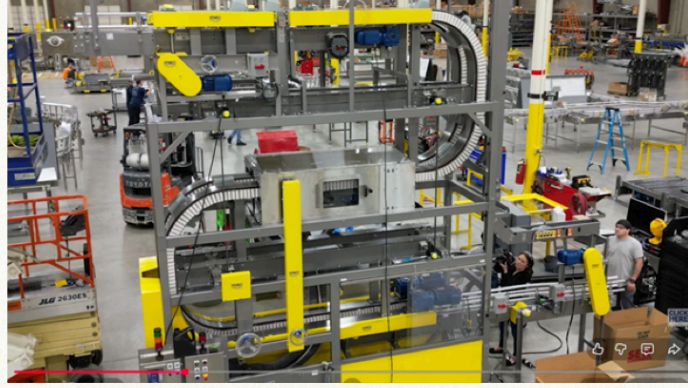


Cans, Bottles & Boxes, Oh My!!

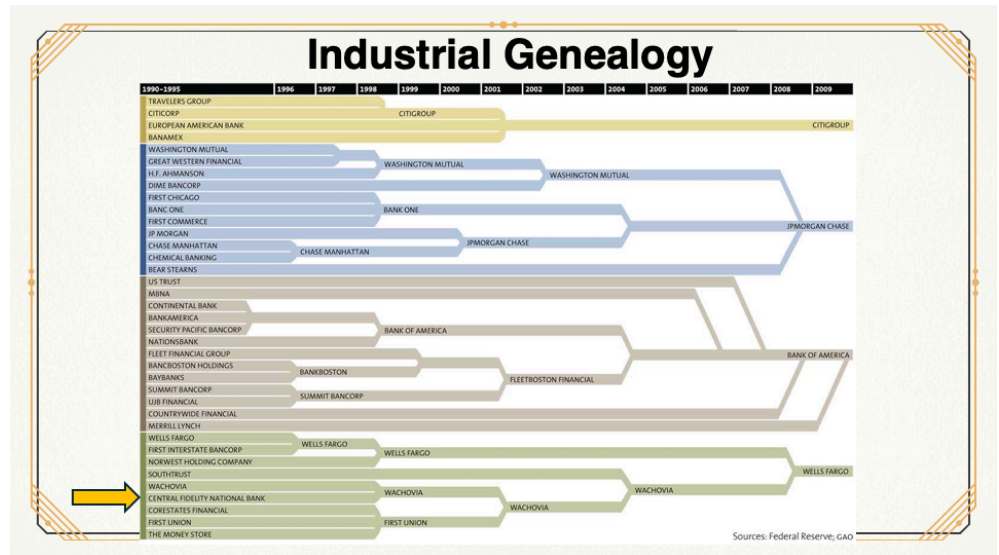


Lynchburg's Packaging Automation Industries

Michael V. Bradford

Presented to the SpheX Club of Lynchburg
February 19, 2026

I will be describing what could be called Industrial Genealogy, and this photo is an example. This depicts the consolidation of the national banking industry from 1990 through 2009 – over those years 4 banks swallowed up 33 banks to become the largest banks in the United States. Of course, each of those 33 banks had acquired dozens of banks themselves during their growth in the preceding decades.



But banking is not the industry I'll be talking about tonight. My subject is an industry that is significant in the greater Lynchburg region, but probably not as well known locally as it should be. Unlike our five municipal governments, our universities and our hospital system, all of which are very large employers, this is a for-profit industry. It is not the nuclear industry, which we know is a unique and a very large employer, and it is not commercial and residential contractors,

an industry not unique to Lynchburg but in the aggregate employees a large number of people as well.



So what is large and unique to Lynchburg.....?

In visualizing the size of these plants, keep in mind that a Walmart Supercenter is 180,000 square feet.

Lynchburg's Packaging Automation Corporations

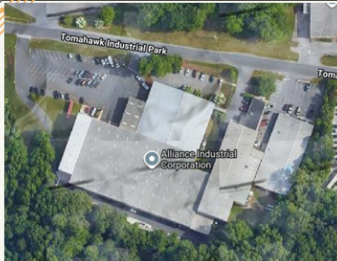
Automated Conveyor Systems
223,000 sf., approx 264 employees
Started locally in 1975

*A predecessor company started in 1966



Sentry Equipment & Erectors
306,200 sf., approx. 275 employees
Started locally in 1980


You may have noticed a trend – all four of these were founded between 1973 and 1980.




Alliance Industrial Corp.
284,000 sf., approx. 225 employees
Started locally in 1973

Belvac Production Machinery
222,000 sf, approx. 250 employees
Started locally in 1975*


*A predecessor company started in 1962




But first there was Simplimatic Engineering Co.

