

Proudly Made in America for Over 100 Years



The PERKO Story



1st Generation



Frederick Perkins
Founder 1907-1947

2nd Generation



Louis E. Perkins
Co-Founder/President 1947-1964

3rd Generation



Marvin Perkins
President 1964-1997
Chairman 1997 to Present

4th Generation



Frederick M. Perkins
President 1997-Present

5th Generation



Cameron Perkins
1999-Present



Deborah Hilyard
2002-Present

Frederick Perkins (Mendel Persky) born in Russia in 1874 and schooled as a machinist (tool & die maker) in Germany, immigrated to this country in 1889 at the age of 15 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1898. In the early 1900's, Frederick started the original family business as a tool and die manufacturer out of his basement, as F. Persky & Co., at 49 Elizabeth Street in New York City.

In 1907, Fred Perkins was joined by his cousin Max Persky who was also a machinist. By 1910 the business had grown, and they moved down the street to 52 Elizabeth Street. At that time the company had approximately 12 or 14 employees and was established in the business of making small machine parts, tubular type bicycle pumps, head lights for automobiles and small lanterns which the dime stores filled with candy. When a

customer did not pay him for a set of marine lantern dies, he started marketing the lights he manufactured from that set of tools.

Between 1910 and 1912 the National Marine Lamp Company was formed by a combination of F. Persky & Company, H.A.J. Helvig and Company and American Lamp Works. The main headquarters for National Marine Lamp was located at 23 Brook Street in Forestville, Connecticut in a very large building that once had been a thread mill. They also maintained a sales office in New York City.

By 1913 Fred Perkins had moved to Connecticut and F. Persky & Company ceased independent operations. During that same year, Fred Perkins was listed in the company annual report as the president of National

Marine Lamp Company.

From 1913 until late 1916, Fred Perkins operated as the head of National Marine Lamp Corp. In late 1916, he left that firm and opened a new company, Perkins Marine Lamp Company which was incorporated in early 1917. The company set up operations in the remote farmlands of Brooklyn and operated in the Brooklyn, New York facility at 1943 Pitkin Avenue until 1959. The original plant consisted of one three story building of which the two top floors were leased out to independent operations. New products were added to the line and sales activities expanded beyond the Northeast. Perko offered cast bronze lights and hardware, first to the maritime industry, then to the growing pleasure boat market.