

## **L.R. Nelson Corporation**

**Est. 1911**

L. R. Nelson Mfg. Co., Inc. was founded in 1911 by Lewen R. Nelson in a small facility on S.W. Washington Street in Peoria, Illinois. Nelson had a patent for a “Perfect Clinching” Repair Coupling, which allowed people to repair or salvage damaged hose. Over time, the company expanded its line to include metal couplings, fittings, and a wide variety of sprinklers.

During World War II, the Company used its manufacturing facilities to provide munitions to the U. S. Government. After the war, the company expanded to Princeville, where they established an assembly facility. The founder’s son, Russ Nelson, took over day-to-day leadership of the company and, by the 1960s, a second assembly facility was opened in Manning, Iowa.

In the 1970’s the original parts manufacturing operation was moved to a new facility in Pioneer Park. A change of ownership also occurred in the 1970s, when Dave Ransburg purchased the company. The founder’s grandson, Bart Nelson, retained the agricultural branch of the business.

The new ownership established headquarters and distribution facilities in Pioneer Park and changed the Company’s name to L. R. Nelson Corporation. Under Ransburg’s leadership, all Peoria facilities were consolidated into a new 350,000 square foot manufacturing, distribution and office facility in 1994.

Through a lot of hard work and innovation, Nelson became one of the world's leading manufacturers of quality lawn and garden sprinklers, nozzles, couplings and accessories. Nelson also sold a complete line of underground sprinkling equipment for residential and commercial applications. Through its Sunterra and Henri Divisions, Nelson sold a complete line of fountains and water gardening equipment. Besides the manufacturing, distribution, and corporate office facilities in Peoria, additional facilities were opened, including:

- a distribution facility in California;
- procurement, logistics, and manufacturing facilities in China; and,
- a European sales office in Barcelona, Spain.

In 2008, the business was sold in three transactions to Bosch, a large German manufacturer, Signature Control, a California based turf manufacturer, and Henri, a group of private investors.

Bosch & Signature operations have remained in Peoria.