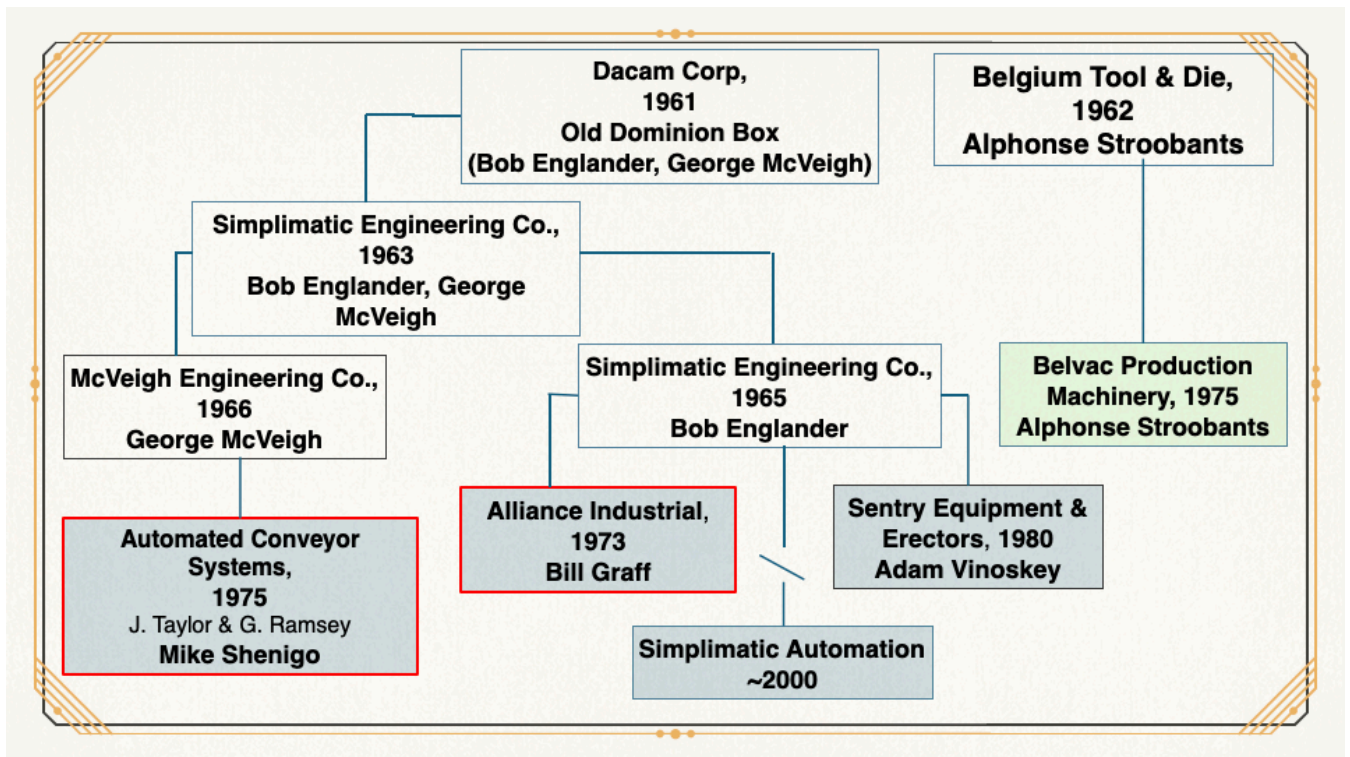


Founded in 1963 by Bob Englander and George McVeigh



Mr. Robert Englander
Chairman of the Board and Founder





What I want to show you in the flow chart above is when and by whom these companies were created. While what the companies do will be part of the presentation, my focus is really going to be on the men who took the risks to start these businesses. I'm going to start with Dacam at the top of the chart, then go to Simplimatic. I'll spend some time there.

It all started in 1961 when Old Dominion Box, a large, well established Lynchburg company that had box plants and sales offices throughout the south decided to relocate their box packaging equipment company from Charlotte to their facility in Elon. This manufacturing business made the equipment needed to produce boxes and to move corrugated cardboard and completed boxes through the process.

This is where the packaging automation industry arrives in Lynchburg. Bob Englander was the engineering consultant who helped Old Dominion Box with this relocation project, and named the president of the newly incorporated business. The company was owned by Old Dominion Box, and Edwin S. Dillard, Old Dominion's chairman, was also made Dacam's Chairman of the board.

1961 - Conveyor Industry First Comes to Lynchburg

Dacam relocation announcement May 16, 1961

Dacam officers announced June 5, 1961
Englander Pres. & George McVeigh VP

Englander and McVeigh had several patents filed from their work at Dacam, leading to good sales success. But as Englander learned the business, he also saw the flaws of the existing conveyor industry in the United States. At that time Bob found a packaging automation industry that was based on ordering from catalogs. Manufacturers would buy the conveyor pieces and machinery they thought they needed and then had to figure out how to assemble it and make it work for their product line.

