

22 N Chestnut Avenue
Architectural Style: Modern
Felker Brothers Company

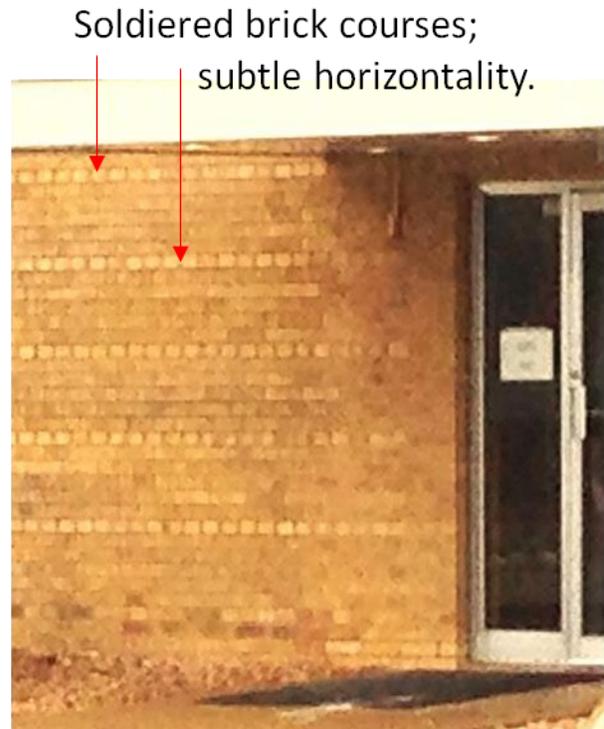
Originally built between 1904 & 1912 to house the sheet metal shop established by Louis & Albert Felker, the building had additions into the 1960's. The main façade dates from the mid-20th century & houses company offices. The second story slightly over-hangs the main façade, & fully embraces its corners & side facades. The main entry honors the Classical tradition, but with a simple functional entablature & columns. The design of the office area incorporates "Modern" architecture values: functionality; simplicity; little if any decoration; emphasis on connection between inside & outside with large windows; horizontal spatial extension with building's shape, window pattern, & pattern of every 6th brick row being a soldiered course. Much of the factory portion, resided in metal, is still operational.



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A Modern version of our Classical tradition - simple entablature, & column capitals, shafts & bases.





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**FELKER BROS.
CO. IMPROVING**

**Additional Office Space To Accommodate Growing Need;
Will Install New Vault**

Extensive improvements to the office department are being made at the plant of Felker Brothers Manufacturing company. An additional office room has been built, which will be occupied by A. G. Felker as a private office. The present office of Mr. Felker will be devoted to the general office. A new vault will also be constructed in the west portion of the office department.

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 23 May 1923, Wed • Page 1

**WAUSAU IRON
WORKS ERECTING
WAREHOUSE HERE**

The Wausau Iron Works is constructing a frame warehouse here, adjoining Felker Brothers manufacturing company where they will receive Soo Line shipments of road building materials to be used for Wood county road work, part of which will extend into Marshfield from the county line north of the city. The building is sixty feet long, twenty-eight feet wide and sixteen feet high. A similar construction has been completed in the McMillan district for storing material.

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 18 Jul 1923, Wed • Page 1

FELKER FIRM FORMED AT KENDALL IN 1903

Marshfield Manufacturing Company Prepares To Observe Anniversary

Increased capitalization, an improved sales organization and the manufacturing of a new product will mark the observance of the silver anniversary of Felker Brothers Manufacturing company which begins February 5.

The year 1903 marked the company's beginning as a Wisconsin corporation at Kendall, Monroe county, Wisconsin. Galvanized sheet steel well tubing was its one and only product. The company was capitalized for \$10,000. The original incorporators were L. H. Felker, Revillo F. Holmes and A. G. Felker, all of Kendall, Wis. The year 1905 found the new concern bound for St. Paul, Minn., where it remained for less than one year. D. L. Miller joined the company at this time and Mr. Holmes retired to seek success in other fields of endeavor. November, 1926 saw the active retirement of L. H. Felker and the return of the concern to Sparta, Wis., where it continued work and growth with fair expansion of lines manufactured and volume increase over that of the first two years.

