

# 1971—1980

## Second Generation



As a result of the 1970 Cuban threat to Florida, the United States was seeking a way to monitor communications from Cuba. A Westinghouse subsidiary devised a 215-foot long balloon packed with electronic gear for monitoring communications and detecting aircraft, ships, etc. The balloon was tethered to the ground and floated 15,000 feet in the air. Standard Iron was contacted by a local company to fabricate ground tethering equipment and the aluminum nose assembly. This order totaled \$450,000 and was the largest Contract Manufacturing order ever received up to this date. With the development of satellites, however, these communication balloons soon became obsolete and the project was scrapped.

**1971**



Zez Demeules retires.

**1972**



When Heine Demeules retired in September of 1972, many changes took place at Standard Iron. David Demeules became president, Chuck Demeules took over the vice president position, and Rusty Demeules took the office of secretary-treasurer.

**1973**



In September of 1973, Harold Ramsay was made vice president and was the first non-family member to be appointed an officer of the corporation. Harold retired in August of 2001. From left to right, David Demeules, President; Harold Ramsay, Vice President; Rusty Demeules, Executive Vice President

**1975**



Chuck Demeules retires.

**1976**

First computer controlled machine—Whitney Plasma Arc Cutting System



As sales continued to grow, Standard Iron continued to improve its facilities with modern equipment. In September of 1976, a Whitney plasma arc cutting system was purchased for \$150,000.

The 70s brought increased competition and to lower its costs Standard Iron started a small facility in March of 1972 in Foley, Minnesota. Because of crowded conditions, this manufacturing facility was later moved to Randall, Minnesota. With the success of this operation, an additional manufacturing facility was leased from Sauk Centre Opportunities and became an immediate success. In 1975, six acres of land across the street from the leased Sauk Centre facility was purchased and a 10,000 sq. ft. building was constructed, closing the Randall operation.

**1977**



1401 36th Avenue W., Alexandria, MN

Standard Iron's next expansion would be in 1977 where a 17,200 sq. ft. manufacturing facility was built at 1401 36th Avenue West in Alexandria. This was Standard Iron's third location in Minnesota, bringing its total production area to 61,000 sq. ft., plus another 14,900 sq. ft. in office space.

The Minneapolis Housing Authority had plans for redevelopment of the North Washington area and for the Standard Iron property at 2930 N. Second Street. In 1978, Standard Iron reached an agreement to sell the property, and in December of that same year, it vacated the property and moved the Minneapolis facility to 4990 North Hwy. 169 in New Hope.

**1978**



4990 North Hwy. 169, New Hope, MN

**1980**

Cone Assembly



With the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in 1980, Standard Iron was contacted by a major farm equipment company to fabricate an internal part of the combine that would withstand the abrasive dust from volcanoes. Because of the outstanding wear characteristics of this part, it continues to be fabricated by Standard Iron and is used on combines wherever they have a severe wear problem.