

125TH ANNIVERSARY FOR COLSON CASTER

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By: Samantha Donisi

2010 marks the 125th anniversary for Colson Caster, and in addition to celebrating the companies' longevity, they are celebrating a legacy of quality, expertise and a workforce willing and able to meet and exceed customer expectations.

Colson is the world leader in standard and custom application caster and wheel products. The company designs and produces the industry's largest selection of heavy duty casters and wheel products, caster options and accessories.

Don Laux, president and general manager of Colson Caster, said the company is most proud of their legacy of quality and expertise.

"At Colson, we are gratefully aware of our industry longevity and history. We strive to protect and strengthen this legacy in everything we do. It is what makes us different and, we are convinced, it is what makes us better."



Colson was founded in 1885 in Elyria, OH. The company was known as Fay Manufacturing then, and the first original products produced were the Fay Sulky Scraper and the Fairy Tricycle.

The company has undergone many significant changes since that time. It didn't always produce casters! Between 1902-1907, founding partner George Worthington obtained a patent on a rubber-cored golf ball and production was focused on the manufacturing of golf balls and clubs.

After several transformations, (which can be read about in detail on the company website) Fay Manufacturing became The Colson Company in 1917.

After pulling through economic troubles during the Great Depression, Colson was awarded a contract by the U. S. Navy to produce the 2.75 "Mighty Mouse" missiles in 1950. These missiles played an important role during the Korean War.



Today, the company has a 150,000-square-foot facility in Jonesboro, AR to manufacture caster products, and executive offices headquartered in Chicago, IL. Laux gives full credit to the employees and customers for the company's continued success.

"The reason the Colson Company has survived is by listening to customers' requests and assuring that the design and quality of our products meets

their expectations. We also take pride in our workforce and always try to treat employees with respect and consideration. They have returned the favor and supported tough decisions and changes we have made in tight economies and slow market periods," Laux said.

Colson has a fully degreed engineering staff with over 75 years of accumulated caster experience, and their in-house testing facility is matched by no other caster company in the world.



"Our catalog is stocked full of products designed, engineered, and tested right here in our Jonesboro, AR facility," Laux said. "Our customers' necessities drive our innovation and we listen and respond. We definitely take pride in that."

He added that they also take great pride in the engineering and precision performance of their products, but more than that, Laux said he feels that the one thing that has always set the company apart from others is the care they place on the value of the corporate infrastructure, meaning the company's legacy of expertise and their people.

"In addition to our staff, our learned listening skills, and our product development, I would add our commitment to quality," he said. "We are ISO certified, and are proud of our Siemens approval rating. We are also realistic with our manufacturing capabilities. We will never abandon our headquarters and U.S. plants, but we are competitive in some markets by developing off-shore options and expertise as well."



For more on Colson Caster, visit their website. Check out their unique 3D model building capability for the 1-8 Series Standard products. Users are able to build a caster to specification and request a quote for the part number in a matter of minutes.

This new technology is just one of the ways that Colson Caster is changing and growing with the times, a technique that has sustained them for the past 125 years.

"Colson has been known to be the preferred source for casters/wheels for years and is noted and respected for our innovation, design, quality, and manufacturing skills. We hope the next 125 years will be more of the same," Laux said.

Find the company online at www.colsoncaster.com, or reach them by phone at 800/643-5515.
