

Then & Now

CELEBRATING THE
PATH OF LOCAL
BUSINESSES



2026

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Built on Craftsmanship. Driven by Service.

Celebrating 78 Years of Clark Truck Equipment

For 78 years, Clark Truck Equipment has been more than a truck equipment dealer—it has been a trusted partner for the hardworking people and businesses that keep Indiana moving. From municipalities and utility companies to farmers, contractors, and commercial fleets, generations of customers have relied on Clark Truck Equipment for quality products, expert installation, and dependable service.

The company's story began in 1948, when Hobe Clark founded Clark Truck Equipment in Linden, Indiana. Originally established as a body shop, the business quickly became known for exceptional craftsmanship, honest workmanship, and a commitment to treating every customer with respect. In an era when a handshake still meant everything, Hobe built a reputation that would become the foundation of the company's success for decades to come.

As the business grew, so did its commitment to serving the changing needs of working professionals. What started with building and repairing truck bodies evolved into providing complete equipment solutions designed to help customers work smarter, safer, and more efficiently.

A significant chapter in the company's history began in 1969, when Larry Smith joined Clark Truck Equipment. Through dedication, hard work, and a genuine passion for customer service, Larry became an integral part of the organization. His leadership abilities and vision earned him the role of manager in 1981, a position from which he guided the company through decades of growth and modernization.

Under Larry's leadership, Clark Truck Equipment expanded its prod-

uct offerings, strengthened relationships with industry-leading manufacturers, and invested in the people and equipment necessary to better serve customers throughout west-central Indiana. Even as the business grew, the philosophy remained unchanged: every customer deserved quality workmanship, dependable products, and service they could trust.

Today, Clark Truck Equipment proudly represents some of the most respected names in the truck equipment industry, including Knapheide, Adrian Steel, and Western. Whether outfitting a single work truck, equipping an entire fleet of commercial vans, or preparing snow and ice control equipment for winter, the company's experienced team delivers solutions tailored to each customer's needs. Their knowledge, attention to detail, and commitment to doing the job right have earned Clark Truck Equipment a reputation as one of Indiana's premier truck equipment providers.

The company's proud tradition continues today under the leadership of Taylor Smith, Larry's son. Representing the next generation, Taylor combines modern innovation with the timeless values established by Hobe Clark nearly eight decades ago. While technology, vehicles, and customer expectations have evolved dramatically over the years, the company's mission has remained remarkably consistent: provide exceptional products, stand behind every installation, and build lasting relationships through outstanding service.

The true measure of Clark Truck Equipment's success isn't found only



in the thousands of trucks that have left the shop over the past 78 years. It's found in the loyal customers who have returned generation after generation, the employees whose dedication has helped shape the company's reputation, and the partnerships built on trust, reliability, and shared values.

As Clark Truck Equipment celebrates 78 years in business, it reflects with gratitude on the vision of Hobe Clark, the leadership of Larry Smith, and the continued commitment of Taylor Smith. Most importantly, it celebrates the customers, employees, suppliers, and community members

whose support has made this remarkable journey possible.

Looking ahead, Clark Truck Equipment remains committed to the same principles that have guided the company since 1948—delivering exceptional craftsmanship, dependable products, and customer service that stands the test of time.

For 78 years, Clark Truck Equipment has helped people get the job done. And as the road ahead unfolds, that commitment remains stronger than ever.

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120 Years of Puritan Water Conditioning

A legacy of Family, Innovation, & Pure Water Since 1905

For 120 years, Puritan Water Conditioning has stood as a symbol of quality, innovation, and family values in Crawfordsville, Indiana. What began as a small manufacturing company in 1905 has grown into one of the nation's respected names in water treatment, serving generations of families, businesses, and industries with dependable products and unmatched customer service.

The company's story began in **1905** as **Johnson Manufacturing**, producing equipment that reflected the craftsmanship and ingenuity of early twentieth-century America. As technology advanced and customer needs evolved, the company grew and adapted, becoming **Puritan Engineering Corporation** and later **Puritan Manufacturing Corporation**. Through every change, one principle remained constant: a commitment to improving water quality through dependable American-made products.

A new era began in **1975**, when Crawfordsville entrepreneur **Dale Hockersmith** purchased the retail division of the business. Dale recognized the tremendous potential of the Puritan name and envisioned a company that would become synonymous with quality water treatment and exceptional customer service. One year later, in **1976**, he acquired the manufacturing operation and established **Puritan Water Conditioning, Inc.**

Under Dale's leadership, Puritan experienced remarkable growth. The company expanded its manufacturing capabilities while building a trusted dealer network throughout Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and eventually across the United States. Even as the business grew, Dale remained com-

mitted to keeping manufacturing in Crawfordsville, believing that local craftsmanship and personal relationships would always be the company's greatest strengths.

Dale built more than a successful business—he built a family legacy.

His sons, **Jeff Hockersmith** and **Gary Hockersmith**, joined the company in the 1980s, learning every aspect of the business from manufacturing and engineering to customer service and sales. Working alongside their father, they embraced his philosophy that success is earned by treating customers honestly, building products that last, and standing behind every installation.

When Dale retired in 2007, Jeff and Gary became co-owners, carrying forward the values that had made Puritan a trusted name for decades. Together, they guided the company through continued growth while expanding residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment solutions. Under their leadership, Puritan strengthened its reputation for water softeners, reverse osmosis systems, filtration equipment, bottled water service, salt delivery, and customized water treatment systems, all backed by knowledgeable service and family-focused care.

Today, the Puritan story continues with the third generation of Hockersmith leadership. 1

Gabriel Hockersmith and **Ryan Hockersmith**, grandsons of Dale Hockersmith, proudly represent the future of Puritan Water Conditioning as third-generation owners. Having grown up surrounded by the family business, they understand that Puritan's greatest asset has never been



simply the equipment it manufactures—it has always been the relationships built with customers, employees, dealers, and the community.

