

Smothers & Family Hardware

Your local hardware store since 1935

History

Sam Smothers came to this country as a young man in 1928. He began working in a local hardware store where he learned the language of his new country and practiced it often with the young cashier, Bella. Bella was the daughter of the store owner. The owner George Thorp was impressed by his new employee and how quickly he learned anything George showed him.

The store was very busy with the growth of the town during the “Roaring 20s.” George wanted to open a second store on the far side of town to meet the needs of people over there so they wouldn’t have to come so far to make their purchases. When George sat down with Sam to discuss this idea, Sam immediately suggested that he could take on the store; not only managing it, but building it as well.

Even during the Great Depression, both stores continued to do well. When Sam asked George for Bella’s hand in marriage George was delighted. He couldn’t think of anyone more suited to marrying his daughter.

In 1935, George’s health started failing. He asked Sam to take over both stores and to put his name on them. The Greene Valley Hardware store at this time became Smothers & Family Hardware which it has remained to this day. George, his brother William, Sam and Bella were the only employees in those early years.

As time went by, two more stores were added: one in 1946 and one in 1960. The stores still have that old-time feel, but don’t be fooled – they are up-to-date on the latest stock and the staff can help you with just about any project you

have in mind. There are currently over 500 full and part time employees in the “Smothers Family.”



The original store burned in 1961. This was a traumatic experience for the Smothers' family. It took two fire companies several hours to contain the blaze and stamp out the hot spots that threatened to start the blaze all over again. Almost all of the merchandise was lost. It is believed that an electrical short in the back of the store started the fire. With the help of friends, loyal customers, and even vendors, they were able to repair the damage and get back to serving the customers' needs in a few short weeks.