Bob’s vision was to create one company that would work with manufacturers to design, build and install a system for each customer that would improve the speed, reliability and quality of their process—a one-stop shop that would deliver a custom-made manufacturing line for each customer.

He, McVeigh and some of the Dacam workers started experimenting with new designs for potential customers in the basement of Englander’s house.

So only 1 ½ years after starting at Dacam, Englander and McVeigh leave to open their new company, Simplimatic Engineering Company, in a newly constructed 6,000 sf brick building on Wards Ferry Road. At this time, Englander was 46 years old, and McVeigh was 37.

Dacam Success, But Greener Pastures Beckon
Englander & McVeigh start own company December 1963



NEW FIRM OPENS—Simplimatic Engineering Co. has begun operation in new \$25,000, 6,000-square foot building on Ward Ferry Road. Owned by George S. McVeigh and Robert A. Englander. Firm will employ eight people at start and increase to approximately 20 within year. It will do research, develop and manufacture packing machinery.

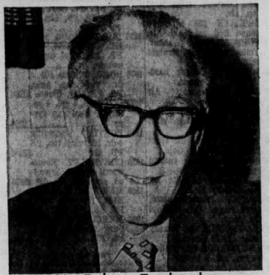
—John Law Photo

So at this point, let me introduce you to Bob Englander, in my opinion the father of the conveyor industry in Lynchburg.

Englander came from a well to do family in New York City. His father was the owner of a large facial and toilet tissue manufacturer named Golden Fleece who had several mills in the northeast and shipped globally.

Robert A. Englander

- Born in New York City, Nov. 16, 1917
- College: M.I.T. – Business, class of 1939
 - Member of Phi Beta Delta
- 1940 census living in Berkshire, MA and working a Golden Fleece mill for \$2,000 salary
- Nov. 1940 flew solo in Springfield, MA after completing Civil Aeronautics Authority training at Barnes Airport



Mr. Robert Englander
Chairman of the Board and Founder

George McVeigh as you can see on the slide was actually from Lynchburg, the only one of the founders I will discuss who was a native.

Having introduced the two men who will start Simplimatic in late 1963, I next want to look back to tell the story of how Englander made his way to Lynchburg

George S. McVeigh

Of the six men who founded the businesses we will discuss, McVeigh is the only one born in Lynchburg, arriving in 1926, and one of four brothers



Graduated from VMI in 1951, Engineering

Served in the Army after graduation

Was also working at Gary Steel prior to Dacam, but not an officer of the company as was Englander.

Robert A. Englander

Oct. 1942 began active duty as a Navy pilot

After WWII, Englander went back to work for Golden Fleece mills,



In 1946 (age 29) he was managing the company's factory in Becket, MA and getting his first in depth exposure to conveyors and automated manufacturing systems

Freydberg offers him 50/50 ownership in a garment factory in rural Appomattox, VA. He accepts and in 1950 buys a house on Manton Drive.

These were large sewing mills with 400 to 500 unionized employees, and labor trouble seemed to occur every other year or so judging from newspaper stories. This ignited in Englander a dislike of unions and he became an outspoken leader and frequent speaker in the national Right to Work effort.

This may have led to dissatisfaction on Englander's part with the garment industry, and in 1958 he moved on to another local manufacturer Gary Steel.

Steel had moved his business to Lynchburg recently, constructing a plant right next to the Lynchburg airport and on the railroad tracks and route 29 South. This plant was later

Englander Moves to Lynchburg

In 1949, Englander reconnects with a fraternity brother from MIT - Irwin Freydberg whose father was president of G., H. & E. Freydberg, a well established maker of children's clothes headquartered in New York City.

Englander accepts job to manage Freydberg clothing factory in Appomattox.



- Buys house on Manton Drive in 1950 and becomes superintendent of the factory.
- In 1954 he appears to have purchased a majority of the business from the Freydbergs and is president of both Appomattox Garment and Lynn Manufacturing.

Bob Englander

He continues to manage these businesses through 1958, but a news story says he sold his interest in both to the remaining shareholders on 12-31-1958.

In a news article in 1959 he is noted as Administrative VP of Gary Steel Products Corp, second only to Gary Steel the company's president and owner.



owned by Montegue-Betts, and is currently owned and operated by Banker Steel.

This is the third different industry in which Englander has worked, expanding his understanding of manufacturing processes.

Gary Steel is where he meets George McVeigh, a young trained engineer.

In it's first year, Simplimatic was working with Stroh's Brewing, Carling Breweries and Miller.

And it's first overseas sale in year two is to Evian in France.

They are clearly starting at the top insofar as their clientele, and they have really found a niche.

Simplimatic grows and does not stop!

1964 New Firm Speeds Bottling

The Simplimatic Engineering Co. of Lynchburg, a recently organized firm specializing in the research and development of new machinery in the food and beverage industry, has announced a breakthrough in the design and fabrication of a new bottling conveyor system.

"It is a machine was designed and built for the Miller Brewing Co. of Milwaukee, and is expected to step up that firm's production line by 50 per cent."

