

Ohio Shop Celebrating Its 91st Year

Standing the test of time, this small-town collision repair shop has paved its way to success, earning many distinctions along the way.

Mike Loy's Collision Inc. goes back a long way in Lewisburg, Ohio. Ninety-one years, to be exact.

Back to 1917.

Back three generations. Back to Mike's grandfather.

Back to a time when Mike's grandfather, Ernest Loy, painted vehicles with a paintbrush – and did such a good job that old-timers still recall that you couldn't even see the brush marks.

Ernest Loy was so good with the paintbrush that he just couldn't accept a new-fangled tool called a "spray gun" that his sons brought into the business when they joined it in 1940. It was the first spray gun brought into the shop, and Ernest Loy decided right then and there that it was time for him to quit.

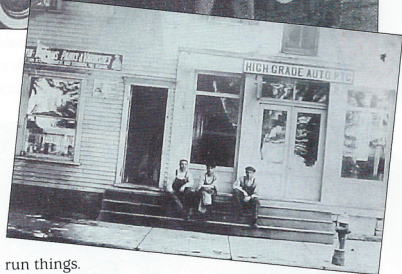
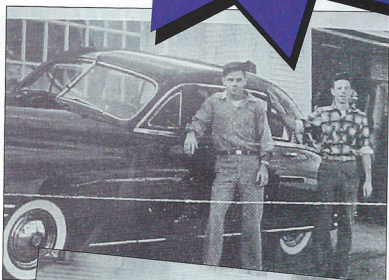
He said it was time for his

sons, Bill (Mike's father) and Ernie, to run things. The shop those days was in downtown Lewisburg, a town that today claims about 1,800 people.

Ernest Loy, who started it all as a buggy shop – E. H. Loy – died in 1952 (the year Mike was born). He was 74 years old. When Mike's father and brother joined their father, the business's name was changed to E. H. Loy & Sons. After their father died, the brothers changed the name to Loy's Body Shop and moved it to the west edge of Lewisburg. Mike's father died in 1998 and his uncle died in 2005.

But Mike recalls what a fighter his uncle was. His uncle lost both legs in a bush hog (mower) accident, yet he came back to work. He worked in spite of being in a

**Mike Loy Named
ASA/ASE Technician
of the Year for
Collision Shops.**



In the top photo, Mike's Uncle Ernie, left, and Mike's dad, Bill, are shown in 1940 in front of the second shop at the western edge of Lewisburg. The other photo shows Mike's grandfather in front of the downtown location in 1917 with his two brothers sitting beside him.

motorized wheelchair.

Mike grew up in the business and his father and uncle trained him. They trained him so well, in fact, that he has been named the Automotive Service Association (ASA)/National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Technician of the Year. He will receive his award during the 2008 National Autobody Congress and Exposition (NACE) in Las Vegas. The award recognizes the ASA Collision Division member who received the high-