The fall of 1908 found the company seeking a new factory site and incidentally a new location which resulted in its moving to Marshfield on December 27 of the same year. R. T. Finucan joined the young concern as a stockholder and became personally active in 1908.

Built First Plant In 1909

The story of the advance and improvement of the company in its new-location is one with which most Marshfield folks are quite conversant. A new plant of wood and steel construction was erected in Marshfield at the corner of North Chestnut and North Depot streets in the spring of 1909. Well tubing and galvanized steel tanks constituted the line of products manufactured in the new plant. Tank heaters, stock feed cookers, corrugated culverts, welded steel storage and automobile truck tanks were added in due course until the line reached its present mechanically coordinated whole for which the company's specially heavy duty machinery has gradually been developed and supplied. The line is one requiring heavy sheet metal machinery dealing with the heavier gauges of sheet metal plates and sections as opposed to lighter sheet metal lines making an entirely different field of metal manufactory.

The growth of the physical plant brought about building expansion programs in 1909 followed by extensions in 1910 and 1912 all of which improvements in the buildings were destroyed in the spectacular fire and explosions on December 4, 1915. Above the ruins of the destroyed plant arose in due course the present modern steel and concrete daylight construction housing the company's present lines.

Design New Product

In recognition of the silver anniversary of the concern, a new design of galvanized steel tank known as the "Marshfield" tank is being manufactured and sales to date are already arguing the wisdom and foresight of such a course of action. In determining the trade name of the new product, the members of the company, its sales force, its jobbers, and so far, its widespread dealer organization, have acquiesced in giving Marshfield the recognition it has earned in so designating the new product.

The present guiding heads of Felker Brothers Manufacturing company are A. G. Felker, president; D. L. Miller, vice-president and secretary; R. T. Finucan, treasurer. The company is unique in Marshfield as the only plant of its kind in the city and carries the respect of its employees and co-workers and the well wishes and moral support of the citizenry in marked degree.

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 01 Feb 1928, Wed • Page 4

FELKER PLANT NEW UNIT

Construction Plans Announced on Anniversary of Fire 16 Years Ago

BUILDING To BE 60x100

On the anniversary of the fire which destroyed the Felker Brothers Manufacturing plant 16 years ago today, the Felker company announces plans for the construction of a new unit to the plant, to be located on the North side of West Depot street, on the site of the former livery stable, recently torn down.

The new building will be 60 by 100 feet in size, of concrete base and steel superstructure construction, and is so planned that another building of the same size can be added to it at a later date when further expansion is warranted.

The new building will include a garage, paint room of approved design, and warehouse. New lines of activity with lines of goods now being manufactured will be housed in the new warehouse building the company announces.

Use Own Labor

Because times are none too brisk in the manufacturing line at the present time, A. G. Felker, president of the company, states that labor out of the company's own plant will be employed in the construction of the new building.

In recollection of the fire of 1915 and the immediate rebuilding of the plant, Mr. Felker says: "The owners are just as optimistic and sure of a quick upward turn in business as they were 16 years ago tonight, and that the experience of the past will be repeated for the future."

The files of the Marshfield Herald of 1915 tell a graphic story of the fire which broke out about 9:30 on Saturday night, Dec. 4, and destroyed the entire plant within a short time.

Lack Water Pressure

Charles Stauber, night watchman at the plant, discovered the fire and turned in the alarm.

"From the time of the alarm until the flames broke through the roof was less than ten minutes, the fire department in the meantime having reached the scene. Four streams of water were immediately turned on but there was no checking the whirl of flames that reached a hundred feet in the air and lit up the landscape for miles around.

"For a short time, owing to difficulty in getting direct pressure from the standpipe, the firemen were handicapped for water, but even with a high pressure there was no hope of saving the building.

"As there was no chance of saving the plant the firemen directed their energies in keeping the fire from spreading to adjoining buildings, and by hard work succeeded in saving the S. Miller Fruit company's warehouse only 19 feet west of the Felker plant.

Oxygen Drums Explode

"In the building were a dozen of more oxygen drums used for gas welding and when these exploded it shook every building in the city and broke the glass in all the windows and store fronts within a radius of a block or more.

"While no doubt every drum exploded, five shocks were more distinct than the rest, one in particular being heard as far away as Stratford and Rozellville. Those who gathered at the scene of the fire before the explosions took place, the firemen in particular, ran great chances of losing their lives.

