

HULMAN & COMPANY

WHOLESALE GENERAL MERCHANDISE

By 1894 the business from east-central Illinois had grown to a point that logistics from Terre Haute were delaying much needed shipments to Illinois grocers, so Hulman leased a warehouse at 124 N. 15th Street in Mattoon. They began supplying Illinois customers from the Mattoon location. In 1901 the Hulman Company purchased what was then known as Tremble Park just south of Charleston Avenue and west of the Illinois Central subway and constructed a brick warehouse and office.

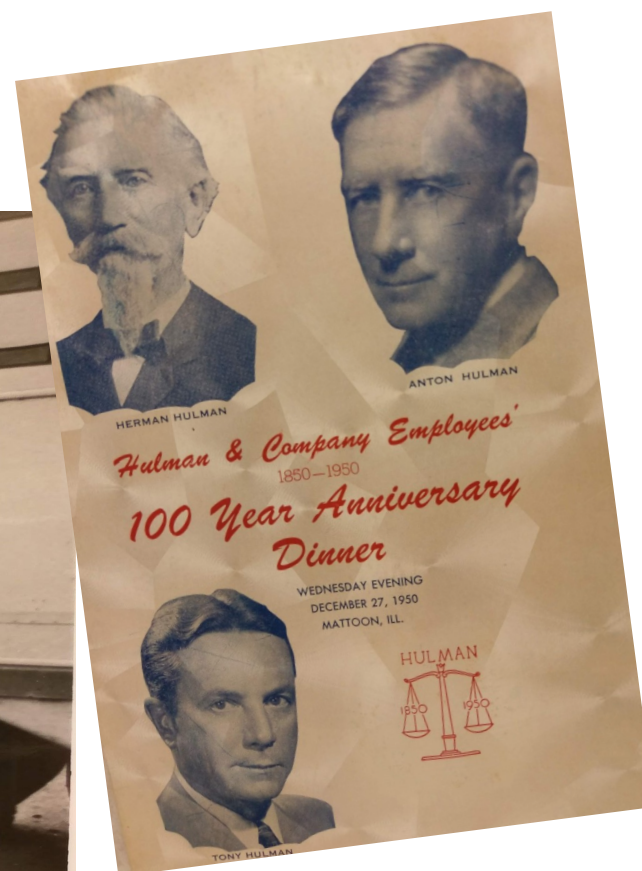
Hulman & Company was founded in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1850 by Herman Hulman. The business started as a wholesale grocery business. In those early days, most groceries, were small, family run operations that could not purchase bulk quantities due to space and financial limitations. Hulman specialized in supplying these groceries with "broken lots" of product. While primarily a grocery wholesaler, Herman also bought and resold almost anything that could be found in a local store.



In 1923 the company developed and marketed what would become their signature product, Clabber Girl Baking Powder. They also marketed Hulman brands under the Dauntless and Farmer's Pride labels.



In 1926 an additional warehouse was constructed behind the original building and fronted Wabash Avenue. In 1943 Hulman acquired the McCusker building on South 18th Street for additional warehouse space.



In 1950 Hulman & Company marked their 100th Anniversary with a celebration in Mattoon. Tony Hulman seated, Earl Lucier, Mattoon manager, with paper in hand.



A few long time employees, representing over 400 years of service gathered for a photo on August 1, 1969, the last day of operation.

The demise of "mom & pop" groceries, the growth of grocery chains and the advent of grocery buying co-ops greatly impacted the Hulman & Company business and in 1969 the decision was made to close the Mattoon facility. At that time there were 70 employees working at the Mattoon location.