

## **DAWES RIGGING & CRANE RENTAL, INC.**

**Milwaukee | Elk Mound | Kaukauna | Madison**

Dawes traces its roots to the 1945 merger of two Wisconsin firms—the Shea Drayage Company of Racine and the Matson Company of Kenosha. The Shea-Matson Company, located in Milwaukee, became one of the area’s largest specialized carrier and rigging companies. Besides working with the breweries, the company served the area’s heavy industrial base, anchored by such companies as Allen Bradley Corp., A.O. Smith, Allis-Chalmers, Bucyrus Erie, and Harnischfeger.

In 1946, the Shea-Matson Company opened a second office and shop in the heart of Chicago. This new location became the base of operations for managing and setting up trade shows throughout the nation. (The company also helped create the organization that eventually became the Specialized Carriers and Rigging Association.) Over the next 25 years, the Shea-Matson Company would rank among the top specialized carriers and rigging companies for trade shows.

In 1973, Dawes Transfer of Milwaukee purchased the Shea-Matson Company to form the Shea-Matson-Dawes Company. The owners of Dawes Transfer—Thomas Freckmann, Dan O’Gorman, Ted Lehninger, and Dick Grimsrud—were all former employees of Shea-Matson. A few years later, Shea-Matson was dropped from the company name and Dawes Rigging & Crane Rental, Inc. emerged.

In 1978, the partners sold the company to the ALL Family of Companies, headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. Tom Freckmann stayed on as the general manager of Dawes Rigging & Crane Rental, Inc.

As part of the ALL family, Dawes opened its first branch office in 1987 in Kaukauna, Wisconsin, primarily to provide service to the booming paper industry in northeastern Wisconsin.

As the crane rental portion of Dawes grew, its machinery moving and rigging services became a subsidiary, DST, Inc. (Dawes Specialized Transportation) in 1988. Headquartered in Milwaukee, DST began operation with 48-state authority.

Tom Freckmann retired in 1989 and was succeeded by his son, Steve Freckmann, who is General Manager of Dawes today. Under Steve’s stewardship and with the support of the ALL Family of Companies, Dawes prospered – with branches in Milwaukee, Elk Mound, Madison, and Kaukauna.