



A NEW GENERATION FINDS SUCCESS IN TRADITIONAL VALUES



Throughout history we have seen the rise and fall of companies of every size. Many of these companies were started during times of great economic hardship in our country. Those times saw some families band together to create a great number of small family-owned and operated businesses. With the onset of huge retail super centers, many of those businesses have long since been forgotten, but in Hubbard, Ohio, there is one that's withstood the test of time.

One Day Garages is a third-generation, family-owned and operated business that builds custom garages in Pennsylvania, Southwestern New York, the West Virginia Panhandle and, of course, in their home state of Ohio. Located at 5690 West Liberty Street in Hubbard, this company has grown through each successive generation. Now operated by Shaun, Brian, Stephanie, and Chad McConnell, One Day Garages remembers where it came from.

"Our grandfather, Hugh McConnell, started the business with a lumberyard in his back yard in the 1940s," says Shaun. "We are constantly reminded of our humble beginnings."

Hugh McConnell worked to grow the company to support his wife and raise his three children, George, Robert, and Donn. All three children, while college educated, found themselves, one-by-one, working at the lumberyard their father had created. By the early 1970s all three sons were working there full time, and they decided the company needed to expand, so in 1974 One Day Garages was born.

The brothers believed that with their ability to buy the lumber directly from the manufacturer, they could erect a custom-built garage for their customers at an affordable price with the best quality products available.

They built the business slowly, selling just twenty garages in their first year. Word quickly spread that there was a new garage builder in town that built quality garages at affordable prices. Through newspaper advertising, but primarily through word of mouth, the garage company



ONE DAY GARAGES: A “garage giant” right here in our own back yard. Building quality, affordable garages since 1974.

grew to become what it is today, an enterprise building nearly 400 garages per year.

The three brothers who founded One Day Garages still work at the company but are taking more of a supervisory role as they near retirement. They have made certain the beliefs their father instilled in them have been passed on to their children, who are poised to take the reins as the third generation of McConnells assume responsibility for the success of the companies.

The newest generation says that even though there are many things they hope to change and introduce, there are also many things that will always remain the same.

They underscore that quality materials, although not as popular as they once were, will never be compromised. High-quality products are not a fad and will never go out of style, and even as the price of products is a growing concern, quality will not be compromised.


Today, with more family members in the business than ever before, the company continues to expand its sales territory, product offerings, and services. One Day Garages can build nearly anything you can imagine, beyond freestanding garages or ones attached to a home or other structure. They have built everything from backyard barns and decks to room additions and airplane hangars. They have also built on unique terrain; the most interesting includes islands and sides of mountains. “Every day is a new adventure,” says Brian McConnell, who supervises concrete work for the company.

So what does it take for a family-owned organization to survive in 21st century America? Ask the newest generation of McConnells and they’ll each give you a different answer, one as important as the next. For Shaun it’s the ability to remain humble and remember your roots. “Don’t get greedy,” he says. “You have to remember that you are providing your customers a service and each one, independent of their financial status or need, deserves a great deal on their garage. Simple economics teaches us that if we take small profits but do a large volume we are much better off in the end.”

For Chad, it’s all about the quality and service. “Our grandfather had a philosophy that if he carried the highest quality products he could find, and coupled that with personal and prompt service, people would take notice and continue to want to do business with him. That’s also our philosophy today. This includes hiring qualified personnel with personal training to ensure consistency.”

Whatever the reason, One Day Garages continues to provide quality custom-built garages, pole barns, backyard barns, and decks for their customers. With new products emerging every year, they change with the times. Chad says, “When our parents started building decks the only product they had was wood; the only variations were cedar, redwood, or treated lumber. Now there are so many composites, vinyl decking and railing, imported hardwoods, and treated materials, it’s hard to keep up, but we stay knowledgeable for the consumer.” The most recent change for One Day Garages is the addition of their Web site, www.onedaygarage.com, where among other things, their customers can view garages they’ve built in various communities and request information from the company online.

Looking toward the future, the company hopes to expand its operations once again. They are considering in-house financing for their customers who may choose to finance their projects. They are also contemplating franchises with specified territories to people outside their immediate sales area, thereby expanding the overall area they serve. Expanding product offerings via their new Web site is another goal. There’s hope the company can be national, even global.

But for now, we can be glad we have a company like One Day Garages so close to us, a company rich in traditional family values that cares about the customers and communities they serve. 

For questions or to contact One Day Garages, please visit online at www.onedaygarage.com.