

“We’ve got a rocket ship here.”

-- “Fearless Freddie” Agabashian, driver, Cummins Diesel Special



In 1940 Elliott obtained a license from Dr. Alfred J. Buchi of Switzerland, the inventor of the modern turbocharger, to manufacture gas turbine-driven superchargers (or ‘turbochargers’) for four-cycle diesel engines. The Buchi turbochargers that Elliott built were the first manufactured in the United States.

Turbochargers became a substantial business for Elliott. In the 1952 Indianapolis 500, a Cummins diesel race car equipped with an Elliott designed turbocharger was the first diesel-powered vehicle to start from the pole position. In just two years, 1955 and 1956, Elliott manufactured more than 9,000 turbochargers. By the time Elliott sold the business in 2001, the company had manufactured more than 42,000 turbochargers for use in locomotives, ships, and hundreds of industrial applications.

In 2010 we will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the original Elliott Company.

As we approach this centennial, we are pleased to share with you a series of significant events from each of Elliott's first 10 decades.