"One of the drums was driven through the side of the building and landed in the street 30 feet away. Several persons, from the force of the explosion, were carried from their feet or thrown against the sides of buildings. Fireman W. H. Kamps was knocked over but escaped with no serious injury."

Approximately eight weeks after the fire the first unit of the present fireproof modern plant was finished. Twice since additions have been made to the structure to care for expanding business. In 1920 and again in 1925 new units were added to the building, and now in 1931 still greater space is needed in the plant and the new unit is going ahead. To relieve congestion in the present plant, it will be located across the street, easily accessible for storage purposes.

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 04 Dec 1931, Fri • Page 1

Felker Brothers
Pay \$6,000 Bonus

A bonus totaling \$6,000 was paid out to employes of the Felker Brothers Manufacturing Company here today, following a New Year's custom established 30 years ago, and practiced 24 times during that period. Employes with a record of one or more years of service with the firm, received an amount equal to four weeks' pay at 40 hours per week, while employes with less than a year of service received an amount equal to not less than two weeks' wages.

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 31 Dec 1941, Wed • Page 6



IVO A. UMHOEFER
(Keel Studio)



PAT FELKER
(Keel Studio)



ANDREW J. FELKER
(News-Herald Photo)

Felker executives to retire

Felker Brothers Corporation today announced the retirement of its two senior executives, Ivo A. Umhoefer, chairman of the board, and Pat Felker, president, effective Wednesday.

Felker Brothers Corporation, a local steel fabricator since 1980, employs 350 people at its Marshfield location.

Umhoefer started with Felker in 1938. He was appointed president of the corporation in 1960 and served in that capacity until 1976, when he was elected chairman of the board.

Felker started with the corporation in 1944. he was appointed executive vice

president in 1960 and president in 1976.

The corporation also announced the appointment of Andrew J. Felker to the position of president and chairman of the board.

Other new appointments announced were Paul Umhoefer, executive vice president and chairman of the executive committee, and Donald K. Younker, secretary and treasurer.

Andrew Felker, a graduate of Notre Dame, started with Felkers in 1939 followed by three years in the U.S. Army. He previously held the office of executive vice president of the corporation.

Paul Umhoefer, a graduate of St. John's University started at Felkers in 1957. He previously held the office of vice president, alloy sales.

Younker, a graduate of the University of Missouri, has been with Felkers since 1976 and previously held the position of chief financial officer.

The two retiring officers will continue on the board of directors along with Andrew Felker and Umhoefer. New directors named to the board as of Thursday are Walter Peterson, vice president; Younker, secretary/treasurer, and Lynn Petersen, plant superintendent.

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 29 Apr 1980, Tue • Page 3

Felker workers are honored

The 14th annual meeting of the **Felker Brothers Corporation** "Twenty-five Year Club" was held at RiverEdge Country Club Monday evening.

Membership in the group is limited to employees and retired employees of **Felker Brothers Corporation** who have completed 25 years or more of service.

Three members — Lloyd Schultz, Alex Knox, and Terry Adler — were inducted into the club, bringing total membership to 57.

The club also honored Felker employees who have retired in the past year. They are John Jonas, Charlie Johnson, Reuben Schiesl, Vic Fischer, Clyde Reeths, Jim Gorman, Pat Felker and Ivo Umhoefer.



Employees honored

Three Felker Brothers Corporation employees were inducted into the "Twenty-Five Year Club" Monday night at RiverEdge Country Club, and several employees who retired during the past year were honored. Retiring employees and new members of the club are (front from left) Reuben Schiesl, John Jonas, Vic Fischer, (back from left) Clyde Reeths, Terry Adler, Lloyd Schultz, Alex Knox, and Jim Gorman. Adler, Schultz and Knox were inducted into the "Twenty-Five Year Club."
(Photo by Don Olm)

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 29 Apr 1980, Tue • Page 3

Felker Brothers simply adjusts, achieves

By JAMIE MARA
Of the News-Herald

Adapting to the needs of the marketplace is an ability that all businesses strive to achieve and perfect. Try and find a company that can successfully spot trends and make necessary, effective adjustments, and you'll likely be searching amidst the most sound and thriving.

That most basic, yet significant business principle is ushering Felker Brothers Corp. once Felker Brothers Manufacturing into its 86th year in the manufacturing of steel products as part of Marsh-field's industrial community.

