



John C. Koenig (above the tractor) opened the Botkins Hardware Company in 1904, offering a wide range of hard goods including Majestic stoves (right center). That is also Grandpa Koenig inside his store (upper right) with the storage warehouse he built in 1908. John Deere is pictured next to his blacksmith shop (upper left), and Cyrus McCormick is depicted above the Koenig homestead that was passed from John C. to Emerson and eventually to JoAnn Koenig.

The Botkins Hardware Company was purchased by Emerson, Elmer (Bill), and Emory (John) Koenig from their father in 1945. That's the brothers, pictured with the horse and carriage, ready for a parade. In the lower right is a later picture of the brothers at the checkout counter of their first store on South Dixie in Botkins. The medallion (bottom right) was given to all dealers to commemorate John Deere's Centennial celebration in 1937.

In 1974, the business was incorporated as Koenig Equipment. The original dealership staff (pictured in the frame, lower center) quickly doubled, redoubled, then redoubled again several more times. Mechanical and engine technology became rapidly more sophisticated and hydraulic, electronic, and microprocessor components became standard equipment on most farm machinery. Our Anna dealership (upper right), which also houses our corporate headquarters, was built in 1980 and included a boardroom with a photo display tracing the company's history.

As Koenig Equipment moves forward, the company once again represents both John Deere and McCormick (CaseIH), in different markets. In addition to our agricultural equipment lines, lawn care and utility units are a growing part of our product offerings. Our farm customers are evermore reliant on global markets. And we are evermore involved with new technologies in the products we sell (e.g. global positioning satellites) and in the operations of our dealerships (e.g. laptop access to information technology). The company, its products, its services and its customers have evolved significantly over the past century.

About the artist: Paul Melia is a painter and illustrator from Dayton, Ohio. He is a graduate of the School of the Dayton Art Institute with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. His design, illustration, portraits and water-media work have appeared in nearly 300 exhibitions and are included in numerous corporate and private collections throughout the world. His work has been published in many books and periodicals and has been active in giving workshops, seminars, demonstrations and lectures as well. He and his wife, Carole, reside in Dayton and have four grown children.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS
1904 – 2004
Four Generations