

WARCO Times

“Outstanding Business of the Year, 2005”

On January 26, 2006, West American Rubber Company, LLC (WARCO) received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for “Outstanding Business of the Year, 2005” from the United States Senate, granted for outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

Orange Mayor Mark A. Murphy presented the awards in front of an audience of more than 300 guests during the State of the City Luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel in Orange, California. The 2006 State of the City Luncheon is an official program of the Orange Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Bureau.

Among other awards WARCO also received the “Outstanding Orange Business, 2005”, from the California Legislature Assembly, and “Outstanding Business, 2005” from the City of Orange/Orange Chamber of Commerce in honor of WARCO’s commitment to the business community and residents of the City of Orange; and acknowledging the support that WARCO has provided to the local economy.

"All of us at West American Rubber Company feel honored to be recognized and are inspired to continue the hard work that began when the company was founded in 1910", said Steve Hemstreet, Chairman of the Board.



Ken Hemstreet, receiving award from Mayor Mark Murphy

Our Heritage: Looking forward, looking back

Through its ninety-five year history in rubber manufacturing, West American Rubber Company (WARCO) has written many chapters. As we look into our future, we would like to pay tribute to our past – to the people, the events, and achievements that have formed our company. We trace some of these highlights, focusing in particular on those activities that have influenced our current business. This is by no means a complete history of WARCO, but we hope it will provide you with an insight into the proud heritage that we share.

1910 – Two Englishmen, Douglas and William Radford established the company as West American Rubber Company, Inc., in its first location next to the city jail in downtown Los Angeles. During its infancy, oil exploration in Southern California was booming and WARCO focused on molded rubber parts to serve the oil industry: the WARCO team totaled nearly ten.

1926 – WARCO experienced a set back with a devastating fire. For many companies this would have been catastrophic, but not WARCO. Thanks to the help of rubber manufacturers on the West Coast, orders continued to be filled. Today we gratefully remember those good companies/people who supported us during such a difficult time: the WARCO team totaled about twenty.

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Our Heritage *(Continued from page 1)*

1940's – The company ownership consisted of ten different shareholders. Over time, Sam Eisenberg and Paul Sampsell bought out the remaining eight. Sam and Paul operated WARCO from 1952 to 1977. The Industry will remember them as hard working, honest and dedicated men as the Southern California rubber industry grew. The WARCO team totaled about thirty.

1960's – The company outgrew its existing location in Los Angeles. As a result, WARCO moved to Orange, California to its current location on eleven acres. Through the relocation process, WARCO acquired several existing companies including, Extruded Rubber Products, Semco Rubber Company, and Stoner Rubber Company. A new chapter unfolded as WARCO began the Extruded Rubber Division. It was during this time that the first Hemstreet came to WARCO; Alda Katherine Hemstreet, mother of Ken and Steve Hemstreet: the WARCO team totaled about fifty.

1971 – Steve Hemstreet began his career with WARCO. From 1971 to 1977 Steve held eighteen different job functions throughout the factory and the laboratory. As in previous years, the company invested in new equipment; as a result, WARCO became a leader in rubber injection molding. The WARCO team totaled about seventy.

1977 – Harrison Industries, a privately held holding company, led by Ben F. Harrison in Birmingham, Alabama acquired WARCO. Steve Hemstreet became an officer of the company, Ken Hemstreet joined the WARCO family, and Conrad Blackerby of Harrison Industries came to WARCO as its President. At that time the company continued to grow at a tremendous rate; as a result the Louisville Distribution

& Customer Service Center was established to enhance the growing Sheet Rubber Business: the WARCO team totaled about one-hundred fifty.

1981 – Technical Equities Corporation, a diversified public holding company acquired WARCO from Harrison Industries. WARCO continued its impressive growth including new equipment for continuous vulcanization of extruded rubber products: the WARCO team totaled about two hundred.

1986 – Conrad Blackerby and Steve Hemstreet acquired the company. Between the years of 1986 and 1998, WARCO experienced tremendous growth. The company operated as Divisions; Molded, Extruded, Sheet, Performance Processing Company (custom mixed silicones) and WPP, a buyer and seller of rubber materials: the WARCO team totaled about five hundred fifty.

1998 – Another chapter unfolded for WARCO. Industrial Growth Partners (IGP), a San Francisco investment firm acquired WARCO. IGP operated WARCO until November of 2001: the WARCO team totaled about four hundred fifty.

2001 – Steve and Ken Hemstreet acquired WARCO, LLC. As a result, WARCO has experienced year over year double-digit growth.

2005 – Today WARCO is led by Steve R. Hemstreet, Chairman, Ken Hemstreet, Vice Chairman of the Board and CEO, and Jim deLeo, President and Chief Operating Officer, along with Kelvin Baker, Executive Vice President/CFO,

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West American Rubber Company
Los Angeles, California, Circa 1910



West American Rubber Company, LLC
Orange, California 2006

WARCO Lab Ranked No. 1 in Survey

The WARCO laboratory ranked number one in a collaborative testing project conducted by Wacker-PSI.

The project consisted of thirty-six participating laboratories all of which were TLARGI, (The Los Angeles Rubber Group, Inc.) member companies, PSI customers and one independent test laboratory.



*Laboratory Department
From Left to right: Mario Vega, Teresa Valencia,
Shi Hwang, and Paul Lagunas*

The purpose of the project was to allow the participating companies to compare the accuracy and precision of their laboratories with other laboratories.

