

LOBUE FAMILY AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESS LINEAGE

THREE GENERATIONS OF HISTORY

ORIGINATED BY AGOSTINO JOSEPH LOBUE

FOUNDED BY JOHN ANTHONY LOBUE

Third Generation August John & Gary Ross LoBue

(Revised May 19, 2018 by A.J.L.)

1895

May 1st. *Agostino Joseph LoBue*, the son of *Giovanni LoBue* and mother *Domenica Narese* is born. It is in our grandfather Agostino that we find the family business in the automotive trade that we are known today as FAPS, incorporated in 1959 as Foreign Auto Preparation Service. Born in the town of Serradifalco, a Province of Caltanissetta, Sicily, Italy Agostino was raised along with three sisters, Philomena, Concettina and Josephina.

The family had its hardships with Agostino, originally named Joseph, who became gravely ill as an infant like his two siblings similarly named who passed away before he was born. His mother Domenica in desperation took him to the city of Agrigento to present him to then renowned Father Gioachino La Lomia (today a canonized Saint by John Paul II) to receive a blessing. Praying for him, Father Gioachino advised Dominica that his name is to be changed to "Agostino" as in Saint Augustine. She did so and miraculously he was cured and regained his health. Now as a child and still very young he again became gravely ill and was dying as doctors could do nothing to save him. Again, his mother brought her only son back to Father Gioacchino. When she cried that her son Joseph was again dying Father Gioacchino reprimanded her that she must call him by Agostino to which they prayed over the child as his health returned as Agostino remained his name the rest of his life.

His father Giovanni, for his skill in iron and metal crafting, was commissioned to design and make all the ornamental iron works for the church of Santa Croce, which still stands today in Serradifalco. He taught his trade in metal works and all he could to his son Agostino before he passed away. At the early age of fifteen, Agostino was left to become the sole provider for his mother and three sisters. He did his best to support his family earning what he could in this little mountain town fabricating tools and household products in iron and metals.

1911 - 1918

At the age of 16, seeking greater opportunity and in support of his family, Agostino alone and by himself, immigrated to America on a ship that brought him through Ellis Island settling on Chrystie Street, New York. His metal crafting skills helped him to find work with the American Can Co., New York City in metal product fabrication. He found a new life and love for the American way that provided him opportunity, security and independence for all his efforts in a country that became for him his own. At the same time he continuously sent his earnings abroad to provide for the family he left behind in Italy.

FAPS, INC. BUSINESS HISTORY CHRONOLOGY

AGOSTINO JOSEPH LOBUE, JOHN ANTHONY LOBUE – FOUNDER

After his work at the factory and in keeping with his father's tradition he also worked for a Mr. Bellows, in New York City making, installing and repairing iron ornaments for the local church diocese.

On September 22, 1918 at the age of 23, Agostino, nicknamed 'Gus' by his new friends in America, married **Concetta Inglese**, age 20 of Brooklyn. Concetta, now 20 years old, was also born in Serradifalco, Italy in 1898 had immigrated along with her family to America at the young age of only three. Together, they settled in Brooklyn and in this same year Gus independently goes into business for himself applying his metal crafting skills to this new-found industry of 'The Automobile' and establishes an auto repair service shop in Brooklyn.

1919 – 1922 Their first two children, **Domenica** and **Giovanni** both born during this time struggled at birth and tragically passed away at very young ages.

1923 September 16th of that year 1923 a third child and son they named **John Anthony** was born. The son who would learn the craft from his father had started from his grandfather would later found and establish FAPS, Inc. first named as Foreign Auto Preparation Service Inc. and, taking from the shops he and his father established left for the docks of New Jersey pioneering the foreign car trade as the automotive industry's first of its kind pier side auto preparation pre delivery service business.

1925 April 25th first daughter **Patricia** was born, followed by a second and last daughter.

1928 August 8th. Their daughter **Marie** was born as the three represented the first generation Italian American LoBue family.

1964 January 11th. **Agostino Joseph LoBue** passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 69.

Entrepreneurial Agostino, Augie or Gus as he was referred to was recognized as well as an "equal opportunity" employer of the disadvantaged and became active in the following organizations:

- Independent Order of the Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) and other civic organizations such as;
- Northside Democratic Association, Inc., and where he and his family resided later
- Greater Bayside Citizens Association

FAPS, INC. BUSINESS HISTORY CHRONOLOGY

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- 1918** Brooklyn, NY – **Agostino Joseph LoBue** founder of a one of a kind entrepreneurial venture, establishes **Brooklyn Auto Repair** in response to the new 'Automotive Trade' with his metal crafting skills.
- 1919 – 1924** Queens, New York - Fulton Street **Auto Repair Shop**, Hillside Avenue **Auto Repair Shop**; Jamaica, New York – **Auto Parts Store**.
Woodhaven, NY – restored a building with the residence above and business store on street level.
- 1925 – 1933** Pittston, Pennsylvania – establishes **Pittston Auto Body Works** and **Auburn and Chandler Dealership**. After nine years, returned to Brooklyn, as unemployment rose due to the coal mining industry's decline and the town's dependence on same.
- 1934 – 1936** Brooklyn, NY – Queens Blvd and Berman Street **Auto Repair Shop**.
- 1937 – 1939** Corona, New York – 112 – 45 Roosevelt Avenue, **Parkview Auto Body** and **Willys / Chevrolet Auto Sales Dealership**.
- 1940 – 1953** Corona, New York – Northern Boulevard and 108th Street, **LoBue Auto Body** and **Collision and Willys / Chevrolet Auto Sales Dealership**. Hotel Roosevelt, recognition of Agostino and son John LoBue April 14th. 1948 from the King and Queens Chevrolet Dealers Assoc.
- 1942 – 1959** Corona, New York – 96-14 Northern Blvd **LoBue Collision Services** where son John worked and later owned.
- 1953 – 1962** Corona, New York – 96 – 14 Northern Boulevard **Long Island Collision** sold to Imperial Auto Body, presently Metro Auto Body Collision Work.
- 1956 – 1991** Port Newark, New Jersey – Branched out to Port Newark as **Foreign Auto Preparation Service, Inc.** for service and repairs to new foreign automobiles.
- 1991 – Present** Port Newark, New Jersey – November 4, 1991 **Foreign Auto Preparation Service, Inc.**'s name was changed to **FAPS, Inc.** to keep in alignment with an international customer base.
- 1998** August 4th and at the age of 74, **John Anthony LoBue** passes unexpectedly and leaves his business and legacy with his two son's August and Gary, who have since carried on in his place "not so much bound by tradition but inspired by." As the family company today is recognized for its many benchmark achievements.