1965 Lynchburg Concern Sends First Shipment to France

The Simplimatic Engineering Co. of Lynchburg has made its first shipment of P.F.A. to France in connection with the design of a new plant in which has been in operation since December of 1964, and full production is expected early next year.

The fully productive capacity of the new plant will be approximately 1,000,000 cases of Evian which in building cost \$1,000,000.

Robert A. Englander, president of the firm, said that the firm is looking for the rate of the bottle in the market of France. He stated that the firm has been in operation for two years.

Under an contract with the French firm, Simplimatic Engineering Co. here will supply all necessary components and will install and commission the line as well. In addition, the Lynchburg firm is responsible for all production engineering in the new plant.

30 Men Enrolled For Fun N' Fitness

Ruben E. Haldeman, president of the YMCA, today said 30 men have enrolled in the new class.

Why does George McVeigh resign? I don't know, but it could be that the Simplimatics's quick turn to beverage companies is not what his engineering experience in the corrugated box industry prepared him for and he was struggling to contribute. Or Bob Englander saw that McVeigh was not able to contribute and encouraged him to leave.

And a plant size doubling before its 2nd anniversary

1965 Addition Planned For Plant

Simplimatic Engineering Co. of Lynchburg, has awarded a contract for a 6,000 square foot addition to its Wards Ferry Road plant to Modern Builders of Lynchburg, Inc.

Work on the \$20,000 addition is expected to get under way immediately and be ready for full production by Sept. 1.

1965 Lynchburg Firm Names Engineer From Baltimore

Taylor Holt of Blumont, formerly chief engineer for the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. in Baltimore, has joined Simplimatic Engineering Co. of Lynchburg as chief project engineer.

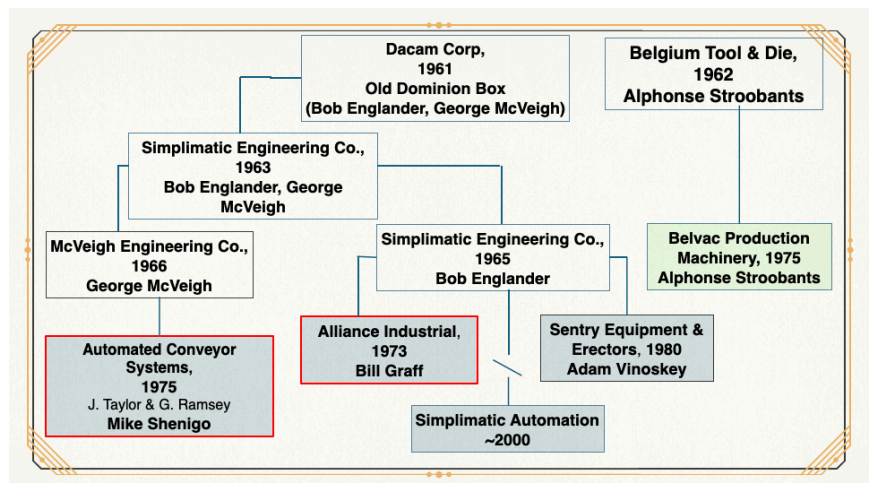
Holt's appointment was announced by Robert A. Englander, president of Simplimatic.

1965 New engineers with beverage industry experience and connections are hired. And George McVeigh resigns.

Nevertheless, McVeigh is gone. Soon he founds his own company, McVeigh Engineering, and focuses on corrugated packaging. We will see later where that takes him.

So we have now worked down to our first blue box – Simplimatic Engineering in the fall of 1965 under the full control of Bob Englander.

I am going to speed ahead a decade here to the mid-1970s. During the



decade we're skipping Simplimatic hires a president, Jerry East, in 1968 to help Englander, who remains fully active, in charge and chairman, and adds 12,000 more sf in 1970. Soon the company is buying other companies that can add to their capabilities. They establish a sales office in Milwaukee.

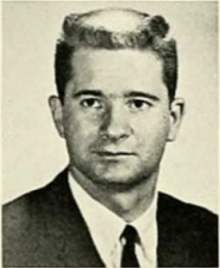
But also during this period the company hires Bill Graff, who by 1972 is Simplimatic's executive vice president. Bill won't work at Simplimatic long, so let's learn more about him. And after telling you about Bill Graff, I'll move on to Adam Vinoskey who, like Bill was a Simplimatic executive who left to start his own company.

Well, the truth is I did not find out much about Bill's early years. I could not find out if and where he might have finished college, although his hiring and rapid advancement at Simplimatic would seem to indicate he was a college grad and maybe an engineer given his successful patents and his job leading Electrical Engineering and Research.

