



Est. 1904

IMPERIAL SCHRADE®
CORP.

A BRIEF HISTORY

12/31/98

Three Schrade Brothers; Joe, Louis and George, started the Schrade Cutlery Company in Walden, New York in 1904. The techniques that they used to mass-produce fine, quality cutlery were unique in the cutlery industry at that time, and they enjoyed moderate success in making and selling very high-quality, folding Pocket Knives for many many years.

Felix and Michael Mirando and Domenic Fazzano formed Imperial Knife Company in 1914 in Providence, Rhode Island. They manufactured a full range of folding Pocket Knives and were successful in mass producing inexpensive Pocket Knives up through the late 1930's.

In 1941, Mr. Albert Baer purchased Ulster Knife Company, which had been operating in Ellenville, New York from the 1870's.

In 1942, Ulster Knife Company and Imperial Knife Company joined forces and formed Imperial Knife Associated Companies. Knives of all types were manufactured for the Military at both factories through World War II, and substantial growth was attained.

In 1946, Mr. Albert Baer purchased the Schrade Cutlery Company from the Schrade Brothers and renamed it the Schrade Walden Cutlery Corporation. This plant was also to become a Division of the Imperial Knife Associated Companies group.

An Import/Export Division was soon founded and called Imperial International Corporation. This Company was used to import all types of cutlery, flatware and giftware and to export products manufactured by Imperial Knife Company.

Additional factories were purchased in Providence in 1957, and operations being performed on Kitchen Cutlery at Ulster Knife Company in Ellenville were transferred to Providence.

Schrade Walden Cutlery Corporation was moved from Walden into the Ulster Knife Company facility in Ellenville in 1958.

The combined factories produced both Schrade-Walden and Ulster products, and each stamped the products with their corresponding stamps.

In 1972 the manufacture of Ulster stamped product was discontinued. Additional warehouses for distribution of the Company's products were purchased and/or built in Hauppauge, Long Island; Bramalea, Canada and Cologne, Germany.

Imperial Knife Associated Companies experienced a strong growth period through the late 1970's.

In 1974, the use of the "Schrade-Walden" stamp on products was discontinued, and since that time, Schrade has manufactured using the "Schrade" and "Schrade+" tang stamps.

Factories in England, Ireland and France were purchased, or partially acquired, to enhance the world-wide positioning of the Company's products and to broaden its base of distribution.

At this period of time in the Country's history, many emerging nations were allowed to ship, tariff free, all forms of cutlery into the United States, and this impacted on Imperial's ability to compete in World markets.

A period of consolidation followed, and the Company divested itself of its holdings in Canada, Long Island and England. In 1983, Mr. Albert Baer purchased the stock of all shareholders in Imperial Knife Associated Company's and became the sole owner.

In 1985, the Channel Master facility on Route 209 in Ellenville was purchased, and a consolidation of all domestic operations started taking place. The name of the Company was changed from Imperial Knife Associated Companies to Imperial Schrade Corp.

By 1990, the move of all manufacturing in the United States to the Ellenville location was completed, and a Warehouse Division was set up in Ellenville to ship and bill all Company products, and shipments were in excess of 70 million annually.

In 1997 Imperial Schrade Corp. ventured into a new market and diversified their line to include the Schrade Tough Tool, a multi-purpose plier tool, which won the Industrial Design Excellence Award in the very first year of its manufacture.

In June of 1998, Imperial Schrade Corp began its 95th year of operation. Imperial Schrade Corp's world headquarters in scenic Ellenville, New York has more than 548,000 square feet of manufacturing space dedicated to producing the world's finest pocket knives, sports cutlery and folding multi-tools.

Today Schrade has more than 600 employees involved in the Ellenville operations. Additionally, Schrade has a manufacturing facility in Listowel, Ireland, which employs over 100 people.

Schrade's strength as a knife maker are those strong craftsmen who are third and fourth generation employees. Many learned their trade from parents and grandparents, passing along the valuable knowledge, skills and pride necessary for the consistent production of quality knives and tools. That dedication and spirit live on today at the 93 acre site in Ellenville, New York. Today Schrade has blended the decades of 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. continues to set the industry and world standard for quality, value, workmanship and durability. Every Schrade Old Timer® and Uncle Henry® knife is crafted with pride and made 100% in the USA, and our best reference for manufacturing these quality products are cards and letters from our valued customers. Your comments and suggestions are important to us, and they have enabled us to maintain our famous reputation for satisfaction since 1904.

Imperial Schrade Corp. is committed to providing you with outstanding quality, value and customer service. Your confidence in our product is the foundation of our business. Thank you for your continued support.

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 like Future Farmers of America, the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge, Ducks Unlimited and the Federal Duck Stamp Program. 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 coming century.

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