

Basic Detail Report

Saddlery Company's 165th Anniversary

It was on Aug. 9, 1794 that an advertisement appeared in the "Connecticut Courant", forerunner of the present "Hartford Courant" of Hartford, Conn. stating that one "Normand Smith, a young man confident in his knowledge of the business and future of the new republic" - had opened a "Saddlery Shop at the Sign of the Mounted Dragoon, six rods north of the Court House".

This year, the Smith - Worthington Saddlery Company is celebrating 165 years in business. While still essentially a saddlery house, the years have brought many changes in the type of equipment produced, and new lines have been added - such as Police Equipment, Dog Furniture, Leather Fishing Bibs, Tuna Harness, etc.

During all that time proprietors have changed but twice - in 1928 and 1957 - and it is interesting to note that both of the latter started as office boys - also that the first 111 years had but two generations of the Smith family.

To keep pace with changing conditions in market requirements, the transition was gradually made from harness for draft horses to the modern jumping saddles used in international horse shows.

The Company has made dog harness for Alaskan sledge dogs, pack harness for Andean and other explorations, goat har-

ness, fancy patent leather red and green harness for use in circuses, elephant harness, etc.

They have furnished Police Departments of Boston, New York City, Jersey City, Detroit, Cleveland, Miami and Philadelphia, Connecticut State Troopers and other governmental agencies, as well as small city and two peace and safety patrols, with Sam Browne belts, holsters, handcuff cases, clip cases and billies. Holsters and belts have been shipped to British Guiana, Dutch East Indies, to the London bobbies, etc.

During World War I they supplied the U. S. Cavalry with various types of Army saddles - as well as the Colombian Government in South America during one of the revolutions. In World War II various items of defense were produced for the War Department, such as chronometer cases, leather caps for telescopes, etc.

It is probably an unparalleled record that this company has maintained continuous banking connections with one bank - The Connecticut Bank & Trust Co. and its predecessors, for 145 years.

In celebration of its 165th year, the new president, Clinton C. Hanks, extends a most cordial welcome to visit the factory and showroom at 8 Sigourney St., Hartford, Conn.

(Reprint from The Chronicle)

Title Article: Saddlery Company's 165th Anniversary

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Description Reprint of an article from The Chronicle titled, "Saddlery Company's 165th Anniversary." The article details the history of the company and plans for the future.

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