

crane cams out of business

Crane Cams Out of Business – a phrase that echoes through the automotive aftermarket community, especially among performance enthusiasts and engine builders. For decades, Crane Cams was synonymous with high-performance camshafts, delivering quality products that catered to racers and car enthusiasts alike. The announcement of their closure has sent ripples through the industry, raising questions about the future of performance parts and the impact on the community. This article delves into the history of Crane Cams, the reasons behind its business closure, the implications for the automotive aftermarket, and possible alternatives for enthusiasts looking for quality camshaft and performance solutions.

History of Crane Cams

Founded in 1953 by the visionary engineer and racing enthusiast, Harvey Crane, Crane Cams quickly made its mark in the automotive industry. The company began its journey by producing camshafts for racing engines, aiming to provide better performance for competitive racers. Over the years, it expanded its product line to include:

- Performance camshafts
- Valvetrain components
- Engine accessories
- Custom camshaft designs

Crane Cams was at the forefront of technological advancements in camshaft design, utilizing innovative methods and materials to enhance engine performance. They became a go-to choice for both professional racers and hobbyists looking to maximize their vehicle's potential.

Innovative Contributions to the Industry

Throughout its history, Crane Cams introduced several groundbreaking products and technologies that influenced engine performance:

1. **Hydraulic Roller Technology:** Crane was one of the pioneers in hydraulic roller camshaft technology, allowing for better performance and efficiency in street and race engines.

2. Custom Camshaft Design: The company offered custom camshaft grinding services, enabling customers to tailor their cam profiles to specific engine setups and performance goals.

3. Extensive Catalog: Crane's extensive catalog included a wide range of camshaft profiles for various applications, making it easy for enthusiasts to find the right component for their needs.

These innovations solidified Crane Cams as a reputable and trusted name in the performance aftermarket.

Reasons for Closure

Despite its rich legacy and contributions to the automotive industry, Crane Cams eventually faced challenges that led to its closure. Several factors contributed to this unfortunate outcome:

Market Changes

The automotive aftermarket has undergone significant changes in recent years, driven by shifts in consumer preferences, technological advancements, and regulatory pressures. Some of the key factors include:

- Increased Competition: The rise of new players in the camshaft and engine performance market increased competition, making it challenging for established brands like Crane Cams to maintain market share.
- Shifts Toward Electrification: As the automotive industry moves toward electric vehicles (EVs), the demand for traditional performance parts has declined. This shift has prompted many companies to pivot their focus, leaving less room for specialized performance manufacturers.

Financial Struggles

Like many companies, Crane Cams faced financial difficulties that ultimately contributed to its demise:

- Rising Costs: The cost of materials, labor, and manufacturing processes increased over the years, putting a strain on profitability.
- Supply Chain Disruptions: Global events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, disrupted supply chains, affecting the availability of parts and components necessary for production.
- Declining Sales: As consumer interest in traditional performance parts waned, Crane Cams experienced declining sales, further exacerbating financial issues.

Legacy and Impact

The closure of Crane Cams marks the end of an era in the performance aftermarket. The company not only produced high-quality products but also fostered a community of enthusiasts dedicated to automotive performance. The loss of such a storied brand impacts the following:

- **Enthusiast Community:** Many car enthusiasts relied on Crane Cams for performance upgrades and custom builds. The closure leaves a gap in the market that may be difficult to fill.
- **Knowledge and Expertise:** Crane Cams' engineers and staff possessed a wealth of knowledge regarding camshaft design and engine performance. Losing this expertise is a blow to the industry.
- **Parts Availability:** With the closure, the availability of Crane Cams products will diminish, making it harder for enthusiasts to find replacement parts or upgrade options.

Alternatives for Performance Enthusiasts

While the closure of Crane Cams is a significant loss, automotive enthusiasts can still find quality alternatives in the market. Here are some reputable companies that offer similar products:

1. COMP Cams

COMP Cams is a well-known manufacturer of camshafts and valvetrain components. They offer a wide range of performance products, including:

- Hydraulic and Solid Camshafts
- Roller Rockers
- Lifters and Pushrods

Their extensive catalog and commitment to quality make them a popular choice among performance enthusiasts.

2. Lunati

Lunati is another respected name in the camshaft industry, known for producing high-performance camshafts and engine components. They provide:

- Custom Camshaft Grinding
- Street and Race Camshafts
- Valvetrain Accessories

Lunati's focus on performance and innovation aligns with the needs of automotive enthusiasts.

3. Edelbrock

Edelbrock is a well-established brand in the aftermarket performance sector, offering a variety of engine components, including camshafts. Their product range includes:

- Performance Camshafts
- Intake Manifolds
- Carburetors and Fuel Systems

With a strong reputation for quality, Edelbrock remains a go-to source for performance parts.

4. Texas Speed and Performance

Texas Speed and Performance specializes in high-performance parts for LS engines, including camshafts. They are known for:

- Custom Camshaft Options
- High-Performance Engine Kits
- Comprehensive Technical Support

Their focus on LS performance makes them a favorite among enthusiasts working with GM platforms.

Conclusion

The phrase "Crane Cams out of business" signifies more than just the closure of a company; it represents the end of an era in the automotive aftermarket. Crane Cams played a pivotal role in advancing performance technology and fostering a community dedicated to automotive excellence. While the loss is felt deeply, the legacy of Crane Cams lives on through the innovation and passion of enthusiasts who continue to seek performance upgrades.

As the industry evolves, enthusiasts must adapt and explore alternative options to fill the void left by Crane Cams. Companies like COMP Cams, Lunati, Edelbrock, and Texas Speed and Performance are poised to

carry the torch forward, ensuring that the spirit of performance continues in the automotive world. The closure of Crane Cams serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by traditional manufacturers, but also highlights the resilience of the automotive community that will continue to thrive in the face of change.

Frequently Asked Questions

What led to Crane Cams going out of business?

Crane Cams faced financial difficulties due to declining sales, increased competition, and challenges in adapting to changing automotive technology.

What impact does Crane Cams shutting down have on the automotive aftermarket?

The closure of Crane Cams may create a gap in the market for high-performance camshafts, affecting enthusiasts and builders who rely on their products for performance upgrades.

Are there any alternatives to Crane Cams for performance camshafts?

Yes, several companies like Comp Cams, Edelbrock, and Lunati offer performance camshafts and related products that can serve as alternatives to Crane Cams.

What is the legacy of Crane Cams in the automotive industry?

Crane Cams is known for its innovation in camshaft technology and contributions to motorsports, influencing performance tuning and engine building for decades.

Will Crane Cams products still be available after the business closure?

Existing inventory of Crane Cams products may still be available through retailers and online marketplaces, but new production will cease, making future availability uncertain.

How has Crane Cams' closure affected its employees?

The closure of Crane Cams likely resulted in job losses for its employees, impacting many individuals and families who relied on the company for their livelihoods.

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