

# Letters to the Editor

Tom:  
I enjoyed your feature piece, "The First Comprehensive History of the American Garage Door Industry." It was very good reading, and I learned a few things.

I can offer a correction. You noted that Holmes Door was founded in Auburn, Wash., in 1950. The year is right, but the company name was then Stanley Garage Door Company, and it was started in Seattle, Wash., by Ray and Arlene Williams. Stanley originally made one-piece wood garage doors and purchased the hardware sets from Stanley Hardware. Later, the company moved to Kent, Wash., and it started producing sectional wood garage doors in the 1960s. It wasn't until the 1990s when a new plant was built in Auburn, Wash., by Holmes-Hally Industries.

I worked for the company from 1976 to 1998. I hope these are helpful details to add to your history.

John Southard  
Northwest Door  
Puyallup, Wash.

*Editor's note: Many thanks to John Southard for clarifying these details. To confirm related details, we talked with Mark Mennella, former president of Stanley Garage Door, who said that Stanley Garage Door was purchased in 1978 by Vince Mennella and David Hinson. Bill Mohler, former vice president with Holmes-Hally, told us that Holmes-Hally bought Stanley in 1985 and changed the company name to Holmes Garage Door in 1990.*

Tom:  
I very much enjoyed your article on the evolution of America's sectional door manufacturers. Seeing our industry in these eras is somewhat like a sip from the fountain of youth.

You mentioned J.G. Wilson, a company that we represented for many decades. Since they were listed with an asterisk, I thought I'd share the attached J.G. Wilson sales brochure. The text says they introduced the J.G. Wilson Sectionfold doors in 1928, which predates my involvement by half a century.

I hope to see a similar article on coiling door manufacturers, though that will require a much deeper venture into the past!

Duncan Congdon, V.P.  
Door Engineering Corporation  
Norfolk, Va.

Tom:  
Great work on "The First Comprehensive History of the American Garage Door Industry"! After I finished reading it, Dennis Schlabach and I discussed how nice it was to have all this information compiled into one piece. As an industry, it's important to know your roots. Thanks for taking the time to put it in print!

Jodi McCracken  
Denco Marketing  
Millersburg, Ohio

Tom and Magazine Team:  
What an awesome job you have done on the timeline history of the industry! Starting in 1974 at Frantz, I lived through a lot of the good, bad, and sometimes ugly times. I'm now retired and living south of Tampa. Congratulations on a great recap of the industry.

Shaun Webb  
Retired  
Wimauma, Fla.

Tom:  
Incredible work on the history of the industry! I've been wanting to see garage doors accurately represented on Wikipedia for some time, but we needed an authoritative source for the information. I think you just created it.

John E. Scates, P.E.  
Scates, Inc.  
Carrollton, Texas

Tom:  
I have a correction to the garage door history article that appeared in your fall issue. In the timeline under 2008, you noted the sale of Ankmar's assets and added, "The Ankmar brand ends."

However, the Ankmar brand lives on! DH Pace purchased the Ankmar brand and its Colorado assets in February of 2008. We continue to manufacture the Park Hill custom wood door collection and the Mile High custom steel carriage house door collections, and we still sell Ankmar-branded steel garage doors under a private-label agreement. We discontinued production of the Clad Panel line in 2012, and we are providing replacement sections while supplies last.

Please update your records with this correction.

Steve Pascuzzi, President  
DH Pace Overhead Door Group  
Kansas City, Mo.

Tom:  
I just finished reading your article on the history of the American garage door industry. A great read!  
I offer my compliments and thanks for all the work you put in to prepare this.

Marco Fritz  
Category Manager Operators & Drives  
Assa Abloy Entrance Systems  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

To the Editor:  
I read with interest your history of the door industry. It brought back many memories from my childhood and young adult life when my father was in that business.

Your history overlooks some of the small local companies in the Northeast that made great contributions to the supply of doors in our area. One in particular was the Huck Gearhardt Company of Philadelphia; it made wood sectional doors until it closed in 1961. [Others] would be Howel Mfg. in Paoli, Pa.; Irv Snyder Door of Philadelphia; New England Door Corp. of Massachusetts; Eastern Garage Door of Lawrence, Mass.; and Ridge Nassau Corp of New Jersey. Last but not least was our company, Elm City Door of West Haven, Conn.

Although none of these were giant companies, if you were in the door business between the 1950s to 2000, you might remember the names. Thanks for the interesting reading.

Anthony Cucinelli  
West Haven, Conn.

*Editor's Note: We're pleased that our history generated helpful additions and corrections. Keep them coming! Send your information to the editor at [trw@tomwadsworth.com](mailto:trw@tomwadsworth.com).*

