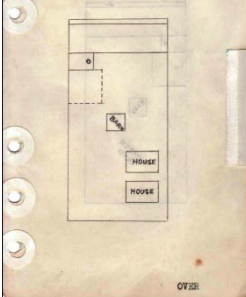
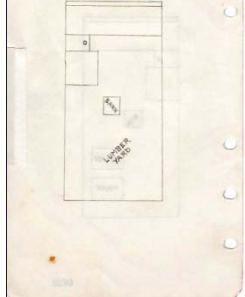
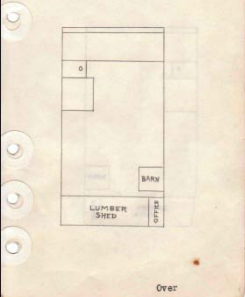
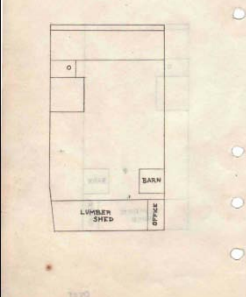
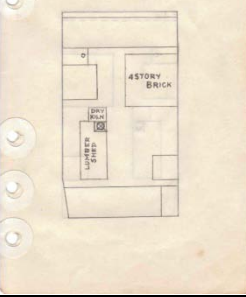
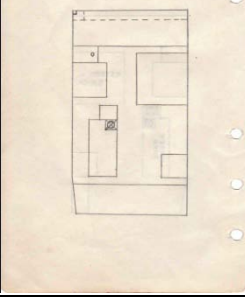
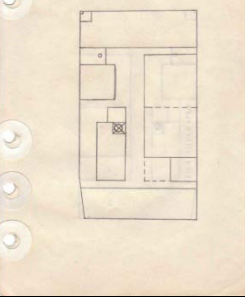
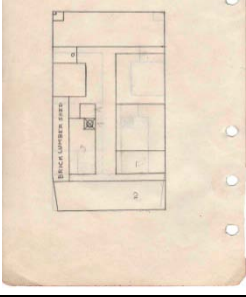


The Factory Building

- The original building was a timber-frame structure with hand-hewn nails, built two years before the Civil War.
- The main building was used as a woolen mill during the War and then was idle for a long time.
- About 1883, Heyworth Iron Works took over the building and added certain parts
- About 1887, Huff Bros. started a planing mill and lumber yard and made certain changes.
- Around 1895, Huff Bros. sold their lumber business to McGavic Lumber Co. and started to make Butchers' coolers and sectional blocks, making certain changes.
- In 1897 Huff Bros. sold their business to Tenny & Sikking and they ran it until Mr. Faries bought the ground and buildings. In 1900 Decatur Refrigerator & Mfg. Co. was organized.
- In 1906 a four-story brick building, dry kiln and sprinkler system were added.
- In 1908 a 20-foot addition was added.
- In 1916 a brick lumber shed and dry lumber storage was built.

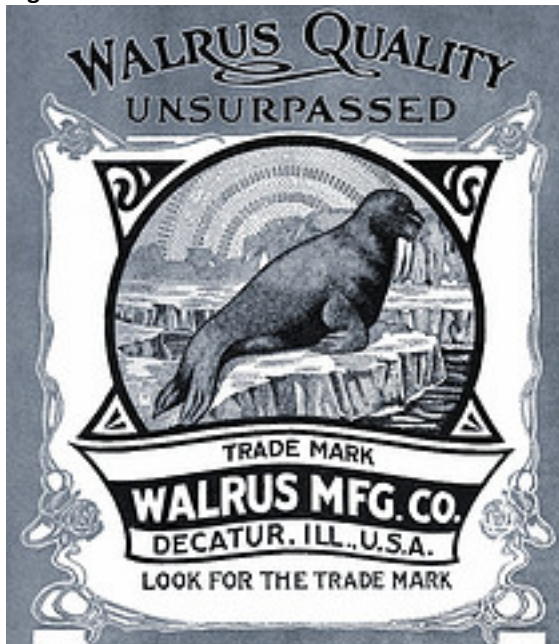
1. The main building was used as a Woolen Mill during the War, then was idle for a long time until about 1883, when the Heyworth Iron Works took it over, and added the building shown by the dotted line. 	2. About 1887 Huff Bros. started a Planing Mill and Lumber Yard, and made the changes shown in diagram. 	3. About 1895 Huff Bros. sold their Lumber business to McGavic Lumber Co., and started to make Butchers' Coolers and Sectional Blocks, making changes shown in Diagram. 	4. In 1897 Huff Bros. sold their business to Tenny & Sikking, and they ran it until Mr. Faries bought the ground and buildings from Huff Bros. Thus the Plant in 1900 was in the shape shown by diagram when the Decatur Refrigerator & Mfg. Co. was organized. 
1883	1887	1895	1897
5. In 1906 the four-story brick building, dry kiln and sprinkler system were added as shown in diagram. 	6. In 1908 the 20-foot addition on the building was added. 	7. In 1910 the second portion of the four-story building was constructed. 	8. In 1916 the brick lumber shed and dry lumber storage was built. 
1906	1908	1910	1916

