

Furniture was big employer

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not an issue and there were no OSHA inspectors. The Showers Company was already progressive in that respect.

The *History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana* published in 1914 states that the company had 1,200 men providing a living for their families. The children of the Showers brothers went into the business and insured family continuity.

Today the Showers Company no longer exists. What happened to it? Perhaps only the descendents of the company founders really know. The answer is probably not a simple one. The depression and new mass-production methods must have taken a heavy toll on the company. By 1955 it was shut down for good.

The factory buildings sat idle for some time until Indiana University acquired them for storage and renovation of furniture used in offices, dormitories and classrooms.

Meanwhile the buildings stand as a reminder of a large part of Bloomington's past.