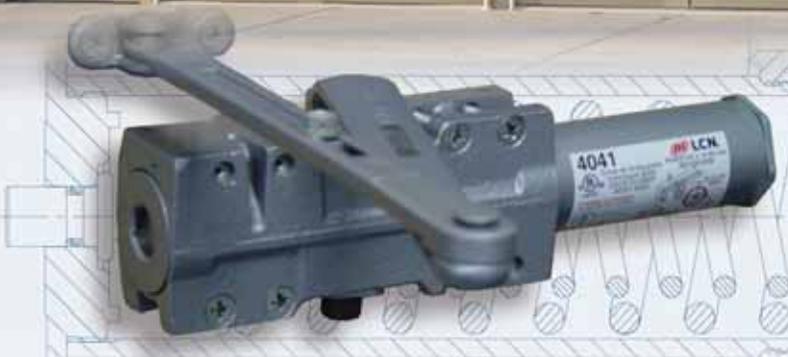


Streat **TALK**

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LCN Closures - *Something you see almost every day, but never really notice.*



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LCN Closers – The Cadillac Of The Industry!

You see them almost every day, but if you're like most people, you probably pay little attention to them. Maybe you remember as a school kid, sitting in the classroom, daydreaming looking around at everything – windows, blackboards, bulletin boards – and seeing that big bellied device hanging at the top of the door: Hey, many of them are probably still in use today.



Referred to as door closers by the industry, Chuck Barth, Institutional Product Manager at LCN describes them a bit differently. “We view them more as door control devices. They keep the door under control through the entire opening and closing cycle.

LCN began back in the 1870's when **Lewis C. Norton** was sent to Boston to help build Boston

Trinity Church. Located in the Back Bay region of Boston, the church experienced a situation where strong ocean winds caused the church doors to bang shut, so Lewis took it upon himself to solve the problem. After many months of experimenting, he finally used the principles of the lever together with a beer pump he had purchased to build a closing device. The first three units were mounted on the church doors in 1877 and are still in use today. Lewis gave his initials to the invention and formed a company to manufacture these devices. With a move to Chicago in 1926, the entire operation grew in size, then relocated to Princeton, Illinois in 1950, where today, LCN employs nearly 450 people.

QUALITY - LCN has built its reputation on quality products that last, and today, LCN closers are used in schools, hospitals, stores, churches, office buildings, and factories nationwide.

“With all the contract work we do for the three local hospitals in the Peoria, Illinois area – OSF St. Francis, Methodist, and Proctor – the only door closers we'll spec out in our bids are LCN. They're the Cadillac of the industry.” A local architect feels so strongly about using quality products in his Central Illinois business that he won't specify any other brand.

LCN's strength in the marketplace is that they continue to use cast iron as a base material. Most other manufacturers use aluminum. The major difference is that an aluminum body closer is typically designed to last 3-5 years, where a cast iron closer, if it's installed and adjusted properly, will last 20 to 30 years or more. Schools, hospitals, and major corporations can't afford to have their maintenance staffs constantly working on the doors, especially where security is an issue.



Door Closer 101

by Chuck Barth.

“Inside the closer is a hydraulically controlled spring, and hydraulics control the energy of that spring to make the door close cleanly and quietly.

“We use a lever arm system, so opening the door transfers motion to an internal piston that compresses a strong set of springs. When the door is released, the springs want to slam the door violently shut, but the body is full of hydraulic fluid, and this fluid is controlled by regulating valves. Adjusting these valves restricts the flow of hydraulic fluid to provide a wide variety of closing speeds, so the door stays under control through the entire closing cycle.”

LCN is just one part of the Security Technologies Division of Ingersoll Rand. This division includes other well-known companies like Schlage Lock Company, Von Duprin Exit Devices, also known as crash bars, along with Steelcraft doors and frames.

As Chuck explains, “We market our products to the construction industry: hospitals, schools, multi-family housing units. We have high-end institutional grade products that literally have to last for decades. And that’s our strength.

“When you get into schools and hospitals, the Life Safety Code® has become the big issue. In these types of buildings, there are specific doors that have to close and latch in the event of an emergency or a fire. That’s where the use of exit devices or crash bars are required, to allow a large panicking group of people to exit a room without everyone stacking up in front of the doors. So a contract hardware distributor, who is pretty much our main customer base, will use our products and then bid those doors, frames, and hardware components to the general contractor. So the next time you’ll in a school or hospital, look around, and you’ll see that there are a lot of doors, and they tend to have a lot of hardware on them.



All the machining and assembly of LCN closers is done at the Princeton facility. And, as Chuck pointed out during our tour, “We’re about 90% done with plant renovation. The whole

intent was to elevate design flow - the product comes in one door and gets machined, assembled, powder coated, packed, and shipped, all in a nice sweet flow. We’re not wasting time or effort moving parts or pieces around to different areas.”

LCN’s foundry is located in Michigan, so castings are shipped to Princeton in corrugated steel containers that are designed to fit in the staging stations on assembly lines. Based on Dependable’s standard corrugated steel design, these 44” x 38” stackable contain-



ers are formed from heavy 12 gauge steel, weigh approximately 260 lbs., and are built to handle a four thousand pound payload. Streater Dependable has provided LCN with these containers for the past 30 years.

