

Bishop-Wisecarver Celebrates 65 Years of Service



The Story of Bud Wisecarver Founder and CEO

For almost 80 years, Bud Wisecarver's life has been ruled by two main themes: *motion and innovation*.

Many businesses have benefited from his company's products, which have been designed with one question in mind:

How can this design work more efficiently?

Even as a child, Bud had a knack for inventing. Born and raised in Berkeley, California, Bud spent much of his youth in the family garage where he built coasters, electric bicycles and other vehicles, including a 6-foot-long race car with a Jeep engine.

During these early days, motion became a prominent theme in his life. While still in high school, he built three cars using abandoned parts. Supplies were hard to come by, so he created many of the parts he needed. Bud became a skillful tool maker at a young age, which laid the foundation for his future business endeavors.

Bud's parents were well educated and very talented. His mother, who had served as a nurse during World War I, was an editor and typesetter. His father was an attorney. By the time Bud was about 16, it was clear to his parents that he was a gifted mechanic, but his father wasn't too happy about it. Hoping he would find another niche in life, his parents sent him to private school in 1943.

Bud finished high school early and soon after enlisted in the Marine Corps with two of his closest friends. The trio went through boot camp together. Later, they were rated highest in their platoon in mechanical aptitude and were sent to the Electronic Engineering and Radio Maintenance School in Chicago, Ill., where they honed their electronics skills.

Bud Gets His Start

During the autumn months of 1950, Bud started his first business in an Oakland, Calif., noodle plant that had been confiscated from its Japanese owner during World War II. He called his business W.R. Wisecarver & Company. At the time, rent was cheap, and the building had everything Bud needed; space for a small office and a loading dock. Here, Bud continued to fabricate truck accessories. Soon after, Bud met two men who would help him write the first chapter of his business success.

The company's mission statement – Expertly Designed and Delivered to Perform – is a testament to Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation's long history of solving mechanical and engineering problems. The company continues to find custom solutions for its customers – a tradition built on Bud's expertise in machine fabrication.

At Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation, change plays a major role in the company's culture. Over the years, Bud Wisecarver has invented – and Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation has patented – many novel products designed for customers. The company continues to invest in its manufacturing process, increasing its capacity to produce custom products.

"Being open to solving our customers' problems, even when the solution goes outside of linear motion, gives us the ability to broaden our product base and grow the company into new markets," says Bud's daughter and Bishop-Wisecarver's current president and majority owner, Pamela Kan. "I see linear motion as our core business for the immediate future, but we have many exciting possibilities to explore, and I am excited to see the future evolution of the company," Pamela says.

Looking Back, Looking Forward

The success of DualVee and the development of other Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation products lead to steady expansion through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Today, the company occupies 85,000 square feet of space on Martin Way in Pittsburg. The bustling plant is a long way from the Oakland noodle factory, where Bud started his business on a few hundred square feet of space.

In many ways, Bishop-Wisecarver is like a 65-year-old start up company. Lead by the second generation of the Wisecarver family, the management group has come to a place where they can reinvent themselves. It's an exciting prospect, and one that is supported by a team of dynamic and innovative professionals. Looking forward, the company's vision is to become the international leader in motion technology by providing custom solutions for critical and extreme applications.

Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation also looks forward to building on existing relationships within the community. Company leaders are particularly concerned with the loss of vocational programs in schools, which denies students experiences that could lead to rewarding technical careers. This vacancy in the classroom hurts more than just students – it hurts many industries as well.

For the last 30 years, Bud Wisecarver has worked hard to bridge the gap between the business world and the educational community through sponsorships and classroom lectures. Pamela continues the tradition by supporting engineering programs for youth and young adults across the country, and through her work on the Governor appointed state Workforce Development Board.

As a family-owned company, Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation strives to support the industrial arts, engineering and entrepreneurship in their community and in their industry. It's the best investment the company can make, and it promises the next generation of Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation will be just as exciting – and valuable – as the first.

Since the early 1950s, Bud Wisecarver has been innovating products that help businesses run more smoothly.

1950's

Re-built North Western Venetian supply plant in Oakland, CA.

