
Cummings Studio Chocolates

Salt Lake City, Utah

“My father-in-law found this particular chocolate and told my husband not to change it, and my husband told me not to change it. So we just don’t change it.”

by Gail D. Schippman

Observing the anniversary of Cummings Studio Chocolates in Salt Lake City is almost a bitter-sweet celebration for Marion Cummings. Eighty-five years of hand-dipped quality products are being celebrated by the company this year. She watched her husband continue the business after the sudden death of her father-in-law who started the company, and persevered through grief when her own husband, Paul, died 40 years later.

Now Marion has the candy store, the memories and the joy of continuing the business as an ongoing source of pleasure for thousands. Marion is also a board member of Retail Confectioners International.

The company, started by V. Clyde Cummings in 1924, now employs 20 people and offers 62 flavors of confectionery products.

Operating out of one store and one mall outlet, Cummings Studio Chocolates has approximately 6,000 people on the company’s mailing list.

More than half of their sales is boxed assortments of chocolate items. Cummings ships products worldwide.

Although summer is a slower season for them, the business remains open year-round. In preparation for Christmas the staff is increased to 45 people.

“It’s a seasonal business, and it’s a fun business,” Marion said.



Cummings Studio Chocolates brochure photo

Traditions are important in the business also. “My father-in-law found this particular chocolate and told my husband not to change it, and my husband told me not to change it. So we just don’t change it,” she said. “We use the same products we’ve always used, and we use local products when we can.”

The company is probably best known in the region for its fresh, chocolate-dipped strawberries, raspberries and grapes. The two biggest sales days for Cummings