

In 1962, the company was founded by a father-and-son team, Charles R. Silver and Charles J. Silver, who began with one extruder.

Today, the company has more than 300 employees spread among its locations in Asheville, N.C., Lawton, Okla., and Ft. Pierce, Fla.



AB&I: A STRONGHOLD IN THE CAST IRON INDUSTRY

American Brass and Iron (AB&I) Foundry is 109 years old, an age not typically seen in the cast iron industry.

Forged out of the rubble left behind by the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, the foundry was built on a business philosophy of integrity, responsibility and reliability.

AB&I basic principles have remained the same even though its product offering has evolved through the years.

Decorative light poles and iron and brass statuary eventually made way for a full line of cast iron soil pipe and fittings for storm and sanitary drain, waste, and vent (DWV) plumbing systems. Today, the foundry's products include recast iron no-hub pipe and fittings, cast iron service pipe and fittings, and heavy duty no-hub couplings and accessories. In addition, AB&I has become a modern, highly-technological full-service provider of custom original equipment manufacturer (OEM) gray iron castings for companies nationwide.

"We are committed to manufacturing cast iron soil pipe and fittings right here in the United States," Kurt Winter, executive

vice president of McWane Plumbing Group and the general manager of AB&I, said.

AB&I sets itself apart by adhering to professional standards in both how it does business and the products it manufactures. Quality control is essential to its reputation.

The foundry's culture has made it unique in the industry.

"We have a unique, offbeat culture and function as one big family where everyone is valued," Winter said. "We refer to the people of AB&I as team members as everyone's opinion matters."

Team member engagement is imperative and the foundry demands commitment to the hard work of making quality products.

"If they aren't 100 percent invested in this goal, then AB&I probably isn't a good fit for them," Winter said. "It really all does start at the bottom here, something that began with our founder, my wife's great-grandfather, Joseph Boscacci. It was continued through his son Arnold, and then through my



Michael Lowe, vice president of sales and marketing of AB&I, builds relationships by inviting customers to tour the foundry.



Kurt Winter, executive vice president of McWane Plumbing Group and the general manager of AB&I, is committed to manufacturing cast iron soil pipe and fittings in the United States.

father-in-law Allan Boscacci. I am now the caretaker of this legacy and tradition.”

Winter is a fifth-generation family member of the founding Boscacci family. He drives AB&I to be a “better, faster, and more innovative” company.

Winter worked hard learning all aspects of the plant, starting with production scheduling, and eventually took on the responsibility of general manager. In the 10 years he has spent in his current role, sales and production volume have doubled.

“I understand the company from the ground up, which gives me greater appreciation for each team member and their contribution,” Winter said.

Michael Lowe, vice president of sales and marketing, is another key member of the executive management team. Having come from a background in human resources, he cares about the relationships with customers and often invites them to visit California to take a foundry tour and see first-hand how cast iron soil pipe and fittings are manufactured.

The foundry’s cast iron soil pipe and fittings are made from 95 percent post-consumer scrap metal, which reduces the demand on landfills.

“We are very conscientious about the environment and look at ways to recycle as much as possible including wood, metal and even sand from our molding process,” Lowe said. “It’s the quiriness of being a manufacturer in California that drives us to think outside the box.”

AB&I has invested millions of dollars in environmental programs that help protect air, land and water and continues to invest in new technologies that will make the foundry cleaner and greener than ever.

After more than 100 years, AB&I continues to experience growth on a national basis.

“This is attributed to our distribution network that spans the United States,” Lowe said. “We also are seeing continued growth opportunities with independent wholesalers on the East Coast and in the Midwest as well as the growing commercial construction marketplace. We strongly believe in growing relationships with independent wholesalers and that continues to be our focus with Equity.”

It’s the personal touch throughout every step at AB&I that has made the foundry a stronghold in the industry.

Located in Oakland, California, AB&I Foundry is owned by McWane Inc., a privately held family company located in Birmingham, Alabama. ■