

M-G Grew from 15 Cents to Million Dollar Business

The widely diversified M-G conglomerate, which means so much to Weimar's economy, began in 1940 when Marvin Gilbreath bought out his former employer's modest produce business, but Gilbreath's story goes a couple of years beyond that landmark.

Gilbreath arrived in Weimar on a freight train in 1938 with 15 cents in his pocket and left Weimar a millionaire some 25-30 years later.

Most people around here know that story, but not many know that even that 15 cents was borrowed from the Weimar man who was his benefactor.

Gilbreath, who had left his Missouri home right out of high school during the Great Depression, had found a job delivering new cars and trucks from Detroit, Mich., to dealers.

He stopped frequently in Weimar on his way to San Antonio. On one of those stops he met Lothar Galle during lunch at a cafe, and the effervescent young Missourian and the German immigrant struck up a friendship.

During a winter lull in the automotive business, Gilbreath wrote Galle, asking for a job. Galle sent \$5 and instructions to come on.

Gilbreath arrived with 15 cents left of the \$5 he had received, but was a little shocked to learn that Galle could only afford to give him room and board, no salary, for working in Galle's modest produce business, which was in a small frame building on the corner where Central Texas Bank now stands.

Gilbreath decided to join the Army instead and applied at Fort Sam Houston. There were no openings, but he was offered room and board while he waited for one.

In 1945 he added new equipment but business leveled out for awhile because of a shortage of grain followed by OPA regulations that made farmers reticent to stay in the grain business.

But in 1947, M. Gilbreath Produce Co. had sales of a million dollars for the first time. That was also the first year of the company's dealer party, with 350 persons attending. In subsequent years as many as 1500 attended.

In 1948 M-G began processing poultry at its produce company corner, proud of being able to process 2,000 broilers a day (by 1957 when M-G Poultry Plant was opened across the street from the produce company, production was 2,400 birds an hour).

In 1951 a bag conveyor and other equipment were added at the feed mill, and on the other front, M-G began to carton its own eggs.

That year also, the company bought a half-interest in Texas Poultry & Egg Co. in Houston, which later became wholly owned by M-G Inc.

In 1953 M-G bought the old Kahlden building directly south of the produce company and began egg handling there.

In 1955, new grain storage facilities and new equipment were added at the feed mill.

Through the years beginning in 1940, Gilbreath had managed to gather good employees around him. He had a talent for placing the right people in key positions.

In 1956, the business was incorporated, with the employees the only stockholders besides Gilbreath himself.

In 1961, the company went public, issuing 100,000 shares of common stock at \$2.625 a share to the public.

In 1970 the feed plant had a building program, tripling its space.

In 1974 M-G Farm Service Center was remodeled, drastically expanding its space and services, and there was an

all-day celebration similar to the past ones.

On March 29, 1975, the M-G employees group bought controlling interest in M-G Inc. from Irvin Kaplan.

The company acquired M-G

Implement in 1994 from Lawrence Loessin.

In 1996, the company sold its egg plant division to Maxim Productions Co. of Boling.

In July 2000, ground was broken for the new feed mill.



KWS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.

congratulates M-G Feed Mill on
the opening of its new, state-of-the-art feed mill.

We're proud, in association with The Nay Company,
to have been the supplier of the conveyor equipment
that is a part of this project.

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