

Nuts and Bolts: Stories from New Britain Manufacturing  
Connecticut Humanities CT at Work Project  
CCSU Student Author: Patricia Ladd  
Interview Subject: Lance Coulter  
Factory subject worked at: New Britain Machine  
Date of Interview: February 11, 2014

### 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

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