

Pyramid Enterprises celebrates 50 years

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Pyramid Enterprises, Inc., a company born in Dorchester County in June 1959 in a small backyard shop had no grand opening ceremony with a ribbon cutting by some dignitary. It did not come here after gaining notoriety elsewhere.

It began with a few pieces of equipment, some bought from Sears Roebuck and Company, various hand tools, and a strong desire for independence by a metalwork craftsman named Lonnie Rowell.

In the early days, or perhaps nights, the work was done in the evenings by Rowell after days as the operations manager at an industry in Charleston.

There has always been a great variety of products produced at Pyramid. Among the early products were pieces of apparatus used in the research laboratory of West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company in North Charleston. Also, there were lugs and gauges and other items used in producing contact eye lenses when they were made of hard plastic.

In September 1960, Pyramid began operating on a full-time basis and began hiring additional help as well as acquiring more and larger equipment. The product line expanded to include the design and manufacture of woodworking machinery for producing parts for furniture, redwood flower pots and window-box planters. Even main propeller shafts for tug boats and propeller shafts for U.S. Army landing craft were modified or reconditioned at Pyramid.

The company has served customers from South Carolina to Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Some Pyramid products, according to one customer, have been shipped abroad for service in foreign countries.

Pyramid Enterprises was founded by Rowell in 1959 as a proprietorship and was incorporated in the early 1980s. Lonnie retired in 1993 and passed control of the business on to two of his children who have worked for the company for several years.

Marcus Rowell, who is now president and general manager, has worked for the company since he was old enough to be employed. He is a graduate of Trident Technical College with the degree in industrial technology.

Sallie Rowell Barfield is the secretary and the treasurer and office manager. She is a graduate of Young Harris College with the degree in education and had experience in banking and government accounting before coming to Pyramid.

Pyramid is open for business Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information call 873-4500 or visit pyramidenterprisesinc.com.



A worker operates a machine at Pyramid Enterprises machine shop, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.