manager. Pike has 16 years of experience in the high-speed and high-performance door industries. ■

Raynor Appoints Customer Service Manager

In March, Raynor announced the promotion of Mike Michels to customer service manager, responsible for directing all Raynor domestic and international customer service personnel.

Michels began at Raynor in 1998 as a customer service representative and was promoted twice before his current promotion. ■



Michels