



*The First Name In Trailers*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **UTILITY TRAILER MANUFACTURING COMPANY TIMELINE**

### **1910s**

**1914** – E.W. Bennett and H.C. Bennett, brothers, purchase a small wagon company; mark the beginning of the trailer building business

Developed the first mechanical brake used on a trailer

Built a single-axle trailer to accommodate 60 bales of cotton

### **1920s**

**1927** – One of the first trailer manufacturers to use duralumin metal on an all-welded frame

### **1930s**

**1932** – Introduced the first use of the elliptical spring running gear

**1935** – Developed an exclusive axle suspension system which eliminated weight transfer during braking

Bought a steel foundry in Southgate, California to maintain quality control of trailer manufacturing

**1936** – Invented the first shockless, air operated pintle hook for doubles operation

## **1940s**

**1942** – Built over 3,000 trailers for the War effort, and as a result is awarded the Army/Navy “E” Award of Excellence

**1944** – First manufacturer in the West to build frameless trailers

## **1950s**

**1950** - Introduced the 10-inch step brake which helps stop increasingly heavy truck loads faster, more safely and with less brake fade

Bought 40 acres in the City of Industry, CA and relocates to present corporate headquarters

**1951** – Pioneered the use of polyurethane insulation, the type of insulation that is still used by all modern day refrigerated trailer manufacturers

## **1960s**

**1963** – Developed the converter dolly which pulls trailers in tandem using an innovative trans-spring counterbalance design

**1965** - Built a regional manufacturing facility in Clearfield, Utah (Salt Lake City area). The plant has the distinction of producing more refrigerated van trailers than any other plant in the world.

## **1970s**

**1972** – Introduced lightweight Superstar™ line of reefers and dry freight vans, which revolutionize the industry

**1978** – Invented and introduced the Barrier Door®, the first door in the industry which completely eliminates foam-piercing hardware fasteners in reefers

**1979** – Introduced the revolutionary waterproof electrical wiring system guaranteed for the life of the trailer

## **1980s**

**1981** – Introduced the Tautliner<sup>®</sup>, the world's foremost convertible van-to-flatbed system

**1982** – Introduced the Tautliner<sup>®</sup> Maxi-Cube<sup>™</sup>, the innovative convertible drop-frame van to flatbed system

**1984** – Celebrated 70 years of quality craftsmanship and superior design

**1986** – Introduced the 2000R<sup>®</sup>, the #1 selling reefer of all time

**1988** – Built a state-of-the-art facility from the ground up in Marion, Virginia. It is the largest refrigerated trailer manufacturing plant in the world.

## **1990s**

**1994** – Initial work force of 53-strong produces the first van trailer to roll off the assembly line at Utility Trailer's plant in Paragould, Arkansas. The plant is dedicated solely to the building of dry freight vans.

Utility Trailer Sales of Jalisco appointed as the first Utility dealership in Mexico

Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company celebrated 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Manufacturing plant in Enterprise, Alabama built 20,000<sup>th</sup> Utility flatbed

10,000<sup>th</sup> refrigerated trailer rolled off assembly line at manufacturing plant in Marion, Virginia

**1997** – Introduced the new 2000A<sup>®</sup> Flatbed – a combination trailer of aluminum and steel with a weight savings of over 600 lbs. Enterprise, Alabama plant produces first unit on February 11.

**1999** – Introduced the lightest, strongest and most thermally-efficient reefer ever built, the 3000R<sup>®</sup>

Built new automated refrigerated van manufacturing plant in Clearfield Utah; new plant is the largest reefer plant in the world

## **2000s**

**2001** – Introduced 3000D<sup>®</sup> Dry Van

**2003** – Utility Trailer's extensive dealer network surpasses 100 locations throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico as well as South America

**2004** – Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company: 90 years strong

Introduced the 4000D-X<sup>®</sup>, the next generation of thin-wall dry van trailers

Patented its post and panel design SnagFree<sup>™</sup> interior sidewall lining

**2005** – Supported Hurricane Katrina relief effort with a donation of \$250,000 and equipment to aid those affected by the natural disaster

**2007** – 4000D-X<sup>®</sup> is recognized as the industry's first EPA Certified SmartWay<sup>®</sup> Trailer; and when configured with proven fuel saving technologies can reduce emissions, increase fuel efficiency and improve the operator's bottom line

Introduced the next evolution in flatbeds: the strong, lighter 4000A<sup>™</sup>

Paragould, Arkansas plant reached a production milestone when its 75,000th dry van rolled off the assembly line in August

**2008** – Introduced EPA-compliant high-pressure injection foam for 3000R<sup>®</sup> reefer

Introduced a new high-density polyurethane foam construction panel to the thin-wall design of the 4000D-X<sup>®</sup> Dry Van

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