William R. Graff

- Born July 14, 1943 in Henrico County, VA
- May have graduated from VCU, if so class of 1966
- Marries Sydney Williams in Richmond in 1965

At Simplimatic:
1970 Head of Elec. Engineering & Research
1972 Executive Vice President (age 29)
Filed for 2 patents in Nov. 1970 and Mar. 1973



I also do not know where he worked before Simplimatic, or when exactly he was hired by Simplimatic.

But as you can see he was an early achiever and young for his positions of leadership.

I should add here that Bill kept any information about the size and success of his company to himself and fellow execs. Rarely, if ever, giving out any details—the exact opposite of Bob Englander, who was always interested in the newspaper carrying stories about his sales growth, his new machines and his well known customers.

Bill Graff Leaves in 1973 to start his own company

Starts Alliance Industrial Corp. in July, 1973 at age 30
Erects a small facility on Tomahawk Industrial Park off of Old Graves Mill Road

As at Simplimatic, focus is on designing and building conveyor systems for the beverage industry.

Makes many additions to the property as sales grow rapidly.

Unfortunately Graff dies in 1998 at age 55



Despite Bill Graff's death, the company he built and the employees he trained have been very successful in continuing the company's growth, which sees them sending systems throughout the world.

So that's one Simplimatic leader who left and built a hugely successful competitor. Let's move on to another of our company founders, Adam Vinoksy.

At the time of the 1940 census in Burrell PA, baby Adam was living with his grandmother and her son and daughter (young Adam's aunt and uncle). On that day no mother or father was in the house.

I'm not sure how long Adam was in the Marines, but there is a large Marine Base in Honolulu and it is reasonable to think that he was stationed there, met a local girl and got married. Then probably out of the service in 1962 Adam would have been 23 and his first job was a machinist, the very training that would lay the foundation for the rest of his working life.

He works for Anheuser Busch during the setting up of their new Williamsburg brewery in the early 70s, and then is working for Carling Brewing at their Baltimore facility in 1973 when they are installing a new Simplimatic bottle rinsing machine, which is not going very well. Carling called Englander to complain, but before he got there Adam had fixed it. He told Adam if you ever need a job come see him. Adam did come see the Simplimatic

Alliance Industrial Corporation

Ownership passes to Garner's adult children Jeff and Beth

Experienced employee Gary Garner becomes president and remains in that role until he retires in 2024

Alliance currently is a major supplier of conveyors, spiral conveyors, palletizing and depalletizing machines, product handling equipment, and robotics to many different industries throughout the world out of its huge 284,000 sf facility.



Adam V. Vinoskey

Born Feb. 14, 1939 in Burrell, PA – about 46 miles east of Pittsburgh

Homer City High School class of 1957

Joined the Marines in 1957

Married in 1961 in Honolulu, and in the 1962 city directory is working as a machinist for his wife's family business – Dedman Machining & Engineering (age 23).



Adam V. Vinoskey at Simplimatic

In the late '60s Adam moves to the east coast having used his machinist skills to move into factory equipment maintenance positions

He works for Anheuser-Busch in Williamsburg, and then at Carling Brewery in Baltimore where he meets Bob Englander.

Bob recruits him, Adam takes the job in 1974 and over the next four years rises to where he's running the plant and Bob makes him president.



factory for several days and was so impressed with the workers and their knowledge that he took a job running their plant.

We skipped a lot of years during which Simplimatic continued to grow, many additions were added to their facility and the workforce had grown to 500!

But by 1979 Bob Englander is tired of working so hard. He has not been successful in letting previous company leaders take control, his sons are out of college and don't want to work there, he has gotten divorced from his wife, and purchased a home in Florida and is trying to retire.

And as you can see, Bob decides the best choice for him is to sell the company, The \$11 million purchase price would equal \$49 million in today's dollars, a value all created over a period of 16 years.

Vinoskey lasts about a year before the interference of the new British owners exasperates him to no end and he quits. So like Bill Graff in 1973, another Simplimatic exec leaves in 1975 to start his own company.

This photo is the small little office they had on Waterlick Road while they were just installers of conveyor systems.

Lynchburg company is sold

Simplimatic Engineering Co. with headquarters in Lynchburg, has been sold to Metal Box America, Inc. of Westport. SECO has an annual payroll in Lynchburg of about \$6.5 million. Total project sales in 1978 were \$25 million with a production of 800 million for the company. Englander has seen SECO grow from a small factory of one and an office staff of one.

But by 1979 Bob Englander is tired of working so hard. The company has 500 employees in Lynchburg, He has not been successful in letting previous company leaders take control.

And then in August 1979 he announces he has sold Simplimatic to Metal Box, a British company that has been Simplimatic's licensee for European sales.

Adam continues serving as president but finds he cannot get along with the new owners and quits in 1980.


Sentry Equipment & Erectors

Adam and his wife Carole start a conveyor installation company in 1980

Business grows well due to Adam's contacts in bottling and can plants

In 1986 they give in to frequent requests from customers for Sentry to add their own design and fabrication capabilities.