And as has happened since A.G. Felker and Ray Finucane moved the firm here from Sparta in 1908, Felker Brothers is once again fashioning its processes to meet future challenges head-on.

The most recent moves in that effort by company officials involved restructuring two autonomous manufacturing divisions under the Felker Brothers head, extending one to the southeastern United States and expanding the other here.

Felker Piping Products, which comprises about 70 percent of the firm's sales, now makes a portion of its loose pipe, tube and fittings in a Kentucky plant.

In turn, the vacated space here has been filled by an expanded Felker Fabrication operation that yields custom stainless and alloy steel tanks, vessels, and pre-fabricated piping systems.

Both divisions operate locally out of two facilities. A more than 137,000-square-foot facility on E. Fourth Street houses much of Felker 'Brothers' physical operation, while the company's offices are located on N. Chestnut Avenue at W. Depot Street.

A smaller pipe-spooling shop accommodating, a scant force of subcontracted national union pipe fitters as part of Felker Fabrication is also part of the Chestnut Avenue site.

As part of Felker Brothers' piping division, a 60,000-square-foot plant in Glasgow, Ky., which opened Oct 1, produces continuous welded stainless steel pipe.

"Really what we deal in is a commodity product," Tom Henke, who heads sales and marketing for Felker Piping Products, said.

Henke sells a full range of stainless steel piping products through a country-wide network of select industrial distributors.



Custom fabricating

A welder at Felker Brothers Corp. perfects a seam on a portion of a steel piping system at the company's plant on E. Fourth Street. New markets are being tapped for the steel products produced in

the company's piping and fabrication divisions. In a volatile industry, company officials follow trends closely and are adjusting operations and marketing

strategies accordingly. Environmental regulations are helping to accommodate for sluggish expansion in the pulp and paper industry.

(News-Herald Photo by Dan Young)

Custom- and pre-fabricated products created under Felker Fabrication, on the other hand, are marketed directly to the end user.

"Basically, we fabricate them together so that (customers) don't have to out in the field," Keith Boernke, who heads the fabrication division, said of the commodity products made in his counterpart's division.

More precise fit-up, cleaner welded seams and the absence of obstacles make the environment of a well-equipped manufacturing plant more conducive to creating a better quality product, Boernke said, and eliminate work-site hassles.

"If you have an unusual cut, out in the field basically they have a torch and a grinder and that's about it," Boernke said.

And in the shop, he added, "you can move the pipe instead of your body."

Once bids are solicited for work, Boernke said, an estimated delivery price is figured, including completion time. A proposal is then submitted to the customer. After usual negotiation over price and delivery, an order is placed and final design work begins.

Flexibility in meeting customer desires is the responsibility of his project coordinators, Boernke said, who figure the price and form the proposal while "chasing the job."

"Basically, the project coordinator is responsible for the product conforming to the customer's expectations," he said.

The personal attention given to each customer is a standout of Felker Brothers service, he noted.

"If we get (the job), he's (project coordinator) responsible for every aspect of it all the way through the shop," Boernke said. "He follows it all the way through shipment. That's one thing a little unique here. We have one contact, which helps the customer. They can deal with one person."

Being able to revise at any stage of production is a key for Gary Kohlbeck's drafting department, which formalizes customer orders into drawings.

"Sometimes it can be prior to us even doing the drawings," Kohlbeck said of requested changes.

"It could be even after it's already built. We just try to accommodate the customer."

Part of that necessary flexibility comes with "a balancing act" for Boemke, whose goal is to match production hours with project dollar forecasts and floor capacity.

"It's my responsibility to make sure that the shop floor is always full, Boemke said, but added that space for "key accounts" must be maintained.

"You have to leave a little leeway in there so that if an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) would happen to call and say, 'can you speed this job in there,' you can do it," Boemke explained. "At the same time, because I am limited to the number of hours, I have to make sure the cost contribution is acceptable to the company. I do have to meet my forecast at the end of the year."

While the products and marketing methods differ between Felker Brothers' two divisions, most of the products are targeted for like industries.

"The driver still here at Felker Brothers is pulp and paper," Henke said. "That industry has been in our background since we got into stainless (steel) in the '30s and '40s and still is the driver."