The comprehensive testing consisted of five individual tests on four silicone specimens of which two were pre-cured ASTM slabs provided by WACKER-PSI. The remaining two ASTM slabs were molded by WARCO from uncured compounds at pre-defined conditions that were supplied by Wacker-PSI.

The tests consisted of:

- Shore A Hardness
- Tensile strength
- Elongation
- Tear strength, Die B
- Specific gravity

On May 26, 2005 WARCO received the Collaborative Testing Report from Wacker-PSI, where is stated that WARCO was ranked number one out of the thirty-six participants.

The laboratories were ranked in accordance with the variance between the individual laboratory test results and the average value of all tests.

Mr. Shi Hwang, WARCO Technical Director stated that it is an honor to have the number one ranking and such performance is the result of precise and accurate training among all WARCO lab technicians.

— Lab News —

WARCO is a Genuine Viton® Licensee

WARCO has been selected by DuPont Performance Elastomers as a licensed supplier of Genuine Viton® products. As a Genuine Viton® supplier, you are assured that the Viton® fluoroelastomer products you purchase from WARCO are made of 100% virgin Viton® as the sole elastomeric ingredient. As a licensed Viton® supplier, WARCO is committed to reproducible quality, performance and reliability which the industry associates with Genuine Viton®.



Viton® is a registered trademark of DuPont Performance Elastomers

USDA no longer approves rubber products

Our customers often ask whether WARCO FDA compounds have been approved by the USDA.

Recently, WARCO contacted USDA to receive an official answer. The answer from USDA is as follows:

USDA no longer approves rubber compounds or products for meats or poultry contact applications. Currently USDA does not have regulatory requirements for rubber products to be used for food contact applications, which means the rubber products in compliance with FDA can be used for meats and poultry without any further approval.

Until 1997, USDA used to approve the rubber products intended for use in meats and poultry establishments; that's why the question is still around in the rubber industries.

Equipment used in meats and poultry establishments must meet the requirements of 9 CFR 416.3, Equipment and Utensils Performance Standard. This performance standard specifies that equipment and utensils should be thoroughly cleaned, and not adulterate the food products. The rubber compounds, in compliance with FDA requirements for food contact applications, will not adulterate food products.

If you have any questions, please contact our Technical Director, Shi Hwang at (714) 532-3355.



Flame Resistance Material for Mass Transit

WARCO remains on the forefront of research and development. WARCO now offers a line of materials designed to meet mass transit's most demanding requirements. Our elastomers meet Federal Railroad Administration regulations for:

- Optical Smoke Density Specification, ASTM E-662
- Flame Spread Resistance Specification, ASTM C-542
- Bombardier's Regulations for Toxicity, SMP 800C

For more information, contact our technical department at (714) 532-3355.

HH-P-151F Cloth-Insert Rubber Sheet



As the leader in the sheet rubber industry, WARCO now offers HH-P-151F cloth inserted rubber sheet. It is designed for flange joints for water or brine services to withstand up to 250 pounds of pressure.

Our premium grade sheet rubber in SBR, Neoprene, and NBR is available in smooth or nylon finish in a 36" or 48" width. Each sheet has a ply of 10.8 ounces per square yard of fabric per each 1/16" of gauge. For more information, please contact our sales offices.

WARCO Times is published by the Marketing Department of West American Rubber Co., LLC. The purpose of this publication is to inform the customers of WARCO on current affairs in the rubber industry, and to heighten awareness of new products available to our customers.

Please direct comments, questions or suggestions to:

Flor Vasquez, Marketing Dept.,
West American Rubber Company, LLC
Mail: 1413 Braden Court
Orange, CA 92868

Phone: (714) 532-3355

Fax: (714) 532-2238

E-Mail: fvasquez@warco.com

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ISO Certification Update

On January 6, 2006, WARCO successfully passed the semiannual ISO 9001:2000 surveillance audit. When we started developing our Quality Management System (QMS) it was warned that the most difficult part of the certification is keeping it earned. We are pleased to say that we have been ISO 9001:2000 certified for two years.

WARCO's QMS requires the company to carry out internal audits (conducted by WARCO) and surveillance audits (conducted by NSF-ISR) on all of the company's operations every six months. The following are some notes from our recent audit:



- Internal Audits: Program appears to be excellent, good up-front planning, scheduling and reports. Reports are very thorough with good objective evidence of items audited.
- Overall: The Quality Management system appears to be in excellent condition. Compliance to ISO 9001: 2000 and to our own defined requirements appears to be very good and continues to improve.

Special congratulations and thank you to all the people throughout the company.

Our Heritage

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Oliver Hinkley, Vice President of Sales, Michael Fox, Vice President of Business Management, Art Ruben, Vice President of Human Resources, Bill Noyes, Director of Information Systems, Renan Mendez, Director of Operations, Bill Nobbs, Business Manager of Extruded Products, and Mike Bremer, Business Manager of Molded Products, and a team of about three-hundred fifty.

2006 – Government officials from the U.S. House of Representatives honor WARCO with award for "Outstanding Business of the Year, 2005", in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the City of Orange.

As WARCO approaches its 100 Year Anniversary, we offer a very sincere thank you to all of our customers who have made this long journey possible. All of us look forward to serving you for years to come.