

# *Made in NW Illinois*

SPOTLIGHTING MANUFACTURING IN  
CARROLL & JO DAVIESS COUNTIES

## LEMFCO, INC



## STEADFAST WITH GRAY

At the turn of the 20th century Galena's population was 5,000 strong and included a young foundry worker named Frank Einsweiler. He took what he had learned, and in 1912 opened his own foundry at the corner of Hill and Water Streets in downtown Galena. Einsweiler named it Leadmine Foundry.

What began with wheels for mining carts and runners for sleighs is today pumps for the energy sector and gear boxes for automotive manufacturers. The acronym LEMFCO took hold in 1971, and by 2017 the fifth generation of the Einsweiler Family joined the company.

Today Lemfco is a proud Illinois Historical Society Centennial Business Award recipient, remains family owned and operated, maintains over 1,000 active gray casting patterns, and is recognized as one of the nation's premier cast iron foundries employing over 25 employees.





Castings are not their job - they are the Einsweiler Family's life. Back row, from left: Eric (retired 2017) and Kurt (retired July 2021); front row: Desiree and John.

*"The craft of metal casting is not only a major part of our history, it is also something we hope to pass on for generations to come."*

Desiree Einsweiler, President.



The Galena Foundation and Dale Glick approached Lemfco to create decorative castings to adorn fencing at Old City Cemetery in Galena in 2019.

The majority of Lemfco's products are sold direct to manufacturers who then incorporate their castings into larger products such as compressors, manifolds, and motors. Special order castings like decorative fencing elements and antique window handles are also sold and are often crafted by hand using classical methods.

The metal casting industry is the fourth largest contributor to the recycling economy, and Lemfco annually purchases hundreds of thousands of pounds of steel and iron scrap. A proud environmental steward, Lemfco is currently exploring ways to incorporate green energies into its operations. Interested in joining the team? Lemfco is hiring!



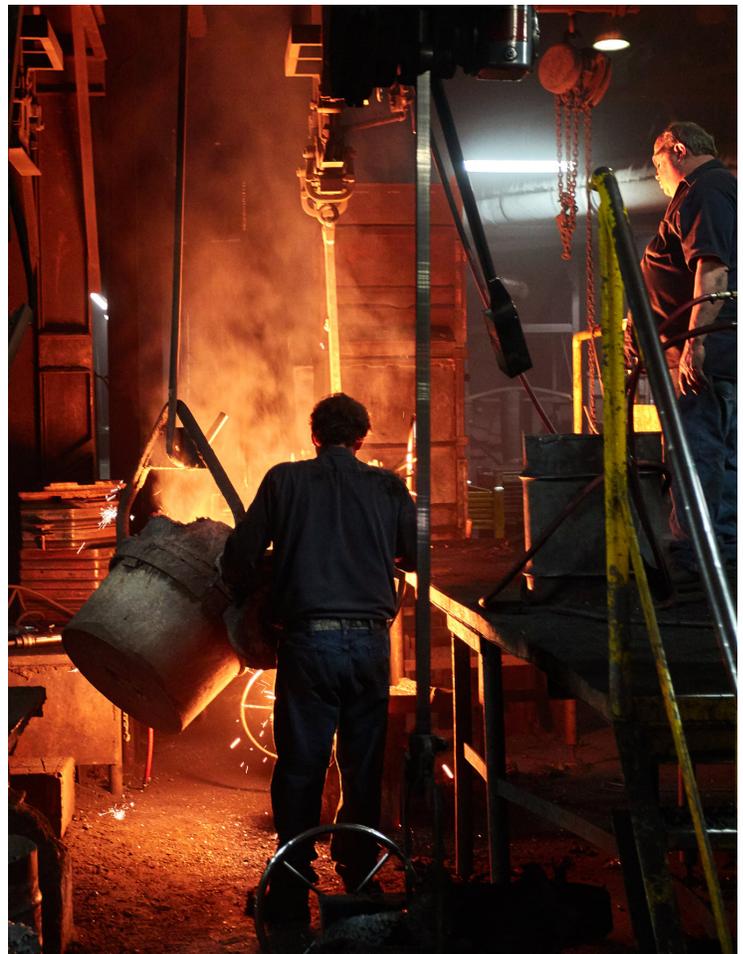
## Contact Details

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Kurt Einsweiler (center) transfers iron into pouring ladles. Gray iron is a type of iron named after the gray color of the fracture it forms. The color is caused by the presence of graphite in the casting. Gray iron is commonly used for housings where the stiffness of the component is more important than its tensile strength, such as internal combustion engines and cylinder blocks.