

Tomlinson Industries celebrates 100th Anniversary!

In 1911, Tomlinson Steam Specialty Co. (TSSC) was founded by A.E. Tomlinson, representing a line of steam valves. Mr. Gustave Mueller was a local toolmaker who serviced La Tourine coffee urns. At that time, the urn and faucet were integral. To repair the faucet, the entire urn had to be taken to a repair shop. Gustave Mueller developed the Model A and Model R ground plug faucets. These unique faucets were a separate unit from the urn and could be removed and replaced on location.

A.E. Tomlinson purchased the patent from Mueller and started a business – the Tomlinson No-Drip Faucet Company – to manufacture and sell these faucets around the United States. His son, Ralph E. (Tommy) Tomlinson, joined the company in 1922 to run the Tomlinson No-Drip Faucet Company. Initial production was low. It was a period of learning and innovation resulting in improvements that increased the life of the faucet.

The 1940s saw the Housewares Industry begin to manufacture home coffee percolators which required a faucet on each unit. The Model P, a smaller ground plug faucet for smaller coffee percolators and for drawing off coffee or hot water from the side of an urn was made, as well as the Model W faucet, used to dispense boiling water.

During the 1950s, the Model S faucet, a self-closing diaphragm faucet was invented. Tomlinson saw a dramatic surge of growth and began selling product outside of North America.

In 1957, John A. Chernak joined Tomlinson Industries and became President in 1966. Mr. Chernak was a founding and active member of the North American Foodservice Equipment Manufacturer's Association. He received many awards for various activities related to the Commercial Foodservice Equipment field. Under Mr. Chernak's leadership, Tomlinson expanded their faucet line significantly and diversified into many different markets. Mr. Chernak was well known and highly respected throughout many industries.

The 1960s brought about the development of the PS Series faucets for use on small coffee percolators. Tomlinson was a leader in the bottled water market in the 1970s, selling the HFS[®] Series faucets to bottled water cooler manufacturers.

Strong business during the 1970s allowed Tomlinson to diversify and expand its product lines to include commercial foodservice equipment. In 1972 Tomlinson purchased Melco Foundry, a company that specialized in manufacturing cast aluminum items such as thermal platters, skillets and casseroles. The company also did wire forming of table organizers for salt and pepper shakers, condiment holders, oil and vinegar cruets, etc. This acquisition gave Tomlinson the opportunity to move into the foodservice industry by supplying products to restaurants and foodservice establishments.

Tomlinson Industries was purchased by The Meyer Company in 1974. Tomlinson operates as an independent division and has continued to thrive throughout many economic cycles both domestically and internationally.

In 1976, the Deluxe Frontier Kettle® - a high end countertop soup cooking, warming and merchandising kettle – was added to the product line and has been the “top of the line” kettle for front of the house self-serve areas as well as back of the house operations.

Beginning in the 1980s and through to today, Tomlinson’s growth continues with the addition of other successful products lines including Modular® Dispensing Systems in 1989; Glenray® foodservice equipment in 1994; Marston wood products and cast iron cooking and serving skillets and platters in 2001; Pro-Flo™ products in 2001; C&K food safety products in 2005; and in 2010 our newest acquisition, the Fusion Commercial product line consisting of pizza and snack ovens and display merchandisers, popcorn poppers and carts, buffet warmers, servers and heat lamps.

Additionally, in 1998 Tomlinson purchased a manufacturer of faucets for retail and commercial percolators in West Bend, Wisconsin. This acquisition enabled Tomlinson to manufacture components for the housewares industry.

Today, Tomlinson Industries now consists of three product divisions:

The Foodservice Products Division includes soup cooking, warming and merchandising kettles; Marston Wood Products; Cast Iron Cooking & Serving Skillets, Griddles, Fry Pans and wood underliners; Thermal Platters, Skillets and Casseroles; C&K food safety products; and the Fusion line of products.

Modular® Dispensing Systems Division features a complete line of dispensers that will fit virtually any dispensing application from cups and lids to condiments and ice cream cones.

The No-Drip® Division manufactures faucets and fittings for dispensing a wide variety of beverages. This division also includes Pro-Flo™ water dispensing components for the OEM market and used by water cooler and drinking fountain manufacturers around the world.

Tomlinson’s headquarters and manufacturing facilities are located in Cleveland, Ohio. Michael E. Figas is President of Tomlinson Industries. Louis J. Castro, Executive Vice President, heads up the company’s sales, marketing and quality efforts.



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