## FROM THE PAGES OF **HISTOR**

## Raynor Mfg. Co.

## **Photos**

- 1. Ray Neisewander Sr. (1906-1979)
- 2. Ray Neisewander Jr. (1932 - )
- 3. Ray Neisewander III (1961 - )
- 4. This 28,000-sq.-ft. plant is the first Raynor building in Dixon, III.
- **5.** Raynor in 2002 in Dixon. The original building is in the upper left.

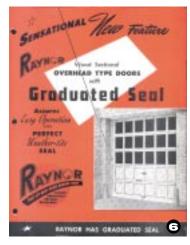








- 6. This 1949 Raynor brochure features its "Up and Over" logo. A ball bearing is used for the "O" in Raynor to emphasize that the door "Floats Smoothly on Ball Bearings."
- 7. This handle and nameplate became the Raynor "Mark of Quality" in 1955. It remained the basic element in the corporate logo for more than 25 years.
- 8. The 2002 Raynor logo still retains the nameplate trademark from 1955.







## Milestones

- Ray Neisewander Sr., 23, begins Capitol Wood Works, a woodworking mill in Springfield, III.
- 1940 By 1940, Capitol Wood Works starts making wood garage door sections, selling to Rowe Mfg. Co. of Galesburg, Ill.
- On Oct. 17, 1944, Neisewander teams up with 1944 Bill Norberg, former plant superintendent at Rowe, to form Raynor (Ray + Nor) Mfg. Co. in Quincy, III., to make garage doors.
- 1946 The plant moves to Dixon, III., closer to Chicago, starting with 37 employees and a 28,000-square-foot plant.
- 1948 Norberg sells out to Neisewander, who establishes a management team in Dixon to run daily operations.
- 1954 By 1954, Raynor employs 150 and sells doors to distributors in 35 states.
- 1961 Ray Neisewander Jr., 29, joins the company in Dixon after five years as a Raynor distributor in Bettendorf, Iowa.
- 1968 Ray Jr. purchases the first Raynor truck, beginning the Raynor fleet.
  - Ray Sr. promotes Ray Jr., 36, to executive vice president.
- 1970 Raynor distributors are now found in 48 states.
- 1978 The company makes its first commercial
- 1979 Ray Neisewander Sr. dies at age 73. Ray Jr. becomes president.
- 1980 The company introduces the Decade door, the industry's first successfully marketed raisedpanel steel door.
- 1982 Raynor produces its first residential garage door opener.
- 1985 After the 1984 buyout of the Walter Balfour Company, Raynor introduces rolling steel doors.
- 1986 Raynor sponsors a car in the Indy Car racing circuit. Ray Neisewander III, 27, becomes team manager in 1988.
- 1988 The firm announces the industry's first "For As Long As You Own Your Home" warranty.
- 1990 Raynor teams with entertainer Bill Cosby to form the Raynor-Cosby Racing Team.
- 1997 Ray Neisewander III, 36, is named executive vice president.
- 1998 The Raynor finger-protected Prisma steel door is introduced, the industry's first steel door with mixed panels (long and short) in the same section.
- 1999 Raynor purchases Richards-Wilcox Canada.
  - With 900 employees, Raynor now has 900,000 square feet of manufacturing space, exporting product to 55 countries.

2002