

Member Profile

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Member Profile: Schatz Bearing Corporation

Founded: 1895 (1985 see timeline below)

Location: Poughkeepsie, NY

of Employees: 75

Website:

www.schatzbearing.com

Schatz Bearing Corporation is a company with a long rich history of manufacturing here in the Hudson Valley. There is a story similar to many other industrial companies over the past century, but unlike most this one has a happy ending.

In 1895, Adolph Schatz and his son, Herrman, opened a metal specialties shop in New Haven Connecticut. In 1900 this business was incorporated as The Schatz Hardware Manufacturing Company and a few years later the Schatz Manufacturing Company incorporates the hardware company and the Acme Ball Bearing Co. In 1910, Schatz moved to one story building on Fairview Ave. in Poughkeepsie, NY, and employed 75 people and five years after that, Schatz organized Federal Bearing Co. to manufacture high grade ball bearings. Throughout the next four decades of the company flourished. There were numerous additions and by 1950 employment climbed to over 1200 people.



This golden era couldn't last forever though. In the late 60's a fifteen month strike took its toll and in 1979 Schatz lost its account with NAPA Auto Parts. By 1980 (with an

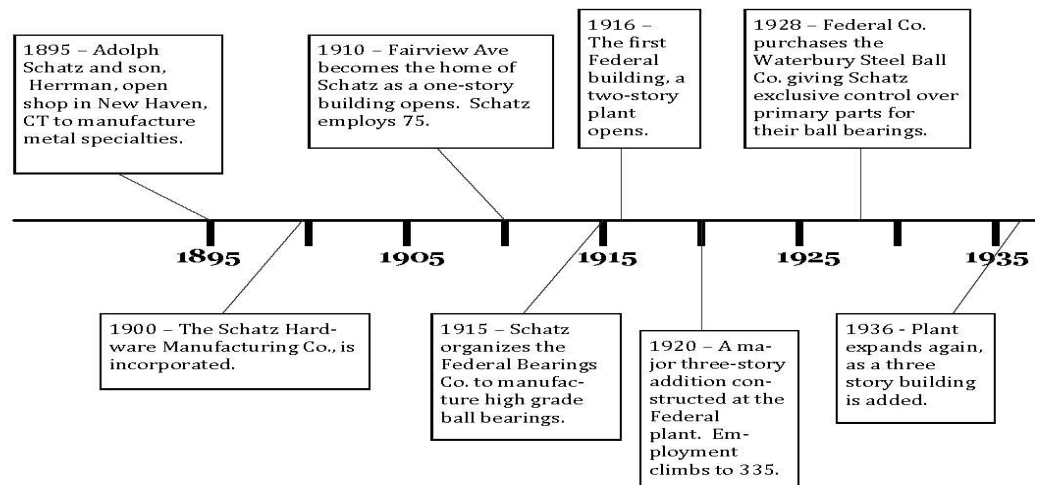
approximate workforce of 800 employees) there were major layoffs and Schatz filed for bankruptcy.

The next year the company closed down and assets were liquidated, but the Schatz name and many pieces of equipment were purchased and in December of 1981 the "new" Schatz emerged from the ashes. With a workforce of ten people the company moved from the old Schatz-Federal plant down the street to the current location at 10 Fairview Ave. In 1985, the Pomeroy family purchased Schatz and in 1989, the current President, Dr. Stephen Pomeroy began his career there. In 1990, the company once again expanded and currently employs 75 people.

Schatz Bearing Company still manufactures bearings from bearing quality steel and stainless steel. These are used in a wide variety of industries including aerospace, defense, medical and semiconductor.

(continued on next page)

This timeline shows some of the milestones in the history of Schatz Bearing Company.



The applications in which these bearings are used often requires Schatz to be an “approved supplier” and the products must pass stringent testing and approval processes. In some cases government approvals are also required.

Although the ball bearing itself looks much the same, the engineering design and use of ball bearings has evolved from those days in the early twentieth century. Schatz also produces linear motion bearings, bushings, and linear slide assemblies. There is a constant flow of new products on the market that generate the need for new bearing designs. Schatz provides engineering design services to customers in addition to manufacturing the product. Pomeroy explains, “The challenge in these applications is to keep up with the significant improvements in manufacturing technology. Foreign competition is a constant threat. Bearing manufacturing is considered by many emerging nations as a core industry in addition to steel, automotive and aerospace.”

Schatz Bearing Corp. has found its niche in serving safety critical industries such as aerospace, ones that require domestic production such as defense, and ones that need highly engineered designs such as medical and semiconductor. Schatz has excellent engineering capabilities that allow them to solve problems in current ap-

plications as well as create innovative solutions for new products. They have diverse manufacturing capabilities that allow them to meet the various needs of their customers.

Schatz is a company that isn’t just on the cutting edge of technology but also a fore-runner in the “Green Movement,” conserving energy and reducing waste. On the Schatz website there is a page called



Schatz Going Green which outlines the company’s green projects which include state of the art high efficiency lighting, high efficiency compressed air system, float switches on pumps, weatherization projects and material recycling. Dr. Pomeroy credits the Council of Industry with indirectly spurring Schatz’s efforts to conserve energy. “When the Council first got involved with the electricity purchase consortium, it got me thinking about ways that we could modernize our facility from an energy consumption standpoint.” He

looked into and found great technology and government incentives that combined with the benefit to the environment make “going green” an excellent investment.

Inspiring a shift towards energy conservation isn’t the only influence the Council of Industry has had on Schatz Bearing Corp. Schatz Bearing and the Council of Industry have a history together that goes back almost a century itself. From participating in training programs and becoming better aware of available government grants, Schatz has had significant participation in Council programs over the last several years. “I have always had the feeling that the Council is truly trying to help companies first. If they don’t have an offering that is a best fit for our company, they won’t try to force it just to sell us something (or “they won’t try to sell us something just for the sake of making a sale”). It’s an intangible but something that is vital,” explained Pomeroy.

The story of Schatz Bearing Corporation could have ended like many other local manufacturers in the 1980s, but fortunately this company was able to rise like a phoenix to a new life. By being innovative, finding the right markets and by being willing to try new ways of doing things, like the “Going Green” project, new life and vitality have been instilled in this historic company.