Manufactured screw machine parts.

Manufactured Fol-Carri™ bread trays.

Secures contract for Nike Missile wheel bushing.

1960's

1961

Bud starts ProFab to build bread trays for Ray Bishop.

1962

Patent issued for Saf-T-Sta®, a product that simplified the loading and unloading of delivery trucks.

Bud Wisecarver moves his companies, W.R. Wisecarver & Company and ProFab from Cowell to Pittsburg, CA.

1967

Bud Wisecarver and Ray Bishop merge their companies, creating Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation.

1968

BWC purchases property at 2104 Martin Way in Pittsburg, CA.

Bud Wisecarver designs DualVee while watching a Raider's game.

Bud Wisecarver designs and builds the Radius Machine for box spring manufacturers.

1969

BWC builds office building at 2104 Martin Way.

BWC purchases Madewell Manufacturing Company, which produced insecticide sprayers.

1970's

1972

Bud Wisecarver designs and builds the Dari Tray to simplify transport of dairy products.

1977

BWC manufactures the Saf-T-Sta Strap Master, an addition to the original Saf-T-Sta line.

1978

BWC manufactures the Saf-T-Sta Flap Master, an addition to the original Saf-T-Sta line.

1979

BWC outgrows original facility and builds first manufacturing building on Martin Way property.

1980's

1981

BWC manufactures the Saf-T-Sta Pallet Puller, an addition to the original Saf-T-Sta line.

1984

BWC embarks on a business relationship with HepcoMotion, a European company specializing in linear motion technology.

1985

BWC manufactures the Saf-T-Sta Econo Line, an addition to the original Saf-T-Sta line.

1987

BWC manufactures the Thrif-T-Lok™, an economical version of the Saf-T-Sta.

1989

BWC builds second manufacturing building.

1990's

1993

BWC addresses theft of Saf-T-Sta and manufactures the Saf-T-Sta Snap Lock.

1994

BWC manufactures LoPro® Linear Motion Systems, pre-engineered modular units consisting of an antifriction slide way, constructed with DualVee Motion Technology™, and a linear actuator.

1997

Bud Wisecarver designs a specialized trailer hitch. (Not yet marketed)

1998

Bud Wisecarver designs a folding electric handicap scooter. (Not yet marketed)

2000's

The corporation's second manufacturing building is lost to a freeway-widening project. A new building is created next to the first manufacturing building. The project took 3 1/2 years.

2000

The Board of Directors appointed Pamela to the role of President.

2001

BWC manufactures UtiliTrak®, a linear guide designed for applications where low cost and easy installation are the primary design objectives.

2005

BWC manufactures QuickTrak®, a system that reduces design and installation costs by easily integrating into gantry configurations.

BWC manufactures MinVee®, a miniature slide system with high load capabilities and smooth operation.

2006

BWC designs integrated DualVee wheels. (Patent pending)

DualVee Washdown Wheel (*Patent pending*) A DualVee-style guide system designed for the food and beverage industry where applications are subject to harsh wash-down environments.

BWC manufactures UtiliTrak's new steel wheel version.

BWC manufactures MadeWell® crown rollers and U profile channel.

BWC designs and manufactures SRX-150, a high speed, heavy duty linear actuator.

2008

Black Diamond Manufacturing is launched.

2009

Pamela gained controlling interest in the company.

2010's

2010

BWC develops and introduces the UTCSK camera slider kit based upon UtiliTrak.

Bishop-Wisecarver earns women-owned certification as a WBENC-Certified Women's Business Enterprise.

2011

BWC develops and introduces ALR aluminum rings.

2012

MadeWell Radial Wheels are introduced. WRW Engineering is launched.

2013

QuickTrak is developed and introduced to the market as a linear guide system.

BWC begins using a new corporate logo.

2014

DualVee vacuum wheels launched.

BWC introduces 1-Trak from HepcoMotion.

2015

BWC introduces DMV Series Servo Motors and received Underwriter Labs approval.

BWC introduces Extruded Profile Guides and Signature Motion Line.

BWC introduces Specialty Bearings.