Training – “We conduct product training courses here at our corporate office. In addition, we provide regional training all across the United States. Training separates us from our competition. They’re not out there reinforcing their products and training the people how to use their products. If you have a door that is just slamming shut, the lock set and the latch bolt on that door is going to take a lot of abuse. And most people don’t realize it, but in those schools and hospitals, in those environments, a high usage door can be cycled anywhere from 300,000 up to a million cycles a year. So if you think of it, hospitals don’t open in the morning, they don’t close at night, they don’t shut down for holidays. Doors in a hospital literally get cycled 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And those products, given that environment, literally have to last for decades.

“We don’t charge for our training. We feel it generates more business. LCN is the market share leader in institutional environments, and we actually have about 20 - 25% share of the commercial markets.”

As summed up in their vision statement – *LCN’s people, practices, and policies strive to create an environment that encourages pride within everyone associated with our company. Pride will be cultivated and sustained through LCN’s “Focus on Excellence,” a total quality culture dedicated to satisfying customer requirements for LCN products and services.*

Find out more about LCN at www.lcnclosers.com.

The Big Game is Coming!

Tailgating

Tailgating dates back to the very first college football game between Rutgers and Princeton in 1869, when fans traveled to the game by carriage, grilling sausages at the "tail end" of the horse. Today tailgating is a part of most athletic events, especially college football.



But there's a second version of the story. According to sources at Yale, it all began at Yale in 1904. While many schools have claimed the honor, the Yale story has been verified by, you guessed it ... Yale. Seems there was a train made up of private railcars that brought fans to a Yale game. The train stopped at the station and the fans had to walk the distance to the stadium. When they arrived at the stadium, they were hungry and thirsty. So the idea was born to bring along a picnic hamper of food for the next game. And so tailgating was born. Necessity is the mother of invention, right? Well, so they say.

How It All Began

You may know that American football has its roots in both soccer and rugby. What you may not know is how the sport evolved from a series of games played by local athletic clubs, to a nation-wide league boasting 32 teams.

There are a few different ideas about when the first football game was played. There are records of a football-like game called "ballown" being played by students at Princeton in the 1820s. Then there is a game played in 1829 between the freshman and sophomore classes

at Harvard that claims it was the first. The game became an annual event that was called "Bloody Monday" because of the roughness of the game. The tradition continued at Harvard until the faculty put an end to the mayhem in 1860. Following the end of the Civil War, colleges began organizing football games. In 1867, Princeton was the first to establish some rudimentary rules for the game.

Despite all of this, most historians agree that the first recorded organized football game took place on November 6, 1869. Teams from Rutgers and Princeton universities met in New Brunswick, New Jersey to play a game using modified London Football Association rules, similar to soccer, but players were allowed to bat at the ball with an open hand or fist. In many ways, the game resembled rugby, which had already gained popularity over soccer in the major eastern schools. Over the next seven years, modern football began to look more and more like rugby.

The first attempts at writing down the rules of American football weren't made until 1876 at a meeting that has been called the Massasoit convention. A man named Walter Camp, known as the father of American football, first began the task of writing the rules for the new sport. Camp attended Yale from 1876 to 1882, where he studied medicine and business. He helped combine the rules of rugby and soccer into the rules of American football as we know them today. In fact, Camp edited every football rulebook until his death in 1925.

Teams began popping up in towns across the eastern part of the country. Those that were not associated with a college found their roots in various athletic clubs. There was no real structure or league to speak of, and only some of the players were paid. The first player to receive money for playing football was William (Pudge) Heffelfinger, who was paid \$500 in a November 12, 1892 match-up between the Allegheny Athletic Association and the Pittsburgh Athletic Club.

Then, in an attempt to bring order to what was quickly becoming a chaotic situation, the American Professional Football Association was founded in Canton, Ohio in 1920. After only two years it was renamed the National Football League, a name it still holds today. By 1924,

the league had 18 franchises. Though the number of teams in the league fluctuated over the next years, the foundations of professional football as we know it today were being set.

Oddly enough, the first Super Bowl wasn't played until 1967, over forty years after the formation of the NFL.

Armchair Quarterback

Several division championship games were played through the years, but until the Super Bowl, not one left the winner with the distinction of being the best football team in America.



Fantasy Football

It all started with a man named Wilfred Winkenbach, but it didn't start with football. Winkenbach developed a fantasy golf game in the mid-1950s, and later a fantasy baseball game before giving fantasy football a try. In 1962, he pitched his idea to two friends, and the three quickly formed an eight-team league and point system: 10 points for an extra point, 25 points for a touchdown or a field goal, and 200 points for a punt, kickoff, or interception returned for a touchdown. Keeping track of all these points, however, proved incredibly difficult and few participants were able to commit themselves to such a strenuous hobby.

Then along came the Internet. Now anyone can live vicariously through their favorite football players. It is estimated that employers could lose between \$230 million and \$435 million per week because of employees playing fantasy football at work during the NFL season.

