

Lyon's lockers get 'Made' with spot on Discovery Channel Show

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Maybe you kept it clean or maybe you trashed it. You might have even enjoyed kicking or slamming it more than a few times a day, too.

But did you ever wonder how your high school locker is actually made, or who puts it together?

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There's a good chance it was made by Montgomery-based Lyon Workspace Products, a company that has been making steel lockers found in schools across the country since 1923.

The company is expected to be featured in the fall on "How It's Made," a Discovery Channel show, said Chris Rudella, marketing manager for the company.

The show gives a behind-the-scenes look at the making of just about anything that warrants curiosity, from binoculars and elevators to snowboards and firetrucks.

This won't be the first time Lyon lockers have hit the big -- or small -- screen. The lockers were included in the opening credits of the 1980s pop film classic, "The Breakfast Club," starring Molly Ringwald and Emilio Estevez.

A new Nike commercial called "Maybe," featuring Michael Jordan, also displays Jordan's high school locker that was made by Lyon. Appropriately, it was Locker No. 23, and Lyon's logo is prominently displayed, Rudella said.

A date has not been set yet for the "How It's Made" segment, but Lyon Workspace Products should find out soon when taping will begin.

The show will not feature inside shots of the company's Montgomery headquarters, however. Taping will take place at its Paris, Ill., factory, where the majority of lockers are made. Some lockers eventually end up at the Montgomery distribution center for storage, Rudella said.

Manufacturing a locker consists of flattening a roll of steel, punching it out and perforating it. A handle, a metal plate and a combination lock are then installed.

"Everyone knows the high school locker. It's so nostalgic," Rudella said.

A district manager for Lyon Workspace Products went to college with one of the show's research producers, which got the ball rolling for a spot on "How It's Made," Rudella said.

Lyon Workspace Products changed its name from Lyon Metals eight years ago to reflect its other products in wood, plastics and various workspace solutions.

The company operates all sales, marketing and customer service operations out of Montgomery and has three factories in Illinois -- in Paris, Watseka and Sycamore.

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