ROCKY-ICHIMARU and Tire Curing Press Valves

Tire curing requires a pressure source and heat source which may be provided in the form of nitrogen, steam or hot water. The valves used to control these fluids must operate in a harsh usage environment under a high temperature and pressure state, with frequent and repeated extremes. The valves that were widely in use at the time of our founding in 1978 primarily used metal seals which required expert adjustment of the seal. They required a large amount of maintenance time and vapor seal performance could be problematic. Our founder (Image 1) was well versed in automated design as well as valve design, and he set out to solve these problems through the use of soft seals capable of delivering both vapor seal performance and maintenance benefits. After many years testing the valves in a manufacturing environment, he developed a specialized seat material which could maintain seal performance in the long-term. This was our first valve created (Image 2).

This is how ROCKY-ICHIMARU valves (ROCKY Valves), developed through many years of practical testing in tire curing, came to be recognized through real world performance as a valve which maintains long-term performance and tire curing quality, and is used today in tire curing in tire plants across the world. Not only that, but ROCKY Valves are designed to allow easy disassembly and assembly, for on-site replacement of parts or other maintenance tasks.

In addition to the standard specifications described in the catalog, we also offer a range of specialized options to suit the needs or usage methods in the production environments of customers worldwide.

ROCKY Valves reformed production environments using tire curing, but more than that, the knowledge gained from valve manufacture has enabled us to develop devices which improve and reform the technologies and environments of tire production itself, through the use of piping units containing piping as well as valves, allowing us to offer additional value to customers.
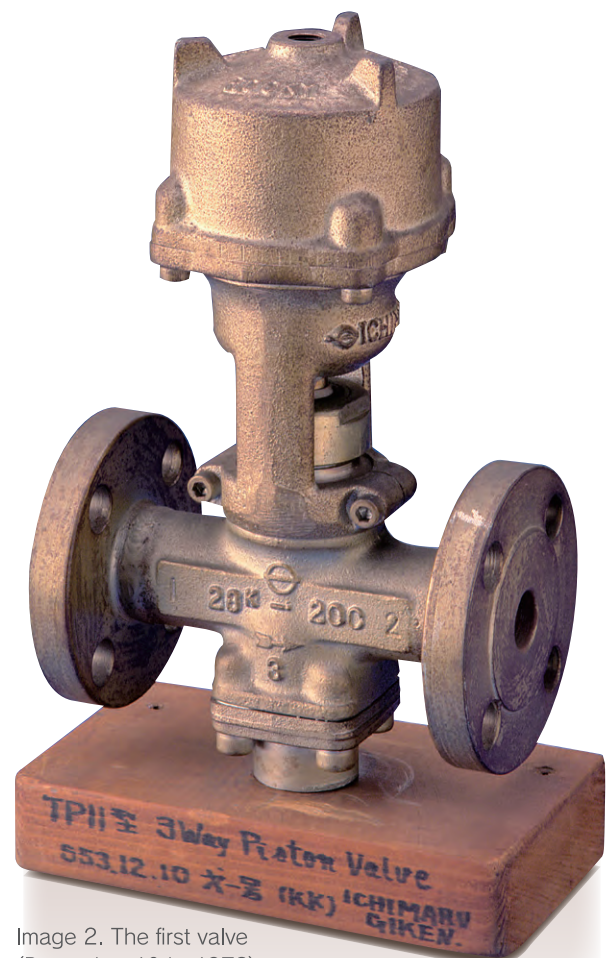

Image 2. The first valve
(December 10th, 1978)

Image 1. Founder