



It was also around the time of Fred Perkins' move to Brooklyn in 1916 that his son Louis E. Perkins began working with the company full time. In 1922, the now famous "PERKO" trademark was introduced.

In the late 1920's the company introduced copper and nickel plated products from its own plating department. When chromium plating was perfected in the 1930's, the first Perko chromium-plated hardware appeared. As Perko's reputation for quality increased, the company's manufacturing facility expanded and enjoyed exceptional growth into the 1930's. It was during the 1930's that Perko established itself as a full-time manufacturer of marine lights, hardware, and accessories for the pleasure boating market. This tremendous growth created the need for more facilities. The original one-story manufacturing plant in Brooklyn grew to five stories. Then six more buildings were added until finally there was no more room for expansion.

In 1932 the Perkins Marine Lamp Company corporate name was changed to Perkins Marine Lamp & Hardware Corporation, since by that time the company was becoming heavily involved in supplying the marine trade with not only navigation and decorative lights but a variety of hardware fittings for the maritime and pleasure boat market.

Louis Perkins became President in 1947 upon the passing of his father Frederick. It was also in that year that his son Marvin joined the firm. In 1959, Louis and Marvin decided to move the entire operation to a new facility in Miami, Florida. Lou's first objective at the new facility was to put everything under one roof. This meant the elimination of subcontractors and the addition of a whole range of in-house production capabilities—from mill material to finished product.

Also in 1959, Leroy F. (Roy) Hollenbeck joined Perko applying his background in manufacturing and production to assist in coordinating the layout and supervise construction of the new plant. Roy's experience in plating, engineering and design helped to improve the product line and manufacturing techniques.

The new building opened in 1960 with approximately 78,000 square feet putting all the manufacturing and offices on one floor under one roof. That facility was expanded to 90,000 square feet with the addition of a non-ferrous foundry for brass, bronze and aluminum casting in mid 1961.

By 1965, a 47,000 square foot extension was completed to house the sophisticated die-casting system that now produces zinc and bronze parts.

Marvin's son Fred Perkins, named after his great-grandfather, became the 4th generation of the Perkins family involved in the company and quickly established himself as one of the marine industry's most knowledgeable authorities on navigational light requirements. Fred started in 1969 while still attending school and became active on a full time basis in 1973. He was named assistant Vice President of manufacturing in early 1974 and in 1978 became company Secretary. His background in engineering and electronics proved to be a welcome asset to help keep the product line up to date. Over the years the company had become better known for its "PERKO" trademark. In 1976 it was decided to change the company name to Perko Incorporated.



In 1979, a 35,000 square foot plastics injection molding facility was added to enable us to produce all of the polymer products and components for our diverse product line.

Fred became president in 1997. Then in 1999 Fred's son Cameron joined the company and in 2002 his daughter Deborah joined the family business marking the 5th generation and setting the course for the future.

Today, PERKO is truly an integrated manufacturer, almost completely independent of outside vendors, with the exception of a few basic items such as light bulbs and electric wire. A whole range of complete in-house capabilities, from product design through manufacturing and assembly of finished products, enables us to eliminate most subcontractors and obtain better control of our product quality, cost and delivery.

Our sand casting foundries help us control the production of our high quality brass, bronze and aluminum castings, and offers assurance that the proper alloy is used for each job.

PERKO is the only domestic marine manufacturer producing die-cast bronze parts which are well known for strength, uniformity and quality.

Our diverse press department utilizes a variety of forming tools, including multi-stage,

progressive tooling produced in our tool room. Our large, conventional machine shop includes many secondary operations such as drilling, tapping and assembly. A separate machine shop houses a number of modern, high speed automatic chuckers for high volume items, and our three separate polishing divisions assure the correct finishing procedure for each product.

In 2005 our facility was rewired for a state-of-the-art computer network and enterprise resource planning (ERP) operation, which is taking us into the next century. Expansion continues with the substantial addition to our foundry of an Investment Casting operation. Our in-house printing, graphics and pre-press department produces almost all of our printed materials from packaging materials, box labels and instructions to full color catalogs and marketing materials. In total, careful planning over the years has enabled us to become virtually self sufficient in every department.

Throughout all of our operations, steps have been taken to efficiently assure production of the highest quality products. PERKO has been an ISO registered company since 1994. Our products are designed and manufactured to meet or exceed various standards, including ISO 9001-2008, USCG, UL, NMMA and other industry standards as well as our own quality specifications. Quality control is consistently maintained and every step forward, from our founding to the present day, has been undertaken with our customer in mind. Each PERKO product is thoroughly evaluated for safety, appearance and function.

It has always been our objective to provide our customers with the very best in marine lights, hardware and accessories at competitive prices. The marketplace has rewarded our emphasis on quality with ever increasing sales and reputation. Designed and built to the highest specifications, all PERKO products are backed with outstanding warranties and our commitment to excellence. It's a "PERKO Plus" you can count on!

To date, the PERKO facility spans 15 plus acres and over 440,000 square feet of manufacturing capability. As an American manufacturer, staying competitive today in a constantly changing global market place presents many challenges, but our vision is steadfast as we move into the next century of business. Perko maintains its commitment to quality and is proud of its heritage as an American success story for over 100 years.