

PROX COMPANY, INC.

Frank P. H. Prox immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1867 where he had learned the trade of coppersmith. In 1875, he with his partner D. W. Watson went into business under the name of Watson & Prox. The plant, located at 677 Main Street, now Wabash Ave., in Terre Haute, Indiana engaged in gasfitting, coppersmithing, and plumbing. After two years of successful business the partnership was dissolved. Frank Prox continued in the business and as it grew, moved to 17 North Ninth Street.

In 1890, Frank Prox formed a partnership with J.F. Brinkman and William McKeen to do business under the name of Prox & Brinkman at 201 North Ninth Street. They started a new line of manufacture by developing a new type of heavy pattern hoisting engine for coalmines, fan engines, weigh pans, and shaker screens. The foundry increased the output of cast iron heating boiler castings. Later, the manufacture of coal mine cars was made a part of the business. In 1903, the plumbing and heating business was disposed of. The Frank Prox Company, Inc. was formed in 1905 and the activities were confined to the manufacture of coal machinery and cast iron heating boilers.

Our present plant was built in 1910 at 1201 South First Street away from the growing downtown. In 1921, upon the death of Frank Prox, his son Herman Prox became president of the company. The manufacture of hoisting engines, cars, screens, and cages was discontinued in 1928. Grandson of the founder Robert F. Prox, Sr. became president in 1960 upon the death of Herman Prox. He retired in 1961, and his son Robert F. Prox, Jr became president in 1960 and still serves in that position. In January 1998, Ann L. Prox, officially took over as Vice-President and General Manager. She is the great great granddaughter of Frank Prox.

The company developed a new type of coal cutting machine chain as the demand for the cast iron heating boiler, used in schools, churches, hospitals, apartments, and commercial buildings, increased. Due to changing technology, the boiler business was discontinued in 1973 and, the company name was changed to Prox Company, Inc. In 1985, the company went out of the foundry business to concentrate its efforts in mining machine replacement parts.

Prox Company, Inc. currently manufactures replacement parts for underground mining machines that cut coal, salt, soda ash, and potash. The company also manufactures cutting parts for the railroad business. A small portion of the business is devoted to custom fabrication and heat-treating.