

## Schimpff's celebrates 110 years, opens museum

Candy demonstrations, samples, entertainment and refreshments were offered at an open house May 12 to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Schimpff's Confectionery and the opening of their new Candy Kitchen and Candy Museum. Owners Warren and Jill Schimpff realized a dream with the opening of this museum. Located in Jeffersonville, Indiana, USA, Schimpff's is a fourth-generation, family-owned manufacturing confectionery business and lunch room in the city's historic district.

Entertainment for the day included a ragtime band, a magician and a barbershop quartet. Commemorating the anniversary and allowing a larger celebration area for the day's activities, the Jeffersonville mayor closed the street on which Schimpff's is located.

A time capsule was filled with notes and videotaped memories of people's experiences at Schimpff's over the years. In a corner a videotape played showing customers who shared comments at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Blommer Chocolate Co. provided chocolate for the samples given away at the open house.



Schimpff's employees prepare red hots, a specialty for the company. This area of the museum features two walls with large windows for visitors to view the process.



Schimpff's Candy Museum features candy packaging from years gone by.

Red hots, a cinnamon-flavored hard candy, were sold in quarter-pound bags for 2¢ (based on the 1891 price of 6½¢ per pound), as an anniversary promotion. This confection has been a company specialty since its beginning.

Since opening in 1891, Schimpff's has offered confections, lunches, soda fountain specialties and a gathering place for friends.

The confectionery business features a '50s-era soda fountain and original tin ceiling. Jars and cases of candy, some made on turn-of-the-century equipment, give the visitor a feeling of nostalgia.

Schimpff's manufactures a variety of hand-dipped and moulded chocolate items.

Another specialty for Schimpff's is a caramel-covered marshmallow that is locally known as a Modjeska. It had been created and named by a Louisville confectioner for the Polish actress Madam Modjeska after she made her American debut in Louisville in 1883.

The building next door to the candy store now houses the company's Candy Kitchen and Candy Museum. This addition to Schimpff's business provides a large viewing area where customers can watch the process of traditional candymaking and see antique candy advertising, packaging and equipment from over a century and a half of America's manufacturing confectioners. There are approximately 500 candy tins in addition to tubs, boxes, crates, moulds, posters, signs and machines on display.

Four Louisville, Kentucky, USA, area TV stations were on hand to cover the museum's opening and the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.