

1965

CAL-MIL IS FOUNDED

1965 – At the age of 40, Jack Callahan acquires the helmet division of the company, Bill Jack's, to create Cal-Mil. Jack and his team specialized in high performance helmets for the military, crop dusters, the Forestry Fired Department, among many others.

1967 – Jack and his father build the first Cal-Mil manufacturing facility in Carlsbad, CA.



Jack Callahan

1970

CAL-MIL ENTERS THE FOODSERVICE MARKET

1970 – Showing his innovative spirit, Jack branches out from helmets to begin manufacturing terrariums for the retail industry. The original forming machines for the terrariums were built by Jack using salvaged scrap metal from the local shipyards in San Diego.

1974 – The first salad bowls are manufactured for S.E. Rykoff in Los Angeles. Jack was able to modify the molds for the terrariums to produce the salad bowls. These bowls are still a part of our assortment today! Check them out on page 200, item 401-12-34.

1975 – Jack hires foodservice rep, Sam Feinberg, in Los Angeles, establishing Cal-Mil in the foodservice business.

1976 – Johnny, Jack's youngest son, joins the business, marking the beginning of the second generation of Cal-Mil.

1977 – Johnny opened a new showroom at the manufacturing facility in Carlsbad showcasing a variety of retail items.

1980

CAL-MIL MANUFACTURING BEGINS TO SHINE

1980 – Johnny discovers a love for manufacturing and fabrication, expanding into multiple industries, including furniture, retail, art, store displays, and foodservice.

1982 – Cal-Mil exhibits at the NRA Show in Chicago and met with Edward Don & Company, who agree to sell their products. This was a big milestone for Cal-Mil!

1984 – Cal-Mil's first national rollout of displayettes for Marriott's in room program.

1985 – Jack and Johnny make the decision to discontinue the helmet division to focus their efforts on manufacturing for the growing foodservice industry.



Johnny Callahan

1990

CAL-MIL INTRODUCES TREND FORWARD, CUTTING EDGE DESIGN IN FOODSERVICE

1991 – Mixed materials, including metal and wood, were introduced into buffet, catering and foodservice at large.

1996 – Cal-Mil outgrows original facility in Carlsbad and moves to larger facility in Oceanside.

1997 – As manufacturing grows, Jack and Johnny decide to open a manufacturing facility in Tecate, Mexico.

1998 – Cal-Mil acquires Palmer Plastics (PDI), further expanding the portfolio of plastic products.

