

Growth Through the Years

The Ford Meter Box Company started in 1898 in the basement of Edwin Ford's home in Hartford City, Indiana. Since that time the company moved several times to meet the demands of a growing product line and expanding customer base.

The first move was from Edwin Ford's basement to a vacant house across the street. This move provided the necessary room for the business until the company was moved to Wabash, Indiana in 1911.

The move to Wabash placed the factory in the basement of a larger factory on South Wabash Street on the south bank of the Wabash river.

In 1915, the move was on again to larger quarters as business continued to grow. This move was a couple of blocks away to 410 South Carroll Street. This location was remodeled several times to accommodate a growing company; however, after 35 years on Carroll Street another move was planned.



Holton Ford poses with the family cow in 1911 prior to the Ford Meter Box's first major move from Hartford City to Wabash. Note the tile, ready for meter pits, stacked in the back yard



A portrait of The Ford Meter Box Company on Manchester Avenue in the early 1960s.



The largest single expansion was 166,000 square feet in 1968.

In 1951, The Ford Meter Box Company moved into the location it occupies today. Originally built as an economic development project in 1887, the building at 775 Manchester Avenue has been remodeled several times since 1951.

Another expansion is under way in 1998 as 80,000 square feet of manufacturing space will increase plant efficiency and provide for future growth. When this addition is complete, Ford Meter Box will occupy nearly 800,000 square feet of manufacturing space in Indiana and Alabama.

It's fun to review the growth of Ford Meter Box and the development of the buildings; however, the success of Ford Meter Box can be found in its people. Without a commitment to quality, delivery and service, none of the building expansions shown here could have been made. Edwin Ford would be proud.