They do, and the business grows rapidly



Like with Bill Graff, Adam and Carole enjoy huge success as a full service conveyor system provider. They move into a very large new building out on 460 West in 1992.

They start an Employee Stock Ownership Plan so the employees can own the company, but ironically the employees later sell the company to ProMach in late 2023. ProMach calls itself ‘the worldwide leader in processing and packaging solutions’.

With the new building completed in 1992 the company expands its reach and continues to add employees and capabilities.

Beginning in 2000 the Vinoskeys sell their company to an ESOP for the employees which owns 100% of the company by 2010.

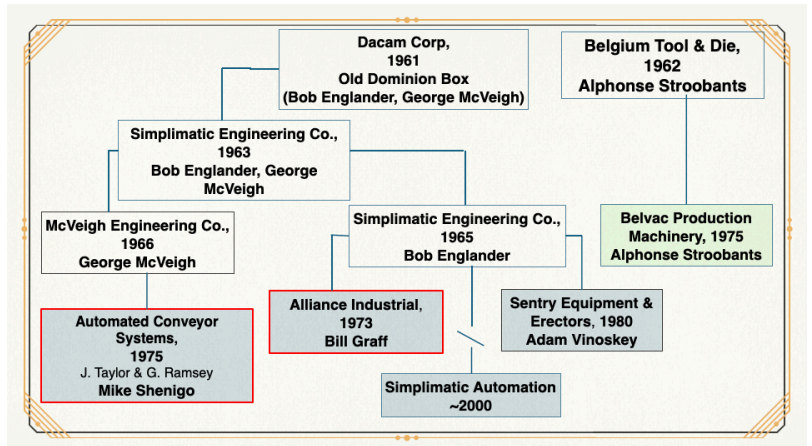



The Vinoskeys retire, but the company continues on

Unfortunately, Carole, who was the company’s finance leader during their ownership, passes away in 2011, shortly after they retired.

Adam is the only one of the 6 men I am highlighting who is still alive; he just turned 87 on Valentines Day.

So I've spent the last several slides looking at this pod of companies in the middle – Simplimatic, Alliance and Sentry. You know the way they talk about coaching trees in football? Like the Nick Saban tree in college football, or the Mike Shanahan tree in the NFL. To me clearly all three of these companies are from the Bob Englander tree.




I’m going to switch now to this pod on the left which I see as also part of the Bob Englander tree – McVeigh Engineering and Automated Conveyor Systems.

Before I address this slide I need to take you back to where George McVeigh left Simplimatic very early in its life in 1965. Well, a year later he started McVeigh Engineering and as I’ve said he focused on the corrugated packaging which Simplimatic had little to no interest in. Michael Shenigo, a multi-decade veteran in the corrugated container industry, joined McVeigh in 1972,

Michael G. Shenigo

- Born Aug. 27, 1924 in Somerset, PA.
- 1942-1945 served in Army Air Corp in WWII
 - After the war served in the Air Force Reserves
- Graduated from Ohio State University
 - Mechanical Engineering
- Worked with Westvaco’s Container Division
 - Design, installation and maintenance of material handling systems
- Hired by McVeigh Engineering in 1972 while in Charlotte
- McVeigh Engineering transitioned to Automated Conveyor Systems under new ownership in 1975



working from Charlotte, NC and trying to develop business from that market.

For reasons unknown, McVeigh sold his business in 1975 to Jim Taylor and George Ramsey, who were owners of Taylor Ramsey Lumber Co. Within a relatively short time, McVeigh has left to work for another company (I do not know if it was voluntary or not), and Michael G. Shenigo is managing the business on a day-to-day basis. I wish I knew why two lumber guys purchased this business. I spoke to George Ramsey about this and he said this was all Jim Taylor's idea and even though George was a corporate officer he said he spent little on it. He said Jim split it 50/50 with him just because they owned the lumber company 50/50. As some of you may remember George and Jim were brothers-in-law.

Anyway, the company was renamed Automated Conveyor Systems and continued to operate out of 800 Kemper St across the street from the train station.



With someone in charge who had spent 30 years in the industry, things went very well. Ultimately, Taylor and Ramsey sell out to an ESOP in 1987, and the company is still owned by its employees now. Meanwhile Michael G. Shenigo is fully in charge.

A note on the Shenigos to some of you who may know them: the man on this slide is Michael G. Shenigo, know as Mike. He has a son Michael P. Shenigo, who goes by Michael and is the company's current President (currently 73). He has a son Michael P. Shenigo, Jr., who is in his early 40s and works for the company in sales. I had the hardest time for awhile trying to determine who people were referring to when Michael/Mike Shenigo and ACS were being discussed.

This facility is in the Lynchburg Industrial Park on Graves Mill Road near Craft Collision – a few blocks down from 221 and the Food Lion shopping center.


