

## Lovejoy Chaplet Corporation

The Lovejoy Chaplet Corporation is located on River Street in Hoosick Falls and is one of the longest, continuously operating manufacturing companies in the Town of Hoosick. Lovejoy can be traced back to 1897 when Fred Lovejoy operated the Patent Specialty Supply Co. in Cambridge, NY. By 1911, his brother Charlie operated the Lovejoy Chaplet Company in West Sandgate. Leroy Brownell and Merritt Ashworth purchased the company and incorporated it on December 18, 1923. In 1925, the present factory was built on River Street.

In 1935, the company was merged with the Patent Specialty Company to form the Lovejoy-Patent Specialty Company. Elwin Bentley brought in his hinge tube machines and became a third partner in this new corporation. The company had approximately 20 people working at the plant. The main products produced were chaplets, hinge tubes, door catches, and screw machine parts mostly used in automotive distributor caps molded by Specialty Company and Hoosick Engineering of Cambridge, NY.

What are hinge tubes and chaplets? Hinge tubes are small tin tubes filled with casting sand that are placed into a foundry mold. When hot metal is poured into the mold, the tin melts leaving behind the casting sand. Once the casting sand is removed, the result is a hinge tube. Before foundries came up with new methods, these hinge tubes were used in making cast iron objects like stoves, door hinges, door catches, and so on. Chaplets were tin objects of many shapes that were used in foundries to create specific outcomes in castings. Lovejoy Chaplet manufactured hinge tubes and chaplets by the hundreds of thousands.

The company went through several name changes, and in 1956 it was incorporated under its present name. In 1968, Fred McGuire purchased Mr. Ashworth's share in the company and became president in 1980. Seeing the need to expand into new machine technology, the company invested in its first Computer Numerical Machine (CNC). Several CNC machines were purchased to meet the needs of the machine shop.