



SCHRADER CUTLERY - IMPERIAL SCHRADER CORP.

Ellenville, NY The Schrade Cutlery Company was founded in 1904 in Walden, New York. The quality of the cutlery produced was unique to the industry at that time. Imperial Knife Company, established in Providence, Rhode Island in 1916, grew to manufacture a full range of value-priced folding pocket knives. In 1941, Albert M. Baer, whose vision guided Imperial Schrade Corp., purchased the Ulster Knife Company which was founded in Ellenville, New York in the 1870's. In 1942,

Ulster Knife Company and Imperial Knife Company joined forces to become Imperial Knife Associated Companies. As Ulster and Imperial joined forces, they committed themselves to producing knives for the military throughout World War II. A significant part of the Baer family history developed when Albert's brother, Henry, joined him in 1942. Henry became the most identifiable figure in the public growth of the company while Albert remained behind the scenes directing his vision. It is unique in the cutlery industry that these two brothers were both inducted into Cutlery Hall of Fame, Uncle Henry in 1983 and Albert M. Baer in 1992.

Albert M. Baer purchased Schrade Cutlery Company in 1946 and renamed it the Schrade Walden Cutlery Corporation and became a division of the Imperial Knife Associated Companies group. The Schrade Walden division was moved from Walden, New York to Ellenville, New York in 1958.

Imperial Knife experienced extremely strong growth throughout the late 70's. As Imperial Knife entered the 80's, a consolidation took place and the company divested itself of various holdings. In 1983, Albert M. Baer purchased the stock of all shareholders in Imperial Knife Associated Companies and became the sole owner of the privately held cutlery giant.

In 1985, the name of the company was changed from Imperial Knife Associated Companies to Imperial Schrade Corp. Walter Gardiner was named President and COO, and all aspects of the company's U.S. operations were combined under one roof in Ellenville.

In 1997, Mrs. Karla B. Baer, widow of Albert Baer, became Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Imperial Schrade Corp.

The 90's opened up a new era of innovation for Schrade in knife and tool design and manufacture. The company entered the multi-tool market with a commitment to excellence, producing the Schrade Tough® Tool and Tough Chip garnering recognition with several national and international design awards. These design successes moved the company into the new millennium and provided the impetus for the introduction of Schrade™s new intelligent tools the award winning i-Quip and Navitool performance products combined with instrument pods for the outdoor markets.

In 2003, the strength of Schrade™s design concepts and engineering continues to move forward with exciting, cutting edge product introductions and a respect for tradition. Representing the newest of the new is Q3 Technology for Quick, Quiet and Quality offering a series of multi-functional folders designed for maximum performance. And in recognition of its heritage, Schrade™s Custom Collaboration series celebrates the uniqueness of handcrafted design in their partnerships with the nations finest custom knife makers. Blending technology and tradition, the company continues its leadership position in the global cutlery and tool marketplace.

In 2004, Imperial Schrade Corp. will celebrate its 100TH anniversary. Imperial Schrade Corps world headquarters in scenic Ellenville, New York has more than 548,000 square feet of manufacturing space and employs more than 450 people dedicated to producing the world's finest pocket knives, lock backs, fixed blades, cutlery for the outdoor and hunting markets and multi-tools. Additionally, as part of their global strategy, Schrade™s manufacturing assets include the Listowel, Ireland facility which employs over 70 people.

Key to Schrade's strength as a knife maker is the workforce of talented and committed craftsmen, including third and fourth generation employees. Learning the trade from parents and grandparents, they pass along the valuable knowledge, skills and pride necessary for the consistent production of quality knives and tools. That dedication and spirit lives at the 93 acre site in Ellenville, blending the decades of experienced hand craftsmanship with some of the most modern technology available. Schrade continues to grow in leaps and bounds due to our well earned reputation for quality and value, responsiveness to an ever changing market place, innovative new products, diversification into new markets, and customer service second-to-none in the industry.

Imperial Schrade Corp., holds an ongoing commitment to the outdoors and to the future generations of Americans with whom it will be entrusted. Imperial Schrade continues to lend private sector support to programs that include Ducks Unlimited, the Federal Duck Stamp program, the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

These programs will assist in the protection and preservation of the environment, along with educating America's youth in their heritage of participation in and care of the outdoors into the 21st century.