Building on Broadway, 3 floors & old sample room	29,557 sf
Building on Wabash, 4 floors	34,800 sf
Building on RR, 2 floors	6,072 sf
Drafting room and part of lower sample room	684 sf
Garage building, 2 floors	2,400 sf
Marble shed, 1 floor	1,140 sf
Lumber shed, 2 floors	4,690 sf
Lumber shed, 2 floors	6,800 sf
Dry Kiln, 1 floor	700 sf
Boiler room and glue room, 2 floors	2,400 sf
Second floor passage	<u>663 sf</u>
	89,886 sf



Walrus Manufacturing Company (from 1955 catalog)

Logo – Circa 1911



Mr. Walrus

The Walrus character was created by John T. McCutcheon, the famous editorial cartoonist who created "Injun Summer" for the Chicago Tribune. Drawn in 1907, that cartoon made an annual appearance on the front page of the Tribune from 1912 to 1992.



Injun Summer



Mr. Walrus

Installations



From the 1955 catalog

Vintage Vending

Walrus Soda Bottle Cooler

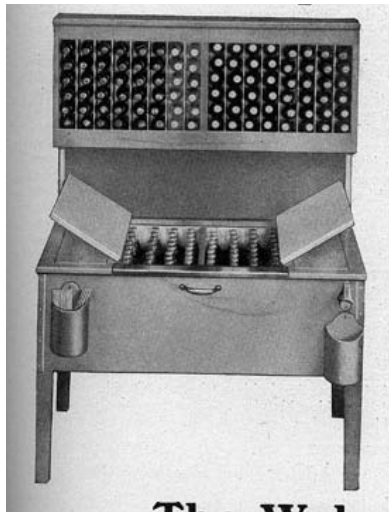
The Walrus Manufacturing Company of Decatur, Illinois was one of the many manufacturers that tried to cash-in on the ongoing soft drink craze in the early 1900s. This advertisement is from the "National Bottlers Gazette".

Walrus, like other manufacturers, was marketing their product directly to bottlers in the hope that they could become their cooler supplier. These two models are the Walrus Blizzard Beverage Cooler (top) and the Walrus Beverage Cooler. They were produced in the late 1920s to early 1930s.

Both of these models were self-serve, and used the honor system, where the customer would pull out a bottle of soda and then pay the storeowner. They have openers and cups attached for discarded bottle crowns. There is also a cup to hold straws. Both coolers were manufactured of painted metal and were available with either turquoise blue or tan paint finishes.

The Blizzard was the smaller of the two models. It cooled 36 bottles and the display held 44 additional bottles to be rotated into the ice. It took 35 lbs. of ice to cool the bottles in the Blizzard. The dimensions were 39"W x 27"D x 36 ½"H and it weighed 130 lbs. The larger cooler held 64 bottles and displayed 112. It held 75 lbs. of ice and the dimensions were 45"W x 28"D x 68"H.

These two machines are very rare.



Live Auctioneers, 2007 Offering

Soda fountain dispenser, mfgd by Walrus Mfg. Co.-Decatur, Ill., tall marble base w/orig. maker's tag & stained glass tulip shade on fancy brass base, shade has bent glass green leaves w/pink petals (one petal has cracks), a Rare & beautiful c.1890's dispenser in VG cond. w/side age crack in marble base & missing spigots, 26"H x 7.5"Dia



1937 Soda Fountain (Private Owner)



The Soda Fountains

Described by Richard Irving Gray Jr.

