Strike!

When tool designer Lance Coulter worked for New Britain Machine, he wasn’t part of the union, but he had to cross the picket line. “The shop was a union shop. It was a closed shop. There were three or four strikes there. You’d have to watch it because they would throw nails out and it would get in your tires. It could get nasty. The people would come here to work. They would call them scabs. They spit on your car. They did all kinds of things. You’d have to watch it. They’d hold their key out as you drive by.” Lance recalls when his 80-year-old mother stayed with he and his wife as one strike went on. “She’s from the old school. We had her in the car and had to stop to go through the picket line. One guy was yelling and my mother rolled down the window of the car and yelled. “Why don’t you shut up and go back to work?” Here is this 80-year-old woman [and] the guy didn’t know what to say.”

The strikes did not help the workers of New Britain Machine. Litton eventually sold off its assets. The hand tool division moved to Sanford North Carolina and the warehouse facilities from Newington to Covington Tennessee. Machine Tools, the final company asset was sent to Saginaw Michigan. “At least it’s still in the United States.” When the New Britain Machine Company closed in 1990, The Stanley Works acquired the Blackhawk and Husky trademarks. The Blackhawk trademark is still being used today.
Works Cited

Business Registration | California (Foreign State)
California Secretary of State Data updated February 19, 2014

Business Details

Business Name: THE NEW BRITAIN MACHINE COMPANY
Citizenship: Foreign
State of Incorporation: DE
Business Type: Corporation
Tax Base: Stock
Mailing Address: DIVISION OF LITTON INDUSTRIES
NEW BRITAIN, CT 06050
Status: Surrendered
Secretary of State ID: C0651592
Incorporation Date: 05/15/1972


