

Season I'll 11/25

Dear Anna & folks;

Am at plant, will jot down some data regarding Hey Bros - It will be disappointed but your son can piece it out to fit.

Clement Hey started the business Dec 1-1906 - then a dairy, later buying out an established Ice Cream business. This page has to do with the Sterling angle - Clement took in to the organization at different times - his father - his 3 brothers his 2 sisters.

at the beginning all cows were milked by hand by farmer and the milk cooled by water pumped from a well - now machine milked & machine cooled - and transported by truck as against the horse age.

In the days just before (Dec 1-1906) people would put a pan on back porch & milk man (horse drawn) would measure out pts - qts - glass bottles came in & after much ado by health authorities the single service paper bottle came in. The important thing then in glass bottles was to show

cream line - later each lot 2
of milk was homogenized so that
each drop of milk would have same
amount of cream.

The old headquarters of Hey Bros
was originally a feed lot - where
farmers driving to town could put
horse + rig up for the shopping session.

At the time of the advent into
the ice cream business - ice cream
was frozen with ice + salt - and
the dealer who bought it kept
it refrigerated the same way -

In the earlier years ice cream
was sent to dealer in 5 gallon tubs
packed in ice and sent by express
to out of town dealers - Skidley
had the C + N W Ry. Chulon to Chicago
the N W to Peoria; the G & A railroad
to Rock Island Ill; Shabbona Ill.
often transfers were made to adjoining
lines -

In 1924 Hey Bros were the
first ones in Illinois to install
ice cream cabinets.

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at about that time home.
electric refrigeration came into
being - and routes (by truck) to
surrounding towns were established
and so for the first time
in history - one could buy ice
cream at the store - take it home
and it would keep till ready to use

The days of packaging were to
come, in which ice cream was packaged
at factory - pt. - qt. - gallons - & bulk. Ice
Novelties came into being and now
make up a considerable part of the
business - cups - sundaes - bars of
various kinds - popsicles etc

So with the passage of
time changes were made - perhaps
on a par were the changes - with
our being - from oxcart to airplane
See # 4 for HyBros Dixon

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Key Bros Dixon Ice
started as Dixon Ice Cream Co
Feb 1- 1919 - Shortly took the name
of Key Bros - a part of Sterling plant
on Jan 1- 1941 - Dixon plant
taken over by Henry M Key - Dean E Key
James O Key & daughter Mrs Steve Yetter
We moved to present location
(an old livery barn) March 1- 1920
and built the present bldg - starting
in 1946 -

When Key Bros sold the Sterling
Dairy to Green Meadows Milk Co,
we bought the Ice Cream business.
In like manner we took over
the DeKalb Key Bros - as they
sold to us and moved their operation
to Quincy Ill, under the name
of Key Bros bearing ownership of
the Harshman family - Wm & Verna
Joel & his brother - The brothers has (Gene)
gone onto other lines of a health
problem

The present Key Bros Dixon
owned by James O Key & Mrs Bulah Yetter
a sister.

Pictures Pictures Pictures

Went thru lots of them

but pictures of Key Bro

Bldgs - Sterling & Dixon

not among em