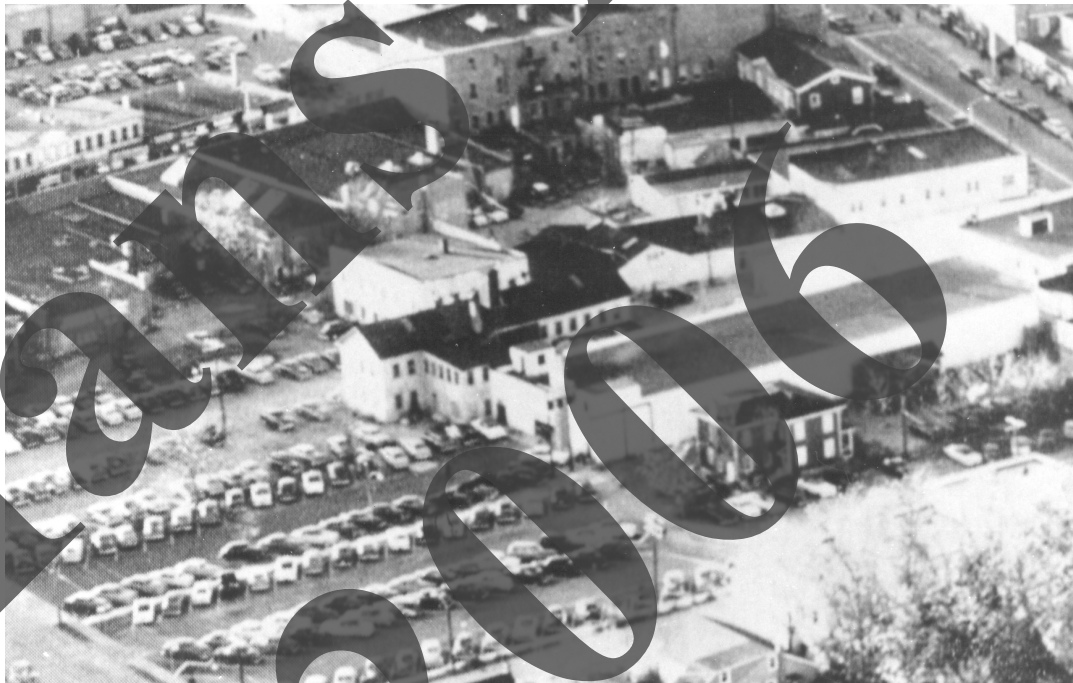


Justus Roe, a surveyor by profession, started his business manufacturing tapes in 1876 in Patchogue with his son Howard under the name Justus Roe and Son. Although he was not the first to make tape measures, he could produce tapes at half the price than the tapes of his competition from England. They started their business on the second floor over Mc Brides Drugstore on the corner of Main Street and Ocean Avenue. The tapes were manufactured in Brooklyn and New York. By 1890 his sons Austin and Henry joined the firm, and the name of the firm became Justus Roe and Sons. A few years later the youngest son, Nathaniel also joined the firm. The tapes were selling well and the company built their own factory between

East Main Street and Terry Street in 1900. During World War II, the company supplied the Army and the Navy with their products. After the war, the business was expanded with overseas operations in Australia, England, Russia, Israel and India. In 1960 the company moved to bigger facilities on River Avenue, bordering the Patchogue River. In 1976, on the 100 year anniversary of the company, the name was changed to Roe International. The company was sold to the Irwin Tool Company April 23, 1981. The company again was sold May 28, 1990 and renamed U.S. Tape. U.S. Tape was sold in 1998 to RAF Industries, keeping the name U.S. Tape.



The Roe Tape Measure factory in the parking lot on Terry Street. The factory consists of the white building with the dark roof and the many windows and the long, white, windowless building to the right of it. This building was added to the original building when an expansion was necessary. The long shape of the buildings was dictated by the length of the tapes produced here. The tape measures needed to be checked on a continuous flat surface, so the 100 foot tapes required this 103 foot long building. In this picture Main Street can be seen on the top right corner and Terry Street on the bottom left corner.