Michael G. Shenigo

Guided ACS's early growth from their initial facility at 800 Kemper Street (across from train station)
ACS focus on conveyor systems for the corrugated and folding carton industries (similar to it's history dating back through McVeigh to Dacam, which was owned by Old Dominion Box)
Shenigo becomes president in 1985, and in 1987 Taylor and Ramsey sell to an ACS Employee Stock Ownership Plan.
Michael G. Shenigo is board chair and CEO in 1996 at age 72.

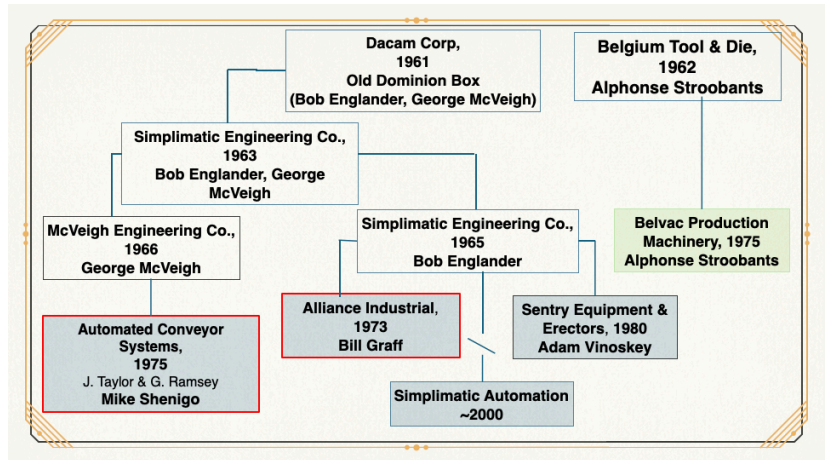


Michael G. Shenigo

- In 1997 ACS builds it's current facility, initially 140,000 sf but since expanded to encompass 223,000 sf.
- ACS has existing customers running their systems in all 50 states and in 50 foreign countries.
- Michael P. Shenigo (son) is the company's current President and CEO.
- Michael P. Shenigo (son) is the company's current President and CEO.




So now I am done with what I consider to be Bob Englander's tree or legacy. I include ACS because it would not have existed if Bob had not brought George McVeigh along with him when he left Gary Steel to start Dacam and then on to Simplimatic. Those years from 1961 through 1965 with Englander at those two companies were the foundation of McVeigh's skill set in this automation industry.




So finally we head over to the green block and another significant player and founder in this pod of automation companies in Lynchburg.

Al Stroobants started his own tool and die shop because the employer he was working for – Dabney Machine & Castings – went under. By that time in 1962 three other Belgians had followed Al to Lynchburg, so he felt the need to do something to keep everyone employed.



Alphonse Stroobants

- Born Oct. 21, 1931 in Chatelineau, Belgium
- Graduated from a technical skills high school in 1948
- 1954 chosen for student exchange program with USA. In Buffalo, working at a Ford plant.
- Moved to Lynchburg in response to a want ad.
- Al started Belgium Tool & Die in 1962



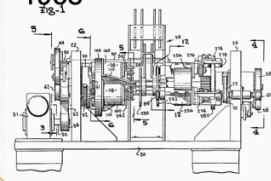
For over a decade Belgium Tool & Die was a nice growing business providing precision machining services to other manufacturers, primarily in Virginia, West Virginia and Massachusetts.

In other words, the only product they were selling was their service, their labor. They outgrew their shop and built a 22,000 sf building on Graves Mill Road in 1967.

1975 Transition to Belvac Production Machinery

Operated as a tool & die shop for for 13 years making tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, stampings, general machine work and fabrications

Moved to new 22,000 sf facility on Graves Mill Road in 1968



But this invention in the mid 1970s totally changed the firm's business

Al was recognized as Virginia Small Business Person of the Year in 1969. In news stories about the expansion in 1967 and this award in 1969, Al would tell the story of his personal journey from poor son of a Belgian coal miner to successful business owner in the United States. He was extremely proud of what he had accomplished, but also very appreciative


of a country like the United States where a poor young foreign man could start a business and become an employer that could help others build skills and a future for themselves.

But his business was about to take a step that would dramatically change its trajectory upward, all based on one invention that someone brought to Al to get his help in making it.

Vinoskey's memory was that Dan Cvacho wanted to see these devices built, and told Al if he could make them "all he wanted was 10%". Whether this is accurate, and if so how the 10% was calculated, I do not know. But the joint patents would seem to indicate there was some sharing arrangement set up

And while I am talking about patents, all of these men who we see in this story have patents. No one could touch Dan Cvacho's 52 patents, but then that was Cvacho's job at Reynolds. Bob Englander had 18 patents, Stroobants 13, Mike Shenigo 9, George McVeigh 5, Bill Graff 2 and Adam Vinoskey 1.

The Rotary Can Trimming Machine and the Bottom Coating Machine




In the mid-1970s Dan Cvacho, a long term employee of Reynolds Metals as a machine design engineer came to Al.

