

Spangler's Flour Mills Inc.

The Mount Joy Roller Process Flouring Mills conducted by Brandt & Manning were erected in 1855 by Gabriel Bear. J.M. Brandt rented the mill in 1867 and purchased it in 1873. In 1881 he took Mr. Manning into partnership and very soon thereafter the Hungarian process rollers were substituted for the old fashioned burrs. This necessitated an addition to the original mill which is substantially built of stone four stories in height, and covering an area forty-five by fifty feet. In 1882 a Chase (Chicago) elevator was erected, which affords storage room for upwards of twenty-five thousand bushels of grain. Fifteen men are employed, and a seventy-five horsepower engine is used to propel the machinery. The output of this mill is about one hundred and fifty barrels per day. (From History of Lancaster County 1883 by Ellis & Evans)

A large grain elevator was built in 1928 and the mill was known to have one of the largest storage in the state. The mill was then known as the I.D. Stehman Estate and Paul K. Stehman mill. In 1950 a grain dryer was installed. Around 1956 the mill changed hands and was known as the Spangler Mills. In 1973 Wilkins Rogers Inc. took it over. Pie and cake flour is a big part of the business. The mill is still under the name of Spanglers Mill. (From Joe Shaeffer, a friend & fellow Rotarian and historian)

The reader may find conflicts in dates. We lean toward the dates as found in the early histories.

Thanks to Ralph Snyder, Joe Shaeffer, J. Herbert Brubaker, and Mr. & Mrs. James Binkle and the staff of Penjoy for their helpfulness and consideration. This local product represents a lot of local history and interest. Collectors of agricultural trucks, local history buffs, and perhaps railroad enthusiasts will enjoy this truck in their collection.

It may be interesting to note that Gabriel Bear moved from Lititz area to Mount Joy to build a mill along the railroad to serve nearby farmers and ship to distant customers. Gabriel Bear, his wife Anna, and son Samuel are buried at Kraybill Cemetery west of Mount Joy. There are descendants of Gabriel and Anna living in the area - - great-great-grandchildren include J. Herbert Brubaker and C. Bernerd Grissinger of Mount Joy, and Marion Brubaker Snavely and Peggy Brubaker McBride in Pennsylvania.

Mount Joy has the distinction of having the first roller process flour mill in the state. The mill was first built in 1857 by Gabriel Bear, who moved here from Lititz in the spring of the same year, who operated it for several years when he gave the business into the hands of his son Samuel Bear who conducted it for a few years when he died, after which the father again took charge. In the course of a few years Mr. Bear sold out to John M. Brandt who operated the mill only a short time, when he took in A. K. Manning as a partner.

The mill was then run under the firm name of Brandt and Manning, and greatly remodeled during the year 1881, and were the first to install the roller process for making flour, in Pennsylvania in fact there were only a few roller mills in the United States at that time, the first in this country being operated in Minneapolis, Minnesota, by Washburn Crosby and Co. The mill was started in the fall of 1881 and the demand for roller flour became so great that they were compelled to run day and night, 24 hours a day, and ground 800 bushels of wheat in that time filling 160 barrels of flour. They found ready sale for the flour in the Philadelphia and New York markets, and merchants from Baltimore and various cities in New Jersey gave them large orders. The mills of the surrounding town and cities which were unable to sell their flour made by the old method followed the example of the Mount Joy Roller Mill and also installed the roller process.

The mill ran under the management of Brandt and Manning for ten years when Mr. Manning retired from the firm and Mr. Brandt conducted the business alone for some time until he took in I.D. Stehman as a partner and the firm was known as Brandt and Stehman. In 1910 Mr. Brandt died and his son Owen Brandt was taken in as a partner. In 1912 all the old machinery was torn out and a new roller process was installed and they were able to grind spring wheat and make flour that was second to none. (From 1912 Mount Joy Centennial Book)

Thanks especially to the Rogers Family of Maryland for granting me license to produce these model trucks. The picture on the truck is from a lithograph on an 1858 map of Mount Joy by J.R. Hoffer. This first edition of trucks is limited to 268 units.

Sincerely,

*Harold H. Keller
Mount Joy, PA*

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