The grain processing and wastewater industries are major subsequent customers, Henke said, followed by other process-type industries like chemical producers and memories.

The scope of those Felker Brothers customers stretches worldwide, whether directly or indirectly, according to both division heads.

While the bulk of Boemke's customers are found within a 350-mile radius, he said some now stretch

across the country and further.

"We've got one (customer) in the grain processing that works on projects throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, actually globally," Boemke said. "We have an original equipment manufacturer we just started doing business with who's in the industrial market, liquid solid separation, which is also worldwide."

Competition for Felker Brothers must be analyzed differently for each division, according to company President Don Younker.

About five domestic firms located mainly in the southeastern U.S. compete nationally with Felker Piping, Younker said. With a more regional market for Felker Fabrication, competition comes from generally smaller companies, he said.

"We are one of the smaller companies among our competition both in terms of volume and capacity," Younker said.

With the new Kentucky operation, Felker Piping is better able to compete in a location closer to that division's market, according to Younker.

"The majority of the pipe that's sold ... is actually distributed on the East Coast or in the eastern part of the United States," he said. "The efficiency of servicing that market is better out of a more eastern location than in Marshfield."

"We needed to get into a more cost-efficient location and a more customer-service sensitive location," Henke added. "We ended up buying steel in Pennsylvania, trucking it all the way up to Marshfield, Wisconsin, making it round, and trucking it all the way back."

Henke said as a commodity, the piping products he sells are subject to the same competition as other commodities now pressured worldwide by changing, freer markets.

"It's really becoming a global marketplace now," he said. "I'm competing against Ukrainian pipe, Italian pipe, Malaysian pipe..."

To have a successful marketing campaign, the company must stress not only the Felker Brothers products, but the company's talented and experienced 150-strong workforce, Younker said.

Along with the union force of boilermakers, the company also has about 85 salaried and administrative personnel.

"We have a pretty highly skilled labor force," Younker said. "Part of our marketing strategy is to try to focus on products and markets that will allow us to sell that degree of skill."

"People are a very important part of our business and of our manufacturing. I think Felkers has generally been a people-oriented company."

Younker said very marketable is the fact that the average worker tenure at his company is approaching 20 years.

"We try to emphasize with our customers and our potential customers the length of time that we've been here, the length of time we've been serving the same customers, the length of time and stability of people that work here ... We have a lot of second- and third-generation employees. We have no turnover here. Generally, when the people that work in our plant come to work at Felkers, it's a career."

"We have people that have been working in our shop for 25 or 30 years. Over that kind of a period of time, they build up a tremendous amount of experience and capability in what they do. A lot of shops can't duplicate that."

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 26 Feb 1994, Sat • Page 22

Also see link to this property at the Wisconsin Historical Society: <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HII138475>

Felker receives ISO certification

Felker Brothers Corporation based in Marshfield, has received International Standards Organization (ISO) certification of its quality system, the company recently announced.

ISO 9000 is a set of quality management standards that have received international acceptance as a quality system specification. ISO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

To receive certification, a company or organization must design, document and implement a complete quality-management system that meets all ISO 9000 specification requirements. The company

then must submit to an inspection and audit by an approved third party, who must certify to the Accreditation Authority that the quality system is complete and being followed.

Felker Brothers was audited and certified by the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company and was certified as ISO 9002. Periodic followup audits are conducted to ensure continued compliance.

The ISO certification is the culmination of a 24-month project at the Marshfield plant. The company's Glasgow, Ky., plant had previously been certified.

Marshfield News-Herald
Marshfield, Wisconsin,
12 May 1998,
Tue • Page 6

Felker honors employees

Felker Brothers Corporation held its annual 25-Year Club banquet recently at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The 25-Year Club consists of 146 members, which includes 13 new members who completed 25 years of service in 1997. The new members include Marvin Kummer, Howard Dankemeyer Jr., Robert Hennes, Ronald Scheibe, Dennis Mellenthin, Matt Strupp, Richard Rennhack, Allan Feltz, James Leigh, Mike Specht, John Weigel, Verlyn Schalow and Jeffery

Wichlacz.

In addition, the following retirees were honored:

Richard Wagner and Roger Kohlbeck, (40 years of service), Paul Adler (36 years), Lorraine Laube (35 years), Russell Johnson (32 years), Richard Holland (31 years), Donald Krause (30 years), Shirley Schalow (28 years), Raymond Schnabel (26 years), and retirees with less than 20 years of service.