Pamela Kan President



In 2010, the company became certified in the Bay Area Green Business Program. Since July of 2011 the company has been a WBENC certified woman owned business. In 2014 Pamela was appointed as one of the Astra Leadership Forum Committee Representatives (FCR). Astra is a regional partner organization for the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), the national organization providing certification for women-owned business. Kan will serve in this new role while also maintaining her position as Astra's founding chair of the Women in Manufacturing Group.

In 2008, Pamela formed Black Diamond Manufacturing Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bishop-Wisecarver and specialty contract manufacturer that works with other industrial companies to build complex mechanical sub-assemblies and manufacture specialty parts. In 2012, Pamela formed WRW Engineering, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bishop-Wisecarver, that helps companies integrate mechanical, electrical and software engineering to deliver complete custom mechatronic solutions with embedded intelligence. Pamela leads both BDM and WRW by managing the senior management team responsible for marketing sales, finance, operations, engineering and IT, as well as handling the legal and trademark aspects of the companies.

Pamela joined Bishop-Wisecarver in April of 1991. In May of 2000, the Board of Directors appointed Pamela to the role of President. In 2009, Pamela gained controlling interest in the company.

In 2008 Pamela joined the Board of Directors of NAM - National Association of Manufacturers and CMTA - California Manufacturing and Technology Association, the later she serves currently as the Executive Committee Chairman.

In 2012 the Governor appointed Pamela to the California Workforce Development Board; she currently serves on the Increasing Skills & Credential Attainment Workgroup. Under that work-group she chairs the Credentials in the Manufacturing Sector task force.

Pamela joined the Power Transmission Distributor Association (PTDA) Foundation Board of Trustees in 2013. The PTDA Foundation champions education and research initiatives relevant to the power transmission/motion control (PT/MC) industry that enhance the knowledge, professionalism and productivity of industry stakeholders. In 2015 Pamela helped form and serves on the Women & Minorities Sub-committee.

Under the leadership of Pamela, Bishop-Wisecarver has introduced new product offerings. Bishop-Wisecarver Group introduced an array of product offerings in the Summer of 2015 with the acquisition of Specialty Motions, Inc. Linear Actuator Product Lines.

Pamela's involvement in professional and trade organizations includes:

2007 to Present

Invited to attend Governor Schwarzenegger CTE Summit
Invited to attend Congressman Miller CTE Discussion Meeting

2008 to Present

Board of Directors, National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)

Current Chairman, Executive Committee and Board of Directors, California Manufacturing and Technology Association (CMTA)

2009 to Present

California Workforce Investment Board, Vice Chair for Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development Council (AMWDC)

2012 to Present Board of Trustees,

Steelworkers Western Independent Shops Pension Plan

Diablo Valley/San Francisco and Platinum Member, Women's Presidents Organization (WPO)

Foundation Board Member,

Power Transmission Distributor Association (PTDA)

Member, Association of High Tech Distributors (AHTD)

Graduate, City of Walnut Creek

Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program

Member, The National Safety Management Society Golden Gate Chapter (Past President 2 terms)

Member, Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce

Pamela's involvement in civic, non-profit and community organizations including:

Board of Trustees, The Seven Hills School

Board of Directors (Secretary, Vice President), Sponsorship Committee and

Advisory Board – Wardrobe for Opportunity

Walnut Creek City Commissioner, Park Recreation and Open Space Commission (Appointed to Two Terms)

Supplier and Team Sponsor for FIRST Tech and FIRST Robotics Competition since 2007

Appointed to City of Walnut Creek, Dog Park Task Force

Walnut Creek Dog Owners Group 501c3 (Founding Member and President), Board of Directors

Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Association Contra Costa County (Past President 2 terms)



2010 Recipient

Women's Initiative

"Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award" - Pittsburg

2013 Inaugura

Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Production (STEP) Awards

San Francisco Business Times Award Recipient Bay Area's 25 largest women-owned businesses











Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation
2104 Martin Way, Pittsburg CA 94565-5027

(888) 580-8272 | tel: (925) 439-8272 | fax: (925) 439-5931

www.bwc.com