

Gilsinger Implement Company

“Indiana’s Oldest John Deere Dealership”

Various locations

www.gilsingerimplement.com

Founded: 1899

On Friday, Oct. 13, 1899, Joseph P. Gilsinger and John Shank opened a small mercantile in a rented storeroom across the street from the already established company of March & Barker in Pulaski, Ind. Despite the odds, the new business survived, and in 1901, they built their own two-story building just south of March & Barker on the corner of Main Street and West Road. By 1908, Gilsinger, better known as J.P., was totally in charge of all ag products and moved his portion of the store into a new location.

Like many businesses of that era, Gilsinger’s was owned and operated by family members. Many may not remember J.P.’s first two children, Carl and Clarence. Carl owned an insurance agency in Wisconsin after graduating from Notre Dame. Clarence worked for his father for a short time before opening his own hardware store in Goodland. Following the death of Carl and Clarence’s mother Margaret (Senn), J.P. married Rosa Shank. Rosa was no stranger to the business world. Her father, Agideon and her uncle, Charles, John’s father, had owned various businesses in Pulaski since the early 1880s. Their marriage produced five children. Max worked in the business as manager/salesman till his death in 1971. Basil, likewise, worked for his father repairing appliances, cutting meat and selling parts, a job he enjoyed until he retired in 1985. Paul followed in his brothers’ footsteps and helped out in parts until his untimely death in 1965. Marcella returned home in 1940 from Indianapolis where she had worked for the Indiana Gross Income Tax Department. With the war having taken her brothers off to service, she found it necessary to join the firm, a position she did not relinquish until her retirement in 1988. J.P.’s oldest daughter, Corinne, found work outside of the family business as a nurse. She later became director of the Pulaski County Welfare Department. In the fall of 1958, John Deere persuaded Gilsinger’s to move to Winamac. The

implement business' new location was in the old Kain building on the south edge of town.

Over the past 30 years, Gilsinger's has steadily grown into a market leader. In 1975, following graduation from the University of Notre Dame, Paul's son Paul returned to Winamac where he became a full partner with the two remaining owners, Marcella and Basil. In 1978, the business moved to its new facility south of Winamac on U.S. 35. On October 13, 1990, Paul officially opened the second location in Knox, Indiana.

Additional growth came in January 2003, when the Gilsinger family acquired two stores: Plymouth and Leesburg. With this acquisition, Gilsinger's now employed over 60 people and they now served most of north-central Indiana. Paul's son Matt joined the business following his graduation from Notre Dame in 2004. Gilsinger's remains dedicated to area agricultural producers, governmental agencies, commercial enterprises, contractors, and residential customers. "Our heritage- your success!"