

Golden Anniversary Year 1881-1931

Big Oaks From Little Acorns Grow

ESTABLISHED 1881.

L. C. HERMANN, PRES.

F. A. HERMANN, V. PRES.

WM. KASSEBAUM, TREAS.

CHARLES E. KASSEBAUM, SECY.

E. C. POHL, SUPT.

HERMANN OAK LEATHER CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF
OAK HARNESS LEATHER

NOS. 4020-4060 NORTH FIRST STREET.

TANNERY MARCH 14, 1881
ROCKY BRANCH CREEK, NORTH ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS, March 14, 1931

Dear Sirs:

Fifty years ago today, L. C. Hermann and Robt. Koenitzer, both practical tanners and curriers, started in business on a small scale with limited means and a small rented tannery, and last but not least, a great determination to succeed.

Hogskins, horse hides, and Calcutta Kips from East India, and domestic dry flint and dry salted hides were turned into collar, bag, and bellows leather.

Then came the period of the destruction of the American buffalo, and great quantities of hides from the millions of buffalos roaming over the western plains entered the markets. These furnished cheap raw material, but not for long, and after a comparatively short time the buffalo was exterminated.

At about this time, and through the invention of refrigerator machinery, the big packers realized their great opportunities and became firmly established with their world famed high quality products.

Three years later the partnership of Hermann and Koenitzer was consolidated with the Bremen Tanning Company, with General B. G. Farrar, president, at our present location, producing upper, harness and sole leather.

After a few years during which we suffered two destructive fires, L. C. Hermann and Robt. Koenitzer bought what was left of the tannery and started anew, later changing the name to the Hermann Oak Leather Company, and producing oak harness leather exclusively.

In the making of leather, quality has always been our motto, and to obtain this end the best raw material such as big packer hides exclusively, as well as all other high grade material and tan bark of the choicest quality are used, combined with expert knowledge and experience, so vitally necessary in the long and intricate process of tanning and currying.

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- 2 -

During all these years, "Hermann Oak" was and still is well and favorably known as a quality leather, not only all over our own country but in foreign lands as well.

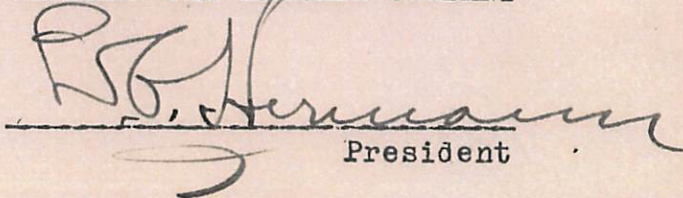
Upon the occasion of such an anniversary, we are naturally inclined to pause and review what has gone on in the past and attempt to chart our course for the future.

The building of a successful business and organization has been a fascinating and absorbing work. It meant the building of men, and we feel a deep sense of gratitude to all our esteemed associates whose confidence and cooperation were instrumental in bringing this all about.

The good will of our many customers and friends is one of our most valuable assets, and we wish to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation and gratitude to all our many patrons. May we solicit your continued patronage and good will.

Very sincerely yours,

HERMANN OAK LEATHER COMPANY


President

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