

3/4/50

Van Stee Grew Slowly From 2 To 80-Man Plant

Keeping up with modern trends and demands has resulted in the growth of the Van Stee Corporation from a two-man carving works to a furniture plant employing 80 persons.

The plant was started in 1906 by Jacob Van Stee as a carving works. The carving was dropped a few years later as the company went into pedestal manufacture, including hall trees and umbrella racks.

Keeping pace with the times, the concern eventually switched to smoking stands, continuing that line until metal smoking stands, considerably cheaper in price, were introduced.

Recognizing that it could not compete in this field, the company went into the manufacture of bed room suites. These were turned out for a few years until the firm saw the possibility of making and specializing in odd beds.

The Van Stee Corporation today is known throughout the United States as quality odd bed and double deck bunk manufacturers.

In 1930 Jacob Van Stee's two sons, Ernest and Edwin, became associated with the firm. The elder Van Stee has seen five additions put on the original building at 200 Crescent Street as the plant's operations were expanded.

During World War II the Crescent Street plant was modernized with the addition of new machines and new dry kilns.

Five displays of Van Stee beds are being shown during the Made in Jamestown showing. They are at the Field and Wright Company, Witkop and Holmes, Murphy's, Heelas Flower Shop and Lawson's.