Each retiree received a clock commemorating their retirement.

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 14 May 1998,
Thu • Page 15

Henke named Felker Brothers executive VP, COO

The board of directors of **Felker Brothers Corporation** has elected Tom Henke of Vesper to the position of executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Henke previously held the position of vice president-sales and marketing. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and has been employed by Felkers in various positions since 1985.



Tom Henke

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 20 Jun 1998,
Sat • Page 9

Andrew Felker

Andrew J. Felker, 80, of 1003 George Drive, died at 6:35 p.m. June 30, 1998, at St. Joseph's Hospital Hospice Care Unit where he had been admitted on June 28.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. The Rev. James J. Logan, pastor, will officiate. Music will be provided by Mary Stevens, organist.

Burial will be in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery where military rites will be conducted by the American Legion Post 54 of Marshfield. Serving as pallbearers will be Mr. Felker's nephews.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the Rembs/Kundinger Chapel. The Elks Lodge of Sorrow will be held at 7 p.m. and an Our Lady of Peace Parish Rosary Service, combined with the Knights of Columbus Rosary Service will be held at 7:30 p.m., both today at the funeral chapel.

He was born Nov. 9, 1917, in Marshfield to Albert G. and Esther (nee Finucane) Felker. He married Rita E. Rehlinger on June 12, 1948, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Rozellville.

Mr. Felker attended St. John's Parochial School and was a graduate of McKinley High School, both in Marshfield. He also was a graduate of Notre Dame University. After his education he served in the United States Army during World War II for three years, primarily stationed in England.



Andrew Felker

Mr. Felker began his career at Felker Brothers Corporation in 1939, the firm his father, A.G. Felker, founded. Andrew served as vice president of the company's General Products Division for many years. In 1976 he was appointed executive vice president and in 1978 he was elected president and chairman of the board. He retired on Nov. 9, 1982.

Mr. Felker had been involved as a United Way Campaign Volunteer since the program began in Marshfield. He had served as the United Way Drive Chairman for the 1974-1975 and the 1980-1981 Marshfield Area campaigns. He was a member of the Marshfield Lions Club, serving as president of the club in 1953. He received the Paul Harris Community Service Award from the Marshfield Rotary Club in 1991. He was actively involved with and served as president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. In addition, he was a member of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church and the Holy Name Society, an honorary life member of the Knights of Columbus John Eisen Council 1799, the Elks Lodge 665 of Marshfield, the Serra Club International and the Felker Brothers 25 Year Club.

Andy was an avid golfer for 64

years. He loved to play tennis and shoot pool. He enjoyed feeding the backyard birds, boating, spending time at the family cottage and vacation trips with his family.

Surviving Mr. Felker are his daughters, Susan Felker-Donsing (Alan Donsing) of Madison and Barbara Felker-Flansburg (George Flansburg) of DeLand, Fla.; his brother, Patrick V. (Gretchen) Felker of Marshfield; two brothers-in-law, Ronald (Agnes) Rehlinger and Donald Rehlinger, all of Marshfield; and his sister-in-law, Ruth Rehlinger of Milwaukee. He is further survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Pat Jicinsky and Sandy Grell provided him with the excellent assistance and support that allowed him to live comfortably and happily in his own home for the past six years.

He was predeceased by his wife on May 13, 1990; by his parents; a brother, Edwin Felker; and by a sister, Alberta Umhoefer.

Memorials may be designated in his name to Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church or to St. John's Catholic Church, both in Marshfield.

Felkers honors workers, retirees

Felker Brothers Corporation

held their annual 25-year club banquet recently at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The club consists of 155 members, which includes 14 new members who completed 25 years of service in 1998. The new members include Rudolph Draeger, Gerald Kloehn, Larry Bender, Peter Rottscheit, Orville Scheibe, Randall Andrew, Buster Handke, Larry Lang, August Neider, Harold Wensch, Joseph Derge, Gerald Freeck, Kenneth

Olm and Randall Schrage.

