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Hometown History

2 December 2022

Winchester Indiana Glass Industries

The Winchester Glass Industries have played a major part in the history of this town, many large scale glass industries have come through the town of Winchester. There have been a lot of different owners for these factories as well. Some have been sold away, but some are still here to this day, mostly under new names.

One major glass company that was still here to this day is Ardagh and it is still thriving. Ardagh was one of the biggest companies Winchester has ever had. They were producing glass for over 100 years. The first original owners were the Litschert Family. They sold it in 1903 and the Monarch Gas Company took over for about 28 years before it was bought by someone else.

In 1931, a new company bought it and it became the General Glass Holding Company. It had come back to a glass industry, which still stands to this day as a glass industry under a new name. In 2012 Ardagh purchased it for 880 million dollars. There was a major tragedy in 1917: the plant burnt down. The plant was also purchased by another person throughout its history. This plant has been passed around for many generations in Winchester, Indiana.

The next glass factory is Anchor Hocking. It used to be Turner Glass from 1922 to 1930. After Turner Glass, it then was moved to General Glass Holder in 1931. After General Glass Holding, it then became Anchor Hocking in 1983. Major tragedies struck, killing employees. Two anchor Hocking employees were killed shortly after 3am Wednesday in a 'Flash Fire' which surfaced the artificial gas producing room in the Winchester Glass Industry."¹ From the modest

¹ Historian Society, Glass Industry, Winchester Historical Society Binder 42

beginning in 1903, when the first automatic bottle machine was introduced, the glass container industry has become a billion dollar annual business.⁴

“The Anchor Hocking Glass Plant Manager Geroge, T Meyers Polio, and General Health Problem Corporation has contributed is shown presenting a check for in this area and it is his hope \$958.05 to Randolph County that amount to John L Turner that other groups would see fit to is reported.”² They ran into trouble with the gas wells during this company, because They had kept their original machine. The Anchor Hocking company employed 850 people.

The Woodbury Glass Factory was another factor, that ran through the town of Winchester back in 1907. The Woodbury Glass Industry was a very busy institution. Their monthly payroll was very big, it was about 16,000 to 18,000 a month. More houses were needed, so they had to make a lot of gas to supply all of these houses that were being made. The Woodbury Glass Factory finally sold in 1919.³

² Historian Society, Glass Industry, Winchester Historical Society Binder 42

³ Winchester Historian Society, Woodbury Glass Factory, November, 6th 1907