

## FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

# Lawrence Doors



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### Photos:

1. Lawrence Glass Company, ca. 1925
2. Paul W. Lawrence Sr., ca. 1938
3. Gladys Lawrence
4. 1956 brochure
5. 2010 brochure
6. Baldwin Park, Calif., manufacturing facility

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## Milestones

- 1925 The Chrysler Corp. is founded, Paul Newman and Yogi Berra are born, the Grand Ole Opry makes its radio debut ... and Paul W. Lawrence Sr. opens the Lawrence Glass Company in Los Angeles as a manufacturer of steel sash products.
- 1928\* The company transitions to manufacturing steel roll-up doors and becomes the Lawrence Steel Company.
- 1929 Lawrence obtains its first California state contractor's license soon after state board licensing requirements are originated.
- 1930\* Lawrence manufactures several 40-ft.-wide roll-up doors as part of an 89-door Matson Terminal project.
- 1940\* Lawrence introduces field-adjustable gear sets and one-piece U-channel guides, which continue as signature features of many products.
- 1947 Manufacturing space is tripled with the construction of a 10,000-sq.-ft. addition.
- 1948 Lawrence obtains UL approval to manufacture a fire-rated roll-up door.
- 1950 Gladys Lawrence and her son, Paul W. Lawrence Jr., assume control of the company after Paul Sr. retires.
- 1960\* Paul Jr. continues product development and innovation, shifting focus toward architectural products such as grilles and shutters incorporating decorative patterns and unique extrusions.
- 1973 Lawrence hosts a visit from a delegation of 20 Japanese door and shutter manufacturers. This continues a decades-long relationship with international companies.
- 1988 After the untimely death of Paul Jr., Paul W. Lawrence III takes over control of the company at the age of 26. The Lawrence Company incorporates as Lawrence Roll-Up Doors, Inc.
- 1990 Paul Freberg purchases the shares of Paul III's sister Katherine, becoming a 50 percent owner. His related industry experience and sales and business skills help to hasten the company's growth.
- 1993 Due to increased local demand, Lawrence Doors opens its first branch service center in the Los Angeles area. [2010 update: Lawrence owns and operates six branch service centers in southern California and Las Vegas. The centers install and repair many types of door products and facilitate beta testing for new Lawrence products.]
- 2000 Lawrence acquires the assets of Criterion Gate & Mfg., a Los Angeles-based manufacturer founded in 1951, and begins producing a line of folding gates with the Criterion Products name.
- 2002 Lawrence introduces the SGH Motor Operator—the first in a developing series of high-efficiency in-line gear drive operators for roll-up door and grille products.
- 2004 After decades of growth and expansion into multiple buildings on the original Lawrence property and another site for folding gate production, Lawrence Doors consolidates all manufacturing operations into a new facility located in Baldwin Park, Calif.
- 2008 Lawrence Doors acquires assets of the former Pacific Rolling Door from Alumatek-Pacific, which leads to the development of several new products.
- 2010 Lawrence begins producing a line of side-folding and rolling closure products with the AlumaTek name. The company also introduces the Model PG High Performance Grille—the first roll-up grille designed to operate for 300,000 cycles at speeds of up to 24 inches per second.

\*Approximate date