

THE CANADIAN GASKET COMP. CENTRAL AVE. & LEWIS ST.

For a time the Gasket Comp. and Williams Gold Ref. shared the Mentholetum Building. Both businesses moved to the north side of Courtwright St. to a two story brick building. Willaim's Gold occupied the second floor and because of heavy equipment the Gasket took the first floor. In 1928 they moved to the building on the south westcr. of Central & Lewis st.

CANADIAN GASKET CO.  
Manufacturers of Metal Gaskets

1918

# From 1910-1985—Canadian Gasket is 75 years

It was a gala affair recently as Canadian Gasket Co. Ltd., 505 Central Ave., Fort Erie said Happy Birthday to itself with a 75th anniversary party and dinner-dance.

President Jack Reynolds recalled the early years of the firm, started by his grandfather in the 1900s.

"E.B. Reynolds, my grandfather, owned and operated several grocery stores in the Black Rock section of Buffalo, in 1908, the last one on the corner of Niagara and Potomac.

"It happened there was a

gasket company located next door on Niagara Street, by the name of Gilot Gasket. The firm's employees would come into the store at lunch time and sit near the potbelly stove.

"My grandfather, who was mechanically inclined, would talk with these guys. He and another chap ended up inventing a certain type of gasket for an old stove."

Mr. Reynolds went on to explain the one chap was American and his grandfather, British. His grandfather had come from

England, jumping ship in Toronto and making his way to Rochester and Buffalo in the late 1800s.

A deal was struck between the American and British subject that patents would be taken out in the U.S. and Canada. Mr. Reynolds would do the business dealing this side of the Niagara River.

At that time, in 1906, the only way to cross the river was by the International Railroad Bridge's electrical dummy car.

"My grandfather came across to Bridgeburg on the

dummy and opened a post office box, Box 66, which was really for the Gilot Gasket. We still have that same box number today. We joke about the fact we've had two or three different post offices since then but we still have the same box number.

"My uncle, George, was about 10 years old then, and would go back and forth with my grandfather."

In 1910, the Gilot firm moved to Chicago and told Mr. Reynolds' grandfather he could what he wished with the postal box.

"That's the time E.B. decided to go into the gasket business. He sold the store in 1910, set up an office and a shop in the back part of the old Times-Review building, which was on the lower part of Jarvis Street at that time."

Mr. Reynolds said the early firm produced wooden stove-type gaskets, perhaps for gas stoves. His grandfather was alone at the beginning but shortly afterwards took on one man-help.

His uncle, George was about 13 years old then and

going to school in Buffalo. The eldest of five children he would help his father. E.B. Reynolds continued his daily commute from Buffalo as all his children still lived there attending school.

The firm stayed on Jarvis Street for a number of years and then moved to the Men-tholatum Building on Lewis Street, occupying the second floor. Also in the building was the young Williams Gold firm.

Uncle George, at this time, was taking business courses

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