Gabriel and Ryan are committed to preserving the traditions established by their grandfather while embracing new technologies and innovative solutions that will carry the company into its next century. Their vision is rooted in the same principles that have guided Puritan for generations: integrity, craftsmanship, innovation, and exceptional customer service.

Over the past 120 years, Puritan has witnessed tremendous changes in technology, manufacturing, and the water treatment industry. Yet the company's purpose has remained remarkably consistent—to provide cleaner, safer, and better water while treating every customer like family.

From its beginnings as Johnson Manufacturing in 1905, through the visionary leadership of Dale Hockersmith, the dedicated stewardship of Jeff and Gary Hockersmith, and now into the hands of Gabriel and Ryan

Hockersmith, Puritan Water Conditioning has remained proudly family-owned and committed to excellence.

The company's history is more than a timeline of milestones. It is a story of perseverance, innovation, community, and family. It is a story of employees whose craftsmanship built products that earned trust across the country, dealers who represented the Puritan name with pride, and customers whose loyalty has sustained the company for generations.

As Puritan Water Conditioning celebrates **120 years**, the company looks forward with gratitude for those who built its foundation and confidence in those who will shape its future.

The legacy continues.

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Three generations.

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And a continued commitment to delivering better water for generations to come.



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We are continuing the tradition of the Dutcher Family by being a family owned and operated company. We are proud to say we practice and live by God first, family second, and the rest God will take care of for all of us! We strive to provide excellent service while providing exceptional customer service. We treat all of our customers as part of our family. We are sincerely and truly grateful and appreciative of each customer and any new customers too!

Along with being compassionate, kind, loving, and more to each and every customer we always are continually striving to make our best even better and make any improvements we can to serve our community.

♥ Love, hugs & blessings

- The McClouds



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Even if you do not choose to use our company and services, but have septic or sewer questions, please call or email us. We also have a septic information folder. Please call to request one.

We are certified/licensed IOWPA septic installers and septic inspectors. We always highly recommend hiring a certified/licensed septic inspector if you are purchasing a home - this could save you thousands of dollars and tons of stress + issues.

Please consider having your septic tank cleaned prior to family events, such as Thanksgiving or Christmas gatherings. This is so important to prevent issues the day all your family and friends are at your home. We recommend if your septic tank has not been cleaned within the last 3 years or if it has never been cleaned. It will save you emergency fees and back ups in your home.

Please remember to never flush anything down your toilets other than 2-ply toilet paper; this is especially true for all items that say that they are septic safe - that is usually not the case. Never pour grease down your sinks whether you are on a septic tank system or not. Never flush feminine products, prophylactics, syringes, latex gloves, q tips, batteries, wipes of any kind, or other products of any sort.

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At the Heart of Crawfordsville's Veteran Community

American Legion Post #72; a place where camaraderie, service, and community spirit come together. Founded by local veterans returning home after World War I, Post #72 was built on a simple but lasting mission: serve those who served and give back to the community they call home. For generations, it has been more than a building; it's been a welcoming home for veterans and families who share a bond of military service and a deep love for Crawfordsville.

Chartered as part of The American Legion, a national organization established in 1919, Post #72 proudly carries forward a legacy of patriotic service in Montgomery County. As a 501(c)(19) veterans' organization, the post is dedicated to supporting the welfare of veterans, assisting those in need, honoring fallen heroes, and strengthening community ties. Over the decades, its doors have welcomed hundreds of members and community residents, offering fellowship, support,

and a sense of belonging.

Beyond regular meetings and veteran services, Post #72 plays an active role in local life. The post hosts long-standing traditions like its annual Veterans Expo, connecting veterans, spouses, and caregivers with health care and community resources, and continues to adapt to meet community needs through initiatives such as free flu shots and outreach services. From sponsoring local events and youth

programs to participating in Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies and working alongside the Montgomery County Veterans Coalition, Post #72 reflects the caring heart of Crawfordsville.

Rooted in history and driven by service, American Legion Post #72 stands as a proud reminder that service to country is lifelong, and that community makes that journey stronger, yesterday, today, and always.



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THEN AND NOW....

Sanders Funeral Care

The Sanders Family wanted to design a building unlike any funeral home you've ever seen; a truly one-of-a-kind place. A place to cry, to laugh, and most importantly, to begin the healing process after the loss of a loved one. With the help and support of family, friends, and the community, David and Mandy's dream and vision started to take shape and Sanders Funeral Care Kingman was built and opened in June of 2011 in Kingman.



In February 2018, David and Mandy Sanders expanded and purchased the historic Powers-Priebe Funeral Home in Crawfordsville. The home was built in 1887 as a residence, then became a doctor's office and was purchased in 1962 by James "Russell" and Margaret Powers, which became Powers Funeral Home. In 1985, the funeral home was sold to Kent Priebe and became Powers-Priebe Funeral Home. In late 2018, the Sanders Family moved into the upstairs residence of the funeral home and the historic building was remodeled with modern amenities but kept its historic, home-like feel, and became Sanders Funeral Care Crawfordsville.

In December 2020, David and Mandy Sanders purchased Shoemaker Funeral Home in Waynetown. The funeral home was built in 1955 by Darwin and Mary Servies and was named Servies Funeral Home. In 1968, the funeral home was sold to John and Maurene Thomas, and was named Thomas Funeral Home. In 1991, John and Maurene sold the funeral home to Nancy and Joe Shoemaker, and was named Shoemaker Funeral Home. In late 2021, the funeral home was completely renovated and updated with a modern, comforting feel, and was named Sanders Funeral Care Waynetown.



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Journal Review

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