

1869

1919

The D. Bacon Company

Candy Jobbers and Manufacturers

50th Anniversary

Representing a fifty-year march along the great Highway of Progress during which time this staunch old business has grown from a tiny acorn to a giant oak, due, in the main, to the application of these solid principles upon which it was founded in 1869.

From the most modest beginning to its present magnitude, the ideals of its founder have held sway until today it stands as a monument to its sponsor, Daniel Bacon.



Daniel Bacon
Founder

BACON'S COUGH DROPS

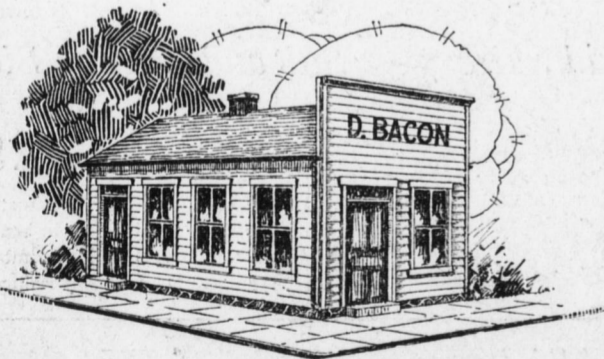


The Product.
Born 1883



Arthur D. Bacon
President

A Story of Progress



1869

The first building, forerunner of the present Bacon organization as it appeared in 1869. This building stood at the corner of North and Seventh streets. See "A Story of Progress."

It was during the Days of Reconstruction following the great Civil War that Daniel Bacon, pioneer candy manufacturer, first entered the candy business in Harrisburg. The forerunner of the present Bacon organization was a little 29x36 frame building at the corner of North and Seventh streets.

Mr. E. Laubenstein, who is perhaps the oldest candy-maker still in active service in this part of Pennsylvania, has been making candy for fifty-seven years, forty-three of which he has been connected with the firm of The D. Bacon Company.

In 1878 a small store room on Market street, near Fifth, was rented by Daniel Bacon and was used as a retail store exclusively. A short time later another store room was rented on Market street, corner of Fifth, as a wholesale candy store and with the natural business increase it was necessary to enlarge the factory.

Mr. Laubenstein tells the story of how he came to the factory on North street at 7 o'clock one morning, unlocked the door of the little frame building and with a force of workmen, the factory was moved in sections on a two-horse wagon to a vacant lot on Fifth street, near Market, where a brick foundation had been laid. The building was immediately re-assembled so that he was able to lock the door of the factory before going home that evening.

On July 3, 1889, Mr. Bacon met with a serious loss by fire. Many of the older residents of Harrisburg will recall the premature Fourth of July Celebration with noise and fire caused by the explosion of a large quantity of fireworks on display in the storeroom. As soon as possible, Mr. Bacon improved the storeroom gutted by fire and soon resumed his retail business.

In 1889 the property located at Fifth and Market streets was purchased, improved and enlarged to make better facilities for the growing wholesale and retail business which were combined, the retail department being in the front of the building and the wholesale in the rear of the storeroom. Bacon's Cough Drops were just gaining a reputation about this time, which for many years have been a popular product of the Bacon factory. At this time, Mr. Laubenstein says, the first chocolate covered Easter goods made in this part of the Country were made in Mr. Bacon's candy factory.

In 1890 fire broke out on the third floor of the new building. While the building was saved from any great material loss, the manufactured stock and raw materials and much of the machinery were ruined by water. This was a severe blow to Mr. Bacon who prided himself on his new factory with its improved facilities. His courage did not fail him however, and with a determined spirit, assisted by

his faithful employees, the uninjured machinery was moved to a building on Walnut street and in less than a week goods were again being manufactured. Restoration of the factory building began as soon as the debris was removed.

Mr. Bacon was not only a leader in the manufacture of certain lines of goods in this section, but he gained also a reputation for his special window displays in his retail store. Many will remember that on all occasions when a convention of some fraternal organization met in Harrisburg invariably an emblem or insignia of the order was artistically made of sugar and displayed as an attraction to the visitors.

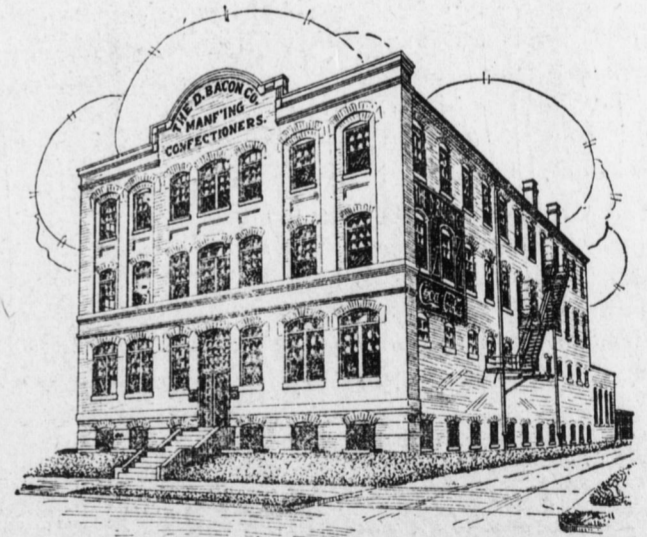
During the Harrisburg Centennial a pyramid was made of sugar six feet high, four feet at the base and one foot at the top. It was made with large sticks of candy to represent logs. Each log represented some historic event during the past hundred years.

During the Columbus Celebration a large globe was made of sugar, being three feet in diameter, which depicted in icing the waves of the ocean and fac-similes of the three ships on which Columbus sailed from the shores of Spain to the West Indies. This work of art attracted much attention.

On a Fourth of July Celebration a tablet was made of sugar to represent white marble, five feet high and three feet wide; an arch was made over the top on which were the thirteen Original States. On top of that was a pure white eagle of sugar. The tablet was supported by two columns. On the top of each column was the statue of Washington. On this tablet was written in icing the Declaration of Independence and the names of all the signers. All of these special window displays were the work of Mr. Laubenstein.

The largest egg ever made of sugar was cast in Bacon's factory. It weighed 350 pounds, being 42 inches long by 36 inches in diameter. The egg was hollow and inside of it was placed scenery making a beautiful panoramic view which could be seen through one end of the egg. Many of the fathers and mothers of to-day of this city, as children, remember the wonderful Christmas displays. The candy houses, Old Santa Claus up and down the chimney and other attractions. Many times it was necessary to have the police keep the sidewalk clear. Such were the attractions of Bacon's windows.

Mr. Daniel Bacon on the evening of April 23, 1893, while making a call to one of his sick employees, became seriously ill and died within a few hours with heart failure. Since then the business has been conducted by his only son, Arthur D. Bacon, and with the assistance of the corps of loyal employees the business was made to expand still farther until in 1911 a corporation was formed and the name changed to The D. Bacon Company.



1919

Main building and offices of The D. Bacon Company, 435-445 South Cameron Street. An addition to this building is now being erected which will be two-thirds as large as the main building.