



# HISTORIC MILESTONES

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April 2019

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# 1974

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Dean Somerville, the founder of Posi Lock, was operating a machinery repair shop and a farming operation in the small North Dakota town of McHenry. With his inventive spirit and mechanical background, Dean saw the need for a self-aligning, universal puller that could remove gears and bearings safely and quickly. His new puller design included a Safety Cage® that would control the opening and closing of the pulling jaws, as well as provide the tool with clamping pressure. The new caged puller was patented in 1977 and given the name “Posi Lock® Puller”, for its unparalleled clamping design.





# 1978

The Posi Lock puller was immediately recognized as a significant advance in the gear and bearing puller industry, paving the way for future success. In 1978, Dean Somerville established Posi Lock Puller, Inc. to begin production in earnest.



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# 1982

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Posi Lock lands in Canada with its first international sale.





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# 1984

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Posi Lock's original facility in McHenry, North Dakota is destroyed by fire.



# 1985

Posi Lock begins anew at its current Cooperstown, North Dakota facility, which received expansions in 1990 and 1998.





# 1987

Posi Lock creates its hydraulic division, which today produces hydraulic pullers with up to 200 tons of pulling power.





# 1990

Posi Lock's hydraulic division meets a significant milestone with the production of a 100-ton puller.





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# 1992

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Dean Somerville wins the Greater North Dakota Association Business & Industrial Development Award, and Governor Ed Shafer names him to the North Dakota Rural Development Council.



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# 1993

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Tamara Somerville, Dean's daughter, returns from Florida to join the family business and drive Posi Lock's global expansion.



THE  
CAGE<sup>®</sup>  
IS THE  
KEY  
**POSI  
LOCK<sup>®</sup>**



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# 1995

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Dean Somerville attends the  
White House Conference on  
Small Business.





# 2002

Posi Lock Manufacturing, Inc.,  
Posi Lock's precision  
machining division, achieves  
ISO 9002 certification.



CONGRATULATIONS, CRIS & PL MFG!  
ISO 9002 CERTIFIED



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# 2002

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Posi Lock becomes the first company in North Dakota to receive the Export Achievement Award from the US Department of Commerce.





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# 2004

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Posi Lock celebrates its 25th anniversary with a commemorative American flag puller.







# 2014

Posi Lock sells its one millionth puller.

“If you make something that actually works, you’ll sell a MILLION of them.”

-Dean Somerville





# 2013

North Dakota SBA Small Business Exporter of the Year Award



# 2014

Prairie Business Magazine Top 25 Businesses to Work For



# 2016

North Dakota Exporter of the Year Award







# 2015

Tamara Somerville is named  
one of Prairie Business  
Magazine's Top 25 Women in  
Business.



# 2016

The Manufacturing Institute  
recognizes Tamara Somerville  
as one of the Top 100 Women  
in Manufacturing across the  
USA.





# 2019

Posi Lock opens a European Warehouse & Showroom in Brussels.







THE **GEAR** AND **BEARING**  
**PULLER** SO **QUICK** AND  
**POWERFUL** IT NEEDED ITS  
OWN **CAGE.**



**THE  
CAGE<sup>®</sup>  
IS THE  
KEY**



**POSIL  
LOCK<sup>®</sup>**

**40** YEARS  
1978  
2018

**ANNIVERSARY**

**MADE IN THE USA**