The partnership in design and manufacture resulted in two important devices that greatly improved the speed and handling of aluminum cans in the canned beverage industry

When the first of these came to market the company changed its operating name to Belvac Production Machinery

Daniel S. Cvacho



Under the name of Belvac Production Machinery Division, we are now setting standards in industry with our can production equipment.

This successful venture was a joint effort begun four years ago on the part of Belgium Tool & Die Co. and Mr. Dan Cvacho of Cvacho Research and Development of Forest, Va.

We have equipment in more than 80 plants in over 15 different countries.



In re-reading every newspaper story carefully, I finally found one 1981 company ad where Dan Cvacho was acknowledged in the "joint effort" to create can production equipment which the ad says is now used in 80 plants in 15 different companies.

Dan and Al had six joint patents which were approved.

Belvac Today

Al Stroobants sold the company in 1990 in a leveraged buyout, and the company was sold again in 1993 to the Dover Corp.

Belvac has three locations in the Lynchburg area totaling 221,000 sf.

Recently retired president Rich Steigerwald said "Belvac serves a tightly knit base of approximately 50 customers. While the firm's clients include some food and beverage companies, "We primarily serve can makers," Steigerwald says. "We're in 15 regional markets around the world.

Al was one of a kind in so many ways. For example, when the company achieved its 25th anniversary he treated all of his employees and spouses to an all-expenses-paid 12-day group trip to Europe.

He also became one of the leading Angus cow breeders in the country, and hosted an annual sale of Angus calves at his farm, which buyers from all over the U.S. attended.


Al Stroobants

Al Stroobants passed away in 2010 at the age of 78

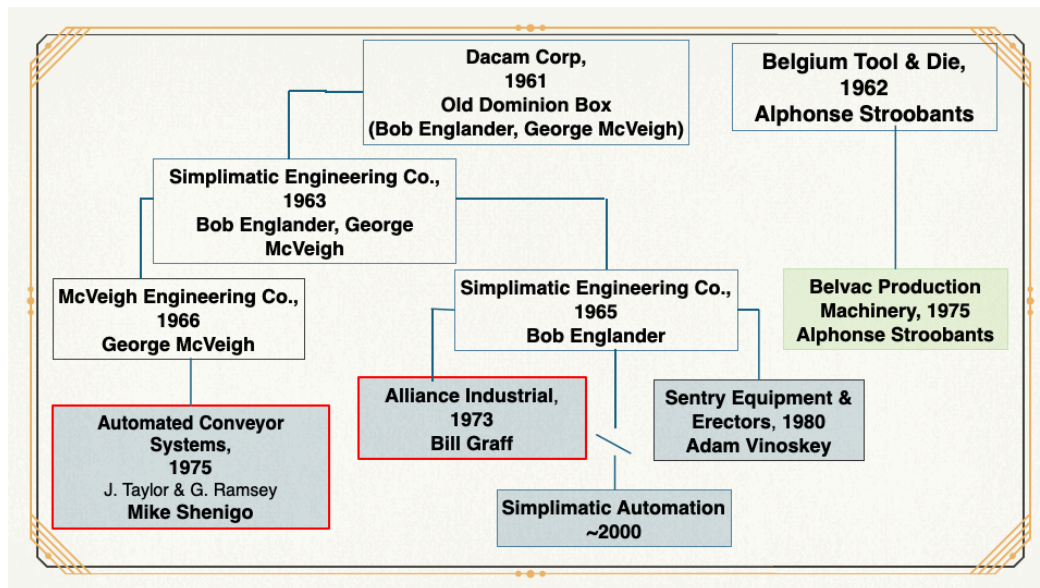
He left a legacy that includes a thriving business which employs hundreds and is vital cog in Lynchburg's manufacturing culture.

And he left a legacy of generosity in how he supported this community, including Centra Health to whom he contributed millions in support of cardiovascular health services.

He was also an example to other employers in how he valued and respected his workforce recognizing that all Belvac achieved was through their skill and hard work



Al underwent heart bypass surgery in 1992 at age 61 and was very appreciative of the life-saving care he received from Centra and its cardiologists.



That concludes my presentation. My purpose is really to make sure this corporate genealogy is documented somewhere so that researchers in the future will recognize the important role that Bob Englander and Al Stroobants played in the automation packaging corporate ecosystem we have here in Lynchburg. Unfortunately for you, the only way for me to get it into Jones Memorial Library is to present it to you and I hope I haven't bored you to tears.

You will notice that I did not comment on the Simplimatic Automation company that has a nice 60,000 sf facility out in the New London Industrial Park. This is owned by a company named Signode and is the only piece of Simplimatic remaining. It focuses on "end of line" robotics and automation and employs about 50 people, which is included in the 1,054 employee total I mentioned earlier. What is not included are the employees of BW Integrated Systems which moved into the huge old Simplimatic building complex on Wards Ferry Road in 2023.