The body of the soda fountain was made of redwood. Boxcar loads of the wood were brought in from California. The body was insulated with sheet cork up to two inches thick. Refrigeration was housed in a tank that was originally made of copper (the copper coils provided the refrigeration). Later fountains incorporated a steel tank that had refrigeration ducts.

The stainless steel top had a double sink and drainboards, along with hinged lids over the ice cream containers. The lids had ladles or pumps with porcelain buttons that called out the individual flavors. Two draft arms provided plain and carbonated water. A Model Brass Carbonator mixed CO₂ gas with cold water by means of a paddle.

The fountains often had a marble ledge, sides and front. (Marble chips were used for the sunroom floor at Richard Gray Sr.'s house on Westlawn Avenue.)

The small soda fountain known as the "Bobtail" was four or five feet long. The world's largest soda fountain, at 88 feet long, was made for an installation in Texas.



From a 2009 Auction in Maryland

SODA FOUNTAIN COUNTER AND BACK BAR

Oak, marble and stainless soda fountain with oak back bar; counter features rear porcelain enameled panels marked "Russ Co. Bilt-Rite Pat. 1923 & 1924"; marble face marked in brass plaque "Walrus Manf."; German silver top; all lids present; 6 topping containers, 10 syrup containers with pumps some damage to a few porcelain containers; 3 original brass soda fountain heads; nice marble foot rest on oak base; marble counter top; no refrigeration; two piece oak back bar features sliding glass doors in base, top section features large beveled mirror with flanking oak and stained glass cabinets; some cracks to stained glass, topped with removable oak cornice - counter: 8' long, 40" tall, 3' deep; back bar: 8' long, 93" tall

Timeline

Provided by Richard Irving Gray Sr., Richard Irving Gray Jr, Gary Gillette Gray

- 1901 Decatur Refrigeration & Manufacturing Company incorporated on September 12.
- 1903 Certificate of change of name to Walrus Manufacturing Company and increase of capitalization file September 19. The name symbolized something cold, appropriate when the firm started to manufacture walk-in coolers. Capitalization increased from \$35,000 to \$50,000.
- 1923 Leonard G. Gray bought Mr. Faries' interests
- Retired Stockholders:
Mr. E. P. Irving (lived in Millikin Place in a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright)
Mr. Blessing (bought out and was not to start up a competing business. He moved to Chicago and started Bastain-Blessing Co., a very successful soda fountain manufacturer)
- WWII Stainless steel, necessary to make soda fountains, was unavailable.
Bought out Decatur Casket Company and made wooden caskets, which were sold in Central Illinois (made from mahogany, walnut, oak and poplar)
- Post WWII Soda fountains were made for a while, but the advent of soft-serve ice cream killed the business.
- For three or four years, built for the railroad industry through the Budd Company of Philadelphia.
Budd's inspector stayed in Decatur to monitor work the whole time
Dining car equipment for the Wabash, Central Brazil, and Great Northern railways
Galley, refrigeration, sinks, food preparation areas on dining cars
- 1945 Richard Gray Jr. joined Walrus
- 1954 Gary Gray joined Walrus
- 1950s Concentration on hospital and school equipment in both wood and metal
- Lots of work at Los Alamos (Laboratory equipment with 1" thick lead lining)
- 1960s Received an offer to buy company. Richard Gray Jr. wanted to sell, foreseeing the day when the production methods used would be obsolete. Richard Gray Sr. adamantly refused to sell.
- 1970s Surplus of classrooms and surplus of hospitals sent the business into decline.
When backlog disappeared, the decision was made to close.
- 1972 The business closed with little debt and all suppliers were paid.
Employees were laid off, and managers worked very hard to secure new positions for former employees.
Existing contracts were transferred to competing firms.
An auction was held for the contents of the manufacturing facility. All machinery was sold.
- 1974 The empty building became a cash drain because of sprinklers and heating. A fair offer of \$190,000 was received and accepted from neighboring business Cash Valve. All obligations were paid in full.