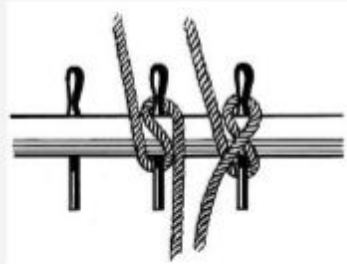
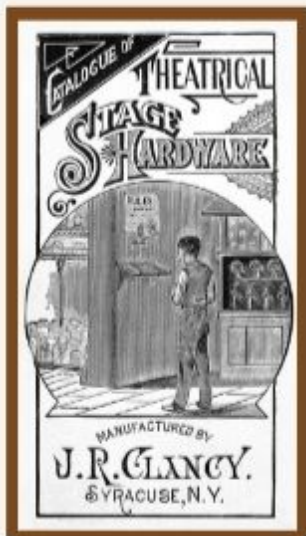


THE HISTORY OF

Stage Rigging

Rigging in theatre is also known as a fly system which has the capabilities of making things “fly” through the air. This is done by hauling up a long beam called a batten into the unseen loft above the stage and using it as a foundation for hanging other equipment like lights and backdrops.



1545



BELAYING PINS WERE FIRST DISCOVERED

A belaying pin is a device used on traditional sailing vessels to secure lines. First discovered on the wreck of the Mary Rose, these pins are now used all over the world in stage rigging.

1886

1885

THE FIRST CATALOG

John Clancy created unique, functional designs for additional stage hardware, distributing the catalog to theatre owners and managers in every community reachable in the US.



JR CLANCY WAS FOUNDED

JR Clancy was the first and still today the most recognizable name in stage rigging.

1890

COUNTER-WEIGHT HOLDERS.



COUNTERWEIGHTS

The first mention of a counter-weight holder, the precursor to the arbor used in counterweight systems today

1891



LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY

Clancy's inventory of gas lighting equipment grew to include border lights, bunch lights—nine burners with a reflector—footlights, ground rows, and wing lights.

1912

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW

Clancy unveiled a game-changing innovation in this catalog: the counterweight system, or "the very wonderful Flowing Weight System designed and installed by Mr. Hagen in The New Theater."

1925



ALA CARTE

Clancy waited until 1925 to offer all of the components of his manual counterbalance system in the catalog. Sidewall slides, the first steel guides for counter weight arbors, new Welch Model blocks, the counterbalance ball-bearing single block, carriages for wire guides, slip counterweights to fit these new carriages, and clamps and rings for steel pipe battens all were revealed in this catalog.

'50s &
'60s

GAME CHANGERS IN TECHNOLOGY

J. R. Clancy dominated the automation age with custom solutions as well as off-the-shelf products: disappearing microphones, Versatel curtain controls, motorized winches, revolving turntables, and a motorized band car.



SCENE CONTROL 10

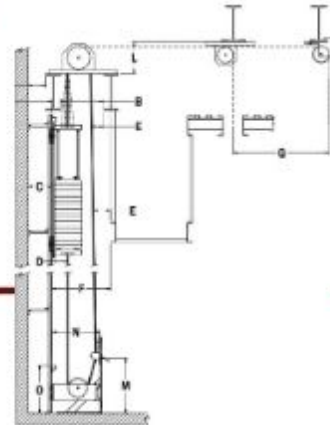
J. R. Clancy introduced SceneControl, the first automated rigging system the industry had ever seen. Remarkably similar to the automated systems of today, SceneControl helps the architect eliminate much presently wasted fly and wing space...cuts structural steel requirements drastically, eliminates the danger and waste of backstage clutter and removes the pin rail and fly gallery from the architect's lexicon."

1960



CATALOG UPGRADE

Dimensional drawings appeared right in the catalog, and the text and illustrations throughout the book offered education and instruction as well as product descriptions.



1971

AUTOMATION

A virtual revolution took place in the world of theatre rigging as automation replaced counterweights in the most sophisticated theatres. J. R. Clancy led the way with automated hoists and its Shamrock controller, still in use in theatres across the country. The idea of bringing automation to smaller theatres, high schools, and community venues still daunted inventors.



1980'S

RIGGING CERTIFICATION AND SAFETY

J. R. Clancy helped the Entertainment and Stage Technology Association (ESTA) launch a rigging certification program to train and test rigging professionals. Those who pass the exam become Entertainment Technology Certified Professional (ETCP) riggers, a highly regarded achievement in theatres across the country.

2003

2004

POWERLIFTS & SCENE CONTROL SYSTEMS

J. R. Clancy was ready to enter the off-the-shelf automation market. In 2004, introducing its PowerLift line of motorized hoists and the updated SceneControl automation systems. These products use technology created for the world's major performing arts centers and concert halls, based on the knowledge gained from automated rigging innovations that began as far back as 1960.

JR CLANCY'S SPIRIT, PHILOSOPHY, & LEGACY

J. R. Clancy's stated mission is simple: "Make Our Partners Successful" (MOPS). To accomplish this, the company uses the exemplary manufacturing and project management principles set forth by the International Standards Institute (ISO). High standards never go out of style, especially after 125 years of customer satisfaction and technological achievement.

TODAY



Sources

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