The Lewis Sign Company, Inc., local manufacturers of neon displays, highway displays and theatre marquees, interior and exterior illumination of many types, had a humble beginning in a vacant garage on Buchanan Street in 1934.

John W. Lewis, Jr., an experienced advertising executive came to Lafayette to establish an advertising agency to serve the Southern Louisiana trade area and during the course of his investigations found a need for a neon manufacturing plant in this area.

Interesting in the company's history is the fact that J. Floyd Patin, one of the present owners and general manager has been affiliated with the company since its organization. As a boy of 15 years of age, he and his father, Armand Patin, worked side by side with Mr. Lewis on all types of work from digging holes for road signs to installing neon signs, for during the depression most employers in that line of work were working shoulder to shoulder with their employees.

In 1937, Cities Advertising, Inc. was merged with the Lewis Sign Company, Inc. Among early stockholders and officials of the company were James D. Parkerson, R. Dupuis, John W. Lewis, Jr., Lionel Jeanmard and H. B. Young. In 1941 Mr. Lewis obtained full control and operated the plant until the outbreak of war when he engaged in war work. Shortly after the cessation of hostilities he reopened the plant and operated on a limited basis until some of his employees returned to Lafayette.

In 1945, Patin, Conner and Thornton leased the Lewis Sign company plant, and in 1946 bought the inventory and machinery and continued the use of the corporation name. In 1948 Patin and Conner bought out Bill Thornton, and at the present time Patin and Minos Conner are sole owners of the company.

The present personnel is made up of J. Floyd Patin and Minos Conner, owners; Mr. Patin, general manager and Mr. Conner, production manager; Charles Roy, erection; Robert Jenkins and Edward Burch, tube benders; Mr. Thornton, designer and painting department; and Cody Miller and M. Lewis affiliated with the sales department, plus four agents.

The company occupies 3200 square feet of floor space in one of the most modern plants in the city, located on a large plot of ground, 100x125 feet fronting on Midway street.