In addition, the following retirees were honored. The retirees include Marvin Michalski, 42 years of service; Charles Schueller, 39 years; Herbert Bluhm, 36 years; Kenneth Heintz, 36 years; Donald Mancl, 35 years; Duane Miller, 34 years; John Szymanski, 33 years; Richard Baiert, 32 years; and Frank Eckes, 26 years.

Each retiree received a clock commemorating their retirement.

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin,
03 Jun 1999, Thu • Page 6

Felker workers protest

By Thom Gerretsen
Of the News-Herald

They're not on strike, but union employees of **Felker Brothers Corporation** of Marshfield are showing their displeasure over the lack of a new contract.

Workers staged informational picketing Thursday in front of the company's offices at 22 N. Chestnut Ave. and in front of the production plant on East Fourth Street.

"It's a move we wanted to put forward," said Jim Leigh, vice

Please see **FELKER**, A-7

FELKER: Workers hold informational picket

Continued from Page A-1

president of Local 697 of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers.

About 145 union members have been working without a contract since June 1999. Workers voted March 25 to approve a strike, but union leaders said at the time that a lot of steps would be needed before a walkout occurs.

There are three main unresolved issues, union and company officials said. The biggest dispute is over health insurance, said Carol Willfahrt, company human resources manager.

The previous contract did not have a deductible, she said, and the company wanted an annual deductible of between \$250 and \$500.

The company also proposed eliminating a cost-of-

living pay increase unless inflation reached a certain level, she said.

The other sticking point was the union's request to have the pay provisions of the new contract retroactive to when the last contract expired.

Before the strike vote, bargainers for both sides met many times, the last two with a federal mediator.

Since then, they met once with a mediator, Leigh said. No new talks are scheduled.

Leigh said Thursday he was not sure how long the informational picketing would continue. He said there have been no other job actions to this point.

"We all want a contract, but we want a fair contract," Leigh said.

"We want a fair contract, too," Willfahrt said.

Felker Brothers makes stainless steel products, pipe tubes, fittings and prefabricated systems. It employs about 225 people.

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 12 May 2000, Fri • Page 1

Felker Bros. honors retirees

Felker Brothers Corporation held its annual 25-Year Club banquet on May 1 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The 25-Year Club consists of 174 members, which includes 22 new members who completed 25 years of service in 1999. The new members include William Kastern, James Kremer, Jerald Verhulst, Kenneth Craft, Thomas Schar, Edward Willfahrt, Norman Luepke, Randall Draeger, Dale Anderson, David Leonard, Roger Krall, Michael Johnsrud, Duane Scheuer, Myron Schiferl, Robert Fure, Daniel Zirngible, Dean Schmidt, Michael Zahn, Thomas Regner, Dennis Worzella, Gerlad Bauer and Elaine Hornick.

In addition, the following retirees were honored: Ronald Machtan (37 years); Virgil Reckner (35 years); John Lang Jr. (34 years), Harold Hansen (33 years), Vincent Weber (33 years), Thomas Bruhn (33 years), Woodrow Schmutzler (31 years), Donald Wink (31 years), and Edgar Wright (5 years).

Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield,
Wisconsin, 13 May 2000, Sat • Page 21

Felker Bros. workers picket in Marshfield

MARSHFIELD — They're not on strike, but union employees of **Felker Brothers Corporation** of Marshfield showed their displeasure over a lack of a new contract. Workers staged informational picketing Thursday.

"It's a move we wanted to put forward," said Jim Leigh, vice president of Local 697 of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers.

About 145 union members have worked without a contract since June 1999. They voted March 25 to approve a strike, but union leaders said that a lot of steps would be needed before a walkout occurs.

There are three main unresolved issues. The biggest dispute is over health insurance, said Carol Willfahrt, company human resources manager. The company wanted an annual deductible of between \$250 and \$500.

The company also proposed eliminating a cost-of-living pay increase unless inflation reached a certain level, she said. The other sticking point was the union's request to have the pay provisions of the new contract retroactive to when the last contract expired.

Marshfield News-Herald,
Marshfield, Wisconsin,
14 May 2000, Sun • Page 30

Strike averted

Felker employees accept new contract

By Amy E. Bowen
Of the News-Herald

There will not be a strike at the **Felker Brothers Corporation**.

Union members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers voted Thursday to accept a three-year ratified contract.

"We're very glad that this came to a resolution before a strike occurred," said Felker Brothers Human Resource Manager Carol Willfahrt. "We feel that this the best for our employees, their families and our customers."

Union members worked without a contract since June 18, 1999. They were ready to strike next Monday.

According to Verlyn Schalow, union president, the details of the contract and the specific results from the vote could not be released.

In a previous interview, Schalow said better health insurance, an adjustment in the cost of living and back pay were three primary concerns of union members. Federal Mediator Glenn Tarkowski initiated the new round of negotiation Wednesday afternoon. The two sides met for about 4-5 hours.

Tarkowski could not be reached for comment.

Before accepting this agreement, the union voted down two previous contracts and held informational pickets.

The company, which manufactures stainless steel products, pipe tubes, fittings and prefabricated systems, employs about 225 people.

Marshfield News-Herald,
Marshfield, Wisconsin,
04 Aug 2000, Fri • Page 1

Marshfield News-Herald,
Marshfield, Wisconsin,
15 Aug 2001, Wed • Page 107

Felker union OKs contract, avoids strike

MARSHFIELD — There will not be a strike at the **Felker Brothers Corporation**.

Union members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers voted Thursday to accept a three-year ratified contract.

"We're very glad that this came to a resolution before a strike occurred," said Felker Brothers Human Resource Manager Carol Willfahrt. "We feel that this the best for our employees, their families and our customers."

Union members have been working without a contract since June 18, 1999. They were ready to strike Monday.

According to Verlyn Schalow, union president, the details of the contract and the specific results from the vote could not be released.

Better health insurance, an adjustment in the cost of living and back pay were three primary concerns of union members, Schalow said in a previous interview.

Federal Mediator Glenn Tarkowski initiated the new round of negotiation Wednesday afternoon. The two sides met for about 4-5 hours.

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Marshfield News-Herald,
Marshfield, Wisconsin,
06 Aug 2000, Sun • Page 24

Founded 1908

93 Years

**Felker
Brothers
Corporation**

22 North Chestnut
Marshfield

384-3121

Today...

Serving major industries throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and other countries from our manufacturing facilities in Marshfield, Wisconsin and Glasgow, Kentucky. Felker Brothers today delivers a complete combination of the highest quality stainless steel products and customer services through two operating divisions:

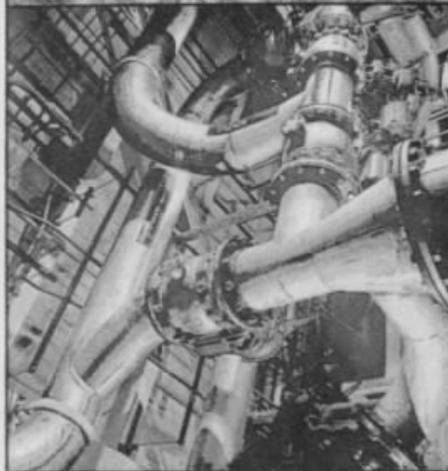
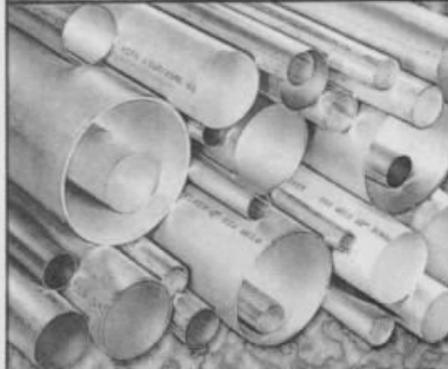
- Felker Piping Products – *welded stainless steel pipe, tube, fittings and miscellaneous piping accessories.*
- Felker Fabrication – *customized prefabricated piping systems, ducting, approach piping and modular piping.*

Delivering complete customer satisfaction since 1903

The origin of Felker Brothers Corporation began in 1903 when brothers Louis and Albert Felker established a sheet metal shop in the small, but rapidly growing, central Wisconsin community of Marshfield.

The personal commitment of Louis and Albert, as well as their employees, to provide quality and reliable products quickly led to sincere and dedicated commitment to customer satisfaction.

Felker Brothers is well known and respected for manufacturing the highest quality, corrosion resistant, stainless steel pipe, fittings and fabricated piping systems in the industry.



FELKER 
BROS. CORP.

22 North Chestnut Avenue
